

Waybill



Mid West Region NMRA –
Summer 2016

President's Report

By Paul Mangan, President, MWR



Paul Mangan

I'd like to begin this report by thanking the South Central Wisconsin Division and Superintendent Bob McGeever for hosting the Midwest Region Board of Directors meeting. I'd like to also thank all of the Board mem-

bers who took the time to join us at the meeting. The work of the region board is important to the structure of the NMRA. Without this structure the NMRA would not exist for very long.

That being said I would like to welcome new division directors Mike Hirvela (Fox Valley Division) and Jay Kabitzke (Rock River Valley) to the Board and also new Director at Large Bob Landwehr. Fred Robinson, Paul Wussow and Jim Landwehr were re-elected to a second term. The nomination process for the next election is now under way. We will be electing a new President, Vice-President and three Directors at Large for two year terms. If you would like to serve on the Board of Directors all you need to do at this point in time is to get in touch with Fred Robinson to learn how to go about getting on the ballot. Fred's contact information can be found at the MWR web site.

The Board meeting was held at Madison because the MWR convention is not held in the year that a National Convention is sponsored by a division within the Region. This year the Central Indiana Division is hosting the Highball to Indy 2016 conven-

tion. If you haven't signed up yet why wait any longer, sit down and get the paperwork done before all the good stuff has sold out.

The day to hold the meeting was chosen because it is the yearly combined meeting of the Rock River Valley Division with the South Central Wisconsin Division. It was SCWD's turn to host the meeting and a large amount of RRVD members made the trip up to Madison to join us.

At the meeting Jay Kabitzke announced that RRVD will be hosting the 2017 MWR convention. The name of the convention will be called Rock River Valley Golden Rail Midwest Region Convention. The name reflects the fact that it will be the Golden Anniversary for RRVD. Circle the date of April 28, 29 and 30, 2017. The convention hotel is the Holiday Inn Rockford IL. The committee is assembling all the details for a great convention and will release them when they become available.



Left to right, Back Row; Bob Blake, Jim Landwehr, Reid Kahrs, Bob Landwehr, David Johnson, Middle row; Bob McGeever, Jim Osborn, Fred Robinson, Jay Kabitzke, Minton Dings, Paul Wussow Gary Children. Front row, Mike Hirvela, Bert Lattan, Keith Thomsen, Steve Studley and Paul Mangan.

The WAYBILL

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CONTRIBUTIONS

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Editor's Column

I received a nice email from Wayne Wesolowski MMR:

For many years I was a MWR member (NMRA since 1959) and totally enjoyed the variety of activities and the many friends I made over the years.

I don't know if you have shared this with the Division members, but MWR Past President Jim O'Toole passed away in 2015. Below is a brief personal comment.

Jim O'Toole 1941-2015

Jim passed away in 2015 from heart complications. He was a gregarious promoter of model railroading and the NMRA, working in numerous division positions including MWR President. After serving in the Navy, he was a draftsman in the days without a computer and among other positions worked for the Binks Airbrush Company.

I got a phone call one day from Jim that the scrap metal company in Franklin Park near his office was salvaging optical screws—0-80, 00-90, even 000-120. The workers were emptying paper boxes of screws into cans and then melting them just for the brass. I could get a coffee can of optical screws for \$1/pound. Now that's a friend.

When he and Esther moved to the high country of New Mexico there were two additional buildings constructed—one for the layout and one for the shop...oh, and a house. Of course he jumped into NMRA activities and was running shows, meetings and swap meets from Albuquerque to Las Cruces.

For family reasons, they moved to Georgia where another railroad was growing in the basement at the time of his passing.

Jim is survived by his wife Esther, two daughters, three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

I will miss his infectious enthusiasm for everything trains.

Wayne Wesolowski

Jim and Esther O'Toole



Spring and summer. Time for us model railroaders to come out of our underground burrows and see the sun. I hope you have a lot of outdoor activities planned, for as we all know, winter will soon return.

I will be helping out at the NMRA booth at the annual Franklin Park Railroad Days on June 11. If you have never attended, it is well worth it. Many Chicago railroads are represented and this year, NKP #765 will be in attendance. If you go, stop by and say hello.

If you are in Waupaca, Wisconsin perhaps for Strawberry Fest, (Saturday, June 18), be sure and stop by the renovated Soo Line Waupaca Depot. Mike Kirk has done a fantastic job renovating the depot. There is also a Milwaukee Road caboose, a Waupaca Electric Railway baggage car and other treats on display. This year begins regular visiting hours, from noon until 3PM on Saturdays during the summer.

Another email I received was to invite everyone to the "2016 Rail Festival in Carillon Park." That is near Dayton Ohio and the dates are June 25 and 26.

For registration information contact David Oroszi, david.oroszi@usa.net, phone 937-238-5655.

Continued from page 1

Our next MWR Board meeting will be on Sunday October 2nd and held in conjunction with the Michiana Division's Training and Education Conference Sept 30 & Oct. 1st. The meeting will be called to order at 10:30 a.m. local time. The hotel for this event is the University of Notre Dame Morris Inn and Conference Center 1399 N. Notre Dame Ave. Notre Dame IN. The name of the conference is "Modeling Like a PROTOTYPE". The cost of the conference is \$30 for NMRA members and \$35 for non-members. The room rates at the Morris Inn are \$95 / night for conference attendees. I attended last year's conference and had a wonderful time. I'd like to thank Bob Blake and the Michiana Division for inviting the MWR Board back again. Apparently we all behaved ourselves last year.

I hope you have a safe summer and check out a lot of train events
See you by the Rails
Paul

Region News

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

Big changes have been going on in the Midwest Region Achievement Program. For the past year and a half, we have been working on a program to change the Achievement Program books from paper to electronic.

With this change, Region and Division Achievement Managers can give an annual report or get an updated division list. For a new division achievement manager just starting out, this program can generate a list just for that division, which could not be done before now.

In 2002, Bill Myers started a new way of keeping track of processing member Achievement Program work. Prior to 2002, the books were not managed very well. If you received an Achievement Program award before 2002, or less than #660, I need your help. Please take a picture or scan the award and email it to me. My email address is jlandwehr901@yahoo.com. With your help we can update the award book.

I am happy to report that there has been some activity from our members. They continue to take part in the Achievement Program all over the Midwest Region. The following members received awards:

Jeremy Dummler	Wauconda, IL	Author
Jeffrey Jarr	Chicago, IL	Official
Patrick Golden	La Grange Pk. IL	Volunteer
Gerald Howard	Lisle, IL	Volunteer
Tim Schubert	Wheaton, IL	Volunteer
Jeffery Norkin	Mc Cordsville, IN	Golden Spike
John Van Roo	Columbus, WI	Golden Spike
Bill Clancy	Madison, WI	Golden Spike

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

\Thanks,
Jim Landwehr,
MWR Achievement Program Manager

Secretary's Report by Dave Johnson MWR Secretary

Minutes, Annual Meeting of Members, Midwest Region, NMRA, May 1, 2016

President Paul Mangan called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm at the Zor Shrine Temple in Madison, Wisconsin. Minutes from the Annual Meeting of Members that was held on April 18, 2015 were unanimously approved as written and published in the Summer 2015 issue of the Waybill.
Reports:

Treasurer Keith Thomsen summarized the Region's finances. As of December 31, 2015 the General Fund and the Youth Fund had combined assets of \$46,027.24. For the year then ended, income, primarily from Waybill subscriptions and the NMRA dues rebate was \$8,352.24; expenses, primarily for the Waybill, were \$5,245.98 and net income was \$3,106.26. The Treasurer's Report was accepted subject to audit.

Old Business
There was no old business.

New Business
Paul announced the winners of the recent election:
Directors-at-Large
Bob Landwehr, Fox Valley Division
Jim Landwehr, Fox Valley Division
Fred Robinson, South Central Wi Division
Paul Wussow, DuPage Division

Jay Kabitzke reviewed Rock River Valley plans for the Spring 2017 Midwest Region Convention in Rockford, Illinois from April 28th through April 30th 2017. The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn, Rockford, Illinois.

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.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
M. David Johnson
Secretary

Fall Board Meeting

**University of Notre Dame Morris Inn
1399 Notre Dame Avenue
Notre Dame, Indiana
Sunday, October 2, 2016; 10:30 am**

2017 Election

Petition Deadline Is August 18, 2016

Although the 2017 election is several months away, it is time to start the election cycle. In 2017 we will elect a President, a Vice President and three (3) Directors-at-Large.

Paul Mangan, of the South Central Wisconsin Division, will complete his second two-year term as President in 2017 and under the Bylaws will not be eligible to run for another term in 2017. Thanks to Paul for his dedicated service.

Steve Studley, of the Central Indiana Division, will complete his first two-year term as Vice President. Under the Bylaws, he will be eligible to run for another term in 2017.

Daniel Brewer, of the Michiana Division, and Minton Dings, of the Illinois Valley Division, will complete their first two-year terms as Directors-at-Large in 2017. Under the Bylaws, they will each be eligible to run for another term in 2017.

Gary Children, of the Wisconsin South Eastern Division, is serving as Director-at-Large during the remainder of an unexpired vacancy. Under the Bylaws, he will be eligible to run for his own first term in 2017.

By serving the Midwest Region and your fellow NMRA members as a Director-at-Large for two terms (four years), you will qualify for the Association Official certificate under the NMRA Achievement Program. You will also meet many NMRA members from other Divisions and perhaps form lasting friendships.

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 Fred Robinson from the South Central Wisconsin Division and members Dan Brewer from the Michiana 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 with a copy to the Region Secretary (M. David Johnson) as soon as possible, but no later than August 18, 2016.

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 M. David Johnson, who 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).

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 M. David 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 M. David Johnson no later than August 18, 2016. 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, October 2, 2016 at the University of Notre Dame's Morris Inn in South Bend, Indiana.

Each candidate's biography/statement & photo and a ballot will be included in the Winter 2016 issue of the Waybill. The results of the election will be

announced during the 2017 Annual Meeting of Members, which will be held during the 2017 Spring Convention. The convention will be hosted by the Rock River Valley Division and will be held on Friday, Saturday & Sunday, April 28, 29 & 30 at the Holiday Inn in Rockford, Illinois.

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

National News

2016 NMRA Election Results

The following are the official results of the 2016 election, as reported by John Stevens, NMRA Secretary. Vote tallies are shown in parentheses.

At-Large Worldwide Director
Mike Brestel (646)
Bob Ferguson (371)

Western District Director
Steve Barkley (84)
Don Fowler (144)
Stephen Priest (181)

Atlantic District Director
Peter Bowen (18)
Kathy Millatt (79)

The NMRA Board of Directors and officers would like to thank all the members who ran for office. Your willingness to serve in an elected position is greatly appreciated.

Going Digital When?

No, for better or worse, we are not going digital tomorrow but we are headed toward digital in an increasing digital age. I am often asked when NMRA Magazine will be available in a digital version. This is an important question.

Some of you may challenge the need to do anything, let alone go "digital" but that ignores the old adage that nothing can stay static and that change is the only constant in the universe. For proof, just look at our hobby. It has changed over the decades and remarkably since I started in 1961. When I was a novice model railroader, brass track, block wiring, open frame motors, matte board buildings and lichen were common elements of a model railroad. Today, they

have gone the way of the buggy whip in most cases. The hobby has evolved in new and exciting ways. Few of us would want to return to 1961 technology in an era of DCC, digital sound, smooth-running mechanisms and unparalleled realism. The hobby has never been more fun or rewarding, at least in my over 50 years' experience.

Yet our communications and publishing remain the same as in 1961. Better edited and far better content; certainly graphically superior compared to the pulp Bulletin of my youth, but still printed, mailed and delivered in paper form. Only the NMRA eBulletin and nmra.org present a new form of communication and few complain about either.

The death of print media has been projected for over thirty years now and while newspapers are slowly eroding, the end of print is nowhere in sight. I have a Kindle but prefer books, though I take the Kindle on cruises and long flights. Although I have many of the digital archives published by Kalmbach and Benchmark Publications, I continue to dutifully read their magazines each month. Perhaps I am a dinosaur but some wit did posit that few feel comfortable reading a laptop in the bathroom. There is something satisfying about a magazine that is hard to replace. But digital libraries can store an enormous amount of material in a small space with instant access. So it is hard to ignore the advantages.

Why not abandon the print version of NMRA Magazine altogether and go digital? Well, we have studied doing so and continue to look at it. In 2015, the BOD was presented a report from Publications on going digital. Their conclusion was and is, that the time is not yet right. Other railroad-oriented publications offering both print and digital versions have found that only 2.5 - 4% of their readers subscribe to the electronic version. The latest ABC audited circulation figures for Classic Toy Trains, for example, one of the largest train magazines, showed a 4% digital readership. Evidence indicates that despite healthy ad content, digital magazines are questionably profitable. Few want to publish a money-losing magazine whether digital or print.

We are currently surveying our members and advertisers to gauge interest in a digital magazine. As I said, the question is not IF but WHEN. So far, "when" remains an open question. So we look forward to expanding our digital presence and one day, going digital. We just can't tell you exactly when. Well that's all for now. Those are my thoughts; what are yours?

Charlie

AROUND THE MIDWEST REGION

by Walt Herrick

The NMRA's Midwest Region is blessed with many active divisions and one of these is the Rock River Valley Division located in nine counties in northwest Illinois and two counties in southwest Wisconsin. You'll be hearing a lot from the Rock River Valley division in 2017 as it will be hosting the Midwest Region's annual convention in April of that year. Rock River Super, Jay Kabitzke, says that plans are already underway for offering a first class convention experience for NMRA members. "Though convention chair, Ron Johnson and his committee, are in the early stages of planning, so far they're looking at lots of layout tours, a Friday night cook out at Rochelle's Railroad Park for those who want a big taste of modern prototype railroading, a Jerry Pyhfer presentation on "Rockford Rail History", some excellent clinics and several nice activities for ladies including a tour of the Nicholas Conservatory and Anderson Japanese Gardens."

The Rock Valley is known for its many fine layouts, one of which is Joe Whinnery's C&O coal hauling layout which was just featured as the cover story in the March *Railroad Model Craftsman* magazine. Other notable RRV Layouts include Mike Dannemans's large, HO Illinois & St. Louis, and Bill Navigato's HO Chicago, Peoria & Southern.

The Rock River Valley is also known for its Rockford Train Show held at Jefferson High School in March each year. Jefferson is a big, newer high school whose field house and ample parking provide the perfect venue for a train show. The show is primarily a "buy & sell" show and there were a ton of quality private and commercial vendors filling the field house the Saturday and Sunday of the show. But, there were several nice modular layouts at this year's as well. Whether its putting on a great train show or hosting a super MWR convention, the Rock River Valley Division does it well!



Gary Loiselle and Bert Morris man the check-in table at the 2016 Rockford Train Show (top). The HOTrak modular layout was a popular attraction at this year's Rockford Train Show (center).



Long time RRV member and NMRA supporter, Joe Whinnery (above left), had his beautiful Appalachian coal hauling layout featured as the cover story of the March RMC.

Feel The Heat



Steel Mill Modelers SIG 2016 Meet August 11th -14th Merrillville, IN (Chicago area)

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Registration Information
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2016 Steel Mill Modelers Meet

August 11th -14th

Hilton Garden Inn, Merrillville, IN

The traditional format is registration and display and vendor setup on Thursday afternoon followed by a few clinics that evening. Friday will be a full day of presentations, vendor tables and fellowship.

Saturday will be devoted to carpool layout tours followed by the awards banquet. The meet wraps up with Sunday morning's informal good-bye breakfast.

Clinics:

The exact clinic schedule is still being developed, but we will have 8 - 10 clinics. We plan on tapping a host of local modelers and veteran attendees to present fresh ideas and techniques. We are also planning a few clinics specifically designed for those new to steel mill modeling. All topics will be specific to steel modeling.

Layout Tours:

Saturday will be devoted to layout tours by carpool. One of the featured layouts is Gary Lance's Park Lane Steel that includes many of the structures that graced Dean Freytag's Davies Steel layout. We are working on scheduling one and maybe two layout operating session. Slots on the “operating crew” will be filled on a first registered basis, so register early.

Displays and Contests:

Attendees are encourage to bring a steel related model(s) to display, even if it is only a single structure, locomotive or piece of rolling stock. The attendees will vote on the best displayed model to select the winner of the coveted Dean Freytag award.

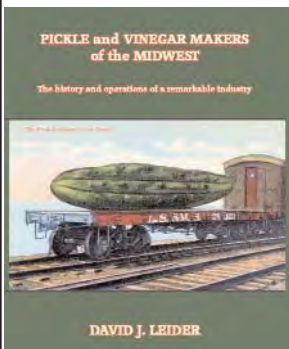
There is also a special photo category in the display contest that is designed for large models that can't be transported. All it takes to enter this category is photo(s) of your steel project. Judging is based on the quality of the modeling depicted and not on the artistry of the photograph.

Vendors:

One of the most popular attractions is the wealth of specialized steel modeling products offered in one place. Many are “basement” producers whose items aren't readily available in most hobby shops. We have a room dedicated just for the vendors.

All activities are tentative and subject to change!
Membership in the Steel Mill Modelers SIG is required to attend!

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