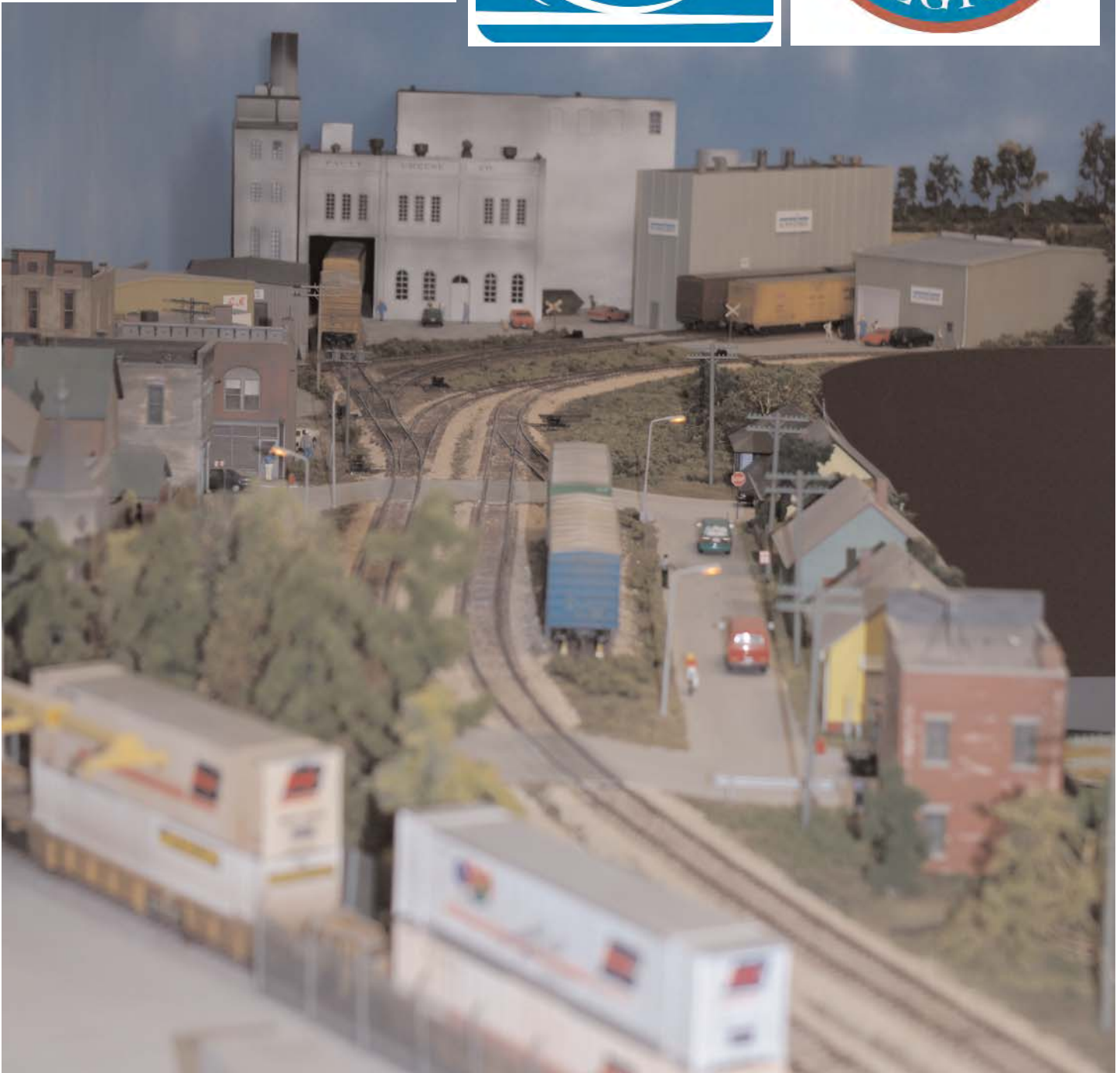


# Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA –  
Summer 2015



# The WAYBILL

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## The WAYBILL

is published quarterly by the Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association Inc. for the benefit of the model railroading community.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Electronic delivery is free to all members of the Region. Go to <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/region/waybill/waybill.html> to subscribe or to change your e-mail address. Regular mail subscriptions are \$6.00 per year; \$12.00 for two years. To subscribe, complete the applicable sections of the NMRA Membership Application at <http://www.nmra.org/>.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles, photographs and artwork are encouraged in either hardcopy or electronic form. The editor uses Quark 4.1 as his publishing software on a Mac. Word documents are also acceptable, but please send the photographs as an attachment. Copy is due by the 10th of February, May, August and November and should be sent to the editor at the above address. Submitted material will be returned upon request.

## ADVERTISING

Deadlines for camera ready ads are the same as for the copy deadlines. Please submit by email to the editor as a TIF or .jpeg. We accept only railroad related ads. Advertising rates are:

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## Editor's Column

### Midwest Region Convention

A few weeks back I attended the Midwest Regional convention in Manitowoc Wisconsin. As usual it was a great affair and I spent my time selling at the Soo Line Booth, attending clinics (I even gave one), taking photos, talking to old and new friends and socializing at the bar. Needless to say I was exhausted when it was all over.

The convention followed a different format, with Saturday devoted to clinics with layout tours on Sunday. I liked the arrangement much better than having both clinics and tours on Saturday. Ever given a clinic with only five people?

Jerry Leone MMR, NMRA Vice President for Projects was there. Jerry videoed my clinic and afterwards asked me to sign a release form. Later that day I had a chance to talk to him, and naturally I asked what it was all about. Jerry and I first met at the 2010 National Convention in Milwaukee. He videoed my clinic and sent me a copy. I was impressed with the high quality and caliber of his work. The Fox Valley Division even used it for a clinic one month.

But getting back to my question, he said he was doing a piece for the NMRA on Regional conventions. The NMRA realized that not everyone can take time off and go to a National, but just about anyone can attend a Regional. There maybe a big difference in the cost and time commitment, but the caliber of clinics and layouts is just as good. In fact, several presenters at Manitowoc had also presented at Milwaukee and several of the same layouts were on tour.

### Front Cover:

Marv Preussler MMR had his GB&W layout on tour, one of several in Sheybogon.

It was announced at the BOD meeting that National had supplied the region with a series of DVD's taken at the national conventions that can be presented at meetings. the details of how they will be distributed is being worked out.

### Lake States Railway Historical Association

It is no secret that I am an ardent proponent of historical societies. The week after the Regional convention I was up at Baraboo, Wisconsin for the Lake States annual meeting. I was honored to be the before lunch speaker, They had their new building open for inspection. That is correct, they put up a state of the art research facility in Baraboo. The Burlington Route Historical Society owns a fifth of the building and will also have their archives there. As modelers, it is important that this information is kept and preserved. I know that the Soo Line Historical & Technical Society is constantly consulted by the model equipment manufacturers for information.



### Above:

Not to be undone, brother Mark Preussler MMR Soo Line layout was a short distance away. That is a slightly out-of-focus Bob Wundrock MMR standing over the Neenah roundhouse built by the late John Proebsting.

## President's Report

By Paul Mangan, President, MWR



Paul Mangan

I'll start this report by sending a big thank you to Winnebagoland Division Superintendent James Cruthers and the entire staff of the Lake Shore Limited Midwest Region Convention for the wonderful job they did with this year's convention.

I can't forget to say thanks to all who supported this endeavor by attending and or participating in the convention. The success of this yearly gathering of modelers cannot be measured in the attendance alone; this by the way was higher than what was budgeted. The biggest yardstick was the smiles on the faces of the attendees while on tours, at Op. sessions or clinics. Those smiles were big and bright.

All conventions have something that is unique about them. This year WLD decided to try something a bit different. They scheduled all Op. session on Friday in three shifts, Morning, Afternoon and Evening. All clinics (except 2 on Friday evening) were on Saturday and all Layout tours were on Sunday. I knew that I would be hearing about the schedule and I did. Everyone that I talked with about this schedule loved this order of events. People didn't have to make choices about whether to go to a layout tour or a clinic they wanted to see because they had a time conflict.

On Saturday evening after the banquet the annual MWR Meeting of Members was called to order. During this meeting I was honored to present Bert Lattan with an award commemorating his 15 years of service to the Midwest Region and the NMRA as MWR Secretary. Thank you once again Bert for your service.

M. David Johnson has accepted the position of Midwest Region Secretary. This leaves another void as Dave has one year left as DAL. Bert has volunteered to finish Dave's DAL term.

The Midwest Region Board of Directors meeting was held on Sunday April 19, 2015 at the convention. I thanked Jim Allen, Dave Leider and Linda Sukup for serving on the board and welcomed newly elected DAL's Reid Kahrs, Minton Dings and Daniel Brewer.

The Board passed a measure to assist any MWR division in funding a convention with some startup money. This should help divisions that do not have a large treasury

with some of the upfront costs.

One subject that received a lot of time in discussion was the motion passed by the National BOD at their last meeting that allows only a three visit limit for non-members before being asked to sign up for membership in the NMRA. I personally cannot see why there was so much push back on this subject. The NMRA is in fact a membership organization with a structure governed by a constitution and bylaws. People who want to be a member of this organization must have a valid membership and pay dues that help fund this organization. Without members paying these dues, the organization goes away.

That being said, I would like to know how many people would enjoy sitting beside someone who constantly attends division functions and pays no dues or would not even think about joining the NMRA. I would be saying why should I pay these charges while someone else pays nothing and receives the same benefits I pay for? How many other membership only organizations that you know of allow people to continually come in and participate in the offerings that the organization has and then allows them to continue attending with a policy that some pay and some don't? It shouldn't take forever to figure out whether to join or not join.

Oh yes, there would be a high likelihood of an insurance issue if a nonmember or uninvited guest is injured at a division event. I am investigating other things that could place a division in jeopardy as well.

The MWR Board wanted to get a more detailed description of the intent of this ruling which is nothing more than a reinforcement of an old policy. I have sent this request to the Regional Advisory Counsel and am now waiting for a response.

Keep in mind, without membership the NMRA fails to exist and without the NMRA there is no organization to do the many good things that keep the hobby one of the best hobby's there is.

Another item on the board's agenda was giving our Divisions the ability to create sub-divisions. This follows the NMRA structure as the National created the Region, the Regions created Divisions and now Divisions can create Sub-Divisions within the Divisions. These Sub-Divisions could benefit the larger divisions by giving them the ability to schedule their own meetings and functions. The Sub-Division would still need to be in compliance with Division and NMRA guidelines.

Have you thought about joining the Board of Directors? We will be looking for people to stand for election as Directors at Large. Why not give it a try? Mike Vivion is now the Nominations Committee Chair so get a hold of him to find out how the process starts. Mikes contact information is on the MWR website <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/>

In May of each year since I joined the NMRA as a member of the SCWD, we have had a joint meeting with the Rock River Valley Division. This year it was RRVD's turn to be host. We had a wonderful day enjoying two clinics, contests, door prizes and great fellowship. After the meeting we were off to see some wonderful layouts. Some 20 SCWD members made the trip to Rockford and all enjoyed the day.

Next year SCWD gets to be the host and something else is on the table. The National Convention is in our Region in 2016 (High Ball to Indy) so there will be no MWR convention. We still need to have our yearly meeting of members and spring Board Meeting. So I extend an invitation to all Midwest Region NMRA members to come to Madison WI and join us for the meeting of members at the combined Rock River Valley / South Central Wisconsin Division meet. All Aboard!

Summer is here and train watching and chasing has begun. Be careful out there and enjoy your summer

See You by the Rails Paul

## Region News

**Fall Board of Directors  
Meeting  
Comfort Suites University Area  
South Bend, Indiana**

**9:00 am, Sunday, September 13, 2015**

### Midwest Region Achievement Program Report by Jim Landwehr- MWR AP Manager

Spring is gone, summer is here it's time to enjoy the warmer temperatures, longer evenings and outdoor activities. During the summer its fun to go on family train trips, going to train museums or just sitting and watching trains outside. Or, for those hot sticky nights, how about seeking the cooler indoors to do some modeling.

The following members received an AP Certificate:

Jeremy Bubb	Vermont, IL	Electrical
Emory Luebke	Greenville,Wi	Scenery
Emory Luebke	Greenville,Wi	Civil
Emory Luebke	Greenville,Wi	Chief Dispatcher
David Leider MMR	Prospect Hts.,IL	Official
Minton Dings	Havana, IL	Author
Gary Bake	Pekin, IL	Electrical
Ken Hojnacki	Madison, Wi	Electrical
Jeffrey Jarr	Chicago, IL	Volunteer
Dave Johnson	Glenview, IL	Official
Bon French	Glen Ellyn, IL	Golden Spike

Members throughout the Midwest Region continue to participate in the achievement program.

It was great to see many of our members at the Midwest Region convention in Manitowoc, Wisconsin in April. Many of our members took part in the model and photo contest. Hopefully you were able to check out the contest room and see what it takes to earn an AP merit award. Jim Allen and Ken Mosny received AP merit awards for outstanding models. It is always good to support our members in their achievements along with getting inspiration for your own modeling projects.

As always, work with your division Achievement Manager first, and if there is a problem, feel free to contact me.

Enjoy your summer.

Jim Landwehr

Midwest Region AP Manager

## 2015 Spring Convention

### Minutes, Annual Meeting of Members, Midwest Region, NMRA, April 18, 2015

President Paul Mangan called the meeting to order at 8:16 pm at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Paul thanked James Cruthers and the Winnebago Land Division for hosting the 2015 Spring Convention.

Minutes from the Annual Meeting of Members that was held on May 18, 2014 were unanimously approved as written and published in the Summer 2014 issue of the Waybill.

### Reports

In Keith Thomsen's absence, Bert Lattan summarized Region finances. As of December 31, 2014 the General Fund and the Youth Fund had combined assets of \$44,954.66. For the year then ended, income, primarily from Waybill subscriptions and the NMRA dues rebate was \$6,872.72; expenses, primarily for the Waybill, were \$6,796.82 and net income was \$75.90. The Treasurer's Report was accepted subject to audit.

**Old Business-** none.

### New Business

Paul announced the winners of the recent election:

President	Paul Mangan, SCWD
Vice President	Steve Studley, CID
Directors-at-Large	Dan Brewer, Michiana Division
	Minton Dings, IVD
	Reid Kahrs, WISE

Paul thanked Jim Allen & David Leider, Fox Valley Division, for their four years of service as Directors-at-Large and Linda Sukup, Wisconsin Southeastern Division, for her two years of service as a Director-at-Large.

Paul presented a plaque to Bert in recognition and appreciation of his fifteen years of service as the Region Secretary.

Steve Studley reviewed Central Indiana Division plans for Highball to Indy, the NMRA 2016 National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana from July 3rd through July 10th 2016. The convention will be held at The Westin Indianapolis hotel in downtown Indianapolis. The National Train Show will be held in the Indiana Convention Center, which is a short walk through a covered walkway that connects the hotel and the convention center. See [www.nmra2016.org](http://www.nmra2016.org).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bert Lattan  
Secretary

## Registration is now open for "Designing & Building Like a Prototype"

When: September 11th & 12th 2015

Where: Comfort Suites - University Area, in South Bend Indiana, (One mile north of the Indiana Toll Road on SR933)

Cost: \$35 Both Days (Fri-Sat) and \$20 for Saturday only. \$5 NMRA member discount.

Friday evening banquet at the Villa Macri Ristorante \$25  
Registration: more information and updates can be found at: <http://michiana-nmra.org/>

This year's program promises new educational clinics, an all day Weathering Clinic both days, layout tours, Historical Society participation, and a large Freemo layout! There are many CN & NS railfanning sites in the area as well.

This is one division conference that you won't want to miss

### The **GRASSHOPPER**

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601 N Elmhurst Rd  
Prospect Hts, IL 60070  
[sooauthor@netzero.net](mailto:sooauthor@netzero.net)



Bert Lattan receives a plaque for his years of service from MWR President Mangan.  
Photo by Walt Herrick

### !Interview with Bert Lattan

by Walt Herrick, Fox Valley Division

I had the opportunity to sit down with former Midwest Region Secretary, Bert Lattan, a few weeks after he left office to ask him a few questions about his experience as MWR Secretary. Here's what he had to say:

Walt: Bert, why did you volunteer to become MWR Secretary back in 2000?

Bert: Jim O'Toole was MWR President at the time and he sent out an appeal for someone to volunteer to be Secretary in the Spring 2000 Waybill I think it was. They had been without a secretary for few months and had gone through a couple of secretaries in the past couple of years who had to resign prematurely for one reason or another. So, Jim was looking for help. I talked to him about the position and told him I would do it if he and the board agreed to have all board communication transition to email. They agreed and I took the job.

W Did you think at the time, you'd stay for 15 years?

B No. My plan was to retire in five years. But, around the time I planned to retire, the NMRA started going through its reorganization. It took me a year or two to understand how the region was organized and worked, so I thought it would be unfair to have a new person come in at that time and try to learn the region's organizational procedures and also take on the re-organizing the NMRA was doing. I stayed on to help with the reorganizing and rewriting of the region's constitution and bylaws, and then stayed a little longer—ten years longer to be exact!--after that.



# 2015 Spring Convention Winner's photos

## Photos

1. Jim Allen's display, Cat Sixty at Work
  2. Ken Mosny's Circus flat car
  3. David Leider's KGB&W Combination car
  4. Norman Hartet's Durango coal tower
  5. Michael Shockey's Signal control tower
  6. Bruce Schimel's IC Electric
- All photos by editor except 1 and 5 by Walt Herrick

1



2



3



4



5



6



## AWARD WINNERS Photo Contest

Category	Award	Modeler	Description
Best of show		Tom Bruss	#11 IC 9602 and GTW 4620
Prototype Color	1st place	Marion Brasher	Night train to Silvas
	2nd place	Marion Brasher	Autt Co.
Prototype B&W	1st place	Marion Brasher	The helper
B&W Digital print	1st place	Tom Bruss	Soo 321
	2nd place	Tom Bruss	SCSX 2
Color Digital Print	1st place	Richard Hopfensperger	BNSF 9326
	2nd place	Tom Bruss	CN3646
	3rd place	Richard Hopfensperger	CN 4705
Model Color Photo	1st place	Marion Brasher	Heavy hauler
	2nd place	Marion Brasher	CNW Fast freight
Model B&W Print	1st place	Mike Hirvela	Milw 1643
Model Color Print	1st place	Richard Hopfensperger	ATSF 2849
	2nd place	Richard Hopfensperger	Milw 437
	3rd place	Mike Hirvela	Cold day in North Chicago

## AWARD WINNERS

Category	Award	Modeler	Description
Diesel locomotive	1st place	Bruce Schimel	IC Electric
Passenger car	1st place	David Leider	KGB&W Combination car
Non Revenue car	1st place	Ken Mosny	Circus flat car
Structures, off-line	1st place	Ken Mosny	Forster Broom Handle Co.
Structures, on-line	1st place	Mike Shockey	Signal control tower
Structures, on-line	2nd place	Norman Hartet	Durango coal tower
Display, off-line	1st place	Jim Allen	Cat Sixty at Work
Moskal Award		Marion Brasher	(Photo)
Best of Show Master		Jim Allen	
Best of Show Novice		Ken Mosny	

## POPULAR VOTE WINNERS

1st place	Jim Allen
2nd place	Milton Ding



Fellow C&NW Modeler Jim Osborn looks over Dale Krueger's layout as they discuss the finer points of C&NW motive power.

## Call For Director-at-Large Candidates

Although the 2016 election is several months away, it is time to start the election cycle. In 2016 we will elect four (4) Directors-at-Large.

Jim Landwehr from the Fox Valley Division, Fred Robinson from the South Central Wisconsin Division and Paul Wussow from the DuPage Division, three of the four incumbent DALs, will complete their first two-year terms in 2016 and under the Bylaws will be eligible to run for another term in 2016. Bert Lattan, who was appointed to complete Dave Johnson's second two-year term, will also be eligible to run.

There are two ways that your name can be placed on the ballot. The first is by recommendation of the Nominating Committee and approval of the Board of Directors. To be considered by the Nominating Committee (Chairman Mike Vivion from the South Central Wisconsin Division and Members Dave Johnson from the Fox Valley Division and Lou Venema from the Central Indiana Division), you must submit a biography/candidate's statement of 200 words or less and a 2x2, passport-style photo to the Committee as soon as possible, but no later than July 30, 2015.

The preferred method of delivery is electronic mail. (While e-mail is not required to serve on the Board, it is highly desirable since the Board conducts pre and post meeting activity by e-mail.) If you do not have e-mail, you

may mail your bio/photo to Dave Johnson, the Region Secretary. He will convert it to an electronic format and send it to the Committee. Addresses and e-mail addresses for the Committee and the Secretary are on the Board of Directors page of the Region website ([www.mwr-nmra.org](http://www.mwr-nmra.org)).

The second method is by petition signed by at least ten (10) current NMRA members who live in the Midwest Region. The petition form is available on the Region website or it may be requested from Dave Johnson. Your petition must be accompanied by a biography/candidate's statement of 200 words or less and a 2x2, passport-style photo. It must be received by Dave Johnson no later than July 30, 2015. He will convert it to an electronic format and forward it to the Committee.

The Committee will submit its recommendations and the names of all resident members nominated by petition to the Board of Directors for review and approval during its next meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, September 13, 2015 in South Bend, Indiana.

Each candidate's biography/statement & photo and a ballot will be included in the Winter 2015 issue of the Waybill. The results of the election will be announced during the 2016 Annual Meeting of Members, which will be hosted by the South Central Wisconsin Division on Sunday, May 1, 2016 in the Madison, Wisconsin area.

If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to contact any member of the Committee or the Secretary. —Mike Vivion

### Midwest Region, NMRA

**Nominating Petition for Director-at-Large for the 2016 – 2018 Term**

(Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_ Pages)

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ NMRA No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print)                      Address                      Telephone No.                      E-Mail Address                      NMRA No.                      Signature

Name (Please Print)	Address	Telephone No.	E-Mail Address	NMRA No.	Signature

Your petition must include at least ten (10) names, signatures, etc. of current, resident NMRA members. You may include additional names, signatures, etc, by attaching additional forms. File this form, a biography/candidate's statement of 200 words or less and a 2x2, passport-style photo with the Region Secretary. By submitting this filing you agree to serve as a Director-at-Large for a two-year term, if elected. Your filing must be received no later than July 30, 2015.



## Around the division by Walt Herrick

The focus of this month's column is the MWR's northern most division, the Winnebagoland Division located in central, eastern and northeastern Wisconsin. The Winnebagoland Division is huge comprising more than half of the state of Wisconsin. A lot of great model railroading occurs in this division as all of us who attended this spring's Midwest Regional Convention in Manitowoc April 17 – 19 will testify. Winnebagoland Super, served as the convention's chairman and he and his crew did an excellent job putting on the Lake Shore Limited 2015. We had nice variety of clinics including a great one given Friday night by Capt. Al Nelson on his experiences captaining 1000 foot ore boats on the Great Lakes. His slides and movies were fascinating. I heard good things from those attending op sessions, and all the layouts I toured were top notch.

The Winnebagoland Division has its fair share of MMR (one of which, Don Manlick, who passed on earlier this year, the convention was dedicated to) and their presence was known in the clinic rooms and on the op and layout tours. One neat thing the Winnebagoland crew did was to schedule all of the op sessions on Thursday night, and Friday, almost all of the clinics on Saturday, and almost all the layout tours on Sunday which made choosing what you wanted to do a lot easier. Saturday night's banquet pulled in practically everybody who attended the convention.

They were not disappointed with the food or the banquet speaker Jim Hedigar from Model Railroader magazine. Jim had interesting stories--several of which were hilarious--from his long career at MR. Sunday's layout tours capped off a well run and fun MWR convention thanks to all of the Winnebagoland's crew's hard work. Were there any negatives to the convention? Yes, contest entries were anemic, but the Winnebagoland crew had no control over this.

They did their part in hosting an excellent Lake Shore Limited 2015. Great job to all those involved!

Capt. Al Nelson's clinic "Trip on the Great Lakes" gave a fascinating look at the operations of a huge Great Lakes freighter with slides and movies from the captain's personal collection.



Dale Krueger's nicely done 17' x 23' Chicago and North Western layout was also on Sunday layout tours. The layout runs point to point with two large end yards sitting side by side. This busy diesel facility serves both yards and is located next to a roundhouse and the steam servicing facilities.



Model Railroader magazine's long time senior editor, Jim Hedigar, presented a clinic on the DT&I—a railroad which both his parents were employed by. He also was the banquet speaker for the Great Lakes Limited, and provided attendees with interesting and humorous stories from his career at MR.

All photos this page Walt Herrick



The Clipper City Model Railroad Club was a short distance from the Holiday Inn headquarters of the Lake Shore Limited 2015. The club built its own building on the Manitowoc County Fair Grounds which houses four layouts in four scales: HO, N, O-27, and S. The largest layout is the 25' x 50' HO layout shown at the right. Great Lakes shipping naturally plays a prominent role on the layout. The club was open Friday and Sunday for layout tours.

Photo by Walt Herrick



Above  
The C&NW's High Bridge over the Manitowoc River as modeled by Rich Hanke. Rich showed how he modeled the railing



Above  
The Clipper City Model Railroad club had a nice display outside their door

## National News

This bit of national news was just received:

Thanks to the efforts of Kristy Wilson at NMRA HQ and Scott Povlot of the NRMA web team, we are in the midst of making streaming videos of the NMRA National Convention clinic video set available on the NMRA website - member's only. They are not all up yet, and descriptions are in the works so only the presenter is shown at the moment. I expect we'll have them all up in about a month (there are 50 of them in the set). To check them out, log into the website (if you have never logged into the NEW NMRA website, you will need to register on the site using the email address we have in your membership record),

which will put you on the Member Home page, and click on the blue box that says "Watch Clinic Videos" or to up to the Education menu and select them there.

These videos are conversions of the DVD's that were made to send out to the Regions for use by members, and the DVD's were made from several different sources (VHS tapes, etc.) and were taken both professionally and by attendees, so quality varies, but they are all interesting and pertinent today. Please mention in your publications.

Also, for those that haven't noticed or didn't see my posting a while back, the NRMA Forums are open on the website for members - these are open to any registered (and logged in) member, not the public.

Feedback welcome.

Ben Sevier  
Manager, IT Department  
National Model Railroad Association  
itmanager@nmra.org

## Welcome to the InfoNet News (Infoblast) For May, 2015

From Don Phillips, NMRA Publications Department  
Manager:

Info Article  
Publications Department

I'm excited to be able to let everyone know just what the NMRA Publications Department is responsible for doing. Here's what we're involved in:

**NMRA Magazine:** Kevin EuDaly of White River Productions, along with editor Cinthia Priest and Advertising Sales Manager/Graphic Designer Todd Gillette, continue to put out a state-of-the-art, professional-quality product. With a constant variation of articles, there is usually something of interest to everyone, no matter which branch of the hobby you follow. As an in-house periodical, the Magazine is heavily subsidized by National, thus allowing us to limit the number of advertisements. This gives us a far better article-to-advertisement ratio than the average trade magazine. That, coupled with a current subscription price of only \$1.83 an issue, makes the NMRA Magazine just about the best buy in model railroading you'll ever find. Periodically the subject of going digital with an electronic magazine comes up. Each time, after much discussion, it has been decided - - - Maybe sometime in the future, but as for today, it's just not practical for our organization.

**NMRA Calendar:** At the end of each year, U.S.

members receive the official NMRA calendar for the coming year. Not only does it show the dates of all NMRA-related events throughout the year and some of the winning models from the previous National Convention, it also features 13 great model railroad photos. If you were to go out and buy a comparable calendar from a retail source, expect to pay at least ten dollars and up (mostly up). Just one more of the many benefits of being a NMRA member. The Calendar is one of our main fundraising efforts, thanks to the contributions of those members who submit the photos, put the calendar together, and send in contributions after receiving it. The Calendar is available to non-U.S. members for a small fee that covers postage and handling. Non-U.S. members can order one or more Calendars by contacting HQ at nmrahq@aol.com We have the hard work of Mike Brestel, Tom Morrison, and all the photographic contributors to thank for a really great NMRA Calendar year after year.

**NMRA Books:** A search of the NMRA web site will bring up a list of the current NMRA books we have available for sale to both members and the public. Here again, members receive a discount. Although the book committee continues to look for worthy titles, there are no immediate plans for new publications. The Book Committee is headed by Mike Brestel, who is assisted as necessary by other members of the Publications Department.

**NMRA Data Sheets:** Over the years the NMRA Data Sheets have become a wealth of model railroad knowledge. In them a member can find out just about anything he or she might want to know about prototype and model railroading, from soldering techniques to where the air compressor was located on a certain prototype locomotive. Thanks to the efforts of Van Fehr and David Johnson, (the current NMRA Data Sheets manager/directors), who are constantly adding new data. Go on the web site and check it out. With a couple of key strokes you can get information it would take hours to research on your own.

**NMRA eBulletin:** For getting important information out to the members quickly, the eBulletin has proved invaluable but it takes a lot of work from a crew of volunteers to put it together. Among those are Gerry Leone, Chuck Diljak, Page Martin, and Ben Sevier and the NMRA IT team. One of the things that cause a lot of extra work is when members fail to notify HQ when they change their email address. A simple email to the division membership chairman would do it. He or she can then forward it to HQ for action.

When I took over as Publications Manager from Mike Brestel, I knew I had some big shoes to fill. Fortunately I inherited a great committee consisting of Larry DeYoung, Tony Koester, Gerry Leone, and Mike, who covered for me while I got my feet wet. While they carried the ball, I took it upon myself to check out the various departments that came under Publications' responsibilities. Although I had been a member for some time,

attended division meetings regularly and even served as editor of my division's newsletter for eight years, I was astounded to learn about all the member benefits I had been unaware of.

For instance, I had no idea that as a member I was entitled to a free classified ad in the monthly magazine. Nobody told me that. Nor was I aware of the staggering amount of information that was available to me on the Data Sheets. This is especially true, now that you can go to the NMRA web site and click on just about any subject you can think of. And that's just in the area covered by the Publications Department. This makes me wonder how many of our members, even long-time, involved members, are even aware of all the extra benefits available to them, most at absolutely no charge!

Stopping the bleeding has to take place on the division level, and the best way is with your monthly articles, where you can reach not only the new members, but the older ones as well. Why not devote some space each month to informing your membership of all the things the NMRA has available for them? Who knows, it may help keep some of the hangers-on around for a while longer, maybe long enough to get more involved in the NMRA.

What can it hurt? You know you're always trying to think of something to write about, your members will thank you for filling them in on a whole new world of topics they're not even aware of now.

Don Phillips  
Publications Department Manager

## A Bill "No More Fireballs"

From Bloomberg Businessweek

1. In May the U.S. Department of Transportation is expected to release safety standards for tank cars used to haul more than 1 million barrels of highly flammable crude oil daily, most of it from fields in North Dakota through suburbs and cities on their way to refineries across the country. Based on draft rules released last July, the regulations will give tank car owners two or more years to upgrade tankers known as DOT-111s to newer models that are less likely to rupture in a crash.

2. Accidents in February and

March triggered major fires in Illinois, West Virginia, and Ontario. Amid concerns the new DOT rules won't put an end to oil-train explosions, Senator Maria Cantwell, a Washington Democrat, has introduced legislation that would require railroads to stop transporting oil in dangerous DOT-111s immediately. It would also require the DOT to set a maximum threshold for the volatility of oil carried by train, shifting some responsibility to oil producers. 3. While Cantwell's bill awaits consideration, the DOT has added restrictions on oil trains. On April 17 the agency issued an order requiring trains carrying flammable oil and ethanol through urban areas "including New York, Chicago, and Washington" to slow to less than 40 mph, a speed limit some railroads voluntarily agreed to in 2014. "This order is necessary because of the recent occurrence of railroad accidents," the department said.

### Correction -

In the April, 2015 Issue of the InfoNet News an incorrect email address was shown for Tom Winlow, Atlantic District Nominating Chairman. The correct email address for Tom is: tom.winlow@btinternet.com.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) or in the NMRA Magazine

If the person holding a region or division office changes, or their email address changes, please contact me at [tcdraider@aol.com](mailto:tcdraider@aol.com) with the corrected information.

Regards,

Tom Draper HLM, DSA, FA  
Director Support Services



Impressive industry on the Manitowoc waterfront is getting some repair work after being idle a while. Rail traffic should resume shortly. David Leider photo

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