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## January 2018

### Attendance Improved for Trainfest 2017



*Bits 'n Pieces last time at Trainfest*

In my opinion Trainfest 2017 was a great success. During the show feedback from all exhibitors was positive and vendor sales were good. We had good participation in the Make & Take and Jr. Engineer Programs and the Historical Display on the SOO Line was well received. Attendance was up from 2016. Here are the numbers for 2017

• Paid Attendance	15,639
• Volunteers, Exhibitors, Staff	1,659
• Total Attendance 2017	17,298

Comparrison:  
2017 paid attendance is 8% higher than 2016 which was 14,354. However we are 12% below our best year of 2015 which was 17,815.

Comments received after the show mostly have been positive. However, there was one made by an NMRA member that we did not push Trainfest as a NMRA event. We made good contacts with CN and BNSF representatives and are still hoping to gain more support from railroad sponsorship. It was nice having Little Obie and the CN Safety team at the show. I am still waiting for a complete financial report. The real key to having the show a success is that we ran a profitable event which is still to be determined.

We will be planning a wrap up of 2017 and kick off of 2018 meeting for January. We now have a tentative Celebrate a Railroad theme schedule as follows:

- 2018: Great Northern
- 2019: Burlington
- 2020: Wisconsin Central
- 2021: Green Bay & Western

Our last contract with State Fair Park is for 2018. We will need to meet with them to contract for future shows. We usually do three years at a time.

*Ken Jaglinski  
Trainfest Committee Chair*

### February Bus trip to Mad City Train Show

The Division's annual bus trip to the South Central Wisconsin Division's (SCWD) Mad City Train Show will be Saturday, February 17, 2018. Fare will be \$37 per person, those 17 and under are \$15. It includes admission to the show and coffee and donuts on the coach

bus. It is a fun way to get to the show and well worth the trip.

Pick up will be at the following Park & Ride lots:

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

For more information contact Art Oseland at raydenny1@aol.com or 414-764-5375. Register and pay at the January meet.



Madison, Wisconsin will be the site of the 2018 Midwest Region Convention on April 13-15. If you haven't attended a convention before, this will be a great one to start with. For those who are old hands at conventions, we have some great clinics and layouts to see. Featured clinics include *Model Railroader* editor Tony Koester titled "Lessons Learned Building Two — Now Three! — Layouts." Three layouts? You'll just have to come and see! Tony will provide insight into his thought processes and lessons learned over the years. A unique opportunity not available to any model railroad group previously will be Tom Garver's program on the photography of O. Winston Link. Tom was one of Link's assistants on his Norfolk & Western night photography sessions and will share stories of how the photos were created and a broader look at Link's other photography.

We have over 20 area layouts to tour with four open for operating sessions on Friday. Of course the contest room will showcase some great modeling and photography as well. Non-Rails haven't been forgotten, with craft projects, clinics, a tour of the Epic System's unique campus and Project Linus.

Every registration includes the banquet Saturday night with guest speaker Tony Koester. Tony will regale us with stories of personalities he has met over his 50 plus years of model railroading. His wry humor always makes for a fun time. A registration form is on page 5.

So please join us on April 13-15, 2018 for the Capitol 400 in Madison. Full information is available on the South Central Wisconsin Division web site at [www.nmra-scwd.org](http://www.nmra-scwd.org). All Aboard!

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Please send any comments, information, or editorials to the editor.

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## Notes from the Super's Desk...

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope the recent weeks have been both relaxing and railroad filled - or at least railroad filled. I want to start off by thanking everyone involved in the many varied aspects of Trainfest. From committee members who spent the previous year planning the show to the volunteers who came anytime from Thursday till Sunday - without you all this amazing event would not happen! Thank you to everyone.

We have our first meet of the new year shortly (January 21st) and there seems to have been a last minute change to the hotel's name. While I haven't confirmed the exact name yet please come to the same place! There are three great clinics scheduled (check the website) and as always we'll have the swap and contest rooms. I want to extend my thanks to Dave Nelson, Dave Poquette and LaRoy Chisley who have agreed to serve on our

Election Committee this year. We are in need of filling several positions which will help the Division run smoother by spreading the load around.

I want to thank Joe Russ for being our *Owl Car* editor for these last few years. He has kept us rolling along and recently Steve Miazga has volunteered to take this responsibility on. Steve is already underway with developing a layout scheme and has given me a list of ideas he would like the board to explore. More to follow.

One item the board is moving forward with is changing the distribution of the *Owl Car* and the limitations our current arrangement provides. Shortly we are going to distribute a full-color *Owl Car* to every member with a valid email address, those without an email will receive a printed, black and white, possibly truncated, version in the mail. Items that might be left off the printed version would be a registration form for the upcoming Capitol 400, though a link or other indicator as to where to find it provided. The difference between "e-paper" versus real paper.

Don't forget about the next big show in our area is coming up soon! Tickets for the Mad City Bus trip are available for Saturday, February 17, 2018. Please call Art Oseland at 414-764-5375 to sign-up or see him at the January meet.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the January meet and remember to bring your contest entries. Our October meet had one of the largest turnouts in recent memory. Till then please reach out with any questions to [webmaster@wisedivision.org](mailto:webmaster@wisedivision.org).

*Pete*

## Video Library News

by *Burnell Breaker*

The Video Library will be available for checkout at the January 21 meet. We have some new titles available for checkout. Those of you who checked out DVD's at the September and October meets and have not yet returned them, please return them January 21. Also, if you have not yet picked your free copy of the Division Membership Directory, please remember to do that soon, as well.

### Past Superintendent

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Open

### Layouts

Open

### Youth Club

Mark Hintz .....(414)745-4613  
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### Picnic

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Website: [www.wisedivision.org](http://www.wisedivision.org)

# The Contest Page



October Meet Best of Show: Joan & Charlie Rice - Fall of 1935, sand facility, Seaboard Shore Line in S.C.

The following are the results of the Popular Vote Contest held October 15, 2017.

**Best of Show** – Joan & Charlie Rice for their HO scale Fall of 1935, sand facility, Seaboard Shore Line in S.C. (above)



**Structures, 1st Place** – Ed Varick for his HO scale Your Father's Mustache Barber Shop

**Structures, 2nd Place** – Ted Zieger for his HO scale Shaws Ridge Repair



**Freight Equipment, 1st Place** – Mike Slater for his O scale GB&W boxcar

**Freight Equipment, 2nd Place** – Ed Varick for his HO scale Thirsty Dog Brewery boxcar



**Passenger Equipment, 1st Place** – Ed Varick for his HO Hawaii by Rail.

**Passenger Equipment, 2nd Place** – Mike Slater for his HO scale Hiawatha Observation car



**Traction, 1st Place** – Paul Schneble for his 1/64 scale North Shore Car #131

**Traction, 2nd Place** – Andy Breaker for his HO scale Libertyliner



**Non-revenue Equipment, 1st Place** – Jerry Gunderson for his N scale ballast cleaning train

**Non-revenue Equipment, 1st Place** – Ed Varick for his HO scale cab-forward caboose

**Photographs – Prototype, 1st Place** – Mike Slater for his Street Runnin'

**Photographs – Prototype, 2nd Place** – Steve Miazga for his White Pass & Yukon



**Steam, 1st Place** – Andy Breaker for his HO scale CN&W Class E-4 Hudson

**Steam, 2nd Place** – Mike Slater for his HO scale Milwaukee Road Hiawatha

**Photographs – Model, 1st Place** – Steve Miazga for his Night Shift

**Photographs – Model, 2nd Place** – Steve Miazga for his Alister Junction

**General, 1st Place** – Joan & Charlie Rice for their HO scale Fall of 1935, Sand Facility, Seaboard Shore Line in S.C. (see photo on left)

**General, 2nd Place** – Ed Varick for his HO scale Winters Wonder diorama

## Upcoming Events

February 17 . . .Bus Trip - Mad City Show Madison\*

March 18 . . . .Division Meet Clarion MKE- Airport

April 22 . . . .Division Meet Clarion MKE- Airport

April 6-8 . . . .WISEop 2018

May 6 . . . . .Bus Trip - DuPage Swap Meet\*

\* denotes extra fare event

## End of the Line for Trains at RMH

by Joe Russ

After 25 years, the end of the line has come for the G gauge trains the Division donated for around the Ronald McDonald House's Christmast tree in Wauwatosa. The trains were donated in my dad's memory, as he was the one who came up with idea just before his unexpected passing in 1990.

House staff decided in late 2016 not to have the trains as it was too much effort to rerail the trains when the kids played with them. I would go weekly and clean track and do other maintenance.

Over those years the late Wayne Dunbar was my primary helper. I would also like to thank Richard Cecil, John Schapekahn and Neal Michel for their help as well.

If you have a suggestion for a new kid-related place that will appreciate them, please let me know.



# Free Model Railroad Meet

Hosted by the WISE Division, NMRA

- Public Welcome -

Call 262-408-1946, visit [www.wisedivision.org](http://www.wisedivision.org) or Facebook page for more information.

Schedule subject to change without notice

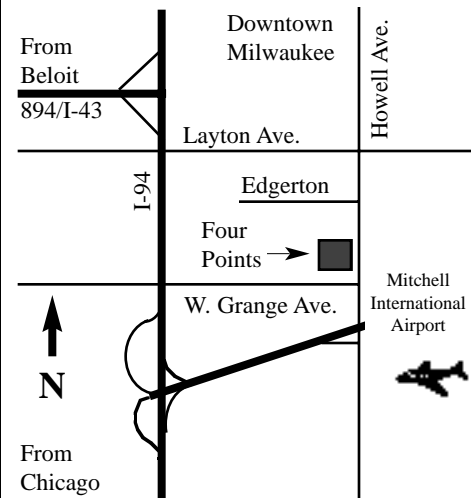


## January 21, 2018

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>Model Railroad Scenery from Natural Materials</i> Steve Miazga will show how to build scenery using natural materials.
2:00 to 2:45	<i>The Frugal Modeler</i> Dave Nelson has been "The Frugal Modeler" columnist for the Midwest Region's <i>Waybill</i> since 2009. He has written about modeling ideas and techniques that are easy to do, with a minimal expenditure.
3:00 to 3:45	<i>The Wacky WICT: From Short Line to Regional Railroad</i> Otto P. Dobnick takes look back at the Wisconsin & Calumet Railroad (reporting marks: WICT) and some of its surprising, interesting, and out-of-the-ordinary operations right here in southern Wisconsin.
3:45-4:00	Announcements and Presentation of Contest Awards
4 - 6:00	Layout Tour: Last Run of the UP&W (map distributed at 4 p.m.)

### Four Points by Sheraton (formerly the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center) Milwaukee Airport

5311 S. Howell Ave. in Milwaukee  
(drive around back and use rear entrance)



## The Editor Hoots

First of all, an apology to those who have received the hard copy version in the mail a day or so late the past two issues. We use a USPS service called Click to Mail for printing and mailing the *Owl Car*, which is usually fast and frugal. In the past they have printed it in a facility in Illinois or even Michigan. The past two issues, unknown to me, were printed in Florida which added a bit more time to get north. This issue is being sent out a bit more in advance in the event that happens again. Of course, it is always available the Division web site before a meet.

As you have read elsewhere, this is my last issue of the *Owl Car*. While I have yet to go back and look (which I should to see what can apply to my NMRA Achievement Program credits) going from memory this should conclude my third stint as editor covering a combined dozen (at least) years. I have

referred to this newsletter as a boomerang of sorts as whenever an editor is needed, it comes back to me.

In May of 1986, then-Superintendent, the late Mel Andresen, while having lunch at McDonalds during the bus trip to the DuPage swap meet, asked me to resurrect the *Owl Car* which had been out of publication since 1979. The production process has changed a lot since 1986, and will continue to change. It's been a heck of a learning process, too. Back in the 1980s everyone got their meet and event information through print via either the newsletter or hobby shop flyers (and I spent many an evening labeling and stamping the *Owl Car* at the dining room table while watching *Miami Vice*). Now there are many other sources, be it online newsletters, forums, web sites or social media. Personally, unless a hard copy newsletter is mailed to me, I don't bother to read it online unless there's a bit of

past information I'm looking for. I get most of my information on hobby events via either Facebook or some flyers. Others prefer email and or web sites.

Over the past few years I've ended up with the tasks of the *Owl Car*, layout tours, WISEop and even clinics for the meets. After a while it has become a bit much, especially after I became caregiver for a family member a little over a year ago.

I would like to thank Steve for taking over these duties and adding his name to the list of editors. I'm sure there are changes coming. But I am also pretty sure, that, at some point, I will again be looking out the window over my computer screen wondering how I will make everything fit.

Thank you for your support during this round. It's been a good ride, but it's time to get off the handcar and tackle some other projects. For now.

*Joe Russ*

# Capitol 400 Midwest Region NMRA 2018 Convention



## April 13, 14 & 15, 2018

### Registration Form

**ALL FARES INCLUDE BANQUET**

Registration Type	Fare	Number	Total
Rail Early Full Fare (Must be received by March 31, 2018)	\$55		\$ 0
Non-Rail Early Full Fare (Must be received by March 31, 2018)	\$40		\$ 0
Banquet Only	\$30		\$ 0
Rail Full Fare After March 31, 2018	\$65		\$ 0
Non-Rail Full Fare After March 31, 2018	\$45		\$ 0
Non-NMRA member (includes 6 Month NMRA Rail Pass membership)	\$10		\$ 0
HO Scale Illinois Central Special Run Box Car	\$20		\$ 0
<b>Total Enclosed</b>			\$ 0

Name For Badge <b>**PLEASE PRINT**</b>	NMRA Number	Non-Rail
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>

Please indicate any special dietary restrictions for the banquet:

\_\_\_\_\_

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING OPERATING SESSIONS

Operating Sessions will be held Friday afternoon from 1pm to 4:30pm and Friday evening from 6:30pm to 10pm. You can sign up for afternoon, evening or both. Indicate your layout preference—1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> for each session. See layout descriptions on the Operating Sessions page of the website: <http://www.nmra-scwd.org/operating-sessions.html>

##### Afternoon Session 1-4:30pm

\_\_\_\_ Bill Clancy Rio Grande Pacific  
 \_\_\_\_ Bob Wundrock RLD&M

##### Evening Session 6:30-10pm

\_\_\_\_ Bill & Rose Weber Union Pacific  
 \_\_\_\_ Ken Hojnacki & Peter Reinhold NYO&W

Crew assignments will be based on first received/first assigned. A waiting list will be created if needed. You are expected to operate; there will be plenty of opportunities to view the layouts at regular tour times. You will be notified of your assignment via email so be sure to include it below. The Committee reserves the right to cancel or change layouts.

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **Capitol 400**  
 c/o Keith Thomsen– Registrar  
 7202 New Washburn Way  
 Madison, WI 53719

**Make checks payable to: "SCWD Capitol 400" (No cash, please.)**

Office Use Only
Amt Rec'd: \$ _____
Check No.: _____
Op Session Status: _____

