



January 2021

[www.nmra-scwd.org](http://www.nmra-scwd.org)

Volume 52 No. 5

## Super's Report

Phil Hottmann  
Division Superintendent

Now that the Holiday Season is in full swing it is usually the time we get into modeling mode. This year may be a little different due to travel and visiting restrictions. I am not sure we can replace the time we would usually be getting together with our family and friends.

We are planning a Happy Hour for January 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. I hope many join the meeting.

We had an increased number of attendees at our December meeting. It was wonderful to have Dave Popp as our clinician. He was very impressed by our group's liveliness. Our door prizes may account for some of the increase attendance. If you have any ideas on how to improve our meeting, please let me know.

The Midwest Region is conducting their Spring Election for President, Vice President and three Directors at Large. Bob McGeever is running for President. A sample ballot is on Page 9 of this Bad Order. You can print the ballot and mail it in or vote on line; directions are located on the ballot. Please be sure to cast your vote before the deadline of January 31<sup>st</sup>. Also, the Midwest Region has postponed the Spring Convention that was planned for May 20-23.

Now that a vaccine is on the horizon, we are starting to think about upcoming in-person events. It is possible that we may be able to get together for a Summer Picnic. We are checking into reserving the Pavilion at Little Americka. Wouldn't it be great to get together in person again?

Phil

### Next SCWD Meet

January 10, 2021 at 1:00 pm

ZOOM Meeting

**Contest:** Page 2

**Clinics:** Page 3

### Next BOD Meeting:

January 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm

ZOOM Meeting



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

Join The 96+ 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@frontier.com](mailto:scwdmemberlist@frontier.com)

## Layout Tours

Phil Hottmann

It was good to see Don Meyer's Tyoga Northern Railroad again, even though it was a virtual visit this time. Don has a lot of great scenic detail. I just love his winter scenes, not that the other seasons were not as good, but winter scenes are not as common and so they are fun to see. Hopefully, we can make another trip to Baraboo to see this layout in-person again.



For our January meet we will feature Dave Lendved's Chicago Northwestern – Baraboo Division Layout. The last time I saw this layout was on the same Fall Layout Tour that we saw Don's. I remember all the great work Dave had done. I was told that Dave has redone a portion of the layout and I am looking forward to seeing Dave's work again.

I still have couple of openings to fill out the season. If you interested in presenting a virtual tour, please let me know.

Phil

## Contest Column

Dave Down, Chair

Our 2020 contests continue to be suspended, but necessity (the need to model, the need to compete) is the mother of alternatives. We are looking at starting a photo contest on-line to give us a chance to pretend some things are normal. I will have more information about this at our December meeting (zoom) and the new photo contest will be set up after that for our January meeting.

The theme is:  
"Old and Run Down."

The categories are:  
A. Motive Power and  
B. Structures.



As we have done before, you can submit photos of prototypes or models. The four options then will be PA - Prototype engine; PB - Prototype structure; MA - Model engine; MB - Model structure.

The way this will work is as follows:

Send your photo as an electronic file to Dave Down at [dfdwn2000@gmail.com](mailto:dfdwn2000@gmail.com) or mail a copy of your photos to Dave Down at 3395 Swansee Ridge, Sun Prairie, WI 53590. (All photos will be returned.) All picture submissions need to be received no later than December 12. The contest will be open for voting on December 15 and will close January 7.

Voting will be done on line by going to this link:  
<https://pollunit.com/polls/iggvtu3d-pdptkph1k6nag>

The plan is to send an email to each SCWD member with this same link. We ask that only SCWD members vote and limit their votes to one picture in each category. Since this is a totally new effort, if you have any questions during this process, please feel free to call me at 608-235-5436 and leave a message. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

If this goes well, we will have another contest for the March meeting with a new theme.

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, 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@frontier.com](mailto:scwdmemberlist@frontier.com) to be added to the list and start receiving your puzzles now!

Happy Railroading!

## Clinic Corner

Mike Vivion, Clinic Chair

As you might know, doing a Rail School in January will be impossible due to Covid-19, therefore we will present a special clinic. Many of you will remember and enjoyed our celebration of the SCWD's 50th Anniversary back in 2013. Fortunately, we have gained a number of new members since that celebration, but they probably know little of the history of the SCWD. So we will be revisiting that history by showing at least part of the video "SCWD at 50...Still Rollin' Along." The video was prepared by Bob Wundrock and shown at our December 8, 2013, meeting as part of the celebration. We also will include a brief remembrance of our members and family who have passed since the celebration. We hope you will join us on January 10th for this special clinic.

Mike

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



Visit [www.nmra2021.com](http://www.nmra2021.com) for initial information.





**Minutes SCWD Board Meeting  
7:00 pm, November 9, 2020  
via Zoom meeting**



The meeting of the South Central Wisconsin Division Board of Directors was called to order at 7:05 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 attend.

**Minutes:**

Motion by McGeever, second by Dr. Clancy, to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

**Paymaster Report**

Bob McGeever that there was very little activity in the accounts. Motion by Mitchell, second by Dr. Clancy, to approve the Paymaster Reports. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Achievement Program** - no updates

**Advertising** - no updates

**Awards**

John Haverberg - **Bob Davies Award, *For the Volunteer Spirit***

Steve Lanphear - **Hank Brown Award, *For Continuous Service***

**Bad Order**

The November "**BAD ORDER**" newsletter is published on the SCWD website. The calendar has been updated for the 2022 Model Railroad Show and Sale. *Special Note: Kathy, our newsletter editor, is always in need of articles. Please submit articles by the 14th of the month to SCWDKATHY@AOL.com via email attachments.*

**Clinics**

The 50th SCWD Anniversary presentation from a few years ago is being reworked to be presented at the January 2021 Membership meeting due to the Rail School being canceled. Mike Vivion is in the process of lining up other presentations.

**Membership Meeting Held via ZOOM on Sunday, November 1, 2020**

Attendance was up from last month to around 34 people. The clinics that were presented were very good. The door prize **Madison Hobby Stop** winners from the November meeting were Dave Down and Mike Vivion.

**Contests - Model and Photography**

Dave Down has contacted Tom Morrison, to discuss ideas to host a photography contest via the internet. The contests will be **PHOTOGRAPHY Only**. The "On-Line" contest software is \$30.00. Details for submitting photos and counting votes is being investigated. Security protocols are also being investigated including some sort of PASSWORD to gain access to the posted pictures.

**Modeling Project** - (Paused until the next "Live" Monthly Meeting)

## **Door Prizes at the Monthly Meeting**

The members of the board discussed the door prizes that were awarded at our November meeting. We decided to keep the value of the two Door Prize Certificates to the **Madison Hobby Stop** at \$50.00 each.

## **Layout Tours - (Need a new chairman)**

The layout tours presented at the monthly meetings are appreciated. Don Meyer will be presenting a layout tour at our December meeting. Dave Lendved, Cheryl Mitchell, and John Schaffer have been penciled in for sometime during the rest of our season. The SCWD is always looking for more people to host a virtual layout tour.

## **Membership**

Steve Preston is working on updating the SCWD roster. Steve will be sending Phil Hottmann the email addresses of the new members.

## **Publicity - no updates**

**Rail School - Canceled for January 2021** - A regular January monthly meeting will be held via ZOOM.

**Rail Show - Canceled for February 2021** - The SCWD website has been updated for the February 2021 show as being canceled. Website viewers are now being invited to attend our rail show on February 19th and 20th, 2022.

## **Old Business:**

COVID-19 is continuing as a topic for discussion. Our organization is adapting to the "social distancing" guidelines.

Reminder: Phil Hottmann will be requesting ideas from our members through his "SCWD Bad Order - Super's Report". Our members are encouraged to submit ideas for monthly meetings as well as insights for our organization to the members of the SCWD Board of Directors.

## **New Business:**

**Social Media - Need a Chairman** - Without our physical presence in the Model Railroading hobby, a need exists to put information about the hobby and our Division out on the internet. "Facebook" could become a very good platform to get information out to the world. The Board of Directors are looking for some members who have a good understanding of "social media" including Facebook to become the SCWD Social Media Chairman. Anyone interested should contact Superintendent Phil Hottmann or another member of the Board of Directors.

**Commission Sales** - Our "Company Store" at the Rail Show is a source of income which helps cover our monthly operating expenses. Bob McGeever is working on a pilot project with the **Madison Hobby Stop** to sell some of the Company Store inventory. 8 items have been sold since the start of the pilot project.

**Happy Hour** - Some of our members are missing the "Happy Hour" events that were organized as a "test" of how ZOOM could work for our virtual monthly meetings. Steve Preston suggested that another "Happy Hour" event be held sometime after the Thanksgiving holiday is over. A "Happy Hour" event may be announced at the December membership meeting if our members express an interest.

## **Support of Small Businesses:**

Please support our local hobby shops which are continuing to be affected by the State of Wisconsin and Dane County COVID-19 rules. Many of us are now getting back to working on our layouts and do need supplies. Most hobby shops are now open with possible new business 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 Dingman, second by Dr. Clancy, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

**Bill Mitchell - Clerk**

## **NOTES from the Clerk:**

**Monthly Membership Meeting:** *The ZOOM meetings continue to be somewhat of 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. Once the ZOOM software has been installed on your computer system all you have to do is "join" the meeting by "clicking" on the ZOOM link provided in the email invitation. Each member is able to "mute" and "turn on/off video" which is found on the bottom of the computer screen.*

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

## **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 110 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](mailto:scwdmemberlist@frontier.com)

# Train Wrecks

By Jim Feldman

In the earliest days of the American railroad era, accidents were rare and almost never serious. From the inception of commercial runs in 1830, until 1853 there were no more than a handful of fatalities in the country. There are several reasons for this. Mainly trains were going slowly, rarely exceeding ten MPH due to the poor condition of the track, so a derailment or collision did not constitute a catastrophe.

For example, in April of 1853 the engineer of Camden & Amboy's 2 p.m. out of Philadelphia, misses stop signals and ran his train off an open drawspan at Rancocas Creek. There were no fatalities. Another early accident was a boiler explosion. The fireman became annoyed at the noise the pressure valve was making, so he wired it down. The boiler exploded and killed the crew.

Additionally, few trains were in use and even fewer used for passengers. Trains rarely ran at night. Runs were short. A few accidents did happen. Cows wandered onto the main, bridges washed out, but nothing really horrifying. Until 1853 no single crash killed more than five people. The public consensus was that rail travel was safe, convenient and uneventful.

In 1853 this fortunate situation came to a terrible and bloody end. The crashes started in January with a crash at Andover, Maryland, that killed the son of president-elect Franklin Pierce. Although the crash was minor, the press coverage was huge. In March, a rear end crash in Pennsylvania killed seven, the highest total in American rail history at the time.

Then came the real disasters. In April, a Chicago crash killed twenty-one. Only a few days later, at Norwalk, Connecticut, a train went through an open drawbridge and drowned forty-six. Public opinion turned sharply against the railroads. Within a month, a head on collision at Secaucus, New Jersey, killed forty-six. Late summer of that year brought more deaths as passenger traffic increased with vacation excursion trains. It might seem inexplicable that after decades of relatively safe operation, the railroads suddenly became death traps in 1853, but there are explanations.



The Secaucus wreck of May 6, 1853. 46 killed in a 'cornfield meet' (two trains on one track) one of the worst of the deadly crashes in that year of catastrophes.

The sudden onset of catastrophe might be thought of as the metaphorical cashing of the check written by the U.S. government to the Credit Mobilier for the rushed completion of the transcontinental railroad. The government had asked for and paid for speed and got it. By emphasizing speed over quality or reliability, the process almost guaranteed a shoddy network. Much of the work had to be redone. It had little or no ballast, spikes were missing, bridges were built of wood rather than stone or steel. Additionally, speed of construction allowed only a single-track system, leading to many head-on collisions ('cornfield meets'). Early control systems left the trains at the mercy of fallible human actions.

Another major factor in the sudden onset of disaster was lack of maintenance on the lines. Even with light use, the rails were worn out after twenty years. The same was true of rolling stock, especially passenger cars. Built of wood, unmaintained, and heated with coal stoves, they were death traps when there was an incident. Passengers in crashes often burned to death in conflagrations as cars telescoped, piled up and burned. In the 1870s Ashtabula bridge disaster as many as twenty passengers were never identified due to excessive burning.



The litany of mayhem and death rolled on through the rest of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the 20th: 1855 the Gasconade (35 dead); 1856 Whitemarsh Township (60 dead); 1876 Ashtabula (92 dead).



Nashville 1918, two passenger trains at 50-60mph collide head-on killing more than 100. Blame settled on tower operator error. Considered the worst rail accident in U. S. history.

The carnage peaked in the 1910s with 836 deaths. By this time the government required air brakes and knuckle couplers. Steam heat and other developments began to make rail travel safer. It took until the 1940s for all these improvements to be fully implemented. Better maintenance of way and replacement of wooden rolling stock also helped reduce the death toll. Working in the other direction were increased rail traffic, longer and heavier trains and higher speeds. In the 50s and 60s the death rate stabilized in the low hundreds per year.

In modern times the fatality rate has hovered around a thousand per year. These deaths are no longer primarily the result of crashes, derailments or equipment failure. Modern problems include inattentive drivers at grade crossings, some operator errors such as excessive speed, human error on the part of controllers, and suicide (hundreds per year).

*Jim Feldman, SCWD Member*



**Midwest Region 2021 Mail-In Website Ballot**

*(This ballot is for use only by resident members of the Midwest Region)*

Optionally vote on-line at the MWR website <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/> and save a stamp!

**President** *(Vote for/Check One)*

[ ] **Bob McGeever, South Central Wisconsin Division**

[ ] **Write-In** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President** *(Vote for/Check One)*

[ ] **Michael Hirvula, Fox Valley Division**

[ ] **Write-In** \_\_\_\_\_

**Director-At-Large** *(Vote for/Check Three)*

[ ] **John Coy, Central Indiana Division (Incumbent)**

[ ] **Jim Landwehr, Fox Valley Division (Incumbent)**

[ ] **Phillip Burnside, Central Indiana Division**

[ ] **Jerry Peterson, Michiana Division (Incumbent)**

[ ] **Write-In** \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] **Write-In** \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] **Write-In** \_\_\_\_\_

*To validate your ballot, please print your:*

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**NMRA No.\*** \_\_\_\_\_

**Division** \_\_\_\_\_ **or Division Code\* 28 /** \_\_\_\_\_

*\* From your membership card. Also, you can go to <http://www.mwrnmra.org/mwr2016/mwr.divisionmap.html> to look up your Division assignment based on your Zip code.*

**"Midwest" is not your Division!!! It is your Region.**

*If you do not provide the above information, your ballot will not be counted.*

*Return to Midwest Region Election Committee,  
c/o Jim Osborn, 2202 Bay Oaks Dr. McHenry, IL 60051-3710.  
Your ballot must be received no later than Sunday, January 31, 2021.*

# MADISON HOBBY STOP

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## Happy New Year to all my customers!

I want to thank everyone for coming in and  
buying your supplies from me in 2020.

The shop did ok thanks to you.

Hopefully 2021 will be better for everyone and  
the shows can start again.

I've started more consignment people and  
a huge estate collection,

so the new/old stock will continue to come in with a lot of nice items!!

Keep posted on Facebook for new arrivals.



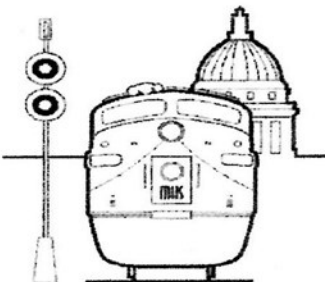
**Preorders are 25% off regular price except  
Walthers Proto which is 20% off**

**New/old consignment coming in weekly, stop in for best selection**

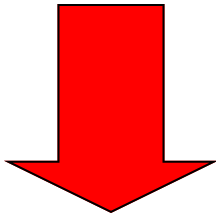
**Remember, most model railroad items are 20% off  
with a valid NMRA or other club id card**

*Excludes discounted or sale items, magazines, and consignments*

**Gift Certificates Available**



Madison Hobby Stop  
Chris Roosli, Proprietor



If you change your email address, don't forget to notify:  
Kathy Clancy  
Bad Order Editor

Changing your email address with the NMRA does not change it for Bad Order mailing.

Thank you!



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## The Hobby Depot

Brian Stackpole, owner



See us on the web at: [www.hobbydepotmonroe.com](http://www.hobbydepotmonroe.com)



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**TRAINS & MORE**

### South Central Wisconsin Division of the National Model Railroad Association

Publishes eleven issues yearly of the

## BAD ORDER

Official Mailing Address:  
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Verona, WI 53593

Photos in the Bad Order, unless otherwise noted,  
are by Kathy Clancy

Deadline for submissions: **14th of the month  
prior to publication.** Email Bad  
Order Editor at [SCWDKATHY@AOL.com](mailto:SCWDKATHY@AOL.com)

Place your ad here!!!

Contact

Kathy Clancy

Bad Order Editor

[SCWDKathy@aol.com](mailto:SCWDKathy@aol.com)

## PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR AREA HOBBY STORES

The Hobby Depot – 835 17<sup>th</sup> Street – Monroe WI  
Madison Hobby Stop – 6622 Mineral Point Rd (inside Clock Tower) – Madison WI \*

\* = Train Show Ticket advance sales

### SCWD 2020-2021 Meeting Schedule

#### Regular Meeting

Jan 10, 2021  
Feb 7, 2021  
March 7, 2021  
April 11, 2021  
May 2, 2021

#### BOD

Jan 11, 2021  
Feb 8, 2021  
March 8, 2021  
April 12, 2021  
May 10, 2021  
June 14, 2021

### My New Year's Resolutions

- ~~Diet~~
- ~~Exercise~~
- ~~Less Facebook~~
- **MORE Model  
Railroading!!!**