

# THE OWL CAR

## WISCONSIN SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION OF THE NMRA

**Trainfest**  
*America's Largest Operating Model Railroad Show*

**JANUARY 2012**

### TRAINFEST 2011 !!!

**November 10 & 11, 2012**

#### UPCOMING EVENTS :

- **WISE Youth Group meeting  
dates on WISE website  
January 15, 2012  
WISE Meet - Best Western  
Plus Midway Hotel - Brookfield  
February 18, 2012  
WISE Bus Trip Mad City Show  
Details on page 4  
February 19, 2012  
WISE Meet - Best Western  
Plus Midway Hotel - Brookfield  
March 8-11, 2012  
NMRA - MWR Regional  
Convention - Springfield, IL  
Information at  
[www.railsplitter2012.org](http://www.railsplitter2012.org)  
March 18, 2012  
WISE Meet - Best Western  
Plus Midway Hotel - Brookfield**

I would like to personally thank everyone who participated and volunteered to help at Trainfest 2011. With your help and dedicated effort, our 40th Anniversary of Trainfest again set some attendance records. We had the largest adult attendance for both Saturday and Sunday in the history of Trainfest.

We also set a new record for the Friday Product Showcase.

The total attendance for Trainfest was 23,764, also setting a new all-time attendance record.

Trainfest has also become a world wide event, with our Trainfest EXPRESS newsletter.

Gaining over 2,500 new subscribers this fall, the EXPRESS electronically reaches over 12,500 subscribers in New Zealand, Spain, Germany all of the United States and the provinces of Canada, as well as England, Australia, Japan, China and more.

I have received many thank you emails, commenting that Trainfest 2011 was one of the best, with set-up and tear-down being the most efficient ever. I also received a thank you email from one of our visitors from Japan and would like to share it with you, as quoted below,

"Dear John,  
Hello, how are you? I guess Milwaukee is much colder than the Train Festa week. Thank you so much for invite and it helps our business very much. (my note - Hiro operates Train Hobby Shop of Japan and has visited Trainfest for the past 4 or 5 years)  
I attached a photo of you at the site and my favorite wired Northeast scene. I lived Northeast in mid 60s so full of my young memory packed in it. ( my note -this is David Harrison's Acela Express- Northeast Corridor layout )  
Thank you for taking care on every visit and hope to have nice Christmas...  
Sincerely yours,  
Hiroyasu Ushijima"

Thank all of you again for you tireless help and dedicated support for the past 20 years, through which I have served as your Trainfest director. **With your enthusiasm and continued dedication, we have been able to make our Trainfest – America's largest operating model railroad show.** Nancy and I would like to wish you and your families a Very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and joyous New Year.

Best Regards,

John & Nancy  
John H. Tews, MMR

**OFFICERS:**

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**Chief Clerk**  
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**Paymaster**  
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**Past Superintendent**  
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262-820-3566

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**Clinics**  
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**Layout Tours**  
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**Video Library**  
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414-236-5386

Gary Children  
414-327-1666

LaRoye Chisley  
414-352-3546

Ted Lewtas  
414-362-9798

**Coordinators:**

**Bus Trips**  
Art Oseland  
414-764-5375

**Youth Group**

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**In case of ...** bad weather WISE meet cancelations will be posted on the "Home" page of the WISE website along with posting with Milwaukee TV channels 6 and 12.

From the Superintendent:

With the start of 2012 come a few changes, and a few unresolved issues.

First of all, we kick off the new year bringing back an old event - The WISE Division Beginner's Meet. This is something I have felt was dropped the past few years, so I stepped in to line up clinics helpful to those beginning on the hobby, and those beginning certain aspects of the hobby. Whether you are new to model railroading, or just new to, say, making your old layout run like new, come to the January 15 meet - and bring a friend who is thinking of getting started in the hobby.

Along those lines, the contest room the entries seem a bit sparsh. Watch the schedule of categories and bring your latest project along. You can't win if you don't enter.

Also, the WISE Bus Trips are coming up to the South Central Wisconsin Division's show in Madison on February 18, and the Title Town Show in Green Bay in April. Be sure to see Art Oseland at the January meet to sign up as it will be your last opportunity to do so for the February trip.

Looking to identify yourself better at WISE Division meets and other events? WISE Division name badges will be available to NMRA members for \$7.50. They will be blue with the WISE Division logo and your name - a lot like the ones the board members have just without the title. I will be taking orders at the meets, by phone and email, and when I get 10 I will send them in to be done. See me if interested.

Now for the unresolved issues. We are still in search of a chairman or director of the WISE Guys & Gals, the Division's youth group. This position is critical to keeping the youth group going, so please consider it and help encourage another generation of model railroaders.

Continued on page 3

### Hobby Stores that support the WISE Division of the NMRA and it's Members:

Greenfield News & Hobby  
Greenfield 414-281-1800

Jetco's Hiawatha Hobbies  
Waukesha 262-544-4131

Sommerfeld's  
Butler 262-783-7797

South Side Trains  
Milwaukee 414-482-1566

Walthers / Terminal Hobby  
Milwaukee 414-461-1050

## Superintendent's Corner Continued from page 2

Also, we need a new clinic director. The position entails maintaining a list of clinicians, and finding clinics to fill the 21 spots we have over the year with our seven meets. It is easy to come to the meets and be entertained, but doing so requires someone to recruit and organize the clinics. As I stated before, this position is a great way to meet new people involved in the hobby who you might not otherwise get to know.

Along those lines we also need some new clinics. I was asked at the December meet how come we didn't have any modeling clinics, and then I showed that person the January meet was ALL modeling clinics. At times it is hard to find a balance. Some of you who have been around the Division for years may remember that at one time we had meets that had six clinics - two at a time. Now we are down to three slots. This is due to facilities and more importantly, a decline in the number of clinicians. When I look back at old Owl Cars it is filled with names of standbys, like Zehner, Curran, Porter and others who were always good for at least one clinic a year who are no longer with us. Have you tried a new modeling technique that you've had success with? Or have you taken an interesting railfan trip the past few years? If so, why not consider giving a clinic about it at a Division meet? And don't let stage fright stop you. As some of you know, I have a mild (and at times, a bit more) stuttering problem which likes to crop up unannounced. That has made some of my clinics rather challenging. But I've learned to work my way through it and feel that if I can get up before other model railroaders and give a clinic, anybody can. It's really no different than talking to a bunch of friends.

Please contact me if you are interested in either of the above positions.

Hope to see you at the January meet and... Happy New Year, everyone.

Joe Russ

## MEMBERSHIP

By Neal Michel Membership Director

We would like to see more of our Division membership (270+) attend our meets. With a swap area, clinics, contests, and layout tours there is something for everyone.

Take a minute to sign in and receive a chance at a great door prize. How about a 6-month membership in the NMRA for only \$9.95? Membership application forms are available at the sign in table. This offer is for new members and those who have not been NMRA members for two years or more.

## VIDEO LIBRARY

By Burnell Breaker Video Library Director

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Your Video Librarian has been busy purchasing new DVD's for the Division's video library. Twelve new modeling DVD's have been added to our Video Library and were available for checkout by members at the December 4 meet. Please go to the WISE Division website for the new titles.

I am asking that members only check out 2 of the new DVD's each per month through the April 2012 meet so as many members as possible have the chance to view them. I will also have the complete library of VHS tapes and DVD's available for checkout at the January 15, 2012 meet.

I will likely not bring everything along to a meet after this one, for the season. If there is a specific tape or disk you wish to checkout and view, please contact me before the meet and I will make sure I have it along and set aside for you.

# DECEMBER CONTESTS

By Bonnie Janke Contest Director

Here we are to the end of the 2011 year and in our contest room we had several pictures, to be judged by all. Jim Allen had entered two (2) pictures in that category and took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. In our Prototype Photo Contest we had Jim Allen, Dick Cecil, Bob Gallegos, Fred Janke, Bonnie Janke, Mike Janke and Wendy Mallenhauer, come and share some of their photos. It's always nice to see those pictures taken while out rail fanning.

We had modeler's who hadn't entered our contest before, come with their entries. With the "BEST OF SHOW" going to George Byers, we'll all be looking for his fine work at our future meets. George also entered two (2) items in our Freight Equipment Category, and took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Jim Allen was the third entry in that category, with his PFE Refer. Jim Allen and Mike Janke did a fine job with the Motive Power- Diesel Category. There wasn't a contest in our Train Related Craft area, so Bonnie Janke had no competition. Maybe next time! We had only a few areas covered in our categories that were featured at our meet.

Can only hope to see more things from our modelers, in our contest in January 2012.  
Happy New Year and see you in our Contest Room.

## WISE BUSTRIPS for 2012

Mad City train show Madison February 18, 2012. Price per person is \$34 which includes coffee, donuts, water, and soda on the bus, bus fare and admission into the show. Lunch on your own. Departing Milwaukee locations 7a.m. return by 5p.m.

Payment is due at December or January Wise meets.

Contact Art Oseland P.O. Box 100552 Cudahy, WI. 53110 or [sueoseland@aol.com](mailto:sueoseland@aol.com).

Green Bay trip price coming soon.

Let me give you a list for the next meets:

1/15/2012

Motive Power – Steam & Diesel  
Structures (on & off line)  
General (Dioramas & Trains)  
Model Photos

2/19/2012

Traction/Electric  
Passenger Equipment  
Non-Revenue Freight Equipment  
Prototype Photos

3/18/2012

Structures (on & off line)  
General (Dioramas & Trains)  
Freight Equipment  
Model Photos

4/15/2012

All Categories Featured

## December Contest Results :



**BEST OF SHOW**  
George Byers - Milwaukee Road  
40ft  
Peek-A-Boo Gondola #171

Contest Results continued on page 5

# December Contest Results :



1st Place - Motive Power Diesel  
Jim Allen - 25 Ton GE Diesel  
Switcher



2nd place - Motive Power Diesel  
Mike Janke - LC & M 832



1st place - Freight Equipment  
George Byers - Milwaukee Road 40ft  
Peek-A-Boo Gondola #171



2nd place - Freight Equipment  
George Byers - Milwaukee Road 40ft  
Box Car W/Roof Hatches



1st Place - Prototype Photo  
Jim Allen - NKP Wreck, Steam  
Wrecker waiting to work



2nd Place - Prototype Photo  
Jim Allen - 476 Waiting in the Rain

**THE OWL CAR**  
**WISCONSIN SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION OF THE**  
**NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION**

January 15,2012 Best Western Plus Midway Hotel  
1005 s. Moorland Rd. - Brookfield

- **12:30pm Meet Opens: Registration - Contest - Swap Meet**

**Clinics:**

- **1pm Dave Nelson - Laying Track the Easy Way with Adhesive Caulk**
- **2pm Joe Russ - Scenery Making Tips II - The Basics**
- **3pm Jim Hediger - Zero Derailments**

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