

October 2023

www.nmra-scwd.org

Volume 55 No. 2



Super's Report

Art Dawson
Division Superintendent

Hello fellow modelers,

Fall is here, and our first meeting is in the books. We had very good clinics presented, and I'm looking forward to the rest of the season as Ken focuses the clinics on operations from several points of view!

It's always nice to see the layouts in the area. They are inspirational, and lend lots of ideas of how we can do things as we build our own. As my own is in process, slowly I'm afraid, I'm always on the lookout for different ways to do things, practices, construction and scenery techniques I can make use of.

I encourage you to sign up for the modeling project, Trees! Learn new techniques or show off your skills, at the end, maybe even win a prize. We can all use a few more trees on our layouts, and if you don't have one, save them for when you decide to build one.

Keep those models and pictures coming for the monthly contests. It was wonderful to see the increased level of participation, especially with the photos.

Next SCWD Meet
Verona Senior Center, Verona
October 1, 2023 at 1 PM

Next BOD Meeting:
October 10, 2023 at 7 PM
ZOOM Meeting

Next Youth Group
Verona Senior Center, Verona
October 14, 2023 1 PM



Chris Bradley and I have decided to tackle the Rail School Organization as a team. We will be reaching out in the near future to ask you to participate in one form or another.

We are still in need of a Social Media Chairperson. If you have Facebook skills, please volunteer to lend us a hand with this as we are always looking to keep the hobby in the public eye and find new members.

I look forward to seeing you at the meet on October 1st.

Art Dawson, SCWD Superintendent
Model railroading is fun!

Clinic Column

Ken Hojnacki

I hope you all enjoyed meeting Aaron Filter from Noble Knight and hearing about their offerings and the similarities between model railroading, wargaming and military modeling. You can check out their website at <https://www.nobleknight.com/> for the extensive array of products they carry. I also hope I got you thinking about how we “play with trains” and how we can take that to the next level as an introduction to our year of operations.



This month, Brian Sheron MMR will continue our operations journey with his clinic “Why Operations.” Brian will discuss the benefits of more formal operating sessions to enhance our enjoyment of the hobby. He will also present his clinic “Details Make Your Layout Come Alive.” Brian will show us the myriad of little details added to his and other layouts that help emulate the real world.

Ken

AP Corner

Ken Hojnacki



There is still time to sign up for the Achievement Program evaluation training on Saturday, October 21 at the Verona Senior Center. Dan Banks from the Central Indiana Division will take us through the process of evaluating models for Merit Awards in the Achievement Program. Dan will discuss the different categories in the evaluation criteria and unveil the mysteries of how points are awarded. The Division would like to have more people eligible to evaluate models for AP awards. This training will also prepare you for contest judging if that would be of interest to you. Bob McGeever has said the Region has a shortage of contest judges and is eager to recruit more folks for this endeavor as well.

Dan will bring some models as examples but if you have a structure, car, or piece of motive power that you would like to have evaluated, please let me know and we can arrange to evaluate them as part of our program.

We will start at 10am at the Senior Center where our regular meetings are held. We will provide sandwiches for lunch; please bring your own beverage of choice (Rule G will be in effect). We’ll take a short break for lunch then get back into it around 2pm.

If you have not signed up with me yet, you can email me at khojnacki@charter.net. There is no cost to you for this training session; it is a benefit of your Division membership.

Ken

Modeling Project

Mike Vivion



As I announced at the September meeting, this year’s Modeling Project is “Making Natural Trees”. This year we are trying something that will hopefully help you make better scenery on your home layouts. You will get the opportunity to make a mini-diorama and include on it the natural trees that you make from the supplied materials and natural materials of your own choosing.

Rules for the Project are being posted on the SCWD website under “Contests”, then see “Modeling Project”. Rules for the project are that you must be an NMRA member, must make trees using natural materials as part of the scenery of a mini-diorama that is no larger than 160 x 160 scale feet in size. For HO scale this space is approximately 2 square feet and for N scale it is one square foot. The mini-diorama has to include railroad track of the appropriate scale. The mini-diorama may also include structures, vehicles, figures, other scenery items (shrubs, turf, grass, etc.), etc. as you prefer, but may not include any trees not made of natural materials.

A \$10 deposit is required for you to receive your natural tree materials at the November SCWD meeting. The deposit will be refunded if you bring the finished mini-diorama for entry into our popular vote contest at the April 2024 SCWD meeting. We will be offering 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes separately for the N and HO categories again this year.

Note, to those who have been virtually attending SCWD meeting, you can participate in this project as well. Simply contact Mike Vivion not later than October 30, 2023, via email or phone to work out the details. Mike's contact information is in the SCWD Red Book.

On our Webpage at the end of the Model Project section, there are some links to several You Tube videos, showing how to make the trees. Also, we are tentatively planning to present a clinic on this subject at the April 2024 SCWD meeting.

As I am writing this column, we have 11 people signed up for the Modeling Project, and I hope we will get as many, or more, to sign up at the October SCWD meeting. **Remember your last chance to sign up is at the October meeting or by contacting me directly before October 30th.**

Based on the responses I heard at the September meeting, I think this year’s Project will be one we will all enjoy.

Mike Vivion
Modeling Project Chair

Youth Group

Steve Preston, Chair



We had a good turnout for our first meeting of the new season kick off. Chris Bradley gave a work shop demonstration on how to replace, align and fix the most popular kind of couplers on rail equipment. He showed them the technique of replacing them in a manner that all the kids could understand. Following this, he gave them each a set of different thicknesses of spacer material used to adjust couplers. Then the kids went off and did them on their own cars, and all did a great job. Thanks Chris for a great class. (Each kid was given a complete set of screws and couplers and other stuff to do more at home).

Bill Mitchell had purchased a number of tools to be used by the kids for our next meeting, as it turned out some of those tools came in handy for this class. Each kid was given a set of jeweler screwdriver's, a pair of bent needle nosed pliers, a pair of straight needle nosed pliers, a small helping hands vice with a pair of alligator clamps to hold onto small objects, and a pair of wire strippers. Most of which will be used next month for the soldering class in October.



The class went well, and hopefully they can use these skills to help maintain a smooth running layout. Last but not least I want to give a **BIG THANK YOU TO CHRIS AND BILL**. Bill had done a lot of leg work and research on prices for the tools that were used. You guys are great!

Looking for volunteers for our October 14th meeting. We will be demonstrating soldering techniques, if you have a soldering IRON and a small table top fan, please bring them along. Chris Bradley, Bill Mitchell, Phil Hottmann, Steve Preston were all present at the meeting.

Steve Preston
Youth Group Director and
Membership Chairman



Layout Tours

Phil Hottmann

We started off our new season by seeing a layout we had not visited before. I think we all appreciated seeing Pat Harding's 25 years in the making layout. To some extent I'm disappointed to hear that this layout will be dismantled soon. On the other hand, Pat may be able to build a larger layout in his potential new home.



We were also able to see Jerry Lawler's layout once again. It's always a treat to see Jerry's layout depicting many of Madison's structures and scenes.



Thanks again to both Pat and Jerry for being open.

For October we have another new layout to visit. This layout is located in Verona, just a short distance from the Senior Center. Ken Kenyon's layout is called West Lumber and Lugerville. I'm looking forward to this visit. I'm hoping to see all of you there!

I'm still looking for some more layouts to fill out the season. In May we will be hosting the joint meet with Rockford. This may be an opportunity for you to present your layout.

Phil

Contest Column

Dave Down, Chair

We are off and running with our first meeting of the fall under our belts. The participation was great! Thanks to all of you, especially for the photos that were brought in. As a result, we had good entries of both models and photos. Let's keep it going.

I offered a challenge for each of you to commit to entering something in at least one contest this year (more than one is certainly OK). Check out the list of contests for the year in this Bad Order and get started as soon as possible.

Now we get to move on to the next contest. For our meeting on October 1, the theme is trackside businesses and industries. There are lots of options in a theme like this and I hope you all find some way to participate.

October: Stations and Terminals

- A. Frame Passenger/Freight Combination
- B. Brick or Stone Passenger
- C. Freight
- D. Commuter

Next month (November) the theme is **Trackside Industries**

- A. Agricultural (grain elevator, feed mill, farm machinery, etc.)
- B. Dry Bulk Industry (plastics, glass, consumer goods, warehousing).
- C. Forest Products (lumber, paper, etc.).
- D. Mining and Minerals (iron, coal, steel gravel, sand etc.)

Good luck and happy modeling!

September 10 Popular Vote Contest Results - Bridges and Culverts

Models

Cat. A Truss

1st Rusty Dramm: N Glacier Park Truss



2nd Don Swinton: Diorama with rail trail
3rd Corbett Legg: Modern Truss

Cat. B Girder

1st Don Swinton
Diorama crossing stream



2023-2024 Contest Themes

SEP	Bridges and Culverts
OCT	Stations and Terminals
NOV	Trackside Industries
DEC	Moving Forest Products
JAN	No contest (Rail School)
FEB	Electric / Traction
MAR	Retired / Repurposed
APR	No contest (model project)
MAY	Cabooses

Photos - Prototype

Cat. PA Truss

1st Ewing Row: Raindrops on the dome (going through truss bridge)

Cat. PB Girder

1st Ewing Row: Rocky Mountaineer

2nd: Ewing Row: Canada

3rd: Dave Down White Pass and Yukon

Cat. PC Stone or concrete

1st Ewing Row: Glen Haven bridge

Photos - Models

Cat. MA Truss

1st Bob Stone: Deck Truss

2nd Ewing Row: Truss Bridge with Ore Cars

3rd: Bob Stone: Through Truss Bridge

Cat. MB Girder

1st Ewing Row: Girder on trestle

2nd Ewing Row: Kishwaukee bridge

3rd Bob Stone: 2 dick girder bridges

Cat. MC Stone or Concrete

1st Ewing Row: Red bridge

2nd Bob Stone: Stone arch bridge

Cat. MD Culvert

1st Bob Stone: Stone culvert

Dave

A Puzzle for You

You like trains, or train watching, but have you ever wanted to go to an OPS (Operating Session) and run trains on someone else's layout, but were afraid you wouldn't know what to do?



Model Railroad Operation is a fun and interesting role-playing game where the players (operators) use model trains to simulate the movements of the prototype railroad. Operators fill the roles of railroad employees like engineers, conductors, yardmasters, dispatchers, and more. Many of our SCWD members participate each month at multiple layouts to enjoy this fun and stimulating practice of critical thinking and problem solving in the context of railroad operations.

Now, there is a way for you to get your feet wet in this critical thinking and problem-solving railroad environment in the privacy of your own home through the use of railroad switching puzzles.

In July 2020, a group of SCWD members started a project to introduce more of our members to the enjoyment of railroad operations, or as our wives call it, playing trains. Some of us have been engaged in operating sessions for 20 years or more, and would like to get more of you involved.

The project involves getting one to solve a series of train switching puzzles (on paper, or your computer) in the least number of moves possible. You can then submit your solution to see if yours was done in the least number of moves.

Beginners can start with **3 introductory puzzles** to show the kinds of skills used in railroad switching operations. Then, you can advance to a series of more advanced puzzles written and based on actual SCWD member area layouts. Or, if you have already been to an OPS session, you could do an introductory puzzle, and jump right into the more challenging ones.

Join the SCWD listserv now and begin learning what this is all about!

Email Steve Lanphear at scwdmemberlist@mhtc.net to be added to the list and start receiving your puzzles now!

Happy Railroading!
Steve



Enjoy receiving interesting rail photos, model railroad tips, Operating puzzles, and challenging Mystery Photos??

Join The 120+ SCWD members and members from other Midwest Regional Divisions who are participating in the SCWD listserv. You can expect 5 - 10 photos of railfan photos or model railroad photos or other items per week on average, as well as SCWD announcements, monthly Mystery Photo contests, Modelers Corner, and OPS Corner Puzzles. The listserv has been running this since April 2012, and it has been quite popular.

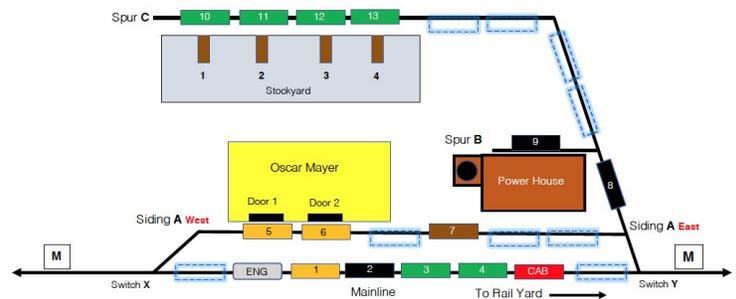
The listserv is a one-way email broadcast to you, not a social media type service. The emails are sent in bulk, but as a BCC: type email.

Please save this email so you know how to get a hold of me. So, if you would like to try out this FREE member service, just send me your **Name** and **email address**, and **City/State** to the address below. You may drop out at any time by sending an email stating such to the same address below.

Steve Lanphear
SCWD listserv Coordinator
scwdmemberlist@mhtc.net



OPS Puzzles

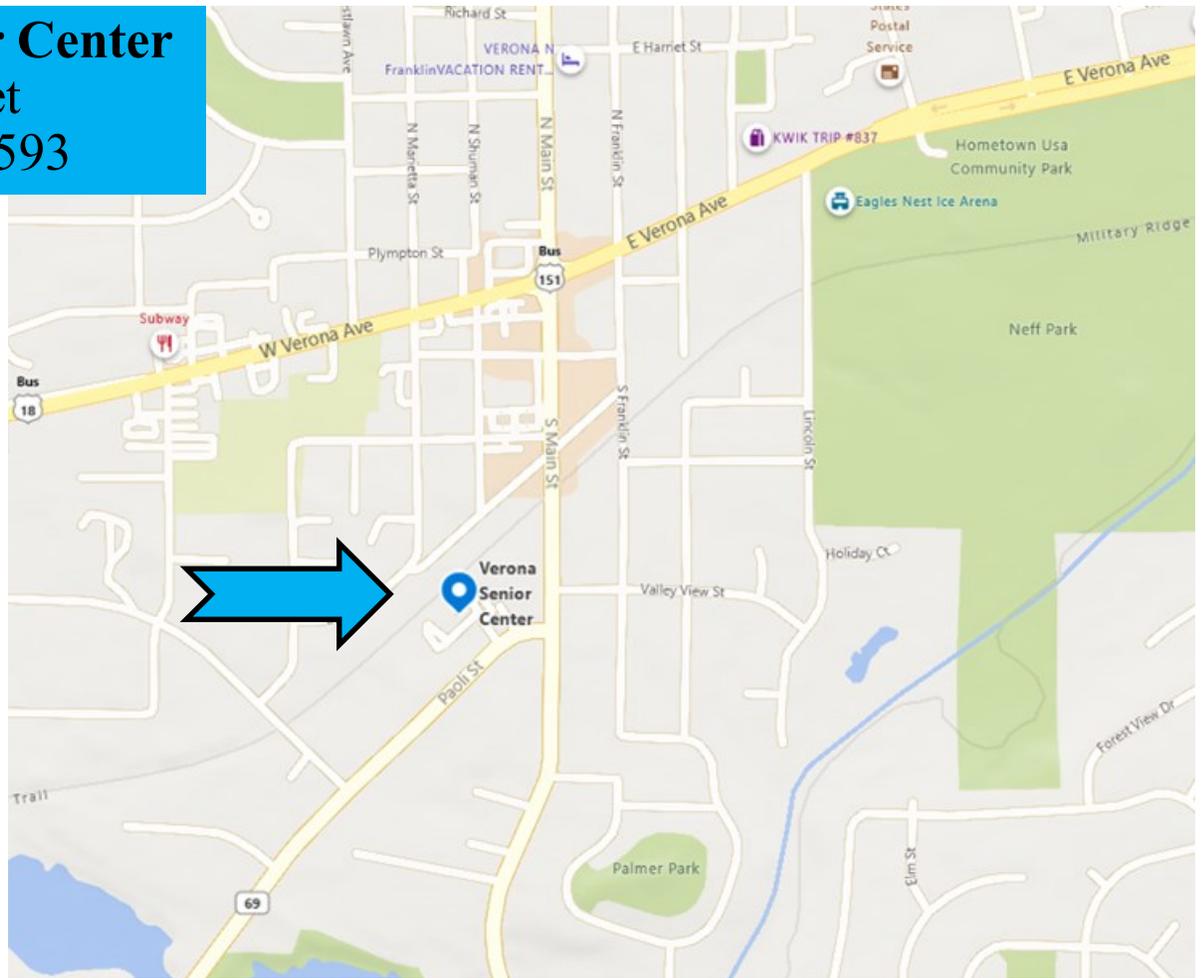


OPS Puzzles have arrived! We now have a section on the SCWD Website that has all 11 puzzles that we have published on the listserv, including the handouts and diagrams. You can start from the beginning, or pick and choose which puzzles you would like to try.

www.nmra-scwd.org/ops-puzzles.html

Steve Lanphear and the Puzzle Development Team.

Verona Senior Center
108 Paoli Street
Verona, WI 53593





NMRA NEWS



President's Message **Gordy Robinson MMR®**

We've just spent a fantastic week together in Grapevine TX. There were lots of things for everyone to get involved in, as well as a number of innovations introduced and relationships made. It was really encouraging to see the level of collaboration between different groups during the event, most noticeably between OpSIG and the Free-moN group who provided the Operations Road Show using a layout that was almost 10 scale miles in length. This allowed 300 convention attendees to take part in operating sessions. There were multiple other opportunities to work together through clinics, meetings, tours and more. Next year we will be in Long Beach CA and there is no better time to get that convention registration submitted.

During the NMRA Board meetings which took place before the convention itself, the Board decided to increase our national team and Lucy Dormont started with the NMRA as our new Marketing Engagement Officer on Monday August 28th. Lucy will support our Social Media messaging and provide content creation support to the marketing department. There are lots of great things across the NMRA and I'm thankful for your contribution to our journey.

Gordy

Gordy Robinson MMR®
[NMRA President](#)

The week-long SurfLiner
2024 NMRA National Convention
is being hosted by the
Pacific Southwest Region of the NMRA on
August 4-11, 2024 at
The Westin Hotel in
Long Beach, California.





**Minutes SCWD Board Meeting
7:00 pm, 15 August 2023
via Zoom meeting**



The meeting of the South Central Wisconsin Division Board of Directors was called to order at 6:38 pm by Superintendent Art Dawson. Art Dawson, Phil Hottmann, John Kosobucki, Dave Down, Dave Dingman, and Steve Preston. Bill Mitchell and Bob McGeever joined the meeting at 7:00 pm. Chris Bradley and John Haverberg were guests. (Meeting start times may vary due to BOD members schedules.)

BOD Meetings: Members of the SCWD are invited to join a Board of Directors meeting. Meeting dates are published in the **Bad Order**. Send a request to Art Dawson or another member of the SCWD Board for a ZOOM link to the upcoming meeting. The members' contact information is in the **RED BOOK**.

Clerk's Note: The first part of the meeting minutes were taken by John Kosobucki.

Minutes

Motion by Dingman, second by Preston, to approve the minutes of the SCWD Board Meeting held on June 13, 2023. Motion carried.

Appointment to the SCWD Board of Directors - Motion by Hottmann, second by Dingman, that Chris Bradley be appointed to the vacant position on the SCWD Board of Directors. Motion carried.

Picnic Summary Report - John Haverberg - The SCWD July Summer Picnic was held on July 15, 2023, at **Little Americka Park** in Marshall on their **"Whiskey River Railway Day"**. Beginning at 10:00 am, the Little Americka engine and locomotive shops were open for a self-guided tour. There were some people calling John about the morning tour for information. For next year if there will be a "Steam Up" tour of the round house, the Youth Group Coordinators will handle the information requests.

Attendance was approximately 90 people.

Total cost of picnic was \$1,631.

\$5.00 fee collected from all who signed up—about 100—several were unable to attend. Several other members gave donations over and above to the \$5.00 fee to help cover the cost of Youth Group members.

Hy-Vee catered the picnic. There were too many buns, but enough pulled pork, brats, hamburgers, and condiments.

Next year more lemonade will be provided.

Received a donation of \$200.00 to help cover the cost of the picnic from the National Model Railroad Association which is the maximum available to NMRA Divisions that sponsor activities that promote and encourage membership.

Clerk's Note: The remaining meeting minutes were taken by Bill Mitchell.

2023-2024 SCWD Budget

Bob McGeever presented the highlights of the 2023-2024 SCWD budget. Youth Group expenses have been budgeted. The Verona Senior Center is budgeted for 2 years. Phil Hottmann and Steve Preston will look for a storage facility closer to Verona for the Youth Group equipment. A possible funds grant for Youth Group activities is not in the budget.

Motion by Dingman, second by Preston, to approve the 2023-2024 SCWD Budget. Motion carried.

Paymaster Report

Bob McGeever presented the highlights of the July paymaster report. Motion by Down, second by Dingman, to approve the July Paymaster Report. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Achievement Program - Ken Hojnacki will continue on as chairperson of the Achievement Program. He is working on leads for someone to present a training session for Achievement Program judges. The SCWD Board of Directors would consider reimbursing some travel expenses for the presenter based upon a preliminary travel expense estimate.

Advertising - Nothing to report.

Bad Order - Articles are due for the newsletter by August 16th.

Special Note 1: The email list comes directly from the NMRA membership list, so please keep your membership active and your email current with the NMRA. All SCWD members are requested to inform the NMRA when their email address changes.

Special Note 2: Kathy, our newsletter editor, is always in need of articles. Please submit articles as soon as possible to have them included in the next publication of the Bad Order to SCWDKATHY@AOL.com via email with attachments in a WORD formatted document.

Clinics - Scheduling clinics for the new year have begun. Members, please think about a clinic you would enjoy presenting.

Contests - Model and Photography - Dave Down will be publishing the list of contests in the Bad order for the 2023-2024 year.

Modeling Project - Nothing to report.

Door Prizes - Four \$25.00 Gift Certificates to **MADISON HOBBY STOP** will continue to be presented during the monthly membership meetings for the 2023 - 2024 season.

Layout Tours - A new Layout Tour Coordinator is needed. Phil Hottmann has lined up a tour for the September meeting. He will be working on scheduling tours for the rest of the season. More members are encouraged to open up their layouts for tours.

Our SCWD organization is always looking for more people to host virtual or in-person layout tours. Please contact Phil Hottmann about the possibility of opening up your layout for a virtual or in-person tour. Phil's contact information is in the REDBOOK.

Membership - Steve Preston - Membership registrations are up to date.

The current SCWD membership list is sent to Steve Preston on a monthly basis. The email address of the SCWD members associated with the membership list is used for the Constant Contact electronic communications system. Each member is responsible for making sure that their email address is valid. If someone has problems renewing their NMRA-SCWD membership using the ON-LINE systems, please contact Steve Preston. His contact information is in the RED BOOK.

Picnic - (Presented during the first part of the meeting)

Publicity - Nothing to report.

Rail School - January 7, 2024 - New Rail School Coordinator(s) is still needed. The September membership meeting will include a request for some people to be the coordinators. Assistance will be provided.

Rail Show - Planning for the February 2024 rail show has started. Invitations have been sent out to vendors and exhibitors.

Youth Group - Steve Preston - About 9 people attended **Diesel Days** on August 12 held at the Illinois Railroad Museum in Union, Illinois.

Youth Group Notes - Youth 18 years of age and under are welcome to join the SCWD Youth Group. A parent or designated adult is required to attend with the youth. The Youth Group Committee is looking for more members. Also, SCWD members are needed to present model railroading topics.

Website - The website needs some updates to reflect the 2023-2024 season.

Old Business:

Open Position on the Board of Directors - Chris Bradley was appointed at this meeting to fill the open position on the Board of Directors.

New Business:

No new business.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Kosobucki, second by Preston, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Bill Mitchell - Clerk



For those members that participate in the listserv emails from Steve Lanphear, please remember to send him your new email if you change it! Changing your email with the NMRA does not change it on the listserv. His email is:

Steve Lanphear
SCWD listserv Coordinator
scwdmemberlist@mhtc.net

FROM the NMRA **Please Keep in Touch**



Please make sure the NMRA has your current contact information. You will not be able to access the full range of NMRA benefits unless we can reach you.

- Please visit nmra.org/members
- Use your email address and password to log in.
- If you have not yet registered, or forgot your password, there are buttons for that. Take a moment to easily correct any problems.
- Once logged in, click on Member Info (top right corner).
- Make sure your information is correct.
- If not, please go to:

nmra.org/request-membership-info-changes

to submit a request for changes to be made.

Thank you!



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now that Fall is here**



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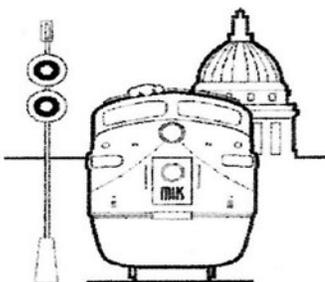
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TRAINS & MORE

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Publishes eleven issues yearly of the

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Official Mailing Address:

BAD ORDER

3940 Trempealeau Trail

Verona, WI 53593

Photos in the Bad Order, unless otherwise noted,
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Deadline for submissions: **14th of the month
prior to publication.** Email Bad
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Madison Hobby Stop – 6622 Mineral Point Rd (inside Clock Tower) – Madison WI *

* = Train Show Ticket advance sales

SCWD 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting	BOD	Youth Group
October 1, 2023	October 10, 2023	October 14, 2023
November 5, 2023	November 14, 2023	November 11, 2023
December 3, 2023	December 12, 2023	December 9, 2023
January 7, 2024 Rail School	January 9, 2024	January 13, 2024
February 4, 2024	February 13, 2024	February 10, 2024
March 3, 2024	March 12, 2024	March 9, 2024
April 7, 2024	April 9, 2024	April 13, 2024
May 5, 2024	May 14, 2024	May 11, 2024
	June 11, 2024	
	August 13, 2024	

A Word about Constant Contact e-mail

Each Constant Contact e-mail includes links to update or unsubscribe your e-mail address. **Please do not use these links.** If you unsubscribe using the Constant Contact link, your e-mail address will be removed from the NMRA membership database, from the Midwest Region e-mail database and probably from your Division's records. If you get an e-mail that you don't want, just hit the delete key. Furthermore, if you use the update link, your change may not be timely posted to the NMRA membership database.

If you need to change your email address with the NMRA please follow these directions:

The direct way is to log on to the "Members" page of the NMRA website, choose the "View your NMRA membership" box on the right side of the screen, scroll down to the bottom of the page and select "Update". Enter the new email address in the appropriate box and click "Submit".