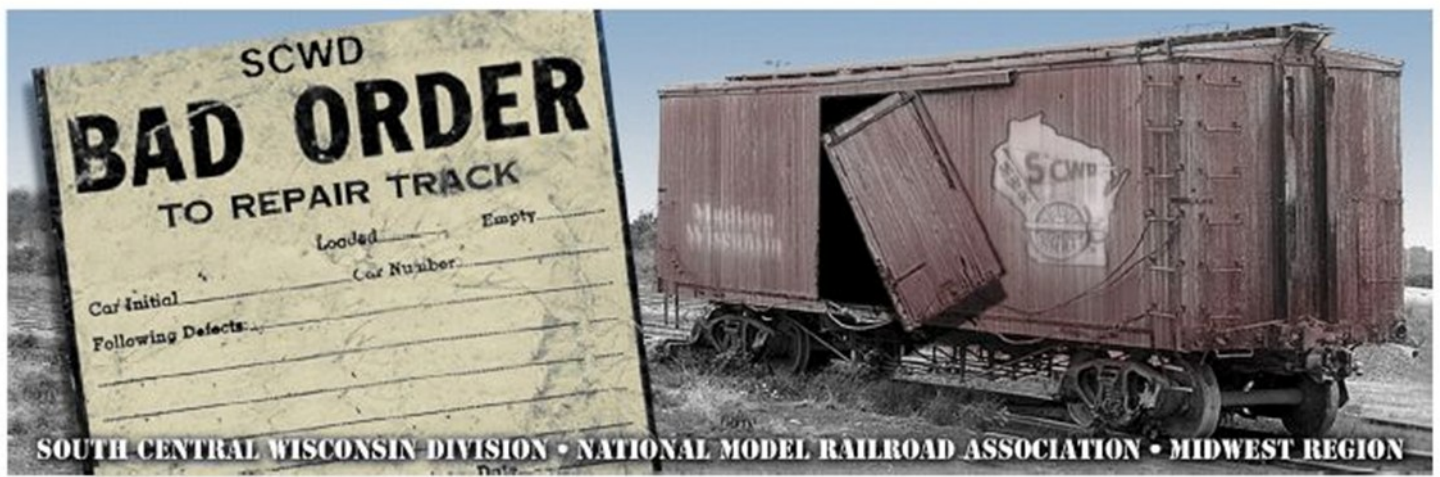




October 2025

www.nmra-scwd.org

Volume 57 No. 2

Super's Report

Art Dawson
Division Superintendent

Hello fellow modelers,

We had an excellent turnout for the first meeting of the season despite having to deal with Iron Man traffic issues. As it is an annual event, we should expect to continue to have the issues going forward. Thankfully, depending on the direction you are coming in from it's not too bad.

This year's modelling project based on Walthers Hole-in-One Donut Shop kit was well received, with several folks signing up already. Sign up will continue through November and possibly December meets. Join us as this will be a fun one!

It's time to update the Red Book. We've sent out the existing version via Constant Contact. Please download the file and review your entry assuming you're in it. If you're not in it and wish to be, fill out the Opt-In form found later in this issue, or you can use the one being sent via Constant Contact. Also use the same form to update your information if it has changed. I'm the Editor for the next few years, so get the form to me as soon as possible any way you can, mail or email, or at the November / December meetings. I will not be attending the October meeting and wish to have the updated version of this compiled and sent out by mid-December if not before.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

Thanks!

Art Dawson, SCWD Superintendent
Model railroading is fun!

Next SCWD Meet
Verona Senior Center, Verona
October 5, 2025

Next BOD Meeting:
October 14, 2025, 6:30 PM
ZOOM Meeting

Next Youth Group
Verona Senior Center, Verona
October 11, 2025



Layout Tours

Phil Hottmann

If you didn't make the layout tour in September, you missed a great little layout. Bob Gugel's layout, although somewhat small, is packed with detail. He has recently added plenty of interior detail and lighting. It was all very impressive! Thanks to Bob for having his layout open and thanks to Jon Welch for helping to set this up.



We will be traveling to Middleton to visit John Schaffer's N scale layout. John always does impressive work, and I cannot wait to see all the new additions. He mentioned that he has been working on signaling, so that should be interesting to see.

Phil

Contest Column

Dave Down, Chair

Well, it seems summer has gone, and as I write this it seems summer is back! Sometimes it feels like modeling follows a similar pattern. We get working on a project and then the other parts of life come into play and our railroads take a back seat. Then all of a sudden we are back at it. Maybe you are lucky and don't have those starts and stops, but I'm willing to guess most of you know what I'm talking about. Summer will really be over all too soon, so let's enjoy our summer of modeling as long as we can. Then we can enjoy our fall and winter of modeling.

Our first meeting and contest of the year was Sunday, September 7, and we had a really good turnout for our first contest. Our contest theme was freight cars.

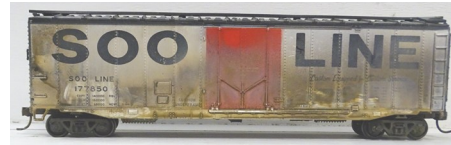
September 7 Popular Vote Contest Results — Freight Cars

- Category A - Box Cars
- Category B - Open Hoppers
- Category C - Gondolas
- Category D - Refrigerator Cars

Models

Cat. A Box Cars

- 1st Larry Enlow: Soo Line
- 2nd Al Potts: C&S #917
- 3rd Don Swinton: T Eckstein model
- Phil Hottmann: Detroit and Mackinac
- Colton Meyer: Santa Fe



Cat. B Open Hopper

- 1st Al Potts: CB&F #6 Ore Hopper
- 2nd Dave Casey: CNW # 50315 2 bay
- 3rd Bob Stone: Great Northern
- Larry Enlow: WSOR



Cat. C Gondola

- 1st Dave Casey: CNW #114175 42'
- 2nd Bob Stone: Great Northern
- 3rd Phil Hottmann: Dixon, Wayne and Lake Superior



Cat. D Refrigerator Cars

- 1st Dave Casey: Sioux City 40' (wood sheath)
- 2nd Al Potts: C&S #1118
- 3rd Don Swinton: Coors



Photos - Prototype

Cat. PA Box

- 1st Dave Down: Northern Pacific (wood side @ ND RR Museum)

Cat. PB Open Hopper

- 1st Dave Down: Union Pacific (rapid dump)

Photos - Models

Cat MD Refrigerator Car

- 1st Dave Down: Peerless Beer

Continued next page

Our October contest will be about passenger cars. Before there were cars and airplanes the only fastest and most luxurious (sometimes) method of traveling any significant distance was the railroad. This will be a chance to show off the passenger related equipment on your railroad.

October Contest: Passenger Cars

- A. Coach.
- B. Diner
- C. Combine
- D. Baggage

Dave

Clinic Column

Bob Wundrock

For our October meet, we again have clinicians from out of state.

Our first clinician is a young man from Texas, James Knabb.

He will be discussing what the next generation brings to the table. We will see modeling preferences changing, increase in online and virtual tools, and different types of technologies being introduced into the model railroading community.

Our second clinician comes from Long Island, New York, but will give his clinic in person!

Edward M. Koehler Jr. has been a member of the National Model Railroad Association for over fifty years and currently serves on the board of the Sunrise Trail Division. He recently finished a five-year stint as the host/producer of a Zoom(R) based series sponsored by the Sunrise Trail Division NMRA. Ed is also the Vice President of the Long Island Chapter of the Pennsylvania Railroad Historical and Technical Society. In that guise he will guide us on a photographic tour of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Railroad Museum in Strasburg, Pennsylvania which houses some of the finest visually restored pieces of railroad equipment in the country.

See you virtually.

Bob

Taken at the
Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania
in Strasburg
by Bob Wundrock



Modeling Project

Mike Vivion

For those who were unable to attend the September meeting, I introduced this year's project which is called "Hole-In-One". The project will be based on the *Walthers Hole-In-One Donut Shop* kit. As in previous years, the project will be to build a mini-diorama around this donut shop.

For those who sign up, the kit will be available in HO and N scales. The HO mini-diorama is muted to two square feet (288 sq. inches) maximum in size. The N scale version is limited to one square foot (144 sq. inches) in size. You may add people, vehicles, other structures, railroad items, scenery, etc. as you choose and at your own expense.

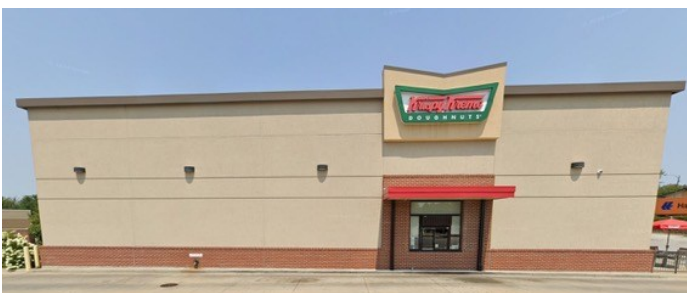
Because of the increase in prices of the kits, you are required to make a deposit of \$15.00 with me prior to picking up your kit from me. If you complete the mini-diorama and bring it to the April 2026 meeting for popular vote judging, your deposit will be refunded. If you fail to do this, your deposit is forfeited to the SCWD.

Separate winners will be voted on for each scale, and prizes will gift certificates to *Madison Hobby Stop*. Prizes will be: 1st = \$75. 2nd = \$50 and 3rd = \$25. As I write this column, I am please to tell you that I have a dozen people already signed up for the project with an equal number for each scale. If you want to participate, you can sign up at the October or November meetings. No sign ups will be taken after that, and kits must be picked not later than at the December meeting. If you are unable to attend SCWD meetings in person, contact me via phone or email, and I will work out things to make it able for you to participate.

I will be printing my Powerpoint presentation on the project one more time at our October meeting. In case you missed it, I am enclosing Walthers' photos of the kits below and also some I found on the Internet of actual donut shops.

Mike Vivion

Modeling Project Chair



Youth Group

Steve Preston, Chair



When Phil Hottmann and I got to the Verona Senior Center on September 13th, we saw a room full of young people taking a baby-sitting class. We watched for a few minutes as those kids were using little rubber type dolls as babies. I noticed one little girl looked like she was bored and was squishing the head of her baby in. When I said something to her, that's when the teacher said don't squash your babies' heads in. I have 2-3 dolls with the heads squished in and I can't get them out. Well, as it turned out, that group was supposed to be in another room.

Phil and I took a small room off to the side instead. When the kids arrived, we only had two of the faithful ones there. It was decided that Phil would open his layout for those two.

When they got to see his layout, they were in awe! They spent a good 2 hours or so until one mom said "WE HAVE TO GO NOW".

We will be building those donut shops to be shown and judged in April to compete in the modeling contest.

Thanks, Phil, for making those kids day. Thank to Karl Hauth for your help too.

Steve Preston
Youth Group Director
Membership Chairman





Electronic Red Book Opt-in Form

The following is the information needed from you for inclusion in the SCWD Electronic Red Book-Membership Roster. If you want to be included in the Red Book, please complete this form and return to me. Or feel free to give it to me at one of our meetings. Keep in mind that your NMRA membership dues must be current, and you must live in the boundaries of the SCWD to be included.

If you are new to the Division AND want to be included in the Red Book, please fill in all pertinent information. Please also use this form to update your existing information.

Please Print LEGIBLY!!!

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code _____ NMRA#: _____

E-mail address: _____

Telephone: _____ Scale: _____

Layout status: _____

Layout name: _____

Favorite prototype: _____

Do you wish Layout help? YES or NO (please circle)

Willing to work on other layouts: YES or NO (please circle)

Please include my above information in the Electronic Red Book.

Please sign and Date: _____

Mail to: Arthur Dawson
16317 W. Union Rd
Brooklyn, WI 53521

Or scan and email to: nkp284@yahoo.com

2026 NMRA National Convention

Scenic City Express, Chattanooga



The NMRA National Convention is coming to Chattanooga, TN for the first time ever in 2026! The Southeastern Region is excited to host NMRA members from around the world in the Scenic City. The dates are July 27-August 2 so mark your calendars. Visit the convention's webpage at nmra2026.org and sign up to receive updates on the convention plans as they unfold. Early bird registration is open at nmra2026.org/registration/ so you can start your plans now. There will be a week full of fun activities planned including:

- Layout Tours
- Prototype Tours
- Steam-Powered Excursions and Dinner Train
- Non-Rail Tours and other Activities
- Operating Sessions
- Special Interest Groups
- Railroad Historical Societies
- Modeling with the Masters®
- Celebration of Models
- Train Show
- Banquet

More details and information on the activities and events will be shared in future eBulletins.
Stay tuned!

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.

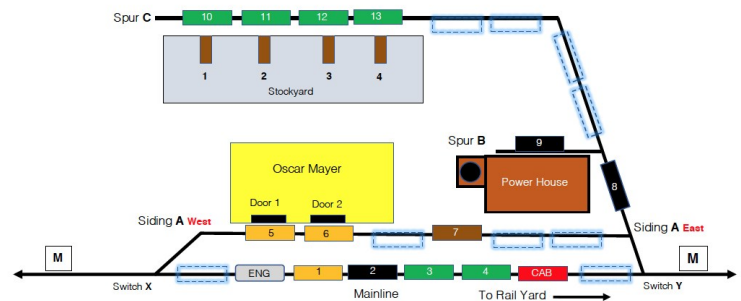
The listserv is a one-way email broadcast to you, not a social media type service. The emails are sent in bulk, but as a BCC: type email.

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

NEW EMAIL

OPS Puzzles

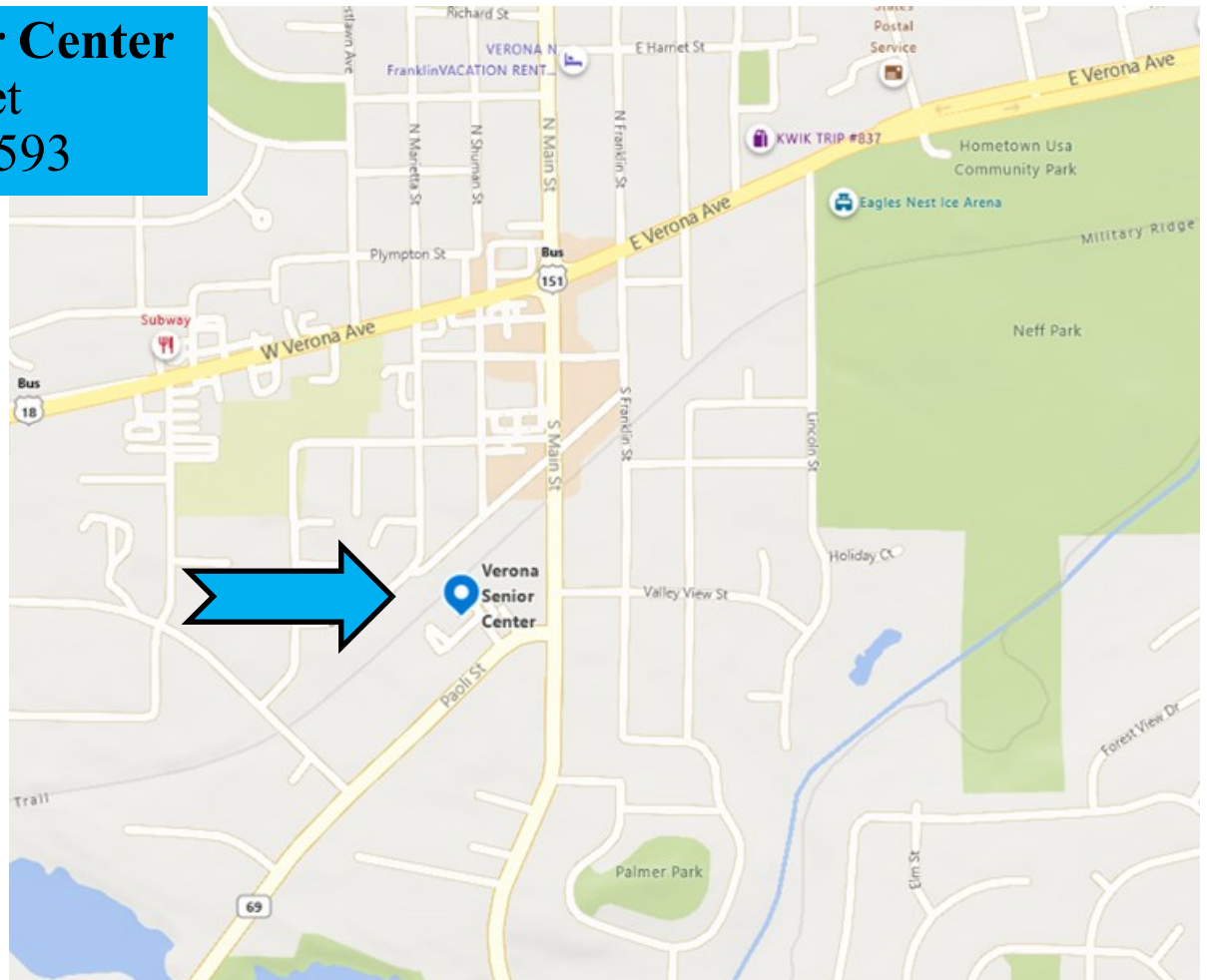


OPS Puzzles have arrived! We now have a section on the SCWD Website that has all 11 puzzles that we have published on the listserv, including the handouts and diagrams. You can start from the beginning, or pick and choose which puzzles you would like to try.

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

Steve Lanphear and the Puzzle Development Team.

Verona Senior Center
108 Paoli Street
Verona, WI 53593





SCWD 2024 - 2025 Board of Directors Meeting - via ZOOM

August 12, 2025



The meeting of the South Central Wisconsin Division Board of Directors was called to order at 6:33 pm by Superintendent Art Dawson. Bob McGeever, David Dingman, Phil Hottmann, Steve Preston and David Down were present. John Haverberg and Bob Wundrock were also present.

Minutes

Motion by McGeever, second by Preston to approve the minutes of the SCWD Board Meeting held on July 9th, 2025. Motion carried.

Paymaster Report

Art Dawson asked for comments on the July Paymaster Report. There were no comments. Motion by Dingman, second by Preston, to approve the Paymaster Report as presented. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Picnic – John Haverberg reported that 67 people attended the picnic on Saturday, July 12th, 2025. Attendees paid \$360. Catering cost \$13.00 per person for a total of \$671. A request is being submitted for \$200 reimbursement to the NMRA. Total cost to the SCWD will be \$311. John will be contacting the same caterer for next year's picnic.

Achievement Program – Nothing to report.

Advertising - Nothing to report.

Bad Order - Articles to be submitted for the newsletter by August 15th.

Clinics – Bob Wundrock – Clinic schedule is basically filled for the coming season. Bob contacted Rich Mahaney about doing clinics in May (2026) which Rich has agreed to do for us. Bob has scheduled Gary Saxton (Signaling) and Brian Sheren (Urban modeling) for the September meeting.

Contests - Model and Photography – List for coming season is in the Bad Order and will be up on the SCWD website later this week..

Modeling Project – Mike Vivion asked for the BOD to make the final selection for this year's project. The BOD selected the Hole-in-One Donut Shop kit. It is available in HO and N scales kits.

Door Prizes – Nothing to report.

Layout Tours – Phil Hottmann has scheduled Bob Google for the September layout tour. Phil has layouts lined up for Oct/Nov/Dec. Bob McGeever and Art Dawson signed up for April 2025. Please email Phil if interested in hosting a tour of your layout.

Membership – Nothing to report.

Spring Banquet – Nothing to report.

Publicity – Nothing to report.

Rail School – Nothing to report.

Rail Show – Bob McGeever reported that he has received orders for over 40 tables for the upcoming Rail Show already. The vendor invitations have been sent out. KennedyC has been contracted to handle the Rail Show advertising and social media going forward.

Youth Group – Youth Group trip to the Green Bay National Railroad Museum on August 2nd, 2025 went well. Those attending were able to tour the archives and the cab of one of the engines. Phil Hottmann will be ordering a power supply and wifi module for the Youth Group DCC system. Bob Wundrock will be working with Steve Preston to coordinate the NMRA proposed “Modeling with the Masters” clinics for the Youth Group.

Website – Working with hosting company on month to month basis for now. Tom Morrison is waiting for the proposal from KennedyC. No decisions will be made until after the upcoming Rail Show (Feb 2026).

Old Business:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Nothing to report.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by McGeever, second by Preston, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.

David Dingman - SCWD 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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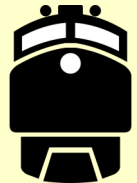


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**We are now closed on Sunday until
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Thank you for your continued support.



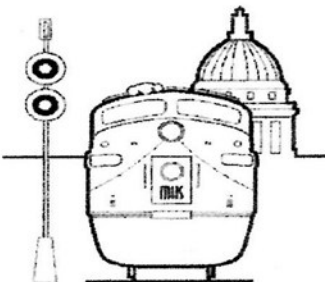
**Preorders are 25% off regular price except
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with a valid NMRA or other club id card**

Excludes discounted or sale items, magazines, and consignments

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Verona, WI 53593

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Deadline for submissions: **14th of the month
prior to publication.** Email Bad

Order Editor at SCWDKATHY@AOL.com

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* = Train Show Ticket advance sales

SCWD 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting

October 5, 2025
November 9, 2025
December 7, 2025
January 4, 2026
February 1, 2026
March 1, 2026
April 12, 2026
May 3, 2026

BOD

October 14, 2025
November 11, 2025
December 9, 2025
January 13, 2026
February 10, 2026
March 10, 2026
April 14, 2026
May 12, 2026

Youth Group

October 11, 2025
November 8, 2025
December 13, 2025
January 10, 2026
February 14, 2026
March 14, 2026
April 11, 2026
May 9, 2026

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".