



Deadline for Submission to the April Issue:  
March 20, 2026

March 2026

## THE HEAD OWL HOOTS

Burnell Breaker

### WELCOME SPRING!!!

Our March 21 meet will be a layout tour event on our way to the Schlesingerville to Slinger Historical Museum after visiting model railroads north of Milwaukee on our way to Slinger. We will not have a contest at this meet, but hopefully some CN and W&S railfanning at the depot, along with the historical displays and model railroad. More news regarding this meet is in this issue, along with an email that was sent with the information about this event. It looks to be a great time! We're always looking for new members. Give someone you know a flyer and invite them to one of our meets.

Due to lack of use, we have decided to streamline our DVD/VHS Library. We have gone through the library and saved the modeling, local and special interest programs for now. The remaining ones will be showing up for sale at shows where we are selling. As I said when I was appointed Superintendent, I would not be bringing the library to meets because of my added responsibilities as Superintendent. But we have offered, since then, that if you were interested in checking anything out, all you had to do was to contact me which one(s) you would like to view, and I would bring them to the next meet or event. However, no one has checked anything out. If you are interested in any title, let me know and I will see if we are saving or selling it.

We need to be looking to the future and will be going through our storage unit this spring or summer. There are many items we can likely clear out from our days running Trainfest besides other items. If you'd like to help, let me know.

We're also looking for help working on Jim McKeever's St. Paul Union Depot railroad. Jim was featured a few issues ago in the Owl Car. If you live in the Racine/Kenosha area or anywhere else, we are trying to get a crew together to help Jim work on his railroad.

We can also use help with going through, pricing and selling the model train donations we receive. We presently store our donations at my printing company in Caledonia. These donations to the Division help generate revenue for us.

**IT'S ELECTION TIME! A reminder to send in your ballot. The deadline to get your ballot to Dave Nelson is April 15.** I know it's only one board position, but it is still important that you vote. The ballot and biography of our incumbent board member, Tim Koch, is included in this issue. You can either mail in your ballot or scan/photograph and email it, per the instructions on the ballot. Follow the instructions on the ballot for mailing or emailing and the ballot **MUST** include your name and NMRA number. Our nominating/election committee of Dave Nelson, Dave Poquette and LaRoye Chisley will then be able to tally up the votes. Next year the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and another Director at Large position will up for election.

March 21-22, 2026, is the Rock River Valley Train Show presented by the RRVD at Harlem High School in Rockford. Information regarding the show is in this month's newsletter. Carpool with others and enjoy their show. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and all of us can go safely on Sunday.

Our final event of the season will be our annual meeting and election results May 2 at the New Berlin Library Heritage Room. It was originally scheduled for late April, but there was a conflict with using the rooms at the New Berlin Library.

We are working on the 2026-2027 season of events and hope to have a tentative schedule to present to everyone at our May 2 meet. If you have an idea for an event, let one of us on the Board know and we will check it out. Remember this is your WISE Division.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE LAYOUTS AND OUR MEET IN SLINGER MARCH 21!!!

MODEL RAILROADING IS FUN!!!

Burnell

## Upcoming Division Events:

### Board of Directors Meetings

March 17 7:30pm  
Zoom

### March Layout Tours/ WISE Division Meet

Saturday, March 21  
Refer to the article on page 17

## Tim Koch Candidate for Director at Large



My name is Tim Koch. I'm married with one son and currently live in Slinger. I am employed as a mechanical engineer. I received a train set at age 3 and have been a Model Railroader ever since.

I grew up attending train shows and other WISE division events with my grandpa, dad, and uncle. In 1982, I started attending shows as an exhibitor with my grandpa and the WISE Division's HO track and later with my family and a few friends, we started our own group, Rusty Rails. I have been an exhibitor at every Trainfest that has been held since 82.

In 1985, I became an official NMRA member (so I could attend the conventions) and had remained a member until the early 90's when I moved out of the WISE division area to attend school. I later moved back into the area and joined again in 2010.

Currently my spare time is split between Rusty Rails, building a home layout based on the Milwaukee Roads Racine and Southwestern line, and restoring a 1946 Ford truck.

A couple of years ago, I volunteered as a Director at Large because I wanted to help the Division re-build and ensure it would be around for years to come. I'm running for re-election to continue this work.



Wisconsin Southeastern Division / Midwest Region  
of the National Model Railroad Association

## 2025-2026 Schedule of Events

**SATURDAY, September 13, 2025 - 9 AM to 3 PM**

**MODEL RAILROAD RETREAT - St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

NON-MEMBERS \$5.00

8760 - 37th Avenue, Kenosha

**SATURDAY, October 18, 2025 - 1 PM**

**MONTHLY MEET - New Berlin Public Library Community Room**

FREE ADMISSION (*Contests, Clinics, Bring & Brag, Layout Tour*)

15105 Library Lane, New Berlin

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, November 1-2, 2025**

**TRAINFEST - Baird Center, Milwaukee**

EXTRA FARE EVENT

**SATURDAY, January 10, 2026 - 1 PM**

**TRAIN SCHOOL - New Berlin Public Library Community Room**

FREE ADMISSION

Learn about this great hobby and all it offers from local modelers.

Stations will be set up to discover different aspects of the hobby.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, February 21-22, 2026**

**MAD CITY TRAIN SHOW - Alliant Energy Center, Madison**

EXTRA FARE EVENT

**SATURDAY, March 21, 2026 - 1 PM**

**MONTHLY MEET - Schlesingerville to Slinger Historical Museum**

FREE ADMISSION (*Contests, Clinics, Bring & Brag, Layout Tour*)

414 Kettle Moraine Drive S, Slinger

**SATURDAY, May 2, 2026 - 1 PM**

**MONTHLY MEET and MEMBERSHIP MEETING -**

**New Berlin Public Library Heritage Room**

FREE ADMISSION (*Contests, Clinics, Bring & Brag, Layout Tour*)



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

[trainfest.com](http://trainfest.com)

BRING & BRAG about your recent acquisitions, layout progress or rail adventures at the Meets!

## Division Video Library

A reminder for everyone that the Division's Video Library is available for members to checkout DVDs.

As I stated after the Division went inactive, I cannot do both jobs of being the Interim Superintendent and Video Librarian, bringing and managing the Video Library at our meets. If you would like to checkout any DVDs, look at our catalog on [wisedivision.org](http://wisedivision.org) and contact me with the number and title of the one(s) you would like to view. I will bring them to our next meet or you can pick them up at my business. The DVDs are currently stored in my company's warehouse in Caledonia.

If you are interested in taking over the Video Library, contact me. It's an easy job, where you need to bring the Video Library to our meets and manage the checking out and receiving of them from the members.

Burnell Breaker  
[brbreaker78@gmail.com](mailto:brbreaker78@gmail.com)  
[wisenmra@gmail.com](mailto:wisenmra@gmail.com)  
262-939-9193

## Membership Directory

We have not updated our Membership Directory in over a decade. The information in this directory is vital to the ongoing revitalization of the Division.

As your new Layout Tour Chair, updating this document is my priority. With the information contained within its pages, we will be able to foster camaraderie and the sharing of ideas and expertise that is a key to a thriving organization and something that is greatly needed in the Division.

My plan is to send out a form by email, in the new year, asking for your contact information and details about your layout and other model and prototype interests. Please consider responding to my request. The Division is moving in a new direction, and this directory will be an essential part of this revival.

David Mielke  
Layout Tour Chair  
[mielkemanor@att.net](mailto:mielkemanor@att.net)

## A Note from the Editor:

Remember that the deadline for the April issue is the 20th of March. So, keep this deadline in mind and send your ideas, articles and photos to the Owl Car to [cindy.m.mielke@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.m.mielke@gmail.com).

Your Editor  
Cindy Mielke



**Annual Train Show**  
**Jan. 17 - March 22, 2026**

**All-Scale Train Show**  
**Sat. Jan. 31 & Sun. Feb. 1, 2026**  
**9am - 4pm**  
last admission at 3pm

**Steampunk Faire**  
**Sat. March 7, 2026**  
**9am - 4pm**  
last admission at 3pm

[www.mitchellparkdomes.com](http://www.mitchellparkdomes.com)

**524 S Layton Blvd. Milwaukee, WI 53215**  
**414-257-5600**



## Just Another Ferroequinologist

### (Rail Fan)

The word, Ferroequinologist comes from the Latin words ferrum (“iron”) and equus (“horse”) and the English word logist or one who studies. So, a ferroequinologist is one who studies iron horses or trains. For many scholars of this area of interest, it is a friend and mentor that sparked the excitement for the hobby. Such was the story of Bill Pfister’s introduction to the world of model railroading.

Bill began running his line; the Tomah, Portage and Mauston Railroad (TPMrr), over 21 years under the tutelage of his good friend, John Tews. Not only is the line named for the locations modeled, but also for his sons. The TPM is the acronyms for the letters of his son’s names, Timothy, Peter and Matthew who were just 10, 11, and 12 years old, respectively, at the time.

The TPMrr is set in Central Wisconsin in 1974. It is completely landscaped and DCC powered for Easy DCC wireless throttles. It has PECO switches and none of them are powered. The railroad has approximately 850 cars and 80 engines and consumes most of Bill’s 1,500 sq. ft. basement. His preference is that it is signaled red and green only. The railroad runs very well; the track is excellent and a unique feature is that this system requires a lot of switching as there are many industries to switch on. However, the switching is performed without car cards. The operator is handed the switching information and Bill tells them that he doesn’t want to see them for a half hour.

The first operating session of the TPMrr was on May 5, 2005. At that time, the railroad was the Plywood Central. Bill’s job as a Tool and Die Maker took time away from the railroad. Nevertheless, Bill managed to organize operating sessions and by 2020, the 100th operating session of the TPMrr was held.

Now that number is up to 150 sessions on the railroad, all that are digitally documented. 23 trains are run during any one operating session.

There are many aspects of the hobby that Bill would count amongst his favorites such as the task of laying track and watching the trains run up to eight at a time. However, what Bill treasures the most is his friendships with other Ferroequinologists.



# 50' Queen Post Bridge

Mark Willmering

The Queen Post Truss system followed the Kingpost in design but was used to span longer distances, frequently up to 75'. It was an expansion of the Kingpost because of an additional rectangular panel in the center placed between the two triangles. One of the reasons that a Queen Post is more popular than a Kingpost support is that it provides more structural stability. This type of framing has been used for centuries in homes, larger buildings and bridges. The Queen Post system was widely used in the west to span small gulches from between 25' to 75'. Many examples of this type of bridge, built with steel, are still in use around the country.

I decided to build this type of bridge for my AP requirement because I could then use it on my layout, the Rock Harbor RR. I have only one spot on my layout that needs a bridge, so this fits nicely. Although the Queen Post basic structure is the same on all bridges, there are different variants of the bridge. Because of the different pictures I found of bridges, I decided to design my own. In the final picture there are not any guard rails, I have since added them.

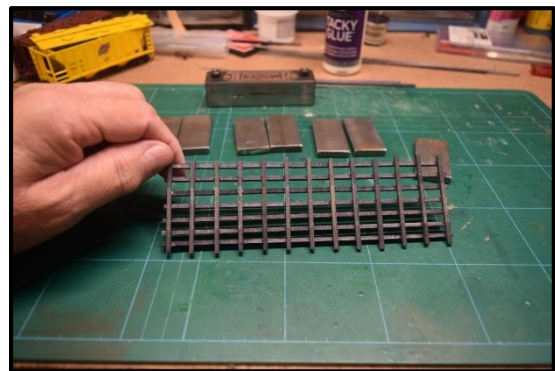
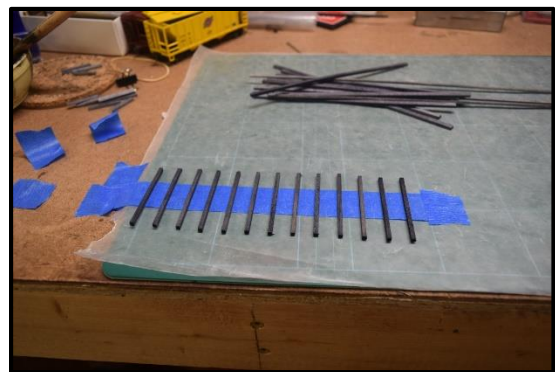
## Construction:

I started out with different lengths of Lumber and stained it with a mixture of India ink and 70% isopropyl alcohol.



As we know, glue on the wood prevents the stain from penetrating so this is done first.

I taped down the ties on a piece of wax paper and glued the stringers to the top of them at the appropriate intervals. I made sure to adjust the spaces between the ties, so they weren't the same, giving the illusion of it being built on site.



I added 185 bolts on the top and 185 nuts on the bottom to represent how the ties are secured to the stringers.



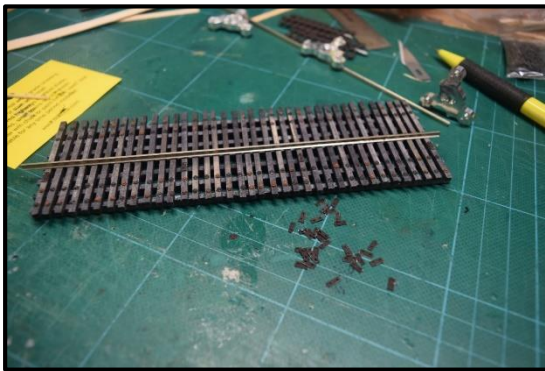
## 50" Queen Post Bridge (continued)

I couldn't find any tie plates to represent the correct size, so I had to build the tie plates from scratch out of styrene.



There are 74 tie plates cut from styrene and 148 holes drilled in them. I then painted the plates an ultra-flat black.

At this point I'm questioning myself as to why I went with this type of bridge.

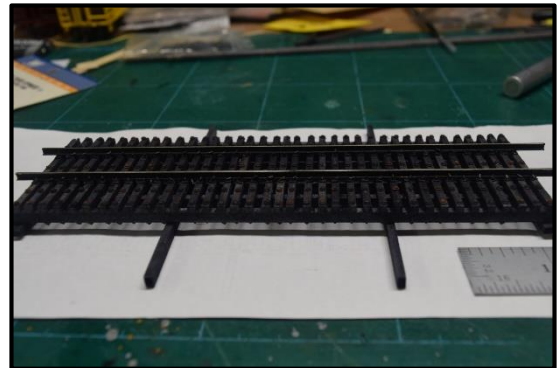


The rail spikes were another issue that I had. The spikes are .250 long and the ties are only .091 thick. I had to cut the spikes down and at this point the spikes are now blunt ends. I then had to drill another 148 holes into the ties to set the spikes.

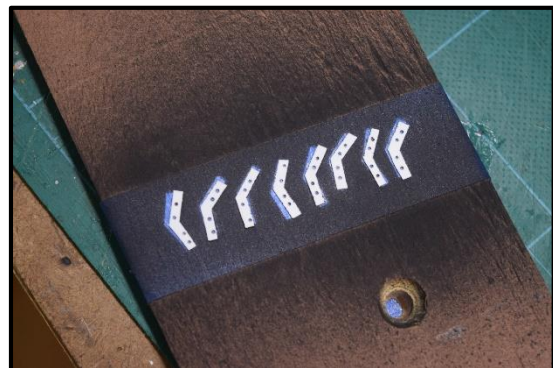


I painted the rail, set down the plates, laid the rail and installed the spikes. I added two main cross support beams to the bottom of the bridge; these are called chords. The deck of the bridge with bolts, rail plates, rail and rail spikes are in.

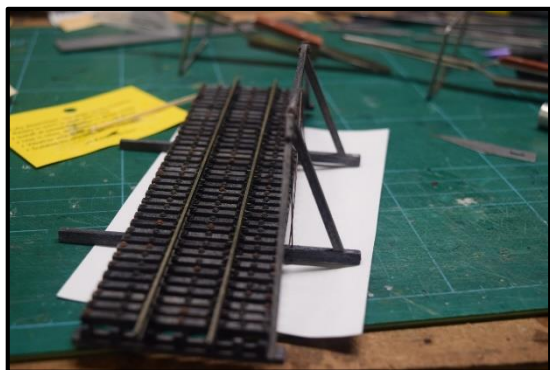
I had to scratch build the plates to hold the chords and bracing in place. I cut them out, drilled holes and painted them.



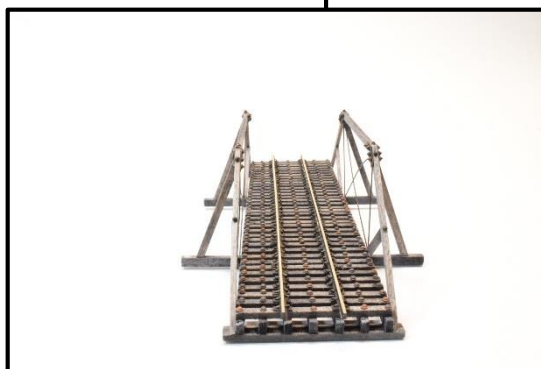
The chords, braces, plates and the rods are in place. Rod bolts and bracing bolts are added



## 50" Queen Post Bridge (continued)



## The completed bridge



### Why is a train called a train?

A train is called a "train" because the word comes from the Old French word *trainer*, meaning "to pull or drag," describing a connected series of items pulled along, first seen in clothing (a gown's trailing part) and then applied to processions, wagon trains, and eventually linked railway cars, all signifying a "trailing succession" or "that which is drawn along behind".

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Train>

## Clinics

### I'm looking for Clinics for our 2025-2026 Season

by David Nelson

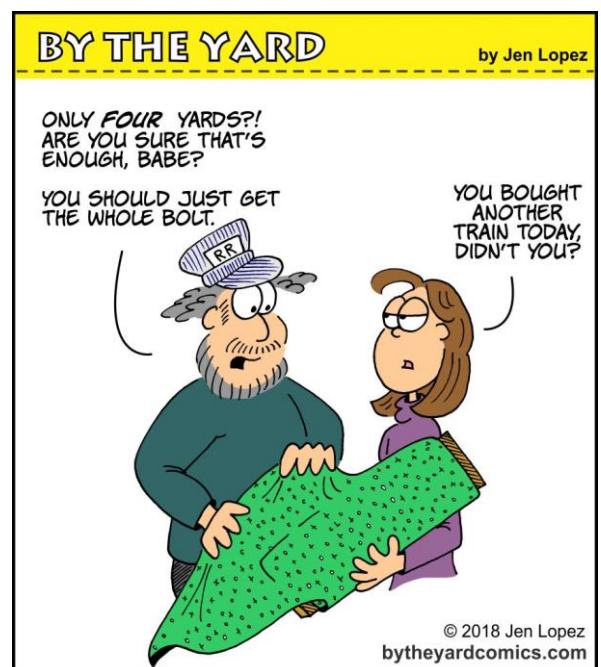
Thank you to all who presented clinics to the WISE Division this last year; it is greatly appreciated by me and by all our members. I was especially pleased that we were able to show three full-length clinics at our February meeting -- seemed like the good old days of the WISE Division! I hope we can continue this trend next season. I can be reached at [engine1385@aol.com](mailto:engine1385@aol.com) if you have a clinic idea for us.

As always, special thanks to David Rohr, our Chief Clerk, for his great work at being our "A/V Guy".

At that February meeting I mentioned something that I'd like to repeat here. As spring and summer approach, we are entering the prime "railroad convention/model train convention" season. If you belong to a railroad historical society and go to their annual meets or go to NMRA or toy train collector or gauge-specific regional or national conventions (such as 2025's N Scale Enthusiasts convention in Kansas City, or the TCA convention in Jacksonville FL) please consider giving us a 15-minute (or so) report, hopefully complete with photos of both prototype trains and models on display or layouts on tour.

I'd like to put them all together into one Saturday meet devoted to these conventions. I'd particularly like to see coverage of the NMRA National in Novi (near Detroit) Michigan. I know I will be at the C&NW Historical Society convention in Des Moines/Boone this May, but I'd also like to see coverage of the Soo Line Historical group's meeting at the Wisconsin Dells, Milwaukee Road, Great Northern in the Twin Cities, Burlington Route in Marion IL (a joint meet with the MoPac and C&EI groups), or other railroad historical society meet, or perhaps the National Railway Historical Society's national meet in Lansing Michigan.

I'd also include visits to any of the many towns and cities that have "railroad days" type civic events. It would be great if we had so many presentations that they have to split into two different monthly meets but for now I'll be happy if we can really fill one month's meeting with those presentations.



## Division Leadership

### Board of Directors

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David Rohr --- Chief Clerk (Secretary)  
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David Mielke --- Director at Large  
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### Committee Chairs

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Dave Poquette --- Achievement Program  
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 262-515-3623

Jim Hebner --- Webmaster  
[hebnerj@gmail.com](mailto:hebnerj@gmail.com)

Open ---  
 Picnic/Bus Trips ---  
 Contest ---

### FROM the NMRA Please Keep in Touch



Please make sure the NMRA has your current contact information. You will not be able to access the full range of NMRA benefits unless we can reach you.

- Please visit [nmra.org/members](http://nmra.org/members)
- Use your email address and password to log in.
- If you have not yet registered, or forgot your password, there are buttons for that. Take a moment to easily correct any problems.
- Once logged in, click on Member Info (top right corner).
- Make sure your information is correct.
- If not, please go to:

[nmra.org/request-membership-info-changes](http://nmra.org/request-membership-info-changes)

to submit a request for changes to be made.

*Thank you!*

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Please send any comments, information, or editorials to Editor Cindy Mielke via email: [cindy.m.mielke@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.m.mielke@gmail.com)

# January Board of Directors Minutes

## Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division of the NMRA Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, January 14, 2026 Via Zoom

Meeting called to order by Burnell Breaker at 7:02 pm

**Officers Present** - Burnell Breaker (Superintendent)\*  
Robert Niedermann (Asst-Superintendent)\*  
David Rohr (Secretary, Chief Clerk)\*  
David Mielke (Director At Large) (Train School)\*  
Tim Koch (Director At Large) \*

**Chairs Present** – Jim Hebner \* (Website), Cindy Mielke (Owl Car) \*, Dennis Janssen (Asst Paymaster) \*,  
Mike Slater\* (Social Media) left at 7:50pm

**Guests** – None \* attended by Zoom

**Officers Not Present** – Paymaster – open position, Gary Hendrickson\* (Membership), Dave Nelson\* (Clinics)

**Minutes:** No changes noted from the December meeting minutes, Bob N. motioned, 2nd by Tim K., approved.

**Paymaster Report:** No changes noted from the December report. Bob N. motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave M. approved.

- Typical interest income was \$11/month on the money market, and since moving to a CD, it brought in \$90/ month of December. Great move.
- We wanted to replace Quick Books online with Zoho. But that has since disappeared. Will now try either Fresh Books, or xLeger.

**Membership:** Gary Hendrickson –

December 2025:

Members: 115  
30 days past due: 3  
Renewals: 11  
New members: 1

Membership as of:

Dec. `23: 135  
Dec. `24: 125  
Nov `25: 116

- Most recently, we are averaging a decrease of 10 members per year, down 20, or 15% over past 2 years.
- Hypothetically, should this rate keep up, WISE will be down to nothing in 11 years!
- Watchword 2026: Every WISE member should adopt the goal of inviting and obtaining a new member this year.
- NB: I have talked with NMRA's Engagement head Lucy Dormont at Trainfest, and reached out to her twice since, once very recently. She remains unresponsive. NMRA has had a video about general member recruitment on their website. If it's still there, I'd like to show at a meet sometime before long. I'll check how long it is.

**AP Program:** Dave Poquette – not present, no report

- My report is a summary of what happen in 2025:
- \* Bryan Wickman achieved an AP award in scenery.
- \* Mark Willmering achieved merit awards for his 50' bridge and a rail car float. He also achieved AP awards for Electrical, Volunteer, and Dispatch.
- \* Ray Meyer achieved an AP award for Motive Power as well as becoming a Master Model Railroader.

**Clinics:** Dave Nelson - not present, his report:  
 "Because its Zoom presentations and YouTube presence seem to be thriving, I asked the Michiana Division's super. Greg Buelmann, for his views on how their Division membership is holding up. Evidently appearances are deceiving because they are hurting too.  
 Here is Greg's reply:  
 Hi Dave, we are experiencing a similar trend and have very few members who actually participate. Ron Christensen got together with some local folks in southeastern Michigan on Tuesday, both members and non-members, and it seemed to go well. We get very few at the traditional outings we hold and have trouble getting people to accept officer positions, etc. There's about five of us who keep it going and we are wondering if we'll be able to sustain it for very long. The Zoom calls and YouTube are pretty healthy as you noted, and we do not restrict that in any way regarding membership. I see it as a service to the hobby that we all seem to enjoy. Good luck! Greg"

**Layout Tours:**

- Dave M. is still looking for places to visit. They will likely be before each month's clinics.
- Possible layouts for March are KMBS, Tim Koch, Mark Diggermess, Bill Pfister, Dave and Karl.
- May schedule a restaurant to meet at as well.

**Website:**

- Jim Hebner - not present.
- Needs April `25 - current (December `25) issues of the Owl Car.
  - Now with new logo, branding, added 2 National convention logo & details.
  - \$70 / year or month web charge. Normally it is \$6 / mo. Jim will research.

**Owl Car:**

January issue was sent, another good issue.

**Train School:** Dave M – Need more advertising, maybe add the school to NB library website?  
 Submit expenses to region youth reimbursement person. List topics / subjects.

**Model RR Retreat:**

A new location is needed; a place we can charge admission and vendors.  
 Possibly DR's church in Menomonee Falls. We need to pick a date to schedule the venue.  
 Joe's operating event to be on September 19 - 21, 2026

**Facebook:** Mike Slater has been posting some pictures from Gary Children. Add David R to FB, for spell checking.

**Show Schedule –**

- We will sell at 5 of the 6 Lionel Club's swap dates on January 18 & March 15 with 3 tables.
- Selling at the Metro Club's Show in Cedarburg Ozaukee show April 12, 1226.
- Signed up completed for 3 tables. Will get an additional table to have Tim K. sell next door and to help. Also, will have Jerry help.
- Also sign up for KMBS October Swap at Washington Co. Fair Park

**Old Business:**

- **Trainfest 2025 –**
  - No new info on how the show went.
- **2025-2026 Meet Schedule**
  - February 21 & 22 – Mad City Train Show
  - March 21 – Slinger Depot– Can seat 40 - 45. Could get folks from WLD (Winnebagoland Division) to attend
  - May 2 – NB Library - Annual Meeting & election results
- **\$200 Matching fund** – Need ideas for this. May be for train school or RPM? Or a picnic @ MLES, or Little Amerika (Marshal, WI).
- **2026 election –**
  - Tim K's position will be on the ballot in spring `26.
  - Dave Nelson, LaRoye Chisley and Dave Poquette will be on the Election Committee.
  - So far only 4 ballots have been received. Need to receive by mid-April

**New Business:**

- **Gary Children's Slides** – Neal Michael has the collection of about +10K slides. Mike S. has been posting some on FB. Need some folks to visit Neal and sort thru them.
- **Delavan Train Show** – SCWD was contacted in bringing the Train School event to the show. SCWD sent the request to WISE. David R is on the Delevan committee. We will need more planning.
- **2026-2027 Schedule** – We need to start planning so we have it ready for the May meeting. My ideas.
  - o **September 2026 – Model Railroad Retreat**, new location, date, use member retention grant from NMRA to offset cost of hall.
  - o **October 17, 2026 – Meet**, New Berlin Public Library
  - o **November 7 & 8, 2026 – Trainfest**, Baird Center
  - o **December – no meet**
  - o **January 9 or 23, 2027 – Train School**, New Berlin Public Library. We decided February.23 would be best, if it is available.
  - o **February 2027 – SCWD Mad City Train Show**, Alliant Energy Center (February 20 & 21)
  - o **March 20, 2027 – Meet**, different location? CNWHS Joint Meet, New Berlin Public Library? Maybe Cudahy Library, Cudahy Depot, Bucyrus Museum, Oconomowoc?
  - o **April 17, 2027 – Annual Meeting**, Election Results, New Berlin Public Library

**Next Meeting:**

Next BOD meeting is Wednesday, February 11 (at 7:00pm via Zoom.)

After that the meeting will be March 17 2026 (3rd Tuesday) May need to adjust for Church/Lent

Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm. Motioned by Dave M., 2nd by Tim K., approved.

Respectfully submitted by David A. Rohr, Chief Clerk.

## Our Mission

The mission of the WISE Division of the National Model Railroad Association is to promote model railroading, to engage in the preservation, perpetuation and enjoyment of the hobby of model railroading, rail fanning and education generally of the history of railroading in the United States and where appropriate throughout the world and to engage in charitable work (as defined in sec, 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended) including, but not limited to providing funding to historical associations, scholarships, model railroad museums and other charitable organizations affiliated with or desiring to learn more about railroading and model railroading.

# Shows and Swaps

Wisconsin and Northern Illinois

## Monthly Events

### **Great Midwest Train Show**

Dupage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL  
2015 Manchester Rd., Wheaton IL

<https://www.greenbergshows.com/gmtspages/gmts>

Mar.1, Apr. 12, May 3, Jun. 7 •  
9:00am – 3:00pm

### **Milwaukee Lionel Railroad Club – Swap Meet**

New Berlin Entertainment Center,  
16000 W. Cleveland, New Berlin, WI

Enter from east side of building

<https://milw-lrrc.org/mlrrc-train-show-and-sale>

Mar.15, Oct. 18, Nov. 22, Dec.20

• 8:00am – 12:00pm

### **Milwaukee Lionel Railroad Club – Open House**

2721 S. Calhoun Rd, - Drive to back of building

<https://milw-lrrc.org/mlrrc-open-houses>

The Club is open weekly Friday • 1:00 – 9:00  
year-round (unless major holiday)

Winter hours Saturday & Sunday •

1:00 – 5:00 October 4 to April 26.

### **Waukesha County Gandy Dancers & Badgerland S Gaugers Open House**

741 N. Grand Ave., Waukesha, WI 53186

<https://www.wcqdrrailroad.com/events>

Mar. 7, May 2, Aug. 1, Oct 3, Nov. 14 & 15,

Dec. 5 • 10:00am – 6:00pm

### **Kenosha Model Railroad Train Show (Swap)**

3030 39th Ave. Kenosha Union Hall

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087630919326>

Mar 8 • 9:00am – 1:00pm

### **LRRC SE Wis - Open House**

4625 Washington Ave, Racine, WI 53405

Upstairs of American Coin & Jewelry

<https://www.facebook.com/LRRCSEW>

Mar. 21, Apr. 18 • 10:00am – 2:00 pm

### **WISE Division Monthly Meet**

Slinger Depot Tour

414 Kettle Morain Dr. S

<https://wisedivision.org/events.html>

Mar.21, • 3:00pm

## Annual Train Shows

### **Annual Train Show**

#### **Milwaukee Park Domes**

524 S. Layton Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53215

[www.mitchellparkdomes](http://www.mitchellparkdomes)

Jan. 17 – Mar. 22 • 9:00am – 4:00pm

#### **Steam Punk Faire Milwaukee Park Domes**

524 S. Layton Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53215

[www.mitchellparkdomes](http://www.mitchellparkdomes)

Mar. 7 • 9:00am – 4:00pm

### **Delavan Train Show**

Starting at American Legion Hall

111 S. 2nd St., Delavan, WI 53115

7 locations

<https://delavantrainshow.com/>

Saturday, Mar. 7 • 9:00am – 4:00pm

Sunday, Mar. 8 • 10:00am – 4:00pm

### **Sheboygan Swap Meet**

Sheboygan Railroad Museum

St. Dominic Church Activity Center

2133 N. 22nd St., Sheboygan, WI 53081

[imschneider8@gmail.com](mailto:imschneider8@gmail.com)

<https://www.sssmre.org/calendar.htm>

Mar. 14 • 9:00am – 2:00pm

Admission: Adults: \$5.00

Children 12 and under: Free

Table rentals: \$20.00

Contact Leo Schneider for rentals at

920-917-4598

**March-O-Meet**

Westin Lombard – Yorktown Center  
70 Yorktown Center, Lombard IL 60148

<https://marchmeet.net/WP/>

Thursday, Mar. 19

Friday, Mar. 20

Saturday, Mar. 21 • 9:00am – 5:00pm

Sunday, Mar. 22 • 8:30am – 2:00pm

**Rock River Valley Train Show**

Harlem High School

9229 N. Alpine Rd, Machesney Park, IL

<https://rrvd-nmra.com/show/>

Saturday, Mar. 21 • 10:00am – 5:00pm

Sunday, Mar. 22 • 10:00am – 3:00pm

**Lena Train Show**

Lena-Winslow Elementary, Junior & High School

401 Freemont St., Lena, IL 61048

<https://www.facebook.com/lenadepotstovegang/>

Saturday, Mar. 28 • 10:00am – 4:00pm

Sunday, Mar. 29 • 10:00am – 3:00pm

**Lionel Railroad Club Spring Open House**

2721 S. Calhoun Rd., New Berlin, WI 53151

(Drive around to the rear of the building)

<https://milw-lrrc.org/mlrrc-open-houses>

Saturday, Mar. 28 • 10:00am – 5:00pm

Sunday, Mar. 29 • 10:00am – 5:00pm

**Hales Corner Library**

5885 S. 116th St., Hales Corner, WI 53130

<https://halescorners-wi.whofi.com/calendar/event/1311905?method=embed>

Thursday, Apr. 2 • 12:00pm – 8:00pm

Saturday, Apr. 4 • 1:00pm – 4:00pm

**Fond Du Lac Train Show**

1225 4th St., Fond Du Lac, WI

First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

<https://allevents.in/fond-du-lac/5th-annual-cn-central-model-railroad-open-house/200029679763759>

house/200029679763759

Saturday, Apr. 11 • 10:00am – 4:00pm

Sunday, Apr. 12 • 9:00am – 2:00pm

**Fond Du Lac Layout Tour**

179 Guindon Blvd, Fond du Lac, WI 54935-6042

[5th Annual CN Central Model Railroad Open](https://allevents.in/fond-du-lac/5th-annual-cn-central-model-railroad-open-house/200029679763759)

[House, 179 Guindon Blvd, Fond du Lac, WI](https://allevents.in/fond-du-lac/5th-annual-cn-central-model-railroad-open-house/200029679763759)

[54935-6042, United States, 11 April 2026 |](https://allevents.in/fond-du-lac/5th-annual-cn-central-model-railroad-open-house/200029679763759)

[AllEvents](https://allevents.in/fond-du-lac/5th-annual-cn-central-model-railroad-open-house/200029679763759)

Saturday, Apr. 11 • 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Metro Milwaukee Train Show**

Ozaukee Pavilion, Ozaukee Fairgrounds

W67N866 Washington Ave, Cedarburg, WI

[Metro Milwaukee Train Show](https://www.metro-milwaukee-train-show.com/)

Sunday, Apr. 12 • 9:00am – 4:00pm

120+ tables

**Butler Library Train Event**

Milwaukee Lionel Railroad Club – 3 track layout

Clark House Museum and Caboose will be open

Saturday, Apr. 25 • 11:00am – 3:00pm

**WISE Division Monthly Meet**

New Berlin Public Library Community Room

15105 Library Lane, New Berlin WI 53151

<https://wisedivision.org/events.html>

Saturday, May 2. • 1:00pm

Free Admission

Contests, Clinics, Bring & Brag, Layout Tour

**Titletown Train Show**

KI Convention Center

333 Main Street, Green Bay WI 54301

Saturday, May 16 • 9:00am – 4:00pm

Sunday, May 17 • 10:00am – 3:00pm

**Waupaca Area Model Railroaders**

Waupaca Recreation Center,

407 School Street, Waupaca, WI

Intersection of School, State & Badger St.

Saturday, Jun. 20 • 9:00am – 4:00pm



**A Pessimist sees  
a dark tunnel.**

**An Optimist sees  
a light at the end  
of the tunnel.**

**A Realist sees a  
freight train.**

**The Engineer  
sees  
3 idiots standing  
on the tracks.**

## **March Layout Tours/ WISE Division Meet**

Are the cold and snow of a Wisconsin winter making you yearn for a day watching trains, then we have just the thing for your winter blues. We have planned a day of layout tours. On March 21st, there will be four layouts that are open to tour 11:00am to 3:00pm. This is a self-guided event – you choose which layouts to visit and the order to do so. The only scheduled item is lunch at 1:00pm at the Good Day Café at 2400 W Washington St, West Bend, WI 53095 • 262-326-6000. The monthly meet will be held at 3:00pm at the Slinger Historical Museum at 414 Kettle Moraine Dr S, Slinger, WI 53086. Watch for an email from the Division for more details.

### **Tim Koch**

This HO layout is approximately 24' x 30' and is based on the Milwaukee Roads Racine and Southwestern line between Sturtevant and Springfield WI. The layout uses NCE DCC. It is model in the time period of the late 1970's and early 1980's. The town of Springfield on the layout consists entirely of buildings scratch built by Tim's grandfather who was a WISE Division member. The buildings are all modeled after actual buildings in Springfield WI, Tim should know – he went with his grandfather on the day he took the pictures to replicate the town on his layout.

Tim Koch  
3887 Riegle Court, Slinger, WI. 53086 • 262-224-5693

### **Mark Digerness – West Wisconsin**

Mark's layout is a 60' x 20' HO scale, 2 ½ deck layout based on a fictitious version of the CNW in Northern Wisconsin around 1995. Portions modeled are around Beaver Dam (Clyman), WI and then from Eau Clair to Superior. There are three staging yards: MKE/CHI, Minneapolis and then points north of Superior. It features a wireless NCE Pro-Cab system and is expected to run with 4 – 6 operators.

Mark Digerness  
1621 Prairie Ct., Richfield, WI. 53076  
Park in the driveway or street, enter through the garage and take the stairs in the back of the garage down to the train room in the basement.

### **Kettle Moraine Ballast Scorchers**

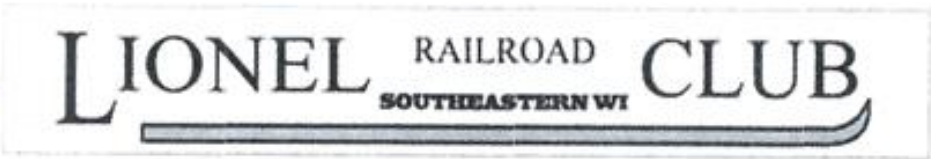
The current layout is in a 22' x 23' space. The layouts are one on top of the other as both HO and N Scale are modeled. The HO layout is on the lower deck with the N Scale layout in the second deck as many in the membership model only one or the other scales with a few having both scales. The time frame is set for the 1980s up to current time for those that model the newer railroads. So, at times one might see modern CN locomotives running alongside a Milwaukee Road steam locomotive. The layouts are set in the region of Wisconsin along the Chicago Northwestern Airline Subdivision due to many members living along this division.

Adam Bunkelman  
215 N. Main St. Suite 60, West Bend, WI. 53095 • 262-339-6763  
Enter at rear of building by river.

### **Bill Pfister – GM Tomah, Portage and Mauston Railroad**

This railroad runs around 850 cars and 80 engines on a completely landscaped layout that is powered by DCC with Easy DCC wireless throttles. It has three roads: Milwaukee Road, Chicago and Northwestern and Green Bay and Western. This layout consumes much of a 1,500 sq. ft. basement and depicts the era of 1974.

Bill Pfister  
W238N7053 Michele Lane, Sussex, WI. 53089



**2025 – 2026 OPEN HOUSE DATES**

<b>10/18/2025</b>	<b>01/17/2026</b>
<b>11/22/2025</b>	<b>02/21/2026</b>
<b>12/06/2025</b>	<b>03/21/2026</b>
<b>12/20/2025</b>	<b>04/18/2026</b>

**10:00am -2:00pm**

**Above American Coin & Jewelry 4625**

**Washington Ave., Racine**

Park behind the store, Enter through the West Side Door

**Admission is Free.**

**Donations gratefully accepted.**

 **Like us on Facebook!**

**“Lionel RR Club of SE WI”**

Questions and Additional Information, please contact us at:

[info@lionelrrclubsewi.org](mailto:info@lionelrrclubsewi.org)



**(Please Turn Over for More Information!)**

## Outstanding Features of Our Club Rooms and Layouts

Three "O" Gauge layouts, and one "S" Gauge Layout, a Thomas-the-Tank-Engine Layout, all of which are work-in-progress status!!

- 10 x 14-foot Fastrac layout with numerous switches and wyes for operating on different routes, remote control operation, a carnival scene with operating rides and more.
- 17 x 27-foot layout that features 3 loops of track with wide sweeping curves, numerous sidings, controlled with state-of-the-art remote-control components. Scenery includes our city of Spencer, that features industrial, agricultural, and suburban areas.
- 4 x 16 layout with traditional three-rail tubular track and switches, for the pre-World War Two model train collector and operator.
- *Our Newest Addition is a 5 x 8 "S" Gauge Layout!*



(Please Turn Over for More Information!)

*(turn over for Train Sale & Show Schedule)*



*Our 78th Year*

# OPEN HOUSE

*Since 1947*

**SATURDAY and SUNDAY**

**NOVEMBER 29 & 30, 2025**

**MARCH 28 & 29, 2026**

**10:00 am to 5:00 pm**

**Parkland Plaza**

2721 South Calhoun Road

New Berlin, Wisconsin 53151

(262) 754-9900

*(entrance in back of building)*

## **OPEN WEEKLY**

**Open Fridays 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
year round (unless a holiday)**

**October through April**

**Saturday & Sunday: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
call to confirm or check website**

**See Many Toy Trains Running on Our Huge Layout**  
... Minor Train Repairs ...

**OPEN HOUSE DONATION: \$2.00**

Veterans get in **FREE** – Scouts in uniform get parents in **FREE**  
Children 12 and under are **FREE** with an adult



Visit our Web Site  
[www.milw-lrrc.org](http://www.milw-lrrc.org)

Like & Follow us on  
**FACEBOOK**



*(turn over for Club Hours)*



# Toy Train Sale and Show

*(See below for more information)*

**All Gauges & All Scales**

## SUNDAY DATES

<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2027</u>
October 19	January 18	October 18	January 17	October 17
November 16	February 15	November 22	February 28	November 21
December 21	March 15	December 20	March 21	December 19

**BUY • SELL • TRADE**  
**NEW • USED • PARTS**

**Sale: New Berlin Entertainment Center**  
**8:00 am to 12:00 noon ADMISSION: \$4.00**

**16000 West Cleveland Avenue • New Berlin, Wisconsin**  
*(Enter on east side of building)*

**Kids 12 and under: FREE with Adult**

**For More Information or Table Reservations**

Robert Sobolik  
(414) 483-5886

RobertDSobolik@netzero.com



**TRAIN SHOW:** at Club will be open by 10:00 am  
2721 S. Calhoun Rd (in back of building) Donations Accepted

Visit our Web Site  
[www.milw-lrrc.org](http://www.milw-lrrc.org)

Like & Follow us on  
**FACEBOOK** 



MODEL RAILROAD  
TRAIN SHOW



# SWAP MEETS

at the

## KENOSHA UNION CLUB

3030 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kenosha, WI

Easy access from I-94 See map on back

### Show Dates

October 12, 2025

November 09, 2025

December 07, 2025

January 4, 2026

February 08, 2026

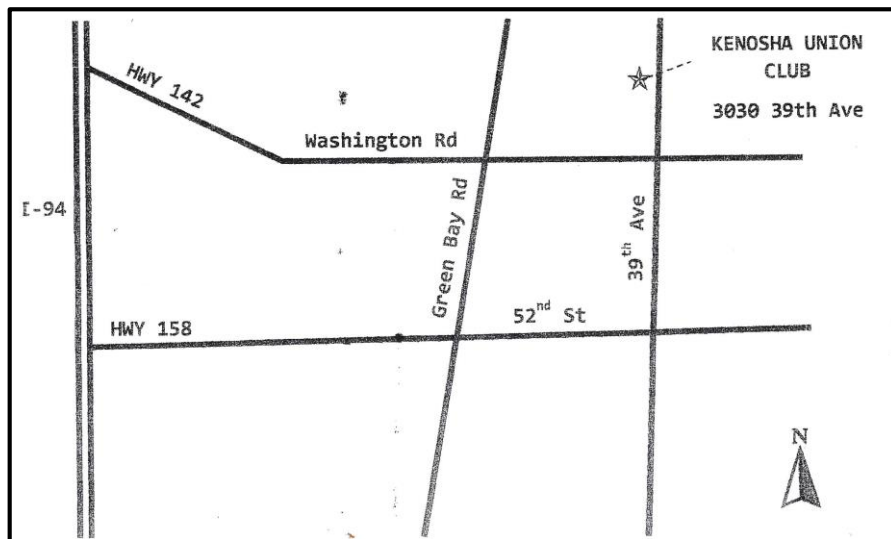
March 08, 2026

**Show Hours - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Admission: \$5.00**

Women and children 12 & under FREE

More information? Call 262-331-0392





# OPEN HOUSE

**January 24th-25th (& Swap Meet)**

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

**March 7**

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

**May 2**

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

**August 1**

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

**October 3**

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

**741 NORTH GRAND AVENUE  
WAUKESHA, WI 53186**

**FIND US AT:**

**WWW.WCGDRAILROAD.COM**

**CONTACT US:**

**WCGDRAILROAD@GMAIL.COM**

# ROCK RIVER VALLEY TRAIN SHOW



DOOR PRIZES

OVER ONE ACRE  
OF FAMILY FUN

NEW & USED SALES  
OPERATING LAYOUTS



ONLY \$5.00 CASH

KIDS FREE

FREE PARKING

March 21 & 22, 2026

Sat 10-5 Sun 10-3

Harlem High School

9229 N. Alpine Rd.

Machesney Park, IL

Rrvd-nmra.com

facebook.com/TheRRVDNMRA

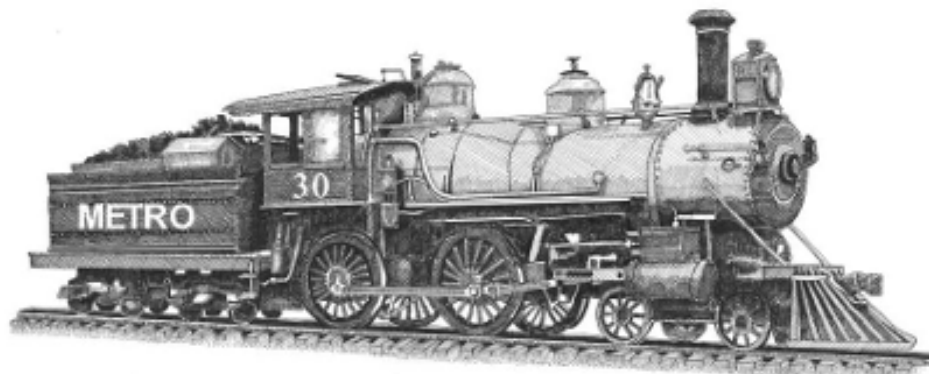
## A Word about Constant Contact e-mail

Each Constant Contact e-mail includes links to update or unsubscribe your e-mail address. **Please do not use these links.** If you unsubscribe using the Constant Contact link, your e-mail address will be removed from the NMRA membership database, from the Midwest Region e-mail database and probably from your Division's records. If you get an e-mail that you don't want, just hit the delete key. Furthermore, if you use the update link, your change may not be timely posted to the NMRA membership database.

**If you need to change your email address with the NMRA please follow these directions:**

The direct way is to log on to the "Members" page of the NMRA website, choose the "View your NMRA membership" box on the right side of the screen, scroll down to the bottom of the page and select "Update". Enter the new email address in the appropriate box and click "Submit".

# THE ORIGINAL 30<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MODEL RAILROAD SHOW



## APRIL 12th, 2026

**Expo Center Ozaukee Fairgrounds  
W67N866 Washington Ave, Cedarburg, WI**

**9am - 4pm**

- MULTIPLE OPERATING LAYOUTS
- MODEL TRAIN SWAP MEET 90+ TABLES
- FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
- FREE PARKING

**SPONSORED BY THE  
METRO MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, LTD. OF  
PORT WASHINGTON, WI**



**DIRECTIONS: I-43 TO HWY 60, WEST ON 60  
FOR 5 MILES, SOUTH ON WASHINGTON 1.2  
MILES, EAST ON CAMBRIDGE TO PARK**

**ADMISSION: ADULTS: \$5.00  
CHILDREN: 12 & UNDER FREE**

**MORE INFO: <http://www.metrorrclub.org>  
e-mail: [jimbartelt@gmail.com](mailto:jimbartelt@gmail.com)  
or call: James Bartelt at (262)-284-5876**



# Display Case

Available from a WISE member's estate

**6 Shelves / 2 Doors**

**49"W x 35"H x 5"D**



**Also Available: 4 LED Shop Lights (4')**



**Interested?**

Contact WISE Division for more information

[wisenmra@gmail.com](mailto:wisenmra@gmail.com)

# 2026 WISE DIVISION BOARD ELECTION

Note: All Ballots **Must Be Mailed or Scanned/Photographed and Emailed** to:

Dave Nelson  
ATTN: WISE Division Election Committee  
1506 East Fox Lane  
Fox Point, WI 53217  
[engine1385@aol.com](mailto:engine1385@aol.com)

All ballots must be **scanned/photographed and emailed by April 15, or postmarked by April 10, received by April 15** and include **your NMRA #** for verification. Vote for no more than One candidate for the Board of Directors.

Note: **The NMRA does not allow FAMILY MEMBERS to vote, nor does the Midwest Region.**

Article IV, Membership and Dues, of the NMRA Regulations includes the following provision in Section 2: "B. Each member in the above classes, including Honorary Life Member, shall have the right to:" "4. Except for Family Members; and Sustaining and Corporate Members other than individuals, the right to vote and run for an elective office in any Region or Division of which the member is a resident member, subject to any qualification and conditions.

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

NMRA # \_\_\_\_\_ **(required)**

**VOTE for no more than ONE Board of Director candidate**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Tim Koch:** Candidate for WISE Division Board of Directors

\_\_\_\_\_ Write In Candidate for Board of Directors (must be an NMRA Member):

Fold here

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Dave Nelson  
Attn: WISE Division Election Committee  
1506 East Fox Lane  
Fox Point, WI 53217

---

Fold here