

November 2020

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Volume 52 No. 3

Super's Report

Phil Hottmann
Division Superintendent

With the spread of Covid 19 increasing, I feel quite safe in the basement working on the railroad. At least I can take advantage of this situation by getting some work done. Hopefully you are doing the same.

We had a really good meeting earlier this month thanks to Mike Vivion and Bob Wundrock. Mike's clinic really demonstrated what can be done by kitbashing. I especially liked the weathering effects Mike did on these structures. Bob's presentation of his layout construction showed what excellent work he was capable of doing, even with his slight handicap. I found it interesting how he designs his layout to meet his comfort level and mobility. I think there are lessons here we can all keep in mind as we get a little older.

We had a somewhat lower attendance at the Zoom meeting than we normally have at our in-person meetings.

To help bolster attendance we are going to reintroduce our door prizes. Instead of railroad items we will be giving away two Fifty Dollar gift certificates to the Madison Hobby Stop.



Next SCWD Meet

November 1, 2020 at 1:00 pm
ZOOM Meeting

Clinics: Page 2

Next BOD Meeting:

November 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm
ZOOM Meeting



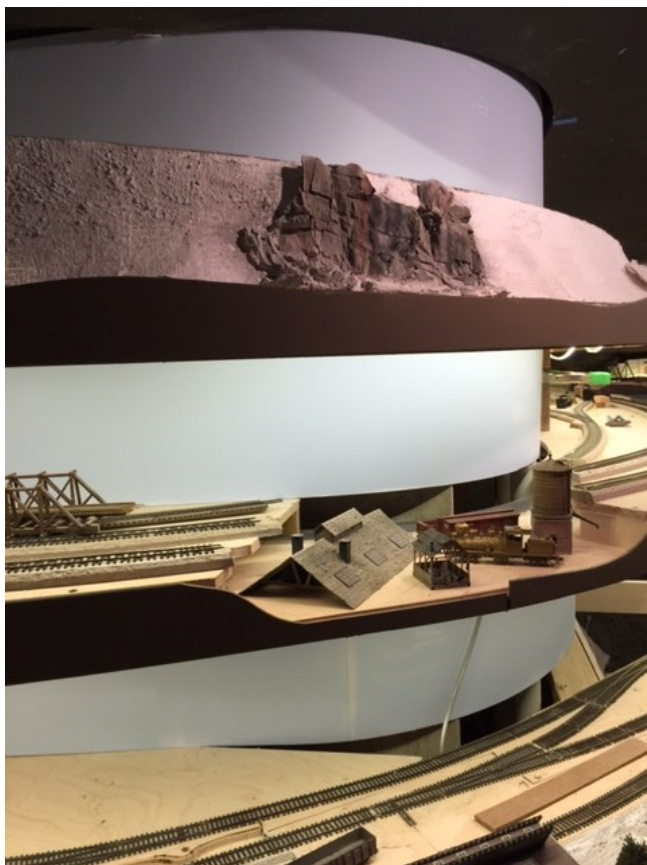
We also recognized one of our members for his exceptional work. John Haverberg has received the Bob Davies Award for Volunteer Spirit. John has always done a great job with our Spring Trips and the Summer Picnic. John also does other work getting postings of our events in publications. Hopefully one day soon we can do some of these activities again. I think we are all looking forward to that.



We have now officially cancelled the Train Show for this year. We will be refunding the moneys that were already received for dealer tables.

As far as work being completed on my layout, we just installed about 200 feet of backdrop. Even though these are just sky-blue painted sheets of plastic for now, it is gratifying to get a feel for what the finished product will look like. Now I'm looking forward to starting some scenery.

Phil



Clinic Corner

Mike Vivion, Clinic Chair

For those who “zoomed in” to our October 4th meeting, I hope you enjoyed my clinic titled “Kit-bashing Cornerstones”. I hope you found the examples of how I have modified several of the popular HO Walther's Cornerstone Models to be informative or at least entertaining. Thanks again to those members who provided me feedback on the clinic.

As I mentioned in last month's column, we have an excellent clinic lined up for our November 1st zoom meeting. Steve Miazga, of the WISE Division, will be presenting from Waukesha a clinic titled “Taking Full Advantage of Your Layout Design Software”. For those members who have yet to build a layout, but are planning to do so or at least thinking about doing one, this clinic should be a must see for you. For those who already have a layout, I think you will find it interesting to hear about

Steve's approach to planning and designing a layout. For those who failed to read this column in the *October Bad Order*, Steve models in N scale, has had two excellent articles on his layout published in *Model Railroader* within the past year, is the current Editor of the the WISE Division's “Owl Car” newsletter and a member of their Board of Directors. In addition, several SCWD members, including myself, have experienced (prior to 2020) the fun of operating on his layout. I hope you all will join our November zoom meeting and enjoy Steve's clinic.

We have another excellent clinic lined up for our December meeting which will be presented by a well-known member of the *Model Railroader Video Plus* on-line show. So mark your calendar for December 6th for this meeting, and see next month's Clinics Column for more information about this clinic.

Mike



**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 scwdmemberlist@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

Layout Tours

Phil Hottmann

Thanks to Bob Wundrock for his presentation of his new layout. I'm impressed by all of the work he has been able to get done in just a couple of years. Bob always does a great job with his presentation.



For the December meeting Dave Casey will be presenting a clinic/layout tour of his layout. One thing that makes Dave's layout interesting is his house--he has a round room for his layout. I hope everyone makes an effort to attend this session.

I am looking for more layouts for the rest of the season. I don't think we need to do live video of the layout. A photo slide show should also do a good job, so let me know if you're interested.

Phil



"Thank you!"
to Phil and the Board for
awarding me the
2020 Bob Davis Award for
Volunteerism
in support of SCWD.

John Haverberg

NMRA 2021 Rails by the Bay
Join us next summer in
Santa Clara!



Visit www.nmra2021.com for initial information.

Why We Have Time Zones

By Jim Feldman

Time zones were invented in 1883 to solve an increasingly serious problem. It was becoming impossible to know what time it was. The United States had no standard time. Every community kept solar time, meaning that noon was whenever the sun was directly overhead at that location. This meant for example that noon was several minutes earlier in New York than in Boston.

This had always been true. A typical day's travel by horse covered about six miles which had a time error between start and finish of about three minutes.



But railroads were the first business that covered enough distance to make it matter. Across a hundred miles, suddenly you were off by an hour! Both freight and passenger service depended on accurate timetable and performance. In 1883 the railroad was keeping track of fifty-six time standards.

Several railroads developed independent methods to solve the problem. The first real attempt was by the Pennsylvania Rail Road which used Allegheny Time. Unfortunately, almost everyone else used New York Time or Chicago Time.

Needless to say, this was all being calculated by hand and was different for each line depending on its latitude, since the width of an hour changes with latitude. After the Civil War, things got *really* bad; because there were now very large western distances to cover, and the inhabitants depended absolutely on the railroads. It was intolerable and something had to be done. It was.

As early as 1870 Professor Charles Dowd had proposed the establishment of fixed time zones. His suggestion was largely ignored by the railroad industry.

The General Time Convention (renamed the American Railway Association in 1891), an organization of US railroads charged with coordinating schedules and operating standards, became increasingly concerned that if the U.S. government adopted a standard time scheme it would be disadvantageous to its member railroads.

Finally, in the spring of 1883, the leaders of the nation's railroads sent representatives to a meeting of what was called the General Railroad Time Convention. The first suggestion was two time zones centered on Washington and New Orleans. This was quickly seen to penalize the increasingly populated Western part of the country and was rejected. But the discussion of time zones had paved the way for more sophisticated discussion of the concept.

The next idea to be seriously discussed evolved into four "time belts" set to straddle the 75th, 90th, 105th, and 115th meridians. After more discussion and refining, on April 11, 1883, in St. Louis, Missouri, railroad officials agreed to create five time zones in North America: Provincial, Eastern, Central, Mountain, and Pacific.

Six months later, on October 11, 1883, the General Railroad Time Convention met again in Chicago. And it was formally decided that the new standard of time would take effect a little more than a month later, on Sunday, November 18, 1883.

As the date for the big change approached, newspapers published numerous articles explaining how the process would work.

The shift only amounted to a few minutes for many people. In New York City, for instance, the clocks would be turned back four minutes. Going forward, noon in New York would occur at the same moment as noon in Boston, Philadelphia, and other cities in the East. In a parallel to the famous Y2K problem a century later, jewelers used the event to drum up business by offering to set watches to the new time standard. And although the new time standard

was not sanctioned by the federal government, the Naval Observatory in Washington offered to send, by telegraph, a new time signal so people could synchronize their watches. The government would not formally adopt the system until the passage of the Standard Time Act in 1918.

There was very little resistance to the change the railroads had wrought. The advantages to business and travelers was so obvious that the few objections were quickly extinguished.

The system went worldwide within a year or two. Most countries were small enough that they could be comfortably covered by a single time zone. The advantage of synchronized time across Europe led to the adoption of the system there within a year or two of the U. S.'s system in 1883.

The system is now such second nature that few people realize that it was invented by the railroads. Ironically, the first to propose the system, Professor Charles Dowd, was run over by a locomotive in Saratoga New York in 1904.

Jim Feldman, SCWD Member

SCWD listserv 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 **Modelers Corner**, 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 90 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, September 15, 2020
via Zoom meeting**



The meeting of the South Central Wisconsin Division Board of Directors was called to order at 7:04 pm by Superintendent Phil Hottmann. Phil Hottmann, Bob McGeever, Dr. Bill Clancy, David Down, Dave Dingman, Steve Preston, and Bill Mitchell were present. Jim Feldman was unable to join the meeting.

Minutes:

Motion by McGeever, second by Dr. Clancy, to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Paymaster Report

Bob McGeever reported that the transfer of financial accounts from US Bank to Associated Bank is just about completed. The monthly Paymaster Reports were presented. Motion by Mitchell, second by Dingman, to approve the Paymaster Reports. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Contests - Model and Photography

Dave Down will send Bob McGeever the information on the contest winners for the 2019 - 2020 SCWD contests. Dave and Bob will be working on a procedure to inform the membership of the contest winner results.

Membership Meeting Held via ZOOM on Sunday, September 13

Bob McGeever and Dr. Bill Clancy did a good job on their ZOOM presentations. About 26 people joined the ZOOM meeting. Phil Hottmann did receive some ZOOM meeting notes from Jim Lane on ideas for the ZOOM presentations for the October monthly membership meeting. Phil will be sending out at least 2 electron membership meeting reminders with the ZOOM links.

Rail School - Canceled for January 2021

The board discussed the January Rail School and its implications due to the COVID-19 situation and public gathering recommendations. Motion by McGeever, second by Mitchell, to cancel the January 2021 Rail School. Motion carried.

The January 2021 membership meeting may include photos and updates from the members of the SCWD on members' model railroad progress. Bob McGeever will be contacting Steve Lanphear to see how this could be done. Also, the photography contests may be done on-line in a similar fashion as the video contest.

In the coming months, SCWD members will be asked to submit photos and ideas for upcoming monthly meetings.

Rail Show - February 2021

Bob McGeever is still waiting on information about the availability of the Dane County Exposition Center and the ever changing COVID-19 public gathering guidelines. The Rail Show will be discussed during the October SCWD Board of Directors meeting.

New Business - Topics of Discussion:

Sale of Items through LISTSERVE: A subscriber of the LISTSERVE electronic messaging system being managed by Steve Lanphear inquired about putting out a list of items he would like to sell in the LISTSERVE environment. The SCWD board has decided that the person should advertise his contact information and a general idea of what he has to sell in the "**SCWD Bad Order**" so that interested members could communicate with the person directly. This will allow the LISTSERVE electronic messaging system keep to the original intent of sending out information on the train transportation industry and model railroading hobby.

Monthly Membership Meeting: The ZOOM meetings are a **new experience** for some of our members. Members are encouraged to participate in these monthly ZOOM membership meetings. If anyone has problems joining the meeting, please contact Phil Hottmann via email or phone number listed in the **RED BOOK**. The ZOOM software needs to be "downloaded and installed" before using ZOOM the first time. Each member is able to "mute" and "turn off video".

LISTSERVE & Special Interest Groups - Operations: The photos, switching contests, and layout progress updates that are being sent out by Steve Lanphear are greatly appreciated.

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 store hours and guidelines for each hobby shop.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by McGeever, second by Dr. Clancy, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Bill Mitchell, Clerk

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**Looks like everyone will be staying home
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Saturday 10:00-5:00.**



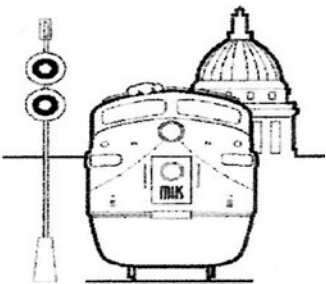
**Preorders are 25% off regular price except
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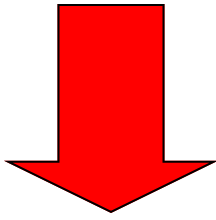
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Deadline for submissions: **14th of the month
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* = Train Show Ticket advance sales

SCWD 2020-2021 Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting

BOD

Nov 1, 2020

Nov 9, 2020

Dec 6, 2020

Dec 14, 2020

Jan 10, 2021

Jan 11, 2021

Feb 7, 2021

Feb 8, 2021

March 7, 2021

March 8, 2021

April 11, 2021

April 12, 2021

May 2, 2021

May 10, 2021

June 14, 2021

