

Waybill

Winter 2001

Mid West Region NMRA



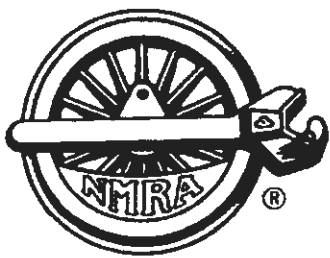
CONVENTIONS

Wrap up... 21st Century Unlimited

*Preview... Rockford Route
Two Thousand Too...t*

**Director at Large
Election**





Waybill

Winter 2001/2002

Mid West Region NMRA

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Waybill



Winter 2001

Mid West Region NMRA

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Return to the KB&S

The article in the last issue of the *Waybill* has generated some unexpected interest. Richard Cecil provided some additional information. The Kankakee, Beaverville & Southern 308 is an ex-Green Bay & Western with new Milwaukee filters. The "southbound" plow is an ex-Toledo, Peoria & Western and looks just as it did when last seen in East Peoria almost 10 years ago. It is an ex-RS11, 402, rebuild in 1979.

I have been contacted by the KB&S. They had heard about the article and wanted to obtain a few copies. After

receiving the copies, they contacted me again and asked if it was possible to have a more in-depth article prepared. We discussed the proposal and I agreed to visit the railroad in the spring to gain more information on the equipment roster, history, track plan, topography and management. Their willingness to have an added article makes this something to look forward to working on. Now I have something to fill out the my spring, rather than working on my railroad for another year. I thought that stepping down from running the Region would give me time to work on it.

Editorial by Jim O'Toole

After the recent atrocities in New York and Washington, I don't feel that we need to further review the situation other than our most heartfelt concerns and prayers to everyone affected by those senseless acts. Enough said.

The *Waybill* editorial for this issue was planned around the new program "WORLD'S GREATEST HOBBY", started by *Model Railroader* magazine, to promote this hobby. I feel that it is still the appropriate topic, possibly even more so since September 11.

We are involved in what is the greatest and probably the most satisfying hobby. The elements of model railroading far exceed anything any other hobby has to offer. By no means

am I putting down any other hobby field, but what else offers the wide range of interests available with model railroading?

We enjoy the widest range of interests of any hobby interest. We have historical research, applied civil engineering, architectural design and construction, woodworking, cabinet making, electronics, landscape design, art, sculpture, color analysis, lighting design, etc.

An incidental to all of this, is the amount of historical documentation that is uncovered. It is now being recognized that model railroaders are generating tremendous research into industrial and railroad history and actually creating usable archives that would be lost forever.

President's Report

by Richard Cecil, President MWR

As I write this, it has been a little over six months since I took office as your president. I would like to thank those of you who placed your trust in my leadership. I look forward to leading the Region into the 21st century and sincerely hope that I can continue the good work of our past president, Jim O'Toole.

As I said at the Spring Convention, Jim was successful in stopping the hemorrhaging of the Region. It was apparent that it could not have sustained itself on the profits of conventions alone. Fortunately the Region Board realized that was the case when it instituted dues. We correctly grasped the point that "there is no such thing as a free lunch." I know that some critics continue to bemoan that fact. I

would hasten to add, that in some cases that criticism seems to validate our decision.

The Region Board is now embarking upon the next step. We are in the process of updating the dues mission statement and developing an implementation program to further strengthen the Region. To make it perfectly clear, we are not going away. To those that continue to take cheap shots at the Region and the NMRA in general, I would suggest that you take former President Truman's advice and "get out of the kitchen."

On a more pleasant note, I wish to take this opportunity to wish all of you a joyous holiday season. God Bless America.

Trustee Report

by Dave Liesse

RULE 230

Modeling season is upon us, and things seem to be happening everywhere except in my own basement. I have a good collection of cobwebs, dead crickets (at least they're not upstairs eating the carpets!), and lint that is somehow leaking from the dryer exhaust hose. At least I'm making good progress meddling with the dispatching system for one of the layouts I routinely operate! I hope you're all having a good time with our hobby, whatever your particular interests may be.

Right now, there is not a lot to report from the national level. Our new treasurer, George Schmidt, found it necessary to resign after only two months on the job; as so often happens, as soon as he took on a major volunteer role his real-life work load increased commensurately. Former Treasurer Tom Draper has agreed to resume that role on an interim basis, until a new treasurer can be found. If any of you think you are interested, get in touch with President Allen Pollock to discuss the possibilities. Tom recently retired in real life, but would love to be able to devote his energies to the National Train Show, of which he is the director.

As part of the cost review process, President Pollock has appointed a committee to study the library and its usefulness to the hobby in general. Those of us who use it, of course, have a strong bias in its favor, while there are others who believe it's a black hole for funding. The truth is undoubtedly somewhere between the two extremes, and that's what this committee is charged with finding out. The committee consists of the library director, Gordon Belt; one trustee — who happens to be the chair of the Library Advisory Committee, *yours truly*; and representatives from the publishing and manufacturing industries. We haven't set a meeting time, yet, but I'll keep you informed of our progress as I have the opportunity. In other cost-cutting measures related to the library, preliminary — and I stress *preliminary* — indications are that we are seeing significant savings with our changes to the environmental controls. Enough data aren't in yet for a valid comparison to last year, but we're encouraged by what we can see so far.

On the local level, I'd like to thank Bill Myers for stepping up to the AP manager position. Bill is tackling his new role with vigor and has already processed several applications for certificates. He introduces himself and talks about the program elsewhere in this issue.

Finally, I'd like to call your attention to an effort that has been under way within the region for several years, and is finally coming to fruition. To control our own costs even better than we've done, we are trying to get the Mid West Region certified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) Educational Organization. The immediate benefit to the Region is reduced postage costs. Gaining 501(c)(3) status will also allow individuals to make donations to the region that may be tax-deductible (depending on their personal tax circumstances). Before filing our application, though, we want to have our controlling documents in order.

One of the big things the IRS looks for is that the organization is established exclusively for educational, charitable, or scientific purposes. In reality, that's what we do, but that's not the way our purpose is stated in either our Constitution or our Articles of Incorporation, the document filed with the State of Illinois that establishes us as a not-for-profit corporation. Amendments to both these documents must be approved by vote of the membership.

Amendments to the Constitution are driven by procedures in the Constitution itself. They must be included in the annual ballot, which you'll find elsewhere in this publication. The Articles of Incorporation must be voted on in accordance with Illinois law, which in this case means at a meeting of the membership (there are other possible methods, but they are impractical for our organization). Both documents must be amended before we can even think about filing with the IRS for the status change, and I strongly urge you to return your ballot with a vote of approval for the Constitutional Amendment. I realize you can't all be at the convention in the Spring, but for those who can I strongly recommend a vote there in favor of amending the Articles of Incorporation, as well.

Finally, I hope you all had, a great holiday season, whatever your personal persuasion may be.

Rockford Route- Two Thousand Too t

CLOCK TOWER RESORT, ROCKFORD, IL
APRIL 26, 27 & 28, 2002

WELCOME TO TWO THOUSAND TOO... t

The members of the Rock River Valley Division are proud to host the 2002 Midwest Region Spring Convention. This year, the convention will be held at the Clock Tower Resort and Convention Center, located off Interstate 90 at Business US 20 (State Street) in Rockford, Illinois. The Clock Tower is only 60 minutes from O'Hare Airport. The Clock Tower has several restaurants and lounges for your enjoyment, and a game room and indoor pool for the kids. A complete fitness center is also available to guests. Each room is equipped with a large color TV with VCR, so you can watch those railroad videos you haven't had time for at home.

The Clock Tower Resort has reserved a block of rooms and is offering a special convention room rate of \$79. (This is only \$3 more than our 1994 convention!). Reservations can be made by calling the Clock Tower at (815) 398-6000, or by mail at PO Box 5285, Rockford, IL 61125.

CLINICS

We have lined up some very fine clinics this year. Our clinics will all be provided by veteran National Convention clinicians, including Dean Freytag, Tom Persoon, and Lloyd Larson. Several clinics will be offered twice. As we go to press, the following clinics have been scheduled:

Dean Freytag	<i>Davies Steel</i>
Tom Persoon	<i>Open Loads</i>
Lloyd Larson	<i>From The Tracks Back</i>

FRIDAY NIGHT OPERATING SESSIONS

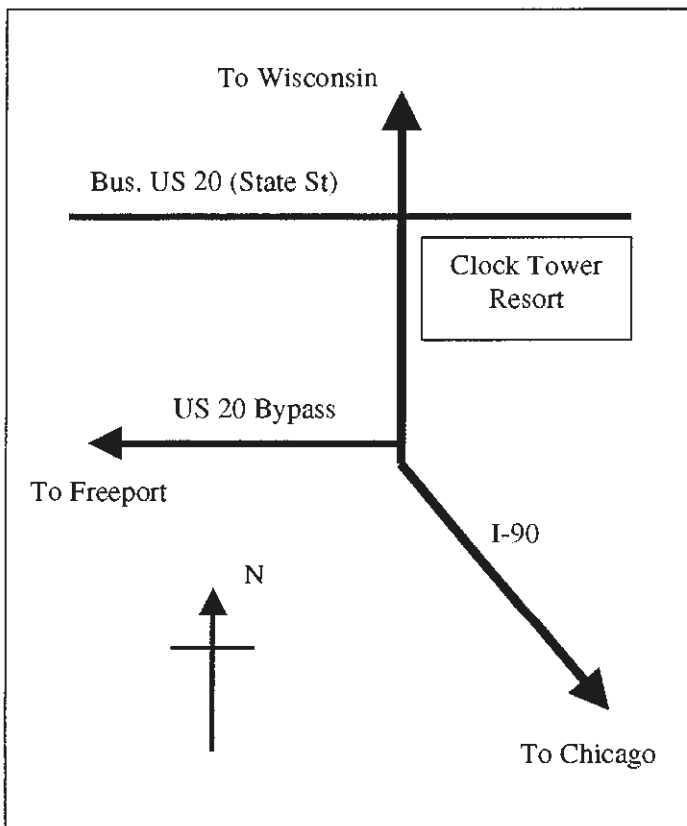
There will be four layouts open for Friday night operating sessions:

1. *CGW*, 1960's, 5 operators, Digitrax
2. *C&NW*; Sterling Division, 1950-60's, 9 operators; Digitrax
3. *WM&A*, Free-Lanced Midwest; 1919 steam; dispatcher; working lift & swing bridges; 10% sceniced; 12 operators
4. *Missabe Road*, Diesel, 1960's, 5 operators, Digitrax

The operating sessions will be limited to the first 31 operators who register. Indicate your layout preference and the Registrar will make every attempt to get you to the one you want. A waiting list will be established for registrants who don't make the cut.

LAYOUT TOURS

We have layout tours planned for Friday night, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday afternoon. There will be 20-25 layouts open for your enjoyment as we go to press. About half are fully sceniced. Most layouts are diesel; some are steam.



AUCTION AND BANQUET

This year we are planning an evening of super entertainment. Mr. Randy Garnhart will present a dual-slide with music show, followed by the Awards presentations and the annual auction. In keeping with past RRVD-sponsored conventions, we will again include our region-famous Private Roadname Car auction. Don't forget to bring your own overstocked items for consignment.

NON-RAIL ACTIVITIES

Saturday morning we will provide a tour of the Tinker Swiss Cottage, a stunning 20-room Swiss cottage that Robert H. Tinker built on a limestone bluff in 1865. Tinker, a prominent Rockford industrialist, philanthropist and artist, incorporated stone and wood to create flowing caves, beautiful woodwork and painted murals that he saw while travelling through Switzerland, The Netherlands, and other countries. The Tinker Library alone, with its unique octagonal shape and walnut spiral staircase, was built with seven kinds of wood and remains a free example of Tinker's personal vision.

In the afternoon we will tour the Midway Village and Museum Center. Explore the Past in the Museum Center featuring four galleries: Industrial Gallery housing 30 exhibits highlighting Rockford's major industries; Aviation Gallery, the permanent home of the 1928 Greater Rockford Aircraft, Swedish Singers/Rockford Peaches (made famous in the movie *A League of Their Own*) and Exhibition Gallery, interpreting the early history of the Northern Illinois area and national traveling exhibitions. Discover a world of miniatures in the Old Dolls' House Museum where the cultures of countries around the world are represented in miniature homes. Visit the Millhouse located on Lake Severin featuring an exhibition, video presentation and functioning waterwheel. Experience life at the turn-of-the-twentieth century as you stroll through picturesque Midway Village featuring 24 historic structures including a hardware store, general store, print shop, blacksmith shop, one-room school house, fire station, police station, hospital, bank, carpenter shop, law office and homes. This tour is free for Full-Fare conventioners. Lunch will be on you.

MODEL/PHOTO CONTEST

Models will be judged in the Master and Novice classes. The *Master Class* is for those modelers who have won a 1st Place in the category at the regional level. The *Novice Class* is for those who have not won a 1st place yet. The following categories will be judged: steam locomotives, diesel locomotives, traction, passenger cars, freight cars, cabooses, on-line structures, off-line structures, on-line displays and off-line displays.

The photo contest will include Model and Prototype in Black and White, Color Slide, and Color Print. And don't forget the *Bob Moskal Memorial Award* for models and the *Mick Grimsby Award* for best all-around N-scale model.

ILLINOIS RAILWAY MUSEUM TOURS

The Illinois Railway Museum (IRM) has been gracious enough to provide tours of the museum to registered Conventioneers on Sunday afternoon. A guided tour of the Passenger, Steam, Diesel, Electric, Track/Signal, and Electric Bus departments will be provided. If you would be interested in attending this tour, please check the box on the registration form so IRM can better plan to accommodate us. Transportation to the Museum is on your own. The Museum may charge an entrance fee.

HOSPITALITY ROOM

The Rockford Club Car will be open Friday night, providing snacks, soda and coffee. Stop by and visit with old friends and make new ones.

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Friday, April 26, 2002

- 4 pm - 10 pm Registration
- 7 pm - 10 pm Clinics
- 7 pm - 11 pm Operating Sessions
- 6 pm - 11 pm Hospitality Suite
- 6 pm - 9 pm Layout Tours
- 7 pm - 9 pm Contest Entry (Model)
- 8 pm - 10 pm Auction Entry

Saturday, April 27, 2002

- 8 am - 12 pm Registration
- 8 am - 3 pm Clinics
- 8 am - 10 am Contest Entry
- 8 am - 10 am Auction Entry
- 10 am - 4 pm Non-Rail Tour
- 1 pm - 5 pm Layout Tours
- 5 pm - 6 pm Attitude Adjustment
- 6 pm - 9 pm Banquet
- 9 pm - ??? Auction

Sunday, April 28, 2002

- 9 am - 11 am MWR Board Mtg
- 10 am - 5 pm Layout Tours
- 1 pm - 4 pm IRM Tour

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation of Registration will only be mailed to those individuals whose registration materials are delivered to the Registrar by April 19, 2002.

OUR Rock Island Box Car



When you come out to Rockford, Illinois, for *Rockford Route Two Thousand Too...t*, why not visit Illinois Railway Museum and visit *OUR* Rock Island box car?

Some years ago, members of the Rock River Valley Division discovered Rock Island 264070 sitting abandoned in Rockford. The car was a single-sheathed (outside-braced), double-door, end-doors-equipped, composite (wood and steel), automobile box car. Although it looked very tired, the car was still sound, and a good prospect for preservation.

RRVD arranged the purchase and donation of the car to the Illinois Railway Museum, and members of the division helped in parts of the restoration.

In these photos, members of the IRM Freight Car Department are putting the finishing touches on RI 264070. Bob Kutella, Curator of the Freight Car Department, is hand-painting the lettering—a task no easier in full scale than it is in HO scale.



Tri-Region Convention Wrap-Up



FT. WAYNE TRI-REGIONAL CONVENTION

The weekend of October 26-28, 2001, was the first Tri-Regional Convention for the NCR/MWR/MCR Regions. This was hosted by the Fort Wayne Division, and for a Division that didn't exist until a few years ago, they did a fantastic job putting this convention together. Activities started Thursday evening with operating sessions.

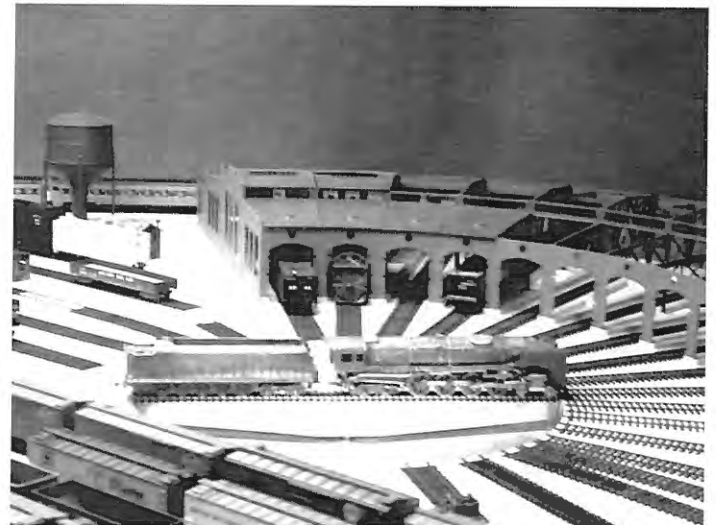
Friday morning had prototype tours of the SDI mini-steel mill or the NS Dispatch Center, and the afternoon had tours of the GM Truck Plant, or a second chance at the NS Dispatch Center. The Steel Mill Tour had an added surprise when the rolling mill had a strip of steel go wild and loop all over. Of course, everyone was quickly moved to safety, with no injuries. This does make a tour get interesting real quick. Friday evening had an open session of "show your favorite slides." This is something new for us in the MRW. It may be an idea for our own future conventions.

The Saturday morning clinics were well worth the

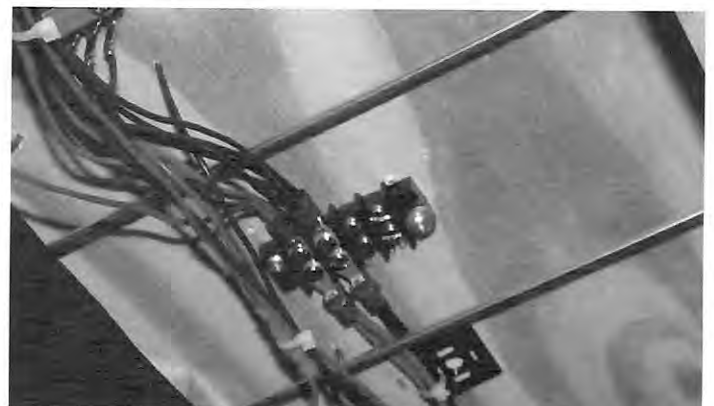
convention itself. Tony Koester, Dave Frary, Bruce Chubb, Ron King, Don Daily, Jim Foster, Guy Quick, Dave Wentworth, Janet Chubb and Gary Children, Dick Cecil, Mike Hurlburt, Andy Hauser, John Drozdak from the MWR provided an excellent clinic program.

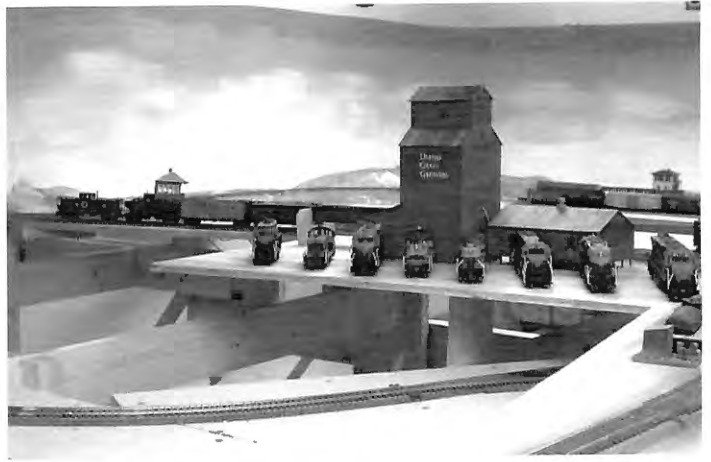
The home layout tours were the highlight of the entire weekend. We saw some of the most interesting home layouts, not seen before. Believe me, these were really worth seeing. Some of the layouts were works of electronic genius, unique applications of switch machine electrical/mechanical designs, and an N scale layout in an upstairs bedroom that was a masterpiece of detail and quality. This is a layout that should be featured in *Model Railroader*.

The convention was honored by the attendance of Allen Pollack, the NMRA National President, and John Roberts, the national vice president. Allen and John are getting out and around to meet many of the Regions and members, and it was a pleasure to see them visit ours.

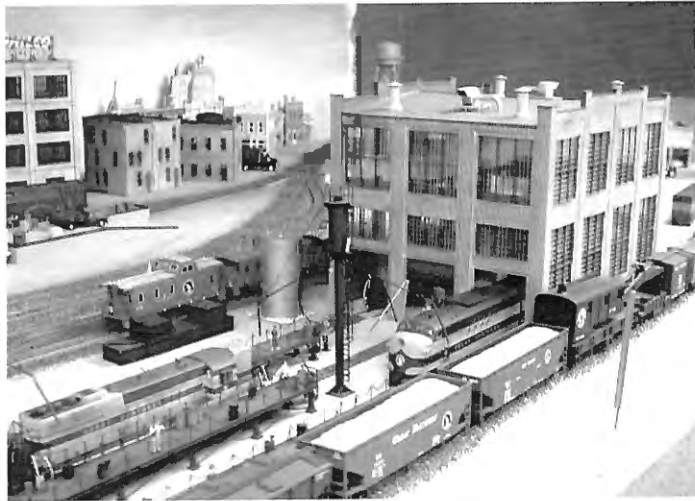


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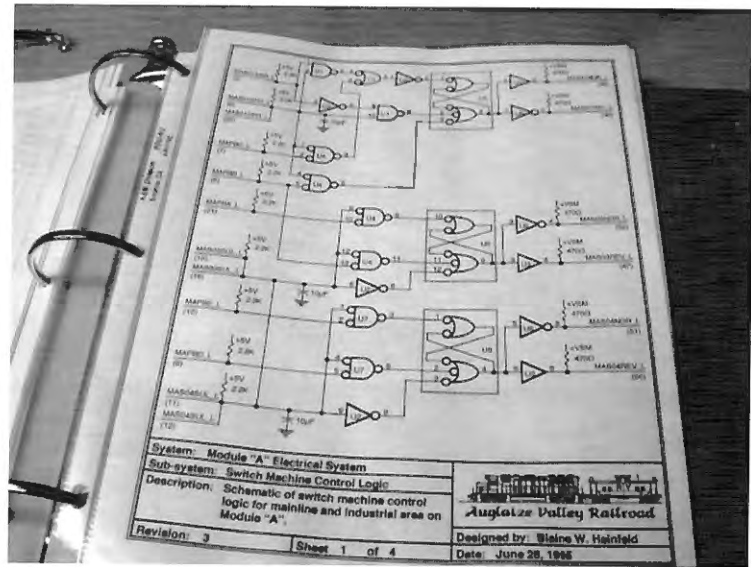


This page - Mark Wilson's Layout





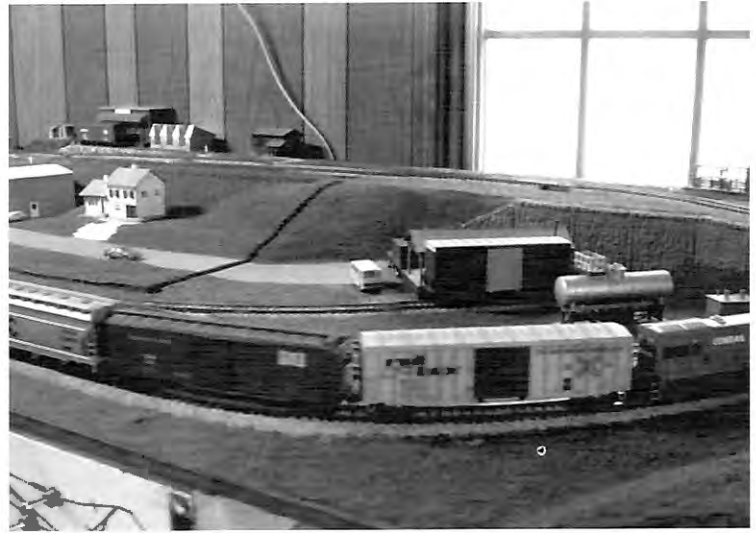
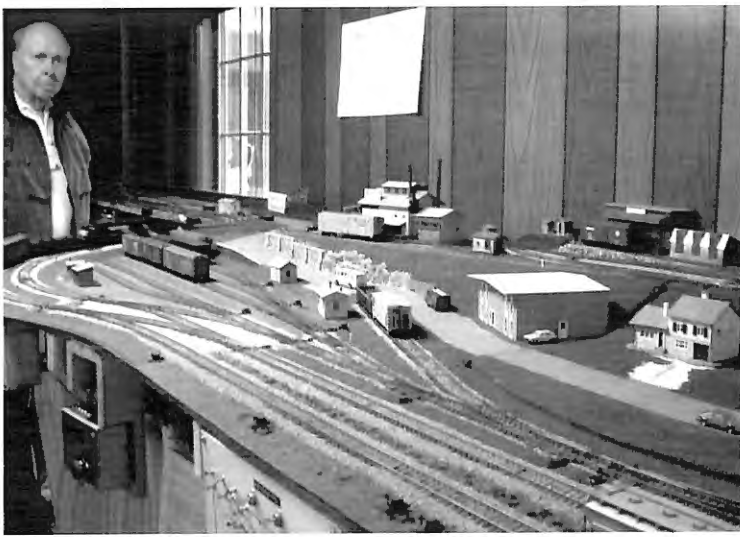
Above - *Jim Ahrens Layout*



Above - *Blaine Heinfeld's Layout*

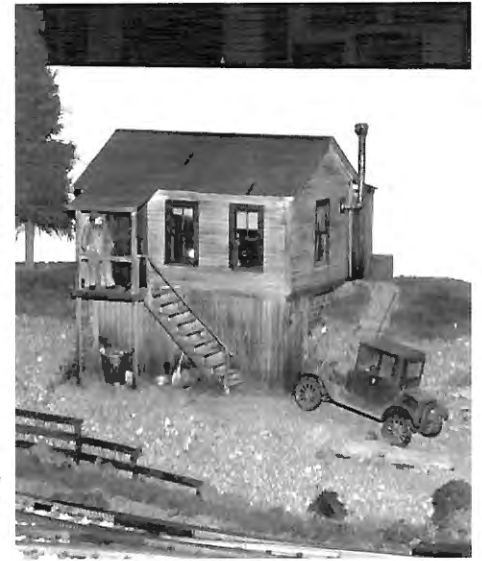
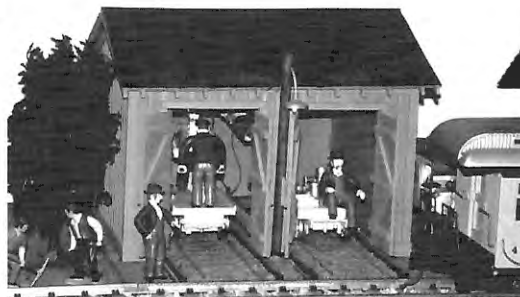


Above - *Mel Wise's Layout*



Above - Gary Evans' Layout

And a few others....



One of the highlights of any convention or meet is the ability to visit some outstanding model railroad layouts, and the 21st Century Unlimited was no exception. Because this was a tri-region convention, some members got a chance to see layouts that they wouldn't otherwise see. In our own region, we often return to a division that has hosted previ-

ous MWR meets, usually a number of years later, and this gives us a chance to see the progress on layouts on repeat visits. For the layout owner, being open for convention visits is often the spur necessary to finish a certain project or just spruce things up in general. In short, a convention is a win-win situation for everybody in attendance.

Amendment for Articles of Incorporation

At the general meeting of the membership of the Mid West Region, scheduled for the Spring Convention in Rockford, Illinois, April 27, 2002, announced elsewhere in this publication, a vote will be taken to amend the Articles of Incorporation as filed with the State of Illinois. The current wording, and the proposed replacement, are given here. Please review and be prepared to cast your vote at the general meeting.

CURRENT:

5. The purpose or purposes for which the corporation is organized, are:
- To promote model railroading in the Midwest.
 - To hold regional conventions and clinics.
 - To distribute a regional bulletin.
 - To sponsor model railroad model contests.
 - To establish a closer relation between the Mid West Region and the National Model Railroad Association.

REPLACE WITH:

5. The purpose or purposes for which the corporation is organized, are:
- To promote, stimulate, foster, and encourage by all manner and means the art and craft of model railroading and the preservation of the history, science, and technology thereof. This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, literary, and scientific purposes consistent therewith and within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

CONSTITUTION CHANGE REQUESTED (ON ENCLOSED BALLET)

The BOD is requesting a change in the wording of the MWR Constitution to bring it more current with new laws and requirements for the 501c3 application. Please review and mark your decision on the attached ballot.

Shall Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Mid West Region be amended as indicated?

Shall Article XII of the Constitution of the Mid West Region be added as indicated?

CURRENT TEXT:

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

- Sec. 1. The purposes of the MWR of the NMRA are as follows:
- A. To promote model railroading in the Mid West Region;
 - B. To hold regional conventions-meets of the membership;
 - C. To distribute a regional publication;
 - D. To sponsor model railroad contests;
 - E. To establish a close relationship between the MWR and the NMRA;
 - F. To encourage and support activities of the divisions located within the Mid West Region;
 - G. To promote fellowship among all model railroaders;
 - H. To implement the purposes of the parent organization (NMRA) as defined in its Constitution.

REPLACE WITH:

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

- Sec. 1. The purpose of the Mid West Region of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc., as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, is to promote, stimulate, foster, and encourage by all manner and means the art and craft of model railroading and the preservation of the history, science, and technology thereof. This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, literary, and scientific purposes consistent therewith and within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ADD:

ARTICLE XII - DISSOLUTION

- Sec. 1. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as the Board of Directors shall determine.

Ballot For Director At Large

The back cover of this issue of the *Waybill* is the Spring Ballot for 2002. This year there are four Director at Large positions open. Fortunately, there are four candidates running for these four positions. Please fill out your ballot and return to Linda Kloster by March 30, 2002.

THE NOMINEES ARE:

Bob Guinter, Rock River Valley Division
Mike Hurlburt, Wise Division
Al Nelson, WinnebagoLand Division
Ron Scharping, DuPage Division

There is always opportunity for a write-in candidate, as indicated on the ballot. There is also the Constitutional question to be voted on.

Candidate Biographies

BOB GUINTER

I am a member of the Rock River Valley Division, Life Member of the Mid West Region, Life Member of the NMRA, and joined the NMRA in 1949. I have attended 21 National Conventions and have given clinics at two of them. Built one of two Commemorative 25th Anniversary cars from the Mid West Region to be shown at the *25th Anniversary National Convention* in Chicago in 1960; also served as a contest judge at that convention. Served as MWR Photo Contest Chairperson from 1965 to 1970. Received Associate Volunteer Award in 1971. Have done numerous clinics at both Division and Region levels. Served as Rock River Valley Division Paymaster from 1983 to 1998. Handled registrations and floor plan layout for the *RRVD Annual Train Show and Sale* from 1993 to 2000. Served as MWR Boy Scout Merit Badge Program Chairperson from 1994 to 2001.

Many people often ask "What has the NMRA done for me?" To me you have to put something in to get something out, sort of like a bank account. In addition to all of the technical assistance and interchange standards, the NMRA has provided me with a circle of friends from all over the world that I value greatly. I am convinced that we have a vital and valid organization, but we have one very obvious deficiency. We need to find a way to draw young people into our organization, as that is the only hope for the future.

MIKE HURLBURT

I have been very involved with the NMRA for many years. I have been the Convention Chairperson for the MWR for over eight years and have served as MWR Vice President. In past years I have been very active with the North Shore and Western Division while I lived there and since retiring have been concentrating on building a large N scale empire.

The NMRA needs to have active people willing to put a little effort and I have found that a little effort is returned

times over. I have had great experiences at the many conventions I have attended and provided clinics at. I have gained many friendships both within the Region and in the entire NMRA. I would like to continue to provide my assistance to the Region and reinforce the new growth we have achieved. There is a long way to go but we will make it.

AL NELSON

I have been the National Boy Scout Coordinator for the NMRA for many years and have seen the resurgence of the Railroad Merit Badge program gain in popularity. At one time the Merit Badge program was about to be eliminated due to lack of interest, but the program has been established and is expected to continue to grow.

I have been active within the MWR management for a few years now and have been a Director at Large for 1 term. I would like to continue to assist the region management to continue to rebuild the Region. We have the road map and now need to follow it.

RON SCHARPING

I have been the MWR Membership Chairperson for eight years and have watched the direction of the Region as we went from being dues free and broke to now having a dues program and financially stable. This does not mean that we are rich but with the original projections that were made, were made based on only having 1,000 MWR of the 2,600 NMRA members dues paying members as part of the dues paying MWR. The tremendous response to joining the MWR has encouraged the direction the Region is taking. The new Region officers have indicated an desire to continue the direction set by the previous administration and I would like to do what I can to help. I have been active in the DuPage division and have enjoyed what this hobby has given me. I would like to give back and reap the benefits the NMRA has to offer.

New Dues Payment Program Announced...

Proposed Alternate Payment Plan

An alternate method of payment for National dues and Region is being proposed for dues paid through the NMRA Headquarters has been instituted. The proposed plan is anticipated to allow you to receive your renewal notice from the NMRA Headquarters, and you will notice that there will be two (2) small boxes for you to check. They are titled **Quarterly** and **Semi-Annually**.

What this means is, if you decide to pay your dues by credit card, you may elect to have them deducted from your account either twice a year or four times a year. This is to make the due's payment easier for those members who feel that the amount is too large to charge at one time.

1. Your card must be valid for the time period that

these dues are to be deducted.

2. If you include your Region dues, on the charge, they will be deducted with the first instalment.
3. There is an additional one time annual charge of \$5.00 to cover the fees charged to the NMRA, each time your account is charged.
4. This type of payment method may only be used when you elect to pay your dues with a credit card.

This program is being reviewed at the NMRA Headquarters and hopefully will be adopted.

If you should have further questions regarding the dues payment program, please call the NMRA Headquarters for specific information on your account.

Re-Railed and On The Main

by Bill Myers, MWR Achievement Program Chairperson

Although the NMRA Achievement Program has had some track and roadbed problems for the last few months, repairs have been made and the program is proceeding full speed ahead. The report from the head office shows that freight is moving again on this branch line as three Golden Spike Awards and five Certificates of Achievement were approved in October. At this time several more are in process.

I am eagerly awaiting input from the division AP Managers or Division Superintendents. Let's recognize those many layouts out there that are very worthy of the **Golden Spike Award**. If the layouts have been good enough for Layout Tours, then they qualify for the Golden Spike.

A good place to start things rolling again is for Supers to initiate action to properly recognize their officers and volunteers with Association Volunteer Certificates. These can be initiated by someone other than the person to be recognized.

For most members, if you have a layout that is anything that is much more than an oval, perhaps you are ready for, or can complete quickly, the **Engineer - Electrical Certificate**. It is easy, believe me. I have it. I earned mine with about eight hours work after attending a clinic given by one of our division members.

I am sure there are lots of other members in the Mid West Region who readily qualify in many other categories. You just need to do a little paperwork, or maybe get some judging done on your layout. Let me know. We can arrange to get anything accomplished that is needed.

I would ask just a couple of things of those submitting applications which are being sent to me for approval and forwarding. First, be sure that any place that requires a member's name, also enter the person's current membership number and expiration date. Second, keep a copy of all backup material in your file until the application is approved and the Certificate is received. The only thing I really need to receive in two copies is the **Statement of Qualification**.

Forms are easily obtainable from the NMRA Home Page on the Internet [www.nmra.org] and I recommend you download them from there. That is where I get them. However, if you can't find the forms, or the requirements for a certificate, let me know. I will send them.

I intend, and will almost always be able to review and forward all applications I receive within the week that I receive them, unless for some reason they must be returned for correction. At the present, it appears that they will be reviewed at the top within two weeks at the most. We intend to speed this train up. So, climb aboard.

I have volunteered for this job to serve the organization, and the organization is you. Help me do that by participating now. By the way, I already have my **Association Volunteer Award**.

Bill Myers, MWR Achievement Program Manager
5908 E. 169th Street
Noblesville, Indiana 46060-6921
(317) 773-7159
E-mail bmyers31@aol.com

World's Greatest Hobby

"THE WORLD'S GREATEST HOBBY" is being supported by many industry organizations including MRIA, Kalmbach Publishing, Atlas, Marklin USA, and many other hobby manufacturers.

All of this is directed at promoting model railroading. How does this affect us?

We are model railroaders. What are we doing to spread the word? How are we explaining what the hobby is all about? Are we bringing new people to the hobby? Do you hide your layout from non-railroading friends?

We need to do much more too "advertise" the idea of model railroading. This can be as simple as talking about modeling to our friends, associates, acquaintances, and other non-hobby contacts. I've had many friends who thought I "played with trains" but after explaining what I'm doing, and what's involved, they appreciated the hobby as something more than playing with trains.

If you can give talks about model railroading to any local groups, such as civic clubs, library seminars, youth groups, or any group of people interested in having a program presented. Most of these groups are looking for someone to give them a talk.

You don't have to describe how to build a complete model railroad, or how to scratchbuild a turnout. Just explain what the hobby involves in general. *Model Railroader* magazine will offer plenty of promotional materials to help.

What better way to promote the hobby. What better people to promote model railroading than those active in it. You don't need to be a public speaker, just someone willing to talk about it. You won't believe how simple it is to talk about something you know about to people who don't know. You are literally the expert. They want to learn from you. If you allow a question period, you will actually enjoy this more than the audience.

If this is something you might enjoy or want to try, contact *Model Railroader* magazine at (877) 426-5082 or send E-mail to www.greatesthobby.com, the campaign's new web site, and become an "Ambassador" for "THE WORLD'S GREATEST HOBBY." Even if you are afraid to give the talk, contact them anyway. There are many other activities you can get involved with. They might even have a speaker available for your group. It all comes down to just "GET INVOLVED."

Al Armitage Passes

September 21, 2001, Al Armitage passed away at age 88, and left the hobby of modelling with his legacy. Many of us did not meet or know Al first hand, and some of you may have been fortunate to have had that pleasure, but all of us have been touched by his foresight and "gift" to the hobby because of his promotion of styrene plastic for the many applications of this material.

Back when most of us were trying to work with wood (and many not succeeding), Al was extolling the many virtues of styrene. The early modelling projects that appeared in the hobby press so overwhelmed us, that we didn't get the message for a long time. We still can look at these accomplishments with wonderment. It probably wasn't until he worked his miracles at Revell, then Kemtron, and when Evergreen began producing excellent

strip stock, that modelling with styrene became a more common and popular material to use. Many became familiar with styrene using the Revell railroad structure kits to begin with, and then learned how to kitbash these kits into something more suitable to our own railroad needs and character.

Over the last few years, Mainline Modeler has had many articles by Al relating to his modelling background and concepts. The December 2001 issue of *Mainline Modeler* has a "Mainline Commentary" and an article about Al showing the expanse of his skills in modelling, and not limited to just to railroad models.

Thank you Al for all you have given us, and the many skills you have challenged us with. Our best wishes to your family.

President's Award Given At Ft. Wayne...

Jack Pettee Honored

Jack Pettee was honored at the *Fort Wayne Tri-Regional Convention* by Allen Pollack, NMRA National President, with the President's Award. Allen presented the award during the banquet Saturday night. The President's Award is awarded by an NMRA president based on his evaluation of a member's contribution to the NMRA

Jack has been very active as MWR Trustee, and has served on various National Committees, including the Long Range Planning Committee and the Internet Committee, among many others. Jack's services have extended over many years at both Regional and National levels.

Jack's two terms as MWR Trustee has helped the refocus of the Region as a necessary and effective liaison with the National Office. Jack had recently run for NMRA Vice President in opposition to John Roberts, the current vice president. Until a health problem caused him to step down as MWR Trustee, Jack had anticipated maintaining that function. Fortunately the health problem has been identified, and is being managed; Jack is returning to better health.

Congratulations on the President' Award, and we look forward to getting involved again.

These are just three of the locomotives you'll see when you visit Illinois Railway Museum during *Rockford Route Two Thousand Too...*

Illinois Railway Museum photo by James Kolonowski



Spring 2002 Division Meet Schedule

CALUMET DIVISION

CONTACT: *Larry Zygmunt* PHONE: (219) 865-1978
(call after 6pm)

LOCATION: Crestwood Civic Center on Kostner
Crestwood, IL

Date	Planned Topic/Event
Feb 17	Meeting and Clinics 1:00 PM
Apr 22	Dinner business meeting (elections) location to be selected
June 16	Meeting at Crestwood Center

CAPITAL DIVISION

CONTACT: *Doug Menke* PHONE: (309) 837-5102
NO SCHEDULE PROVIDED

CENTRAL INDIANA DIVISION

CONTACT: *Larry Gilbert* PHONE: (765) 779-4039
CONTACT: *Frank Hermanek* PHONE: (317) 487-6517

LOCATION: see below

Date	Planned Topic/Event
Feb 3	Dealer Show and Meet, CID Annual Auction Hamilton County 4H Building 2003 Pleasant St, Noblesville, IN
Apr 7	Dealer Show and Meet, CID Annual Meeting Hamilton County 4H Building 2003 Pleasant St, Noblesville, IN

DUPAGE DIVISION

CONTACT: *Dave Liesse* PHONE: (630) 554-2755
LOCATION: Lisle Library, Lisle, Illinois

Date	Planned Topic/Event
Feb 3	Fred Henize: <i>Hazardous Material Transport</i> 1:30 PM
Mar 3	TBA
Mar 16	All American Railroad Show, Lyons Town Ship High School LaGrange, IL 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
April 7	TBA
May	Overnight Bus Trip to National Railroad Museum in Green Bay, WI

FOX VALLEY DIVISION

CONTACT: *Richard Sweet* PHONE: (847) 550-1399
LOCATION: Gary Monrovia Recreation Center

Date	Planned Topic/Event
Feb 17	TBA
Mar 2-3	High Wheeler, Harper College, Palatine, IL
Apr 21	Annual Business Meeting
May 19	Fox Valley Trolley Museum

NORTH SHORE & WESTERN DIVISION

CONTACT: *Gordon Johnson* PHONE: (847) 962-2244
LOCATION: Maynard Room, Glenview Public Library
1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, IL
Meetings start at 1:00 PM.

Date	Planned Topic/Event
Feb 24	TBA
Mar 16	No Clinic All American Railroad Show, Lyons High School LaGrange, IL
March 24	Rail Odyssey of 2001, Richard Cecil
Apr 26	TBA
May 19	TBA

ROCK RIVER DIVISION

CONTACT: *Tom McCabe* PHONE: (815) 877-7914
LOCATION: No Information Submitted

Date	Planned Topic/Event
Apr 26-28	Rockford Route Two Thousand Too...t Mid West Spring Convention and Annual Meeting Clock Tower Resort, Rockford IL Contact: Don Brindle email: donbrindle@aol.com Phone: (815) 874-6095

SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN

CONTACT: *Bob Wundrock* PHONE: (608) 845-6232
LOCATION: Fitchburg Community Center, Lacy Road at
Fish Hatchery Road, Madison, WI

Date	Planned Topic/Event
Feb 3	SCWD Meet
Feb 16-17	Mad City Model Railroad Show at the Alliant Energy Center Madison, WI
Mar 3	SCWD Meet
Apr 7	SCWD Meet
May 5	SCWD Meet

WINNEBAGOLAND DIVISION

CONTACT: See Each Listing
LOCATION: As Announced

Date	Planned Topic/Event
Feb 23	National Railroad Museum Annual Meeting & Auction Lenfestey Center, National Railroad Museum 2285 S. Broadway, Green Bay, WI (920)
Mar 16-17	LaCrosse & Three Rivers Railroad Club Model Railroad Show Sat: 10 AM - 6 pm, Sun: 10 AM - 4 pm \$3.00 adults Marilyn Klawitter, 6772 State 26, LaCrescent, MN (507) 894-4784
Apr 27-28	Title Town Train Show. Brown County Veterans Memorial Complex, Green Bay, WI: Sat: 9 AM - 5 pm, Sun: 9 AM - 4 pm, Operating Layouts, Vendors, Door Prizes Todd Bushmaker, 1243 Smith St, Green Bay, WI website: www.ttsgblic.com
May 4	Spring Meet, Escanaba, MI; hosted by the Upper Michigan Central Model Railroad Club Gary Stiles, (906) 428-3472 email: trainmaster@chartermi.net

WISE DIVISION

CONTACT: *Reid Kahrs* PHONE: (262) 628-8489
LOCATION: Midwest Motor Lodge

Date	Planned Topic/Event
Feb 17	TBA
Mar 17	TBA
Apr 21	TBA
May 5	Bus Trip

