

February 2019

www.nmra-scwd.org

Volume 50 No. 6

Super's Report

Phil Hottmann
Division Superintendent

This is the time of the year when the model-railroading season is in full swing. We just had a very successful Rail School and are looking forward to the Rail Show.

With this season's crazy weather we are wondering when the real winter will show up. Will it come just when we don't want it?!

I thought the Rail School went over quite well this year. This year Bill Clancy added more interest with the addition of plastic structure building. These clinics included window treatments, assembly and weathering. Bill also did a clinic on applying static grass which is a great way to add visual interest to your scenery.

It seemed like the most popular clinic was Bob McGeever's tree making. I think this was interesting to everyone because everyone needs trees. Besides that, these trees were fantastic.

The videos presented also were also a point of interest. Late in the day, we were watching the Howard Zane video. This video was interesting because so much of his railroad is presented, along the main line. He has fabulous scenes including beautiful weathered structures and rolling stock. While watching this video a very young guest came in to watch. His mother was in the back and it was all he could do to climb up on one of the chairs. He observed a steam locomotive pushing a cut of cars into the yard. He got very excited because he did not think steam locomotive were supposed to do this. I am pretty sure this person has the railroad bug. The future of the hobby is alive!

Next SCWD Meet:

February 3, 2019 at 1:00 pm
Zor Shrine Temple

Model & Photo Contests: Page 2

Clinics: Page 3


Next BOD Meeting:

February 11, 2019 at 7:00 pm
Zor Shrine Temple

Next Youth Group Meeting:

Mad City Model Railroad Show
Alliant Energy Center

CATCH THE TRAINS!



MadCity
52nd Annual

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SHOW & SALE**
Feb. 16-17, 2019
Saturday 9-5, Sunday 9-4
Alliant Energy Center, Exhibition Hall
Madison, Wisconsin
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We had 75 guests and around 60 members attend the school. I would like to see more things at the Rail School that would be interesting to the advanced modeler as well. Such as things that I need for my layout, like how to use Arduino to create animation, using digital large format printers to create your own backdrops or using LCC when these products start arriving on the market. These are my ideas, what are yours?

The Midwest and Thousand Lakes regions are jointly hosting a convention from May 17 to 19, 2019 in La-Crosse. This would be an opportunity to see layouts and modelers that we don't normally get a chance to see. Since LaCrosse is so close, it makes it a bit easier road trip. They have some interesting clinics planned and one of the other events is a tour to a railroad tie treating facility which could be very interesting. You would also be able to sign up for operating sessions if you wish.

We are still looking for chairs for clinics and layout tours. Please contact me if you can help out with one of these.

Look forward to seeing you at the February meeting.

Phil Hottmann
Superintendent

Save the Date SCWD Banquet Friday, May 10, 2019



Election Report

Bob McGeever



WE WANT YOU!

The Annual Board of Directors election is only a few months away.

We will have three openings on the BOD for the 2019-2020 season. Dave Lendved, Ken Hojnacki and Phil Berry have announced they will not be running for the BOD. When you see them, please thank them for their service on the BOD. For those of you who might be interested in running for the BOD but do not want to risk becoming the new Paymaster, Phil and I have agreed that I will take over those duties.

Bob McGeever
Elections Chair

Contest Column

Dave Lendved and Dave Down
Contest Co-Chairs

Just a reminder that the SCWD 2018-19 Video contest is up and running. Entries should be submitted before February 1. Go to the SCWD webpage to enter and to vote.

The Popular Vote Model and Photo Contests resume at the February 3 meeting. The theme is "Specialty Passenger Cars". These are cars that carry passengers, but are special in some way. Pullman cars were owned and staffed by the Pullman Company, instead of the operating railroad company. Circus train cars provided a "home" on the road for performers, owners, roustabouts and other workers. The quality of the accommodation was usually dependent on the individual's status. Railroads continue to operate business cars for executives to travel, inspect facilities and to educate and entertain customers. Private cars were the choice for the ultra-rich before the era of freeways and Lear jets. Private cars are still run by (wealthy) rail enthusiasts. Private cars and sometimes whole trains are run by businesses as tours.

February 3 Model and Photo Contests Theme: Specialty Passenger Cars

Cat. A Pullman Cars
Cat. B Executive/Business Cars
Cat. C Circus Train Passenger Cars
Cat. D Private Cars/Other

The Clinic Corner

Bob Wundrock
Clinic Chair

For our first regular meet of 2019, we'll have one presenter from East Troy and another guy you'll know.

Evan Richards from the East Troy Railroad Museum will be our first presenter. The museum operates the only surviving interurban electric railroad in Wisconsin between Mukwonago and East Troy, once part of the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light company network centered in Milwaukee. It operates historic interurban cars and streetcars on a regular schedule. The history of the museum will be outlined along with current operations. So much of what we assume are very modern, present day features of life are actually the direct result of the electric railroad including addressing the question: Would church suppers be possible if the interurban had not appeared?

Evan is retired from the UW-Madison Space Science and Engineering Center in 2006 where he managed several NASA spacecraft instrument development programs including the Hubble Space Telescope High Speed Photometer, Pioneer Venus Net Flux Radiometer, and the Orbiting Solar Observatory Soft X Ray Instrument.

I'll be the second presenter with a synopsis of Whit Towers' historic Alturas and Lone Pine HO layout. This clinic will include the film "ALP Way Freight."

The ALP was built in the era of icons John Allen, Bill McClanahan and Terry Walsh. Whit was also the long-time editor of the "NMRA Bulletin," then the house organ of the NMRA.

Superintendent Phil Hottmann is still looking for my successor as clinics' chair for the 2019-2020 SCWD meetings' year. I'd like to get an interested member involved in the scheduling process by early 2019. My process is to begin scheduling six months in advance of meets.

See you all in February.

Bob



Layout Tours

Phil Hottmann
Layout Tour Chair

There were some rumors that Bill Ehlert was planning to move. This would have meant dismantling his layout and downsizing.

The good news is that Bill may do this, but it is a few years out. Either way, Bill was willing to open his layout for the February meeting. Thank you, Bill. We look forward to paying you a visit.

Phil

Modeling Project

Phil Hottmann

With only a few months remaining before the April judging it's time to get your project started. I know that a number of you have already started.

A big plus with this project is that it can fit on almost any layout. This is also an opportunity to get creative with the many possible uses for a decommissioned caboose. I'm really looking forward to seeing the results!

Phil



For more SCWD and NMRA news and information go on-line to our web site at www.nmra-scwd.org and visit the **Bad Order on our web**



Youth Group

Steve Brist

The parents and young people of the SCWD Youth Group did their part at the January 6th Model Railroad School by helping visitors assemble HO model rolling stock kits for visiting guests at the event. It was estimated that between 40 and 50 cars were assembled and given to visiting young people. Special thanks go to parents John Duncan, Chris Roeben, Chris Bradley and lots of our members for help



After the cars were assembled, we gave the visitors a chance to operate their new car on our HO layout. For many of the kids, it was the first time that they had operated a model train.

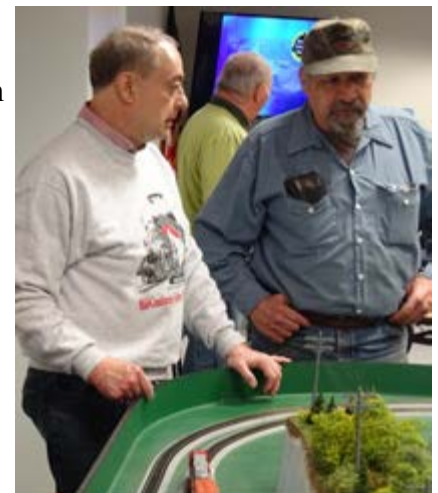
Jerry Lawler was busy with three tables overflowing with modeling materials and helped our members with the “New Uses for a Caboose” model project. He also helped visitors create their own scenes with his modeling materials.



Youth Group members had a lot of fun at this event and, hopefully, they learned new ways to enjoy the model railroad hobby. We were also able to meet several parents and young people who were interested in joining our Group.

Our next event will be the February Mad City Model Train Show at the Alliant Center. Our members will sign up for shifts to work at the Youth Group booth at the Train Show, where we will again demonstrate model railroading while seeking new members. See you then!

Steve



AP Corner

Ken Hojnacki
AP Chair



Why would I want bother working toward Achievement Awards? I don't need the bragging rights nor do I need people oohing and ahhhhing because I have a piece of paper to hang on my wall like I'm something special. Fair enough. We all want to enjoy our hobby in our own way. As the magazines in the dark ages used to say, "Model Railroading Is Fun." It's not a competition nor is it a test of whether we meet a certain definition of "model railroader." Model railroading is meant to be fun, no matter what form it takes.

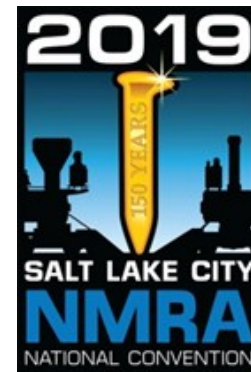
That said, we all admire the skills of a Bill Ehlert or Tom Eckstein or Al Potts or Bob Wundrock. Their buildings, their rolling stock, their layouts each display a high degree of skill and quality in modelling. Think they were born with those skills? Maybe a higher degree of manual dexterity or imagination but I doubt any of them built award winning models on their first try. While some of us are content to put a quickie plastic kit together and call it good, some take pride in making their models stand out from the crowd for their own pleasure. Whether it is a freight car you can't buy commercially, a building painted, weathered or kitbashed into something different from others' efforts, striving for realism in the overall state of our model railroads brings inner satisfaction that is not dependent on peer approval.

So don't think about the Achievement Program as a beauty pageant where you aspire to be crowned King or Queen of Model Railroading. Think of it instead as a way to challenge yourself in areas you may have been hesitant to enter. We have had some Division model projects that lent themselves to opportunities to expand your skills and inventiveness. Why? Because if you push yourself to try new techniques or new materials, you open up a new world for yourself. "Yeah, but I don't want to be judged," you say. The judging of models isn't necessarily for ribbons or accolades. The judging helps identify areas where you excelled and areas where improved skills are needed. You aren't being judged against anyone else; your model is being rated based on specific criteria that let you know where you need to become more proficient. Sort of like learning from your mistakes. And what is the benefit of that? You become a better modeler so you can elevate your fun in the hobby.

I am not an electronics guru but working toward my Electrical Engineer Achievement Award, I learned how

to build a diode matrix for my yard lead switches; how to use resistors to control lighting intensity and how to install a decoder in an old pre-DCC locomotive. I'm learning new scenery techniques working toward that award and soon will start working on scratchbuilding cars. Yes, it's intimidating but I look forward to the challenge and the chance to improve my own enjoyment of the hobby by becoming a better modeler. Any of the above MMR's will be happy to talk with you about the requirements and I am always happy to provide guidance. So come on, challenge yourself!

Ken



What's up for the 2019 convention?

Lots! That's what. We have more than 190 clinics scheduled for the 2019 National NMRA Convention in Salt Lake City next summer. For you "techies" we have clinics on Raspberry Pi, LCC (Layout Command Control), new DCC control systems, and using CMRI and JMRI to drive a US&S Type 506 CTC Machine, among others.

For layout design we have a whole bunch of amazing clinics with people like Seth Neumann, Byron Henderson, Dave Trussell, Tony Koester, and Rich Mahaney, just to name a few.

For layout and structure techniques we have Leslie Eaton, Chris Brimley, Mark Evans, and the list goes on. Many of our clinic presenters are NMRA Master Model Railroaders.

More on what we have in store next time. Believe us, there will be something special for everyone.

Meanwhile, visit our website at <http://www.nmra2019slc.org/> for lots more information!

Rail School 2019



Thank You Rail School Volunteers and Clinicians!







**SCWD Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2018**



The Board of Directors meeting for the 2017-2018 South Central Wisconsin Division, Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on December 10, 2018 by Superintendent Phil Hottmann. In attendance were Board members, **Bob McGeever, Steve Preston, Phil Hottmann, Jerry Lawler, Ken Hojnacki, Dave Lendved, and Bill Clancy.**

Minutes Approval: Motion to approve the Minutes was made by Bob McGeever and seconded by Bill Clancy. Minutes were approved.

Paymaster Report: Payment Report was given by Phil Berry. Motion to approve made by Bob McGeever Preston, seconded by Phil Berry. Minutes included a deposit for bus trip and admission to East Troy train trip. Minutes approved.

Committee Reports:

Advertising: No additional activity. Tom Morrison has added text to the effect that this January's Rail School will include 'Live Demonstrations' of various aspects of building scenery and rolling stock. Copy of advertising flyer was shared with the Board.

Bad Order: Production and distribution is going smoothly. Articles due by the 14th for publication.

Club Liaison Nothing new to report. Future discussion as to whether or not this position needs to be filled currently or whether existing technology fills the need.

Clinics: Clinics are set for season. Board discussed options for a chairman for clinics next year as Bob Wundrock has indicated a desire to step down. Board also discussed logistics for replacing Bob. It was determined that the organization needs to update its list of modelers who have the expertise to deliver clinics. An effort will be made to solicit members for possible inclusion in the updated list of clinic providers.

Contests: The board agreed to continue with the video contest that was begun this year. Rules are published in the Bad Order.

Jerry said that the count for the Youth Group is 14 HO cabooses and 1 N scale. He will be responsible for dis-

tributing them at January Rail School. Any not picked up will be distributed at the March meeting.

Door prizes (Meetings): Bill Weber has purchased door prizes for the year.

Layout tours: 2019-20 possible tour sites are beginning to be discussed.

Membership: Steve Preston's efforts at the Youth Group were very successful again this month. He recruited two parents of children attending the Youth program and will continue his recruiting efforts with the Youth Group, Rail School and General membership. He is providing several magazines to new members. These include the Atlas Wiring, and 7 Steps to HO Railroads. The Board agreed to purchase these magazines for new members with the goal being making their introduction to the hobby, easier.

Picnic: BOD agreed to return to Little Americka in 2019. We will again try to schedule the picnic at the same time as the park's Whiskey River Days festival. Date: TBD. John Haverberg is handling this event.

Rail School: The Division has acquired additional Blue Box models for distribution at the 2019 Rail School. It appears that we have sufficient quantities to meet our needs for this year's program. We may need to revisit model availability next year based this year's attendance.

The date for the Rail School will be January 6, 2019. Bill Clancy reports that we are ready for the Rail School with numerous volunteers ready and we expect a good turn out due to well-placed advertising and increased marketing by members.

Rail show: Bob reports that about 24 layouts from last year have responded and agreed to participate. Approximately 100 tables have been reserved. This is normal for the show. There are several new layouts in the show. Several other layouts have been updated. Bob also stated that the 'Tool Man' vendor has agreed to participate again this year.

New for this year will be a marketing campaign using social media. This was proposed to the show committee last month. Phil Berry proposed this activity based on his company's use of social media (Facebook). Bob Boelter who is handling the show marketing supported this strategy as being potentially effective in reaching the show's target market.

The show chair (Bob McGeever) led the discussion and the committee voted to proceed. As more details become available, they will be shared with the committee and the Board. The cost of this initiative will be approximately \$2,200.

New Brio wooden train cars have been purchased and the division should be set for the next several years.

Spring Trip: A discussion was held to talk about any upcoming rail fanning trip opportunities. John Haverberg is coordinating. Board had an excellent discussion and is looking at a trip to a day trip to the East Troy Railroad Museum. Several options for the trip included lunch offsite given the limited options on site. Additionally, the Board discussed the possibility doing several layout tours on the return trip with a return time of approximately 7pm.

First choice for dates was May 4, 2019 and second choice was April 27, 2019. Board agreed to bring this to the November general meeting for a discussion with membership. May 4th was agreed to as the best date.

Youth Group: The November meeting had the kids painting the bases that they made last month for the modeling project. Jerry secured a significant quantity of scenery materials and will be distributing these materials to the kids to help them plan their diorama design. He will be assisting the kids as part of the Rail School.

Old Business:


None

New Business:

BOD agreed to purchase a new copy of MS Office for the SCWD laptop.

Adjournment: Jerry moved for adjournment and Bill C. seconded and the Board approved adjournment at 8:30 pm.

Respectively submitted by Jerry Lawler,
SCWD Chief Clerk




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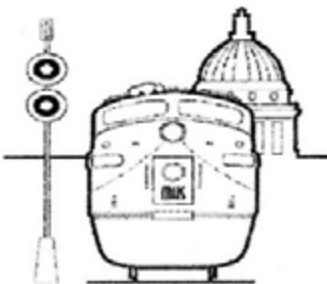
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*Train Show Tickets—advance sale

2018-19 Meeting Time Table

Regular Meeting

Feb 3, 2019
March 3, 2019
April 7, 2019
May 5, 2019

BOD

Feb 11, 2019
March 11, 2019
April 8, 2019
May 13, 2019

Youth Group

Train Show
March 17, 2019
April 21, 2019
May 19, 2019

Train Show

Feb 6, 2019
March 6, 2019