

Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA –
Winter 2015



President's Report

By Paul Mangan, President, MWR



Paul Mangan

I'll begin this report with condolences to the family of Andy Sperandeo. As most of you know by now we lost Andy in October to his battle with cancer. Andy's legacy with Model Railroader magazine along with his contributions to our hobby will never be forgot-

ten. Rest in peace Andy!

As you may recall I wrote my last report before I left for the National Convention in Portland and said I would report in the winter Waybill about the Portland Daylight Express. Well here we go!

I have always had a great time at the National Conventions and the Daylight Express was no exception. I traveled out to Portland with a group of fourteen from the SCWD by Amtrak. Also on the Empire Builder were Midwest Region Vice President Steve Studley and his wife Penny. We basically occupied a whole sleeper car with other model railroaders heading out west as well. After dodging the fires at Glacier National Park we arrived in Portland safe and I guess you can say sound.

We were met at the station by staff from the convention that put us on the correct route to the hotel and we began our week of conventioning. This year I decided to sign up for more of the prototype offerings and general tours. On one of my lighter activity days a group of us got lost on the Portland light rail system. At one point we were really lost so MWR Treasurer Keith Thomsen took over the lead and got us back to the hotel with smiles on our faces.

During the week I had a chance to visit with some of the top officials at an informal meeting. In chatting with

Steve August (Regional Advisory Council chair) he brought up the question of 'How can national improve communications with regions and the divisions?' We are looking for ideas from you that could help improve the situation.

We wound up the week as usual with the National Train Show and a delicious banquet Saturday evening. Then back home after a few days in San Francisco and a ride on the California Zephyr. Thanks go out to the Portland Daylight Express committee for putting together yet again another great NMRA convention. Next year it is in our very own Midwest Region. The Central Indiana Division will be hosting the High Ball to Indy Convention and they are setting up some fantastic offerings to make your week a memorable one.

By the time we got back from the National we were really tired out. I took a few days of relaxing and then it was off to Michiana Division for the EduTrain event. This was my first time attending this event and I was very impressed. The theme this year was Model Like a Prototype. Lots of clinics were available each of the days and in the evening layout tours and op sessions. A banquet was held on Friday evening as well. I was too busy to make it down on the Friday but seeing all the good stuff they had happening on Saturday made me a believer so next year I plan on going down on Friday. I'm still not too old to learn something. The dates next year are Sept 30th and Oct. 1st 2016. Come on down and join us.

I would also like to thank Bob Blake and the Michiana division for hosting our Board of Directors meeting on Sunday of EduTrain.

Back to Region items: We finally have all four candidate slots filled for the election coming up. I would like to thank those who stood up and let their names stand for election. It would be real nice to see more people get involved with the management of our Region and the NMRA. It really doesn't demand a lot of time and as a side benefit your time spent can be used toward your Association Official Certificate.

So maybe next election cycle you can jump up and let your name stand. In the meantime please vote to show these folks can see your support.

Continued on page 3

The WAYBILL

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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

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Editor's Column

This issue has more pages than usual as it is the annual election issue. Please take a few moments to fill out the ballot on page 7 and return it to Don Cook. Remember, the region and division officers are all volunteers and it is nice to show them support for their commitment.

Midwest Region Annual Meeting

As the CID is hosting the NMRA National Convention, there will not be a regional convention this year. As per the bylaws, there will be an annual meeting. It will be on Sunday, May 1, 2016. Details are on page 5.

Editors Ramblings

I was invited to take my static grass applicator over to Indiana and give a clinic at the Michiana Division's Fall Conference. Great group of guys and a lot of fun. I wrote the attendance down so I would not forget, but forgot where I wrote it. Anyway everything was superb and hats off to them for a lot of fun. Some photos are on page 11.

I do not ordinarily do a lot of railfanning, but the five straight days of 70 plus weather in November gave me the chance. The first day I went to my favorite Hot Spot, Dolton tower southwest of Chicago. The action is hot and heavy and I was not dissatisfied. The area is safe, being in back of the police station and I brought my folding chair to enjoy the view.

I saw this unusual piece of



equipment. It appears to be the base of an engine, but I am not sure of its purpose. It was numbered 479. Can anyone shed some light on this mystery?

It is trainshow season and there are several adds for trainshows later in this issue. If you want your NMRA affiliated event listed, drop me a note I prefer jpegs, as the editing software I use will not accept word documents with embedded photos. You can send the photos separately, and I can put them back in if needed.

Despite rumors to the contrary, HighWheeler will once again be at Harper College in Palatine on March 5 and 6. More details are on page 11.



The above photo was taken at the banquet of the Soo Line Historical & Technical Society. The reason I included it here is that the above are all MMR's from the Midwest Region. I thought it pretty remarkable.

From left to right, Marv Preussler MMR, Gregg Condon MMR, Mark Preussler MMR, David Leider MMR, Bob Wundrock MMR and Bill Ehler MMR. Looks like a fun group, why not join us?

Continued from page 1

Communications 101: Remember that class? It was about communicating with others. Recently I have had many members come to me and say things like "I sent multiple emails to ***** and I never hear anything back from them. This stuff is important to me". You can replace the word email with left messages on answering machines or even talked face to face with and I think you know where I'm going here. It is one thing to forget about something but when someone is calling on you multiple times for the same reason then the word ignoring now joins the conversation. I have fallen victim to this on occasions.

I know you can't just jump every time the phone rings but it is only common courtesy to follow up with people when they need to hear from you on matters that are important. If you are in a volunteer position and don't want to do what you volunteered for, then why would you have volunteered to do it.

All I can say is please be aware that someone is depending on you for one reason or another so try to be courteous. After all, you may need their help someday.

I hope you all have the best Holiday Season ever and whether it be Trainfest, Mad City and a few G scale Holiday Open Houses, I'll see you by the Rails.

All Aboard

Paul

Happy Holidays to you and yours

Region News

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

After the Fox Valley Division September meeting, the division was invited to Pete Walton's HO layout. I was inspired by Pete's highly detailed scenery work which gave me a lot of great ideas for my layout. If you were to pick any 32 sq. ft. of his layout, it's guaranteed 87 1/2 points.

My winter goal is to get my scenery certificate. Do you have a winter goal?

The following member received AP Certificates:

Minton Dings	Havana, IL	Civil
Minton Dings	Havana, IL	Cars

Work with your division Achievement Manager first, and if you have a problem, feel free to contact me.

Enjoy the holidays,
Jim Landwehr
Midwest Region AP Manager



Jim Landwehr looks over Pete Walton's HO layout at his recent open house.

Spring Board Meeting

Zor Shrine Temple
575 Zor Shrine Place
Madison Wisconsin

Sunday, May 1, 2016; 10:00 am

Candidate Biographies for Director Positions

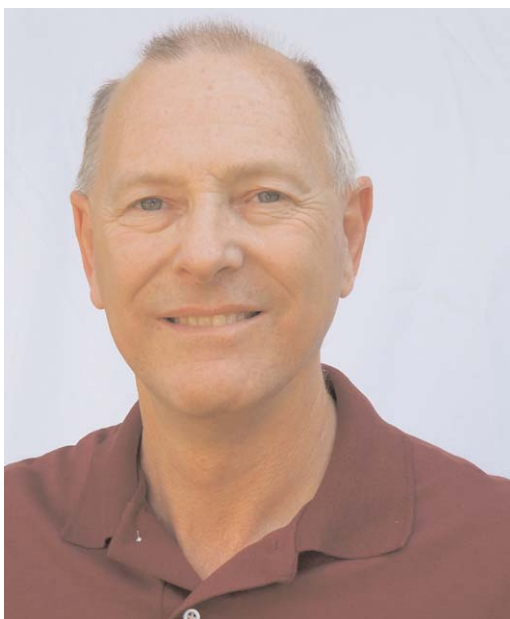
BOB LANDWEHR Director-at-large



Hi – My name is Bob Landwehr and I'm running for Midwest Region Director at Large. I have been in love with model railroading ever since I was a child and have been an active NMRA member since 2011. For the past 4 years I've been running the monthly Fox Valley Division

contests and in February 2015 I undertook the challenge of computerizing the Regional Achievement Program (AP) awards thanks in part from my bachelors degree in computer science from Northern Illinois University. My AP certificate goals for this season include Volunteer, Civil and Electrical. With so much enthusiasm I look forward to supporting and promoting the hobby. Thank you for your support and consideration as a candidate for the DAL.

JIM LANDWEHR Director-at-large (Incumbent)



Hi- My name is James Landwehr and I'm running for re-election as a Midwest Region Director-At-Large. During my first term (2014-2016) I attended every meeting of the Board of Directors. I became the Midwest Regional

Achievement Program Manager, in assisting members on their journey through the achievement program.

I have held continuous membership with the NMRA since 2006. Over the years of membership, I have had the opportunity to be increasingly involved in the NMRA. As a Fox Valley Division board member since 2007, my role allowed me to further develop the Achievement Program and monthly contests. My responsibilities afforded me the opportunity to assist division members on their journey through the AP program and promote and increase the monthly contest participation.

I hope to be able to continue to serve you as an MWR Director-At-Large for two more years, please vote for me.

FRED ROBINSON Director-at-Large

I am Fred Robinson and I solicit your vote to be a director at large for the Midwest Region. I have modeled trains (played with) all of my life. A Marx set at 2, my first Lionel set at 4, and a switch to HO at 20.



I've built layouts in N, HO, O, and G. I presently have a new HO layout under construction and a promissory note to my wife for a garden railroad in the spring. Maybe I can complete these projects. I say maybe because in a career spanning 40 years I've moved over a dozen times.

I am a Life Member of the NMRA. I was a annual member from 1965 until 1974 when I converted to life member status. But, I contribute the equivalent of annual dues to the NMRA each year.

Currently I'm a member of the SCWD, I was a member of the DuPage Division of the MWR from 1980 to 1988. A job transfer took me to the PCR from 1988 to 1992. Then it was back to the MWR DuPage Division in 1992 followed by joining the WISE Division in 1998.

I was an active volunteer at "TrainFest" from 1999 to my retirement in 2005. Retirement brought me to the SCWD. I have been active in my SCWD membership and am presently in my third year as Clinic Chairman. I also volunteer at the "Mad City Train Show".

I think having been in three different divisions of the MWR gives a broad view. It's a view I can bring to the position of director at large.

**PAUL WUSSOW Director-at-Large
(Incumbent)**



I have been in model railroading for more than 50 years. From Lionel to HO and HOn3 through the NMRA since 1982 I progressed in scale modeling and operations.

Instructional Technology was my specialty at the

University of Illinois Chicago where service over time from Chief Broadcast Engineer to Assistant Dean, Operations, in the College of Education. Leaving the UIC for private industry, I became the Global Director of Technology for a Private Equity firm. Retiring at the end of 2009 my wife and I purchased a home in Three Lakes, WI where I am the president of the Three Lakes Model Railroad Club, Wisconsin's first and only 100% NMRA club. www.tlmrc.org

I have served as a DAL for the MWR for the last 2 years and have been able to provide service to the Region and divisions during that time. I have served as MWR Photo Contest Chair and Photographer. I also served as the Du Page Division AP Chair and hold a Golden Spike + 5 AP certificates; Volunteer, Electrical, Civil, Author, and Dispatcher.

I have continued to present clinics for the MWR and at divisions and to the community via presentations at the libraries in the North Woods. NMRA@Home has published a number of my articles on the national member's only web site.

Continuing as a DAL my relationships with the folks at national and model railroaders from diverse backgrounds would serve the MWR well.

I have been preparing the basement for my layout. I have been operating on many home layouts and with operations sig groups during the past 8 to 12 years.

I would like to serve you as a MWR Director-At-Large. I enjoyed my previous terms and would like to be elected again to the MWR board.

National News

UNDECORATED BOX CAR SHELLS AVAILABLE

Earlier this year, a member contacted the NMRA about a possible donation of a large quantity of undecorated Roundhouse HO AAR and Plug Door Box Car Shells. The shells were not complete kits, but included roof walks, trucks, and underbody detail. They did not include wheels, couplers, and underframes. The donor wished to give them to the NMRA for use in Education Department clinics such as airbrushing, weathering, and decaling. I am employed as a B737 Captain by a major airline and had a trip already planned to the city where the donor lived. I made arrangements to meet with him to see exactly what he was offering.

When I arrived at the donor's house, I learned that he had a very large number of the shells available for donation. He runs an EBAY business out of his house and had a large supply of decorated and some undecorated shells. He was in the process of moving from California to Oregon. He didn't think it would be financially feasible to move the shells, so he contacted the NMRA about a donation. I told him that I thought we could use them for his intended purpose and with a little work could probably make them useful as make-and-takes for BSA Railroading Merit Badge Programs. I made arrangements to move the shells into a storage unit. After the Portland Convention, I picked up the cars and then drove them to my house. They are now safely stored in my basement.

The shells are now available to the membership. They are available through the NMRA Company Store. When you go on the website, you can find them on the list on the left hand side. You will notice there are four choices available. This is based on four box sizes I picked. The quantities are approximate as I have found that I am getting varying amounts in each of the boxes. There are two styles of shells and each box contain some of both styles. Each box also includes a corresponding number of roof walks. There is no charge for the shells, but you will have to enter a credit card number. There will be no charges to your card. Remember, these shells are meant for clinics about airbrushing, weathering, and decaling.

I am still working on making the shells workable for make-and-takes. You will hear more about this project as it progresses.

John Stevens
National Scout Coordinator

**Annual Meeting
of Members
Zor Shrine Temple
575 Zor Shrine Place
Madison Wisconsin**

Sunday, May 1, 2016; 1:15 pm

Welcome to the NMRA InfoNet News (Infoblast) For October, 2015

A message from VP of Administration, Clark Kooning

Well as fall comes upon us in the Northern Hemisphere, most of us turn to our hobby indoors. Some model, all year round, because of the climates where we live. However for the majority of us we are dusting off the layout and dreaming of the new modeling season ahead. As the new VP (Admin) of the NMRA I have the same thoughts you do, maybe I should build a new layout and where did I last leave my throttle? I also think how we at the NMRA can promote the hobby and encourage other modelers to participate with us in a very rewarding hobby and the fellowship that it provides. If you're a member and know another modeler who is not a member, next time your local Division or Region has an event why don't you take him or her along. This simple introduction to the NMRA can be the start of great lifelong friendships and, of course, our love for the hobby. I know the value in our organization starts with the sole member and those in local divisions and in the fact it is the fellowship and fun that we share at all levels that make us strong.

As I begin to take on my role as the VP (Admin) There are several challenges ahead of us which the NMRA will need to move forward. With good solid leadership from both your executive team and one of the most dynamic Board of Directors, I can think of, I will be working with the Headquarters staff as needed. I have been asked by President Getz to work on some projects along with Gerry Leone our other VP. I hope to have some interesting new initiatives you will like in the very near future. A big "Thank You" to all the members who directly put on the NMRA Portland National Convention and those who volunteered their time and effort during the convention to make this year's convention a lot of fun. If you have any questions, I am happy to hear from any member. Umm has anyone seen my throttle?

Clark Kooning, MMR HLM_NMRA VP (Admin)

In memoriam Andy Sperandeo

Andy Sperandeo, former Model Railroader editor, dies
By Kevin P. Keefe | October 5, 2015

WAUKESHA, Wis. Longtime Model Railroader editor Andy Sperandeo died Oct. 3, in Brookfield, after a long illness. He was 70.

Sperandeo joined the Model Railroader staff in 1979. Over the years he worked his way up through the ranks, becoming editor in 1993 and, later, executive editor. Most recently he was editor of Model Railroader's annual Great Model Railroads issue. He was also a prolific author for Kalmbach Books.

Sperandeo's expertise extended to all facets of the model-railroad hobby, but he was especially known for his

command of realistic train operations, as reflected in his popular column in the magazine, "The Operators."

"Andy was an excellent model builder, a diligent researcher, and a meticulous editor," says Model Railroader Editor Neil Besouglouff. "We will remember all of that, but mostly we remember that Andy was our close friend."

A renowned expert on the Santa Fe, Sperandeo was active in the Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society, as well as the National Model Railroad Association. His home layout is a faithful interpretation of the Santa Fe's main line through California's Cajon Pass in the late 1940s.

Sperandeo was a native of New Orleans. He earned his B.A. in English from Loyola of the South, an M.A. from Louisiana State University, and was working on his Ph.D. in English from the University of Texas when Model Railroader lured him to Milwaukee in 1979.

From Trains Magazine:

Amtrak Derailment

An Amtrak train bound for Washington, D.C., derailed in central Vermont on October 5 after hitting a rock slide, injuring seven of the 102 people aboard, one seriously. The incident, which was at least the 17th Amtrak derailment so far in 2015, raised fresh concerns about rail safety less than five months after a derailment in Philadelphia killed eight people.

From Time Magazine:

Railroads Finding Hidden Freight Car Trackers

By Justin Franz, September 24, 2015

A brown-painted automatic equipment identification, or AEI, reader barely pokes out of a slope along a Conrail right-of-way in New Jersey. Railroads are alarmed that the AEI readers might be spread throughout the country, gathering and sharing information on freight moves without their knowledge.

METUCHEN, N.J. Railroads are uncovering hidden freight car tracking devices near rights-of-way around the country.

The discoveries began earlier this month when a Metuchen, N.J., resident found two people installing boxes near a Conrail Shared Assets Operation right-of-way. Unsatisfied with those persons' answers and the local police response, the person called Norfolk Southern railroad police who investigated and found an automatic equipment identification or AEI reader, used to track freight cars by monitoring their built-in radio beacons.

On Sept. 15, the Association of American Railroads' Railway Alert Network issued a security warning to members to keep an eye out for the unauthorized devices.

Continued page 9

Midwest Region 2015 Ballot
Director-At-Large (Vote for Four)

- Jim Landwehr, Fox Valley Division (Incumbent)**
- Bob Landwehr, Fox Valley Division**
- Paul Wussow, DuPage Division (Incumbent)**
- Fred Robinson, South Central Wisconsin Division (Incumbent)**
- Write-In _____**
- 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.mwr-nmra.org/divisions/divisionindex.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 Don Cook, 2500 Tenth St, Waukegan, IL 60085-7050. Your ballot must be received no later than January 31, 2016.

FOLD HERE

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C/o Don Cook
2500 Tenth St
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Stamp
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FOLD HERE

Bend Under

Trains NewsWire obtained a copy of the security alert earlier this week.

According to the eight-page report, railroad police investigated further and found that a company called ClipperData had installed the reader. ClipperData was formed about two years ago and sells comprehensive data regarding the energy industry, including the movement of crude oil and other commodities. According to the report, Norfolk Southern police say they have a copy of a "lease agreement" between a homeowner near the right-of-way and ClipperData which gave the homeowner \$500 to use a nearby electrical outlet to power the equipment reader.

In an interview with Trains News Wire on Wednesday, ClipperData CEO Sterling Lapinski confirmed that his company installed the first AEI reader discovered in New Jersey. He says his company's work is legal and that ClipperData is currently looking at trying to sell data to and about the railroad industry, which is why it installed the AEI reader. Lapinski says his company sells data and information to government agencies, trading groups, and energy companies.

"We do have devices installed but the network isn't operational yet," Lapinski tells Trains News Wire. "We're not currently selling data, we're just trying to see if it's feasible."

Railroads around the world use similar equipment reader technology that uses radio waves to automatically identify freight cars at speed. Railroads typically gather the information to update their own records before sharing it with other shippers, such as trucking companies, railroads, or steamship lines, and customers.

Sources close to Class I railroad corporate offices say executives are upset and are ready to take a "scorched earth" approach to dealing with ClipperData and other companies that may have installed readers throughout the country. A second security alert dated Sept. 22, says railroaders have uncovered at least one other equipment reader in New Jersey and one in Sheridan, Wyo. The one in Wyoming reportedly interfered with BNSF Railway track equipment.

The Railway Alert Network report raised concerns that the people who installed the equipment readers trespassed on railroad property to do so. It also raises concerns about selling data on the movement of specific types of rail cars, arguing that the information could be used to "disrupt rail operations through intentional, and potentially destructive, acts." The security alert asks railroads that find similar AEI readers to inform the alert network immediately so that it can consolidate all of the reports.

In a statement to Trains News Wire, AAR spokesperson Ed Greenberg says the organization is keeping a close eye on the developing situation.

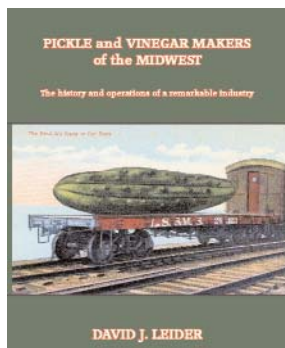
"The AAR was aware of this situation and pleased that local law enforcement and railroad police

took steps to address the situation as quickly as possible" Greenberg says.

Norfolk Southern declined to comment on this topic. Trains is waiting for a response from BNSF.

From Trains Magazine

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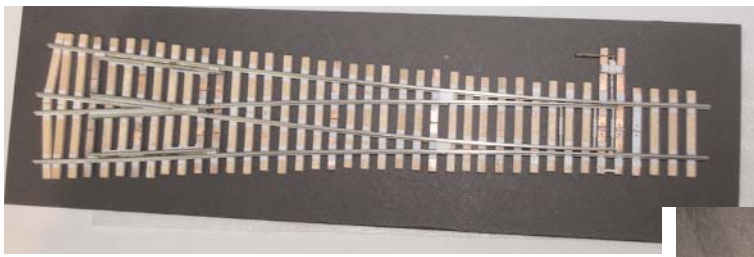
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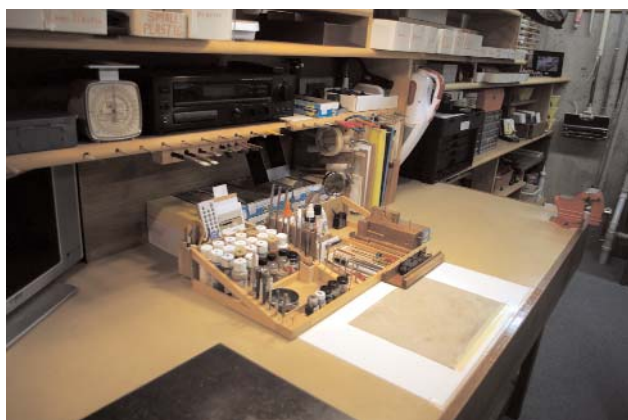
Track is a model too, and Tony Sissons displayed the turnout above at his clinic on realistic trackwork. He photo-etches the small parts and adds others to make this very realistic piece of track. His display from the display room is shown on the right.



Notes from the Michiana Fall EduTrain Conference
South Bend, Indiana



Jerry Macri loves trees, long, mainlines and equally long trains as the above photo shows. He has industry also. This is part of a very large steel mill complex.



I like to look at workbenches, and this super neat and organized one belongs to John Underhill, as does the layout photo on the right. Did you notice he likes lots of vehicles in his scenes? All photos by David Leider



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For more information:
www.nmra-scwd.org



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www.foxvalleydivision.org

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