



Published by the Wisconsin
Southeastern Division of the
Midwest Region of the
National Model Railroad
Association, Inc.



October 2016

Update on Trainfest 2016

by Ken Jaglinski

Trainfest 2016 once again fills two buildings and 230,000 square feet of exhibit space. New Manufacturers to visit this year include Badger Air Brush, CVP Products, Denbur Inc., Forest in a Flash/Jane's Tools, G C Laser, Gooddeals DCC, North American Railcar, Stoddart's Ltd. Company, Train Control Systems and Yard Goat Images.

New vendors are 3000toys.com, Art294, Creative Dynamic LLC, G & J Company, Mullet River Hobby Shop, OHR Track Supply, Simpson Models/Bragdon Enterprises, Turboliner Memories and Yodeling Penguin. We also have eight new Layouts/Displays they are: Chicago Area Garden Railroad Society, Galesburg City Job, Iowa Pacific Railroad, Jansen Display, Lake Superior Railroad Museum, Southern Wisconsin Sandhouse Crew, Paul Syverson, and the Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad. Make sure to stop by and welcome your fellow railroad enthusiasts.

This year's theme "Celebrate the Milwaukee Road" includes a Historical Display on the Milwaukee Road, HO scale limited run Milwaukee Road ice bunker refers from Accurail (available in two road numbers) and Giclee Prints of an original Larry Fischer piece of art commissioned by Trainfest. The subject of the painting features the old shops around 35th street in Milwaukee, where

No. 261 4-8-4 steam locomotive meets the Olympian Hiawatha.

In addition, Trainfest will be hosting the winning high school team from the Japanese National Module Contest. The team will give presentations on both Saturday and Sunday at 4:00 p.m. and will have the winning module as part of the MANTRAK exhibit. Come and see quality modeling from another part of the world and give these folks a great Milwaukee and WISE Division welcome.



Volunteers at Trainfest 2015 sign up Junior Engineer participants.

The only way that Trainfest can be successful is with the help of many volunteers. We need YOU! Help guide future modelers age 8 -16 in the Make & Take area build a small snap together station structure that was kindly donated by William K. Walther's Inc. Or, you can help sign up a new crop of Junior Engineers. Even if you are at the show working a layout or display you can sign up to work a one hour session. There are many other places where people can help. So, if you are willing, please go to the website and complete the volunteer form or complete the form on page five.

Remember Trainfest is your show! Let me or other committee members know what you would like to see in the future.

Reminder on Upcoming WISE Meets

We will be returning to the Midway Hotel & Suites (soon to renamed back to a Best Western) for the October 16 and January meets. However, there will be some changes. With the Symposium Room gone, we will be down to two rooms. What used to be our Contest Room will now become the Clinic Room, and the Contest and Swap Meet Room. That means fewer tables for the swap area, **so everyone will be limited to one table while supplies last.** Also, please do not arrive before 11:30 a.m. to get a table.

The board of directors decided at its May meeting to annul the December meet due to the busy season between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and lower attendance.

The January 15 meet will be at the Midway, the bus trip is our February meet and the March 19 meet will again be at the Oconomowoc Historical Society. The April date and meet location is to be determined, as is the date for WISEop (April is a tricky month with Easter and the Midwest Region convention).

Scout Merit Badge

Unfortunately the Boy Scout Merit Badge event for this year was cancelled. Paul Podlaski had only one member volunteer to help and only six Scouts had signed up, so the decision was made to cancel it for this year. Thank you to Paul, and co-chair Gary Children, for their continued efforts in this program over the years.

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Optoberfest to Roll at the End of October

Although registration for Milwaukee Optoberfest started a few weeks ago, there are still some openings as of this issue going to press.

Optoberfest is Friday night, October 28 and all day Saturday, October 29. And like the Division's WISEop in the spring, the event allows you to operate on up to four layouts that you might not have the opportunity to otherwise. Fifteen layouts are participating this year, and for the first time features two N scale layouts and two O scale layouts.

You can find a link to the Optoberfest web site through the events column on the Division's web site. If you

have any questions, call Joe Russ at 262-408-1946.

And while Beginners' Sessions have been dropped from both events due to lack of interest (it appears we ran through everyone who wanted to participate) they may be planned in the future, possibly with a neighboring Division, if interest warrants. If you are interested in participating in a Beginners' Session, where you can get hands-on experience on a low-pace session, please send Joe an email at jruss@execpc.com so he can begin to compile a list.

Optoberfest is not a WISE Division event.



The Editor Hoots...

Making things happen. As a Division which has done everything from starting special run car kits (coming up in a future issue) to *Travel in Style* private car trips, we have history of members stepping up to make things happen. But are we slipping? The "open" spots on the board to the left could be a sign. But there's been another - the Scout Merit Badge program mentioned on page 1.

Personally, I find the inability to get six member volunteers, out of a membership of 200, to help for four hours on a Saturday morning teaching Scouts about railroading a bit concerning. I volunteer to help with this every other year (in years it doesn't conflict with an operating weekend in the Chicago area, as it did this year) and it is a lot of fun. And again, only four hours.

On the flip side of that, I would like to thank Jim Sohns, Dennis Janssen and Carl Priebke for helping me staff the WISE Division booth at Maker Faire 2016 at State Fair Park on September 24 and 25. We had more interest in Division meets, and Trainfest, than in the previous two years. It is a free show during Harvest Fest and you can see everything from R2-D2s rolling around (and how to build one) to learning how to solder to watching high school kids compete in robot games. Thank you again, guys.

*Joe Russ
Owl Car editor*

It's a WISE Anniversary... a Dark Day before WISE - continued

Sixteen years before the WISE Division came into being, the NMRA held the 1950 National Convention in Milwaukee on Labor Day weekend. The following is a two-part article I wrote for the *Owl Car* in 2000 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the NMRA Speedrail wreck that happened during that convention. I have since made some minor updates as new information has become available. - *Joe Russ*

Continued from the September Owl Car.

As with any accident, the liability issue soon arose. Speedrail only carried \$500,000 in liability insurance. The NMRA dodged a potential financial disaster in that tickets for the trip were purchased directly from the Speedrail ticket windows, so the Association was not liable. Under Wisconsin law, had the NMRA bought the tickets and then resold them, the NMRA would have been a "vendor" of the trip and would of been co-liable in any lawsuits.

There were four independent investigations into the wreck by the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, and Speedrail. An exact cause was not determined, and Maeder was acquitted of all charges, although according to his family he was haunted by the accident for the rest of his life.

Despite numerous reorganization efforts and campaigns by riders to save the line, the last day of Speedrail operations was on Saturday, June 30, 1951 with car 63 making the last round trip to Hales Corners that evening. In the spring of 1952 dismantling of the line was started by the Hyman-Michaels Company, a scrap dealer from from Chicago. The remaining cars were scrapped at the Waukesha Gravel Pit in March of that year, and in 1961 Speedrail was dissolved. Jay Maeder moved back to Avon, Ohio and took heavyweight 1138 and former Kansas City Birney 1545 with him. He died of cancer in 1975 at the age of 67. Another car was donated to a rail museum in Worthington, Ohio. Ironically, the Speedrail name almost rode the rails again in the form of a proposed very high-speed rail line from Sydney to Canberra, Australia. But that plan was dropped around 2000.

Notes from the editor: It is hard to believe that something like the railfan trips we take for granted today could have brought down the Association in the same city where it was founded 15 years earlier, and did bring about the demise of interurban service in the Milwaukee area. While much has been written about the Speedrail wreck of 1950, most of it covered the Speedrail operations and not the convention. My goal with this article was to blend the stories of the two together as a tribute to those involved in this terrible event 50 years ago. I would like to thank Grant Oaks [Grant passed away in 2003], Wayne Hammelman [Wayne passed away in 2012], and Dick Cecil for their contributions to this article. If you would like more information on the wreck, I recommend the following:

- *Speedrail*, by Larry Sakar
- *TM*, by CERA
- *The Milwaukee Journal* from September 2 through September 6, 1950.
- *Model Railroader*, April 1987, pages 36-37

Some Internet resources include:

- *Speedrail*
- *The Transport Company Web Station: After Retirement*

A special thank you goes to the following for their contributions and corrections since this article has gone online:

- Jane Maeder Walsh (daughter of Jay Maeder, who, with her brother, used to play in the Birney and heavyweight 1138)
- Don L. Leistikow, Badge 9... The Milwaukee Rapid Transit & Speedrail Company (a former employee) [Don passed away in November of 2015]

Video Library News

by *Burnell Breaker*

The Division's DVD Video Library will be available at the October 16 meet. New titles and older titles that were on VHS tape will also be available. We are working on transferring as many of our remaining VHS tapes onto DVD disks as we can to give you, the members, a wider variety of video viewing options.

If you or another member you know hasn't picked up their copy of the Division's Membership Directory, please stop by the Video Library tables and pick yours up. Each member gets a complimentary copy!

WISE Bus Trip February 18

The WISE Division Bus Trip to the Mad City Train Show will be on February 18, 2017. Fare will be \$37 for adults, \$15 for those 17 and under with an adult.

Fare includes admission to the show, coffee, water and donuts on the bus.

We will have boarding at three at Park & Ride lots:

- College Ave. Southwest lot at 7:00 a.m.
- State Fair Park I-94 and 76th St. at 7:15 a.m.
- I-94 & Barker Rd. (Goerke's Corner) at 7:30 a.m.

Contact Art Oseland at raydenny1@aol.com, or 414-764-5375, for more information or see him at any of the meets to register.



Free Model Railroad Meet

Hosted by the WISE Division, NMRA
- Public Welcome -

Visit www.wisedivision.org, call 262-408-1946 or see the back side for information

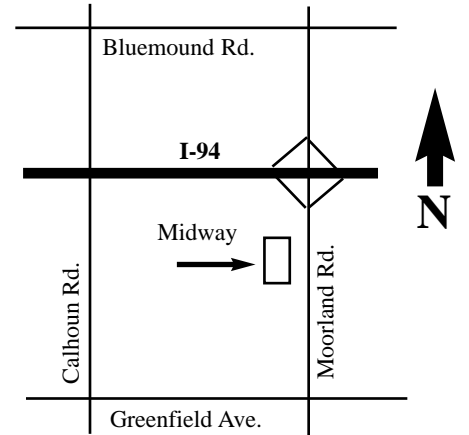
Schedule subject to change without notice



October 16, 2016

Opens at 12:30	Popular vote contest registration (free and open to the public) until 1:30 for all categories
1:00 to 1:45	<i>Patterns of Weathering on Freight Cars (prototype photos)</i> Dave Nelson starts his two-part clinic with photos showing the wide variety of what "weathering" does to freight cars, with the goal of identifying certain general patterns that can be modeled.
2:00 to 2:45	<i>Weathering Model Freight Cars without Airbrushing</i> Dave Nelson continues his clinic with demonstrations of weathering techniques, with weathered freight car models in HO and N scales that will be passed around the room for close inspection.
3:00 to 3:45	<i>Train Fun in Western Pennsylvania</i> Steve Miazga shows us a visit to Horseshoe Curve and a tour of the Carnegie Science Center Model Railroad.
3:45-4:00	Announcements and Presentation of Contest Awards
4 - 6:00	Layout Tour: (map distributed at 4 p.m.)

Midway Hotel & Suites
 1005 S. Moorland Rd., Brookfield



Layout tour: the HO scale C&NW Lakeshore Division which will be on tour for the first time. It features two large yards and an interchange with the GB&W.

Contest Corner...

Due to the special meet this last month being held at the Milwaukee Light Engineering Society (thank you MLES), the contest was held in a slightly modified format. The categories and results were:



Best of Show: Pat Cleary for his C&NW F7A, F7B and GP30 (above) in 7.5 inch gauge.

Sorry, no picture available.

1st Place Steam Locomotive: Michael Michaud for his steam locomotive No. 97 in 7.5 inch gauge.

1st Place Diesel Locomotive: Pat Cleary for his CNW F7A, F7B and GP30 lash up in 7.5 inch gauge (see Best of Show).



2nd Place Diesel Locomotive: David Gehrke for his FRV #1702 GP9 (above) in 7.5 inch gauge.

1st Place Best Locomotive Engineer:
Pat Cleary

2nd Place Best Locomotive Engineer:
Michael Michaud

Along with Pat Cleary, Michael Michaud and David Gehrke a special thank you to Wayne Friedrich, Paul Weigand, Ted Erdmann, and Dan Steingraber for their help and support.

October with see us back to our regular categories and please remember, if you made it, show it off and enter. The more entries, the better contest we all have.

Best of luck...

Dave

September Review



Above: Visitors board trains at the railroad park.

Below: Power came in all sizes



2016 Trainfest Volunteer Form

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Address _____

What days/times are you available: Thur (8 am-3pm), Fri (8 am-8pm), Sat(8 am-6pm), Sun(8 am-8pm)

What time of day are you available for & for how long? _____

Best way to contact you? _____

Have you volunteered with Trainfest before? What did you do? _____

If yes, what year and where/what did you do? _____

Please return to: Bob Henderson, Trainfest Office Manager
7824 Pathfinder Lane
West Bend, WI 53090

Questions call at 262-692-6999 or email rhender1@charter.net