

September 2020

www.nmra-scwd.org

Volume 52 No. 1

Super's Report

Phil Hottmann Division Superintendent

As we prepare to start a new season, things will not be the same this year. With no vaccine for the virus, we will not be able to meet in-person for a while. Our general membership meetings will be held via Zoom for the foreseeable future. We will be sending out a survey to help determine the length and content of our meetings. At this point, we are planning to have a clinic and a layout tour with the meeting length of about one and half hours.

How to join a Zoom meeting? You can use this link for instructions.

https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting

If you do not have a camera or microphone on your computer, you can still join the audio portion using your phone. There will be a phone number and PIN (password) to get the audio portion of the meeting.



We will be scheduling another Happy Hour on August 28th. This would be a good opportunity to test out the Zoom technology if you are not already familiar with it. We can also schedule a test meeting if anyone needs some assistance with it.

Next SCWD Meet

September 13, 2020 at 1:00 pm

ZOOM Meeting Clinics: Page 2

Next BOD Meeting:

September 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm

ZOOM Meeting



At this point we have yet to make the call regarding the Rail School or the Rail Show. We are waiting until after the September meeting to make any announcements.

We are still hopeful that we can start activities in the spring. We may be able to consider such activities as a spring rail fan trip, banquet and possibly a summer picnic. I am sure we would all like to get together when that becomes feasible.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at our first Zoom meeting of the new season.

Phil

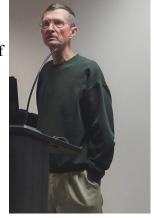


Clinic Corner

Mike Vivion, Clinic Chair

We are trying several new things this year for Clinics. First, there is now a Clinics Committee composed of

myself, Bill Clancy and Ken Hojnacki. (I drew the short straw and got the Chair position). We would like to express on behalf of the SCWD thanks to Bob Wundrock, Clinics Chair Emeritus, our appreciation for his efforts over the past several years to bring excellent clinics to our meetings. Thanks also goes to all the clinicians who provided those clinics!



As you may have already read or heard, our meetings will be virtual for at least the remainder of 2020, which includes Clinics. Fortunately, Zoom allows us to present Power Point format clinic presentations. So starting in September, our first Clinic will be presented by Past Superintendent Bob McGeever and is titled "Operations as a Pull System using JMRI OperationsPro". As many of you know, Bob has been building his new N scale Wisconsin & Southern layout for the past three years with the intention of holding operating sessions on it. To that end, Bob has been exploring and learning how to use JMRI as a basis for operations. I think you will have the opportunity to learn more about JMRI and its uses from Bob's Clinic. Note we will have only one clinic per meeting for at least the first three meetings until we get the format down.

I will be presenting a clinic, "Kit-bashing Cornerstones" in October to show some of the ways I have built and modified the popular HO Walthers Cornerstone Models for a friend. (No, I have not switch scales from N to HO!). I already have an excellent clinic lined up for November by someone outside the SCWD, but won't reveal who that is now. We will be looking for more clinicians to present in subsequent meetings from the SCWD membership as well as outside the Division. If you are interested in presenting or have someone to recommend, please contact Bill, Ken or I so we can start working on getting those clinics lined up for the rest of the 2020-2021 season. And we welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have to improve our clinics, following our September and subsequent meetings.

See you virtually on September 13th! Mike

Layout Tours

Phil Hottmann

The question is: how will we do layout tours this year? We are hoping we can still present layout tours during our Zoom meetings. There are several ways of doing this. One way may be to prepare a slide show such as Power Point. You could also consider filming a video which could be presented with you providing live audio commentary. Another might be to present live filming of your layout.



If you are like me, you have probably been working on your layout over the summer. This might be a great way to present your latest work. We would like to present one layout for each meeting.

For September's meeting Bill Clancy will be presenting his layout. I believe he intends to present a live video of his layout. We did a test of this method with Kathy using her iPhone and it went well.

We will be looking for layouts to present, so please contact me if you are interested.

Phil



SCWD listserv starts a new area: The OPS Corner

Steve Lanphear

Model Railroad Operation (frequently called OPS) is a fun and interesting role playing game where the players (operators) use model trains to simulate the movements of real trains and the actions of real railroad employees. 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 on railroad operations!

Last month, a group of SCWD members started a project to introduce more of our members to the enjoyment of, as our wives call it, playing trains. We have been engaged in operating sessions for as many as 20 years or more and would like to get more of you interested.

We are beginning by introducing interested members to the basics of operations by using a series of lessons revolving around a set of puzzles. The first few lessons are using the **Inglenook Puzzle layout** and as you complete the basic skills needed, the layouts and the puzzles will become more complex. You will learn the method of **solution notation** that will be used throughout the puzzles to come, to show your solution to each puzzle.

It's not too late to check it out... so, join us as we embark on this new and exciting project!

Just send your email to Steve Lanphear at: scwdmemberlist@frontier.com
and ask to join the SCWD listserv and get the starting emails for the OPS Corner.

OPS Puzzle Development Group

- Jim Feldman
- John Kosobucki
- Don Mayo
- Steve Lanphear

Resource Group

- Al Potts
- John Schaffer
- Bill Weber
- Bob Wundrock



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

Join The 75+ SCWD members and members from other Midwest Regional Divisions who are participating in the SCWD listserv. You can expect 4 - 6 photos of railfan photos or model railroad photos per week on average, as well as SCWD announcements, and a monthly Mystery Photo contest. The listserv has been running this since April 2012 (that will be 7 years this coming April), 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, so no one knows the identity or email addresses of the participants. Once a month, I send out a Mystery Photo, and then if you know the answer or do a little research, you send an email back to sewdmemberlist@frontier.com. About a week later, I post the answer and a list of the names of those who sent in answers that month. The answer often includes parts of the best correct answers received.

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** 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@frontier.com



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The Evolution of Rail

Jim Feldman

When railroads were still just a crazy idea, the concept was simply an extension of horse drawn wagons on roads. This idea was very ancient. That model had been moving coal, iron ore and general goods in England centuries before Roman times.

In 600 B.C. The Greeks had made grooves in paved limestone roads to use in conjunction with wheeled vehicles, easing the transport of boats across the Isthmus of Corinth. With the fall of Corinth, the idea disappeared for fourteen centuries.

In the early 1550s German cities built wagonways, a kind of railed road. They consisted of wooden rails over which horse-drawn wagons or carts were able to move with greater ease than over dirt roads. By the 1770s, wooden rails had been replaced with iron ones.

In 1789, Englishman William Jessop designed the first wagons with flanged wheels allowing the wheels to better grip his cast iron rails. This important design feature was carried forward to later locomotives. The debate of whether the flange should go on the wheel or the rail went on for a very long time.

In the 1830s when steam locomotives were first demonstrated, it was quickly obvious that the weight would require a more sophisticated roadway than rutted roads or tramways. The very first tests of the Trevithick locomotive were stopped when the wooden rails were crushed. Even Jessop's cast iron rails quickly failed under high loads because of cast iron's brittleness; another strike against it was its length limit of about three feet due to casting difficulties.



Jessup's cast iron "fish belly" rail

An interim and inexpensive solution was called strap rail in which a thin iron strap was laid on top of the timber rail. Besides the fact that it wore out quickly, strap rail had the flaw that every so often the strap would break away from the timber. The problem was first reported by Richard Trevithick in 1802 (still in horse drawn days). The temporary use of strap rails in the United States (for instance on the Albany and Schenectady Railroad c. 1837) led to passengers being threatened by "snake-heads" when the broken straps curled up and penetrated the carriages.



Strap rail in a museum

A later development, used in mining roads, was plate rail. Ore loads were moved in flat wheeled wagons on L shaped cast iron "plate" rails supported by stone blocks. Plate rail had significant drawbacks among which were brittleness, loss of gauge and accumulation of debris from the dirt kicked up by the horses. The raised flanges obstructed traffic trying to cross the tracks.



Plate rail in 19th century British colliers

These problems were all solved rather suddenly about 1820 when English engineer John Birkinshaw patented wrought-iron rails in 15 ft lengths. Birkinshaw's design were called "edge rails", that is a rail set on edge so that the rail's depth is greater than its width. These rails were flangeless and required the use of flanged wheels. This is the rail that George Stephenson specified for the famous Rainhill trials that are general recognized as the start of modern railroads. The debate over the location of the flange was over.

Although Birkinshaw's rail still had problems, the chance of rust and load failure, it became the standard rail design for thirty years until the Bessemer steel process was developed in 1856. Birkinshaw's rail profile gradually evolved toward a stronger form with a thicker cross section and heavier foot to provide strength for heavy loads.

Some rail was symmetrical top to bottom, enabling railroads to invert the rail when the upper surface became worn. This didn't work very well since the bottom surface was distorted by the rails supports (at that time mainly stone blocks) and the technique was dropped.

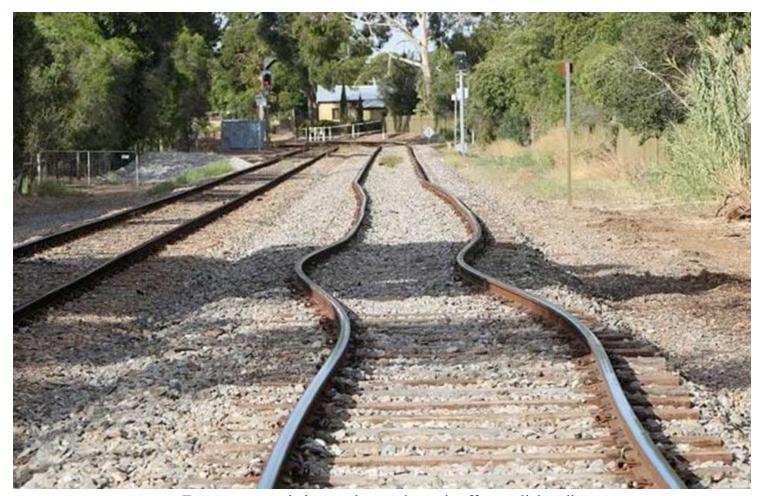
The first steel rails were manufactured in 1857 as part of testing at a Bessemer steel plant. They were laid experimentally at Derby railway station on the Midland Railway in England. They immediately proved more durable, cheaper, and quieter than the iron rails they replaced. Within two years Bessemer had delivered 500 tons of steel rails in England alone.

As steel rail quickly took over the field, a set of standards was developed by the railroads. Firstly, they wanted the longest possible sections of rails to reduce the substantial cost of replacing their existing lines, the number of joints (a source of weakness) and to provide a smoother and quieter ride, some of the obvious advantages of steel rail. Secondly, they wanted different weights of rail as a further cost reduction.

Producers were happy to oblige. The section length of rail went smoothly from 15 feet in 1831 to 39 feet in 1880 (the longest a standard railcar could handle), sixty feet in 1950. In current times rail sections are made as long as three hundred feet. All this time thermite welding was being developed which made the rail joints smoother, stronger and quieter. Automated track laying machines pushed this development even further. Current American practice is to weld 1/4 mile (400 m) long segments of rail at a rail facility and load it on a special train to carry it to the job site.

The variation in weight was also easily met. Heavier rail can support greater axle loads and higher train speeds without sustaining damage than lighter rail, but at a greater cost. Rail is graded by weight over a standard length. In America, rail is graded by its linear density in pounds per yard. Heavier rail is used for mainlines while spurs, yards and sidings use lighter rail.

The usual range is 115 to 141 lb/yd although rail as heavy as 155 lb/yd has been deployed (for the Pennsy). At the other end of the scale there is still rail as light as 60 lb/yd in service.



Temperature variation can have a dramatic effect on light rail

For a remarkable look at modern rail laying technique see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMXfU8blPMM

Jim Feldman. SCWD Member



Minutes SCWD Board Meeting 7:00 pm, June 8, 2020 via Zoom meeting



The meeting of the South Central Wisconsin Division Board of Directors was called to order at 7:35 pm by Superintendent Phil Hottmann. Phil Hottmann, Bob McGeever, Bill Clancy, Jim Feldman, Dave Dingman, Steve Preston, Bill Mitchell were present. A quorum was present.

Minutes:

Motion by Preston, second by Feldman, to approve the minutes of the May 2020 meeting. Motion Carried.

Paymaster Report:

The monthly rental fee for the storage unit is split equally between the budget for the SCWD and the Rail Show. A contract for the rental of the Verona Senior Center facility still needs to be signed when a facility representative is available.

Motion by Mitchell second by McGeever, to approve the Paymaster's Report for the month ending May 31. Motion Carried.

Committee Reports:

- a. Achievement Program nothing to report
- b. Advertising nothing to report
- c. Bad Order the Bad Order looks very good thank you Editor and Publisher Kathy Clancy
- d. Clinics Bill Clancy is looking for presentations. One of the bigger questions to investigate is how to get the clinic presentations can be presented in a virtual mode for the members at our meetings in the Fall if we are not able to use the Verona Senior Center Facility due to Dane County and City of Verona public gathering requirements.
- e. Contests Model and Photography nothing new until start up in the Fall
- f. **Modeling Project** still postponed until next live meeting
- g. **Door Prizes** The Division has plenty of door prizes on hand the awarding of door prizes will be started at the next live meeting.
- h. **Layout Tours** A list of possible layout tours is being gathered. Virtual layout tours are being investigated by Bob McGeever. Look for announcements via email from other NMRA Divisions that are scheduling virtual tours.
- i. **Membership** Steve Brist should have a list of SCWD Youth Members. Steve Preston will be contacting Steve Brist for this list.
- j. Picnic July Picnic is canceled.
- k. **Publicity** nothing to report
- l. **Rail School** planning will begin in October. The January event will again depend on Dane County and City of Verona public gathering requirements. Issues to address will be parking around the Verona Senior Center and clean-up of the facility.
- m. **Rail Show** The Alliant Energy Exposition Center could be used as an emergency COVID-19 site if the local hospitals do not have the capacity to handle infected people. Dane County and the City of Madison may not allow public gatherings to occur due to the status of the COVID-19 situation. The SCWD is monitoring how the WISE Division is handling the Milwaukee TrainFest event that is scheduled for November 2020. The 'unknowns' such as vendor, exhibitor, and attendee participation are being reviewed. Will people want to attend if the COVID-19 situation is not yet under control? Bob McGeever is investigating different possibilities. One possibility is that the Rail Show 2021 will be canceled.
- n. Website the website is looking good
- o. **Youth Group** The Board of Directors is looking for possible alternatives to involving our youth in activities to encourage involvement in Model Railroading.

Old Business:

Bob McGeever has received a refund from the Zor Shrine Temple for the canceled monthly meetings and canceled May Annual Dinner. The SCWD items stored in the basement of the Zor Shrine Temple were moved to the SCWD storage facility on May 28 by Phil Hottmann, Bob McGeever, Steve Preston, and Bill Mitchell.

New Business:

- a. NMRA notice pertaining to the termination of Youth Group meetings sponsored by local Divisions The board is continuing its discussion on the NMRA youth policy directive and is looking for ideas to allow our youth group members to be involved in our SCWD organization.
- b. **Virtual clinics** the possibility exists that the September SCWD meeting will be in 'virtual mode'. A clinic could be presented.
- c. **OPS corner** Bob McGeever is looking at an idea about "Designing a Layout for Operation" and other ideas.
- d. **Support of small businesses** Our local hobby shops are being affected by the "Safe at Home" edict. Many of us are working on our layouts and do need supplies. Most hobby shops are now open with limited hours and occupancy limits. These hobby shops offer gift
- certificates or gift cards for later purchases. Call ahead for guidelines for each hobby shop.
- e. Announcement Bob McGeever received the 'NMRA Presidents Award for Service to the Division''. The announcement was published in the NMRA Magazine.
- f. The "RED BOOK" was sent out in an electronic PDF file to our members who have email addresses. If you did not receive the "RED BOOK" please contact the "Bad Order" editor for the document. The "RED BOOK" is not available on our website.
- g. **Next Virtual Event** The May "Happy Hour" virtual event had about 20 members attending. The June "Happy Hour" virtual event will be held on June 25th at 5:00 pm. A separate email announcement will be sent out.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mitchell, second by Preston, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Bill Mitchell, Clerk

SCWD listsery starts a new idea for "stuck at home" model railroaders

"I know that these are difficult times for all of us, but if we could pull together as model railroaders and share what we have been working on in our basement train rooms now that we have more time, perhaps we can all get some inspiration from our fellow SCWD members" said Steve Lanphear who manages the SCWD listserv.

I proposed a <u>Modelers Corner</u>, where we could post photos of work in progress or work completed on your layouts. I figured that since we aren't having photo and modeling contests, clinics or layout visits, maybe we could share progress or ideas that we are working on.

Here's how it could work: you send me a photo along with a brief description and I post it on the listserv for all to see. If you would like feedback from the group, let me know and I will include your email in the post, but that is **optional**. That way if one of you has a question they can contact you directly.

And from that day on March 29 to the present, we have had upwards of 70 posts from our modelers. We hope to continue this for as long as it is of interest to our members.

Steve Lanphear SCWD listserv Coordinator scwdmemberlist@frontier.com



Minutes SCWD Board Meeting 7:00 pm, July 13, 2020 via Zoom meeting



The meeting of the South Central Wisconsin Division Board of Directors was called to order at 7:32 pm by Superintendent Phil Hottmann. Phil Hottmann, Bob McGeever, Dr. Bill Clancy, Jim Feldman, David Down, Dave Dingman, Steve Preston, and Bill Mitchell were present. All members of the Board of Directors were present. John Haverberg was also in 'virtual' attendance.

Minutes:

Motion by Dingman, second by Dr. Clancy, to approve the minutes of the June 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Paymaster Report:

Bob McGeever was instructed to pay the September Verona Facility rental fee to confirm the Division's intentions of holding our monthly SCWD general meetings beginning with the September date. The space will be reserved even though the September meeting will be "virtual". The cancellation policy of not using the facility still has to be discussed with the facility manager.

Motion by Feldman, second by Dr. Clancy, to approve the Paymaster's Report for the month ending June 30. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Our committees are somewhat inactive for the Summer. Committee discussions are included in Old and New Business.

Old and New Business Topics - Addressed as brought up by the members of the SCWD Board of Directors

General discussions of a multitude of topics started with the question and possible ideas on how to present the awards that are normally presented at the annual May SCWD banquet that had been canceled. Virtual presentations of the awards will be explored.

The Summer ZOOM "Happy Hour" virtual events are being attended by around 20 or more members. The next ZOOM "Happy Hour" will be held on Friday, July 31, at 5:00 pm. The announcement will be sent out via electronic mail. The message will include a link to the ZOOM event. All members are invited to join the event. This will give everyone an opportunity to see how ZOOM works for "virtual" gatherings.

The COVID-19 pandemic and how public group gatherings are being handled is causing problems for civic organizations including the South Central Wisconsin Division. The New Holland Building at the Dane County Fairgrounds is currently being used for "drive-up" testing of possible COVID-19 infected people. The Alliant Energy Exposition Center is an "alternate" hospital site if our Madison hospitals do not have enough beds for infected people. Scheduling an event at these facilities is a major unknown.

What is going to happen if the infection rates go up (as is occurring right now after the 4th of July Holiday and the partial opening of public establishments?

What is going to be the infection rate for the days after Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's holidays?

The SCWD Board of Directors is taking into consideration all of these potential scenarios.

2020-2021 Budget:

Paymaster Bob McGeever has put together different SCWD 2020-2021 budgets for the events that are normally scheduled for our Division activities. Cancelation of the Spring Banquet, SCWD Excursion, Summer Picnic, and canceled Spring monthly membership meetings has saved money. Currently, the only major operating expense is the

rental fee for the storage unit where our Company Store inventory and Model Rail Show and Sale equipment is stored.

Fall Startup Meeting:

Our September 13th SCWD meeting will be "virtually" held using ZOOM. Discussion of the general meetings raised questions and ideas of how to make the meetings informative to our members and guests. The past SCWD Youth Group is in a state of "limbo" until investigations into how other divisions of the National Model Railroad Association are handling the youth. Currently, youth need to be accompanied by a responsible adult or guardian at the meeting facility. The SCWD monthly "virtual" meetings could include invitations to our past youth group members. The Superintendent and Clinics Committee members will make an attempt to provide a presentation that would be of interest to our youth. An email message will be composed and sent out to our members requesting what topics could be presented at our monthly meetings. Members of the SCWD with some technical expertise will be contacted to assist in putting together PowerPoint and / or video presentations.

A formal motion was made by Dr. Clancy, second by Preston, to invite the past members of our SCWD Youth Group to our September "virtual" meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dr. Clancy, second by Dingman, to have our Superintendent and the Clinics Committee members create an agenda for our September meeting. Motion carried.

An idea was suggested that to add interest to the monthly "virtual" meetings would be to hold an auction for some of the items in the Company Store. Details of how a possible auction have yet to be worked out.

Steve Lanphear is working on how "Special Interest Groups" and "Virtual Operating Sessions" could be held.

Investigation into the monthly modeling projects and photography entries are continuing.

Layout Tours Chairman: A vacancy still exists.

Publicity:

John Haverberg, Picnic, Excursion, and Publicity Chairman had some questions for the Board of Directors on how publicity should be handled when our Division is holding "virtual" meetings. John has been requested to have the announcements in magazines to point to the SCWD website for the most current information and up-to-date schedules.

Rail School:

The "GO - No GO" decision to host a public rail school will be made sometime after the Division membership has experienced the September 13 "virtual" monthly meeting. Dr. Clancy has indicated that there is a 6 to 8 week preparation time involved for setting up the public January rail school event. Discussion on the decision will include the safety of our presenters and guests as well as the public gathering rules that are in force at the time of the rail school date.

February Train Show:

The February train show date is approaching. The Milwaukee WISE TrainFest has been canceled. Other model railroad shows around the country are canceled. Discussion will continue as to the feasibility of hosting the February Madison Model Railroad Show and Sale event.

Bank Accounts:

The current SCWD savings and checking accounts reside at U.S. Bank in Madison. Paymaster Bob McGeever has asked that the Division bank accounts be moved to a bank that has more convenient access because of possible multiple branch bank locations. A motion was made by Preston, second by McGeever, to authorize the investigation and possible change in financial institutions for the savings and checking accounts. Motion carried.

Cash Manager Position Vacancy:

The Division will be looking for a new person to fill the position of "Cash Manager" for the train show. Paymaster McGeever will outline the responsibilities of that position.

ZOOM Meeting Fees:

The SCWD Board of Directors has authorized Superintendent Hottmann to purchase an ANNUAL membership to ZOOM instead of purchasing ZOOM capabilities on a monthly basis.

SCWD Membership:

SCWD Membership Committee member Steve Preston has been in the process of getting all our members current on their annual membership fees. Most of or "past due" member are now "current". A big **THANK YOU** goes out to Kathy Clancy for providing the required membership status information to Steve.

Support of Small Businesses:

Our local hobby shops are being affected by the Dane County COVID-19 changing rules. Many of us are working on our layouts and do need supplies. Most hobby shops are now open with limited hours and occupancy limits. These hobby shops offer gift certificates or gift cards for later purchases. Call ahead for guidelines for each hobby shop.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Preston, second by Dingman, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

Bill Mitchell - Clerk

Members of the South Central Wisconsin Division of the National Model Railroad Association:

My wife Joan and I are cleaning out MY archives of railroad themed magazines and newsletters that I have accumulated for over 50 years. Chances are all of you have old railroad magazines, NMRA newsletters, and the SCWD BAD ORDER newsletter in your archives.

Do any of you have the SCWD BAD ORDER, NMRA Bulletin, NMRA Scale Rails, or the current NMRA newsletters in your archives?

I would like to make a copy of the originals for electronic storage in PDF format. Once completed, the Division can decide how to make this information accessible to current and future members.

The NMRA is looking for a few missing Scale Rails / NMRA Bulletin publications for their archives. These original newsletters would be sent to the Kalmbach Memorial Library of the NMRA.

I would make arrangements to pick up the documents and later return these documents back to you (if you wanted the documents back).

Thank you.

Bill Mitchell - SCWD Clerk wjmitchell@hotmail.com 608-838-8279 after 6:30 pm



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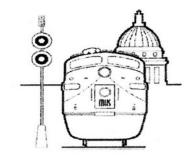
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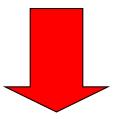


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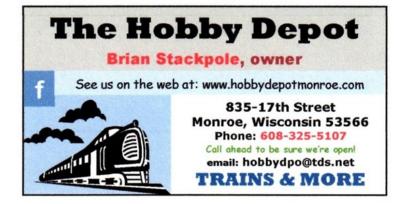
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Thank you!





South Central Wisconsin Division of the National Model Railroad Association

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Deadline for submissions: **14th of the month prior to publication.** Email Bad
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SCWD 2020-2021 Meeting Schedule			
Regular Meeting	BOD	Train Show TBD	Rail School
Sept 13, 2020 Oct 4, 2020 Nov 1, 2020 Dec 6, 2020 Jan 10, 2021 Feb 7, 2021 March 7, 2021 April 11, 2021 May 2, 2021	Sept 14, 2020 Oct 12, 2020 Nov 9, 2020 Dec 14, 2020 Jan 11, 2021 Feb 8, 2021 March 8, 2021 April 12, 2021 May 10, 2021 June 14, 2021		Jan 10, 2021

^{* =} Train Show Ticket advance sales