

Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA –
Spring 2017



President's Report

By Paul Mangan, President, MWR



Paul Mangan

I'm very sorry to start this report on a sad note as a longtime member of the NMRA and the Midwest Region, Don Cook passed away. Don succumbed to a very aggressive condition that took a lot of us by surprise.

Don served on the MWR Board for as long as I have been on the board and served in many positions. His last position was election committee chair. Don will be missed by all of us and our condolences go out to his family and all of his friends.

As I write this last report as your president, I can't help but say that it has been a very rewarding four years. In my 10 years being part of the MWR Board of directors I have had the amazing opportunity to visit all of the division, either at train shows, regional conventions or at the fall board meetings when a division hosts a meeting for us.

I want to thank all of the people who served and put up with me on the board. (Special thanks to the region secretaries) Also I want to thank all of the Division boards and officers who have answered the call to serve our fellow modelers.

The Train show season is well underway and I will be going to four shows and will be displaying with the Madison HoTrak modular group. We will be setting up at the Mad City Model Railroad Show and Sale. This year on February 18th and 19th the SCWD is celebrating the 50th anniversary of this show. In celebrat-

ing this event there will be a grand prize drawing of a round trip ticket for two on Amtrak's Empire Builder. This is along with the hourly drawings and the train set for youth four times each day.

In March HoTrak also travels up to LaCrosse WI to set up at their show. This gives me the opportunity to visit with friends in the Thousand Lakes Region. This year the show is on March 18th and 19th.

On March 25th and 26th we travel to Rockford for their train show. We always have a great time with the members of the RRVD and other groups from the region that set up at their show.

April 28th – 30th we make the trip to Rockford for another celebration. In case you haven't heard, the Rock River Valley Division is hosting the Midwest Region Spring Convention. The convention is named "Golden Rails" to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Rock River Valley Division. If you haven't signed as of yet you can still join us so come on down. I want to thank the members and the board of the RRVD for sponsoring this convention celebrating our great hobby.

And then, Show number 4 will be Trainfest in November. Hoping our paths will cross at one or more of these events.

The Midwest Region Spring Board of Directors meeting will be Sunday morning April 30th at the close of the Golden Rails convention. This will be my final duty as my term ends and your new president, Steve Studly and Vice President Reid Kahrs take the helm. We also have new directors at large being installed, Gary Children, Dan Brewer and Minton Dings. Thanks to all for volunteering to let your names stand.

Volunteers are the life blood of any organization like ours. If you have thought about volunteering yourself then take the next step. Jump in and get your feet wet. You can start in your own division or run for a

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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

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.

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Editor's Column

Paul Mangan already commented on the unfortunate death of Don Cook, MMR. Don was an excellent modeler and good friend, although I did not get a chance to see his layout until after his death. But his memory will live on, as his wife graciously donated his photo collection to me in care of the Soo Line Historical & Technical Society. I have already given his Northwestern slides to the C&NWS and will do the same with the Milwaukee, GN and CB&Q.

If you have a photo collection, please make arrangements to give it to a historical society. They are always in need of photos for articles or people doing research. Most will give the photos they do not need to the correct society.

There are still several train shows to visit before summer. The Springfield Train fair is March 19 in Springfield, IL; the La Crosse and 3 Rivers Train show is March 18 and 19; the Rock River Valley Train show is March 25-26 at Jefferson High School in Rockford. Speaking of Rockford, do not forget to register for the Midwest Regional meet in Rockford on April 28, 29 and 30. A registration form is on page 7 or for more information go to



rverd-nmra.com
Finally, the Tittletown Train show is April 29 and 30 in Green Bay. Add in the "O" Scale meet also on March 19 and 20 and there is plenty to do!

I hope to see you at least one of these events.

Very Top: Photo by Don Cook MMR of a GBW train in Hatfield Wisconsin. I especially like the movement of the water below the bridge.

Top and Right: Two photos by David Leider of Don's layout He modeled the GN



Continued from page 1

region board position. Another region election is next year when four directors at large will be on the ballot. No special training required just bring a lot of desire to serve the hobby.

In closing I will say thanks one more time to all of you who have volunteered and worked hard at keeping our hobby one of the best in the world.

Paul

Region News

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

Jim informs me that there is no report this quarter as nothing has been returned to him. Keep sending in you're AP paperwork to keep him from being bored .

MIDWEST REGION YOUTH FUND SUPPORTS YOUTH MODEL RAILROADING by Minton Dings

The Midwest Region administers a fund to support programs to encourage model railroading among youth within the divisions of the region.

Financial support for youth model railroad clubs with NMRA member sponsorship and Boy Scout Merit Badge program with NMRA member advisors are eligible. Also, included in the program are NMRA sponsored rail school activities and rail show "Make & Take" programs in which an adult must accompany each child.

Financial support may include 100% of kits required for projects, modeling materials and miscellaneous supplies: glue, etc. Tools required such as knife, screwdriver, file, etc., may be covered up to 50%.

Application for funding of the above listed youth programs may be made by contacting the Youth Fund Chairman for review and evaluation. Each request requires an essay explanation of the event, date, location, project undertaken, youth participants, sponsoring organization and volunteer participants. Supporting statements of review of the program from public participants and supporting photographs is helpful, if available.

Requests for payment must be submitted at least thirty days prior to the next meeting of the Midwest Region Board of directors. Payment will be limited to \$500.00 maximum per division per year. Inquiries may be sent to Minton Dings, MMR, Youth Fund chairman, 15548 State Route 78, Havana, Illinois 62644-6872 or greenriverbranch1957@gmail.com.

Spring Board Meeting

Holiday Inn
7550 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois

Sunday, April 30, 2017, 10:30 am

2017 Annual Members Meeting for the Midwest Region

Holiday Inn
7550 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois

April 29, 2017
exact time to be announced

Frugal Modeler by David Nelson

When I had reason to use an ordinary drywall screw for two different modeling projects in one week, I figured that this was something the Frugal Modeler needed to write up.



Wood flatcar decks take a considerable beating, as the prototype photo shows. I've been weathering HO flatcar decks following M.R. Snell's article in the November 2014 issue of Model Railroader (I also recommend Lou Sassi's flatcar article in the June 2009 Model Railroader). I first paint the decks using rattle cans of Krylon Ultra-Flat Camouflage Khaki (8141), followed by a flat gray primer, with Testors DullCote following that. Snell distresses and chips the outer edges of the "wood" deck boards by dragging an angled sharp edge of a rough wood workshop type file against the edge of the deck boards, and makes deep scratches into the deck by pushing the tip of that file parallel to the deck boards



I wanted a bit more control over how the edges of the deck boards were distressed, particularly when weathering the detachable and very thin deck of an old (but surprisingly well detailed) train-set quality flatcar offered years ago by Tyco (some Roco flat cars have similar thin decks held onto the car body with plastic tabs). I have also used these techniques on a more typical plastic flatcar deck cast integral to the car body. Remembering from benchwork construction how (painfully) sharp the threads are on #6 coarse thread black drywall screws, I gave one a try, and found that scraping the threads against the edges of the deck boards gave them a very plausible "chipped" appearance. I then tried using the sharp end of the screw to create the gouges on the deck surface and the results seemed not only comparable to what Snell achieved using the hard tip of the large file, but likely more practical in scales smaller than HO.

The remainder of my weathering involves vigorous brushing parallel to the deck boards with a wire brush and even a swipe or two with coarse sandpaper stapled to a block of wood. A dental pick then is run through the slots between the deck boards to revive the seams. Any bits of plastic debris are brushed away with a stiff bristle brush. A final coat of DullCote

is now needed. I brush on at least one application of 70% isopropyl alcohol with a bit of India Ink to highlight gaps, scratches, and gouges. Repeated brushing with pure isopropyl alcohol can give the "wood" deck the bleached silvery gray look of driftwood.

That drywall screw was still sitting on the workbench when another project came up -- how to capture the look of overspray on a galvanized steel boxcar roof. It occurred to me that if I first painted the roof of the car aluminum I could attempt to capture the effect with actual overspray from painting the car sides, but I was pretty sure I'd lack the control to keep the carbody color from covering too much of the roof. Masking the car roof would be needed. A piece of quality bond

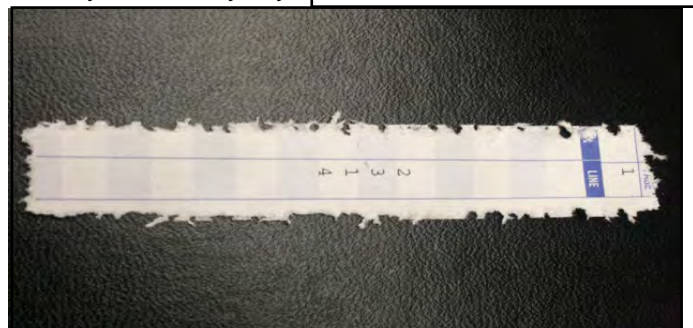


paper was cut out slightly smaller than the car roof, and the edges were cut into with scissors. To avoid having the overspray follow the little "cat ear" shaped cuts in the paper too perfectly, I used my dry-

Left Plastic freight car gone over with a drywall screw to get that worn look.

Above: Using a drywall screw to shred the edges of a paper mask prior to painting

Below: The completed paper mask ready to be applied to a car roof.



wall screw threads to fray and feather all four edges. The main thing is to avoid any straight edges. I

mounted the mask on a car roof with a loop of masking tape so that it would not be blown away, and the paper was lightly wetted to make it cling to the roof surface. I was pleased with my results. I also tried in on an N scale car I had on hand (but without using scissors on the edges) and was similarly pleased. The photos show the process and the results for HO and N scale boxcars.

(All photos by Dave Nelson)



Above: The paper mask applied to the roof of a boxcar prior to painting
 Right: The painted car demonstrating the nice overspary detail
 Below: painted roof and the paper mask that created the effect



sent an email prior to the opening of the election. The email included an example of the election announcement email and instructions to begin voting.

Electionbuddy then sent an email to all RAC members at the opening of the election on December 10. The announcement included a unique voting key and instructions to begin voting.

Ballots were submitted by 16 of the 18 RAC members. Results of the election were:

- Steve August - 9 votes
- Steve Barkley - 4 votes
- Paul Mangan - 3 votes

Based on the results, Steve August was elected RAC Director.

Model reviewers wanted for Research & Test Car column

Ever thought you'd like to do product reviews for NMRA Magazine?

We're looking for individuals who want to share their knowledge and passion for models with other NMRA members. You'll have fun doing it and you'll be paid author rates! For more information, contact editor Cynthia Priest at sreditor@pairedrail.com

Patent and trademark attorney needed

The NMRA needs a volunteer patent and trademark attorney to manage the various patents and trademarks owned by the NMRA. It will not entail a significant amount of time; most likely just one to two hours a month on the average. The attorney would monitor the patents and trademarks to meet all deadlines for renewal and to maintain the intellectual prop-

National News

Welcome to the NMRA InfoNet News (Infoblast) For January 2017

2016 Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Director Election

The RAC Director election opened on Saturday, December 10, 2016 and closed at the end of the day on Tuesday, December 20, 2016.

The election was run using electionbuddy, An online voting system. Election administrator Rick Coble

erty. This position would report to the NMRA General Counsel, Robert J. Amsler, Jr.

Please contact Robert Amsler at nmralegal@charter.net if you're interested.

Registration for the NMRA 2017 Convention in Orlando, FL is open

Register for the convention on line at www.nmrastores.com and choose the 2017 convention tab. If you'd like a paper registration form, visit www.nmra2017orlando.org.

From Trains Magazine

'Greatest Show on Earth' ends in May
Fate of 120-car-strong Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus train fleet undetermined
By Chase Gunnoe | January 15, 2017
Chase Gunnoe

ELLENTON, Fla. When the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus drops its big top for the last time in May, the classic passenger cars and equipment it moves by rail will return to Florida to face an uncertain future.

In a late Saturday news release, managers with Ringling parent company Feld Entertainment say high operating costs and declining ticket sales are forcing them to stop both Red and Blue tours of the circus in May. The company's Red unit will make its final performance in Providence, R.I., on May 7 and the Blue unit will finish up in Uniondale, N.Y., on May 21.

Stephen Payne, vice president of corporate communications at Feld Entertainment, tells *Trains News Wire* that both the Red and Blue trainsets will be deadheaded to Florida at the end of their tours. Payne says a final disposition for the trains and associated equipment has yet to be determined.

The Red unit consists of 54 cars: 34 coaches and 20 flat cars. The Blue unit includes 35 coaches and 21 equipment flat cars. Each unit travels independently across North America.

In addition, the company has five equipment flat cars and three passenger coaches in storage, while six stock cars previously used to haul elephants and other animals are also in storage near the company's headquarters in Palmetto, Florida.

The company owns and operates more than 120 railcars and is among the largest passenger car

operators in North America. The cars operate under RBBX reporting marks.

Between 250 and 300 performers and other circus workers travel on each of the two circus trains for more than 40 weeks each year.

Both trains recently started their 2017 tours. The Red unit is in Orlando, Florida, and will be traveling to Jacksonville, Florida, for shows the week of January 16, while the Blue unit will be leaving Miami on Sunday, January 16 headed for Birmingham, Alabama

The Red unit will use CSX Transportation rails to get to Jacksonville, while the Blue unit will travel Florida East Coast rails once departing Miami.

The decision to eliminate both circus trains comes in the wake of the circus's 2016 announcement to stop using elephants in shows. The elephant stock cars have been in storage in Florida since being removed from the train last summer.

The circus, which owners have billed the "Greatest Show on Earth" has roots in Delevan, Wisconsin, that date to 1875 with a traveling circus headlined by P.T. Barnum; and a separate circus started by Baraboo, Wisconsin's Ringling Brothers in 1884. The Ringlings bought Barnum & Bailey in 1907 and officially merged the operations in 1919. The Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisconsin, displays circus and railroad artifacts from the early years of circus entertainment.

On Sunday, Circus World Museum Executive Director Scott O'Donnell fielded a continuous stream of media queries. In an interview, he said the museum would welcome rolling stock from the current circus trains.

"This comes as an absolute surprise," he said about the decision to end the show. "It's not only the end of an American institution, it's also the end of an American brand that's been around longer than baseball, and around longer than Coca-Cola. They're all iconic American imagery."

Jim Wrinn contributed to this report.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You will find those addresses at 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 with the corrected information.

Midwest Region NMRA 2017 Spring Convention

“RRVD – Golden Rails” Registration Form

April 28, 29 & 30, 2017

FARES^{##}

(Spouse of a member will qualify for the member price)

	<u>NMRA</u> <u>Member/Spouse</u>	<u>Non-NMRA</u> <u>Member/Spouse</u>
Full Fare (Includes Banquet) ^{##}	\$50/\$50	\$60/\$60
Convention Only (No Banquet) ^{##}	\$40/\$40	\$50/\$50
Banquet Only ^{##}	\$30/\$30	\$30/\$30

^{##}Registrations received after April 14, 2017 or at the door will be \$10 extra

Activities Registration

- Friday Night Operating Session (indicate your preference, i.e., 1, 2, 3):
(Not a “layout tour;” you are expected to operate)

TO&W _____ CN&W _____ TP&W _____

- I expect to attend the Hobo Grill lunch at the Rochelle RR Park: # attending: _____

Enter Desired Meal Choice in the “Meal” column: B = Buffet (chicken & pork), S = Special Diet

<u>Name</u> (PLEASE PRINT)	Circle One for each registrant			
	Full	Convention Only	Banquet Only	Meal B/S
NMRA Member: _____ Last name First name	\$50	\$40	\$30	
Member Spouse: _____ Last name First name	\$50	\$40	\$30	
Non-NMRA Member ^{**} : _____ Last name First name	\$60	\$50	\$30	

Add \$10 each for late registration: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

****Includes \$10 RailPass membership – must be eligible (either never been a member before OR haven’t been a member for 2 years or more; can join at RailPass rates **ONLY ONCE**)**

NMRA #: _____ Phone #: (____) _____

Street: _____ E-mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: “RRVD – Golden Rails”
c/o Don Brindle – Registrar
3159 Far Hill Rd
Rockford, IL 61109

<u>Office Use Only</u>	
Am’t Rec’d:	\$ _____
Check No.:	_____
Op Session Status:	_____

Make checks payable to: “Rock River Valley Division - NMRA” (No cash, please)

Additional registration forms available for download at www.2017mwrconvention.com.

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10-6 Monday-Thursday

10-7 Fridays

9:30-4 Saturdays

Closed Sundays (we play with trains too!)

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