

Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA –
Summer 2019



President's Report

Steve Studley President, MWR

At the time this report is being written, the Midwest Region Board has just completed its spring meeting in Rockford, IL. Among items discussed were: the continuing education of the members relating to improving their skillsets in model railroading, and, providing increased advertising opportunities for the Divisions to spread news of upcoming model railroading events.

Education is a prime purpose of the NMRA and that purpose filters down to the Regions and Divisions. And since it is at the Division level where the most member-to-member interactions occur, it is important for our best opportunities in education to be available at that level. In order for that to happen, new (interesting) methods of information presentation should be sought and utilized at Division meets – and Regional Conventions. We have, for the most part, moved away from clinics presented on overhead and 35mm slide projectors to PowerPoint presentations. Depending on the quality of the clinician's work, this can be either good or bad. We've all seen some of each kind. However, if you have attended a clinic recently that used a new, interesting way to present the information, please let us know about it. Send me (sastudley@comcast.net) an email describing what you had seen and, if available, the clinician's name and location. Or perhaps you are the clinician who is using this new technique of information presentation. If so, send me an email (see above) describing what new methods you are using.

In last issue's President's Report I mentioned modeling projects and the fact that research played a large part in planning those projects. To glean information from the internet we often query our favorite browser for the information. We are presented with articles that answer the question and they may be

text-based or video-based. Of the internet videos, I'd guess most of them are available on YouTube. There are videos on most every model railroad subject you can think of. Like the clinics discussed above, some of them are very good and some of them aren't. But, how do we know what we are seeing is correct? Videos obviously provide visual evidence of how the process has worked. If the result is what you are looking for, the video is providing the information you needed. Here's another way for you to provide feedback to me – see email above. Send me an email and let me know how you rate the information presented on the various videos. Do you view multiple examples of the process? Let us know.

I've now written about face-to-face presentations and internet videos as a means to provide educational opportunities for you, the Region member. The idea behind these ideas is to present an enjoyable learning experience. This may be at a division meet or a regional convention. The hope is as we provide enjoyable experiences you will be inclined to participate in these events. If you enjoy them and talk to fellow modelers about your experiences, perhaps you will be able to convince others to become NMRA members. We can always use more members. Bring someone to your next meet/event to show them what the NMRA is about. If they meet the qualifications for a RailPass membership, remind them it is a great way to learn about the NMRA for nine months for only \$19.95.

Since we are now speaking about membership, I'll note that the MWR will be electing four Directors-At-Large (DAL) in 2020. If you have any interest in running for a DAL position or questions about the position, email me (see above).

At the Division level, when there are changes

Continued on page 3

The WAYBILL

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CONTRIBUTIONS

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ADVERTISING

Deadlines for camera ready ads are the same as for the copy deadlines. Please submit by email to the editor as a TIF or .jpeg. We accept only railroad related ads.

Advertising rates are:

	yearly	or	per issue
Full page	\$100		\$35
Half page	75		25
Quarter page	50		20
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Editor's Column

I attended the first Chicago Railroad Historical Society Benefit in March. As you know I am a big proponent of historical societies. They provide a very valuable service to the model railroad industry and to modelers in general. I realize that many of you just want to run trains, prototype or not, but there are many who find great joy in researching the prototype and adapting it to their own railroad. There were 5 societies represented and the day consisted of clinics and talks by noted railroaders and modelers. Each society also had a table where they had merchandise for sale. I was one of the original organizers, although most credit goes to Jim Singer of the Burlington Route Historical Society. We had been kicking this idea around since the Winnibagoland Division held a similar event in Sheboygan several years ago.


Mark Pressler MMR was superintendent and was approached by Dale Kuhn (who was involved with the C&NWS) to invite some other societies to get exposure and sell merchandise. Mark was a board member of the SLHTS, and I as president readily agreed. Mark's crew did a great job of inviting other societies and setting up clinics.

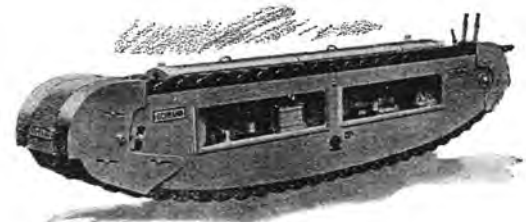
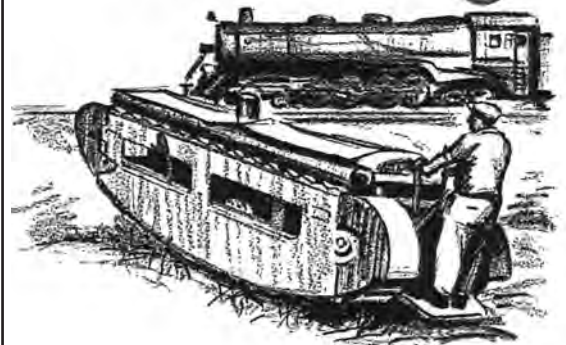
We kept asking if they would repeat it, but it never happened. So we expanded on the idea, added more clinics and a banquet, but without any model railroad tours. We began planning after the Cocoa Beach RPM, which did not give us a lot of time. I provided the SLHTS mailing list, Bob Storozuck-Milwaukee Road, Dave Phillips-C&NW, Jim Singer- Burlington Route and several others. A mailing went out and we kept our fingers crossed.

Even though the date conflicted with the O-Gauge show in Lombard (I along with Jim Osborn judged the contest), it was a success. Watch for more next year.

Just a reminder about Strawberry Fest in Waupaca, WI: WAMR 30th Strawberry Fest Model Railroad Show & Model Contest, Waupaca Recreation Center, School/State/Badger Sts, June 15-16, 2019. Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-3pm. FREE. Many layouts/vendors & swap tables. Roger Hildebrandt, 7693 Evergreen Dr. E. Waupaca, WI 54981; 715-258-8218. See the ad on page 6.

The NMRA is a volunteer organization. No one gets a salary. So why volunteer? I pay my dues, isn't that enough? Well, no. Volunteers keep the wheels turning and the rods greased. Nominations for Director at Large are beginning soon. The term is only two years and there are only two board meetings a year. The kicker is that you meet a great group of folks with similar interests. Probably the best benefit is the knowledge that you are giving something back.

**OUT OF THE WAY TO ALLOW
TRAINS PASSING-BACK TO
WORK IN A MINUTE** 



What does this machine do? The add ran in a trade journal in 1947. Guesses to sooauthor@aol.com Answer in the next issue.

on the Division's Board of Directors, please have the Superintendent or Chief Clerk let the Region Secretary, Bob McGeever, know of those changes. Email Bob at mcgeeve@charter.net In the meantime – back to the layout! Steve

Region News

Midwest Region Achievement Program by Jim Landwehr- MWR AP Manager

I am happy to report that there has been a lot of activity from our members. They continue to take part in the Achievement Program all over the Midwest Region.

The following members received awards:

William Schoonmaker	Bedford, IN	Volunteer
James Huebler	Brookfield, IL	Scenery
Andrew Potts	Fitchburg, WI	Volunteer
Steven Brist	Madison, WI	Volunteer
Jerry Lawler	Madison, WI	Volunteer
Keith Thomsen	Madison, WI	Volunteer
Steven Lanphear	Dodgeville, WI	Volunteer
Kathy Clancy	Verona, WI	Volunteer
William Clancy Jr	Verona, WI	Volunteer

As always, work with your division Achievement Program Manager first, and if there is a problem, feel free to contact me.

Thanks,
Jim

**Fall 2019 MWR BoD Meeting
Sunday, Nov. 10 at Trainfest, Clinic Room 4,
West Allis, WI**

The meeting begins at 10:30AM

Frugal Modeler By David Nelson

Est-que vous avez du tortillon? Pardon my French -- what I asked is, do you own a tortillon? You should, as it is a most useful and surprisingly versatile implement for the model railroader. And just what is a tortillon (or tortillion)? It is an artist's supply, a tightly-wound shaft entirely of paper, ending in a point, so it's shaped like a pencil, and is sometimes called a Conté pencil or, more often, a blending stump. In most craft or artist supply stores you'll find the tortillons with the chinks, pencils, graphites, and charcoals, because it is used to blend and spread those art media on canvas or paper. Don't forget to be frugal and bring along that 40% or 50% off any one item coupon from the Sunday paper!



The photo shows a useful package that Loew Cornell offers of six tortillons in three different sizes (#860ASB), a well-used tortillon, and a small new tortillon showing the fairly sharp point.

The most obvious modeling use is to blend and spread chinks, powders, and pastels, exactly as artists do, when weathering. The rigidity of the shaft, and the fine point at the end, make it well suited to many common weathering challenges, such as using pastels or powders to highlight a welding seam on a freight car side, pull down the vertical streaks from dirt and water or points of rust, and make the boot wear marks between ladder rungs and grab irons.

Paper is surprisingly abrasive; that's why serious seamstresses (such as your mother?) would throw a fit if you were caught using their good sewing sheers to cut paper, why crumpled newspapers dipped in vinegar do such a great job cleaning the baked-on soot on the inside surface of a glass fire-place door, and why few cuts are more nasty than a



Above: Dave is using the tortillon to remove some weathering from this hopper car.

Below: Photograph showing the results. The area is hard to see, but the weathering was removed and the area is left with a sheen for applying decals.

Both photos by the author.



paper cut. So, a less obvious use for the tortillon is to exploit this slightly abrasive nature.

Recently I gathered up all my freight cars that share a number with others of the same kit or RTR car -- a depressingly large number, by the way, many of them already weathered. Assuming you're lucky enough to find decals or dry transfers that match the size, the fine point on a tortillon with a small bit of isopropyl alcohol can nicely rub off a single digit on a freight car without disturbing the digit next to it, or the paint beneath. The rather stiff shaft makes it easier to press just a little into the work than with a micro-brush. (Yes I know: all too often it is necessary to remove all the digits and start over, but the tortillon is useful for that as well.)

There is an added benefit to using the tortillon for this -- the painted area where the number was

rubbed off is left with enough sheen that it's ready to take the new decal. This polishing aspect is also useful when adding a decal to a car which is fully weathered, such as an ACI (Automatic Car Identification) label of the sort required on cars and locomotives from the late 1960s into the late 1970s. You'd prefer not to have to add a gloss coat to an already weathered car just for two small decals; the tortillon can polish just that small rectangle to be occupied by the ACI label decal. This is shown in the pictures although the sheen does not show very well. The tiny amount of Dullcote or other fixitive needed to secure the new decal and any new weathering around it is no big deal.

A clean tortillon's point is also useful for cleaning dirty commutators on open frame motors, which some of us geezers persist in using. A very tiny amount of light oil on the tip of the tortillon to clean the commutator can improve the operation of the motor. And unlike a cotton swab the tortillon leaves no fibers behind.

Because the shaft of the tortillon is stiff like a pencil, the point is also useful for removing very stubborn grime from a car or locomotive wheel tread, or from the flangeways of turnouts and crossings, where you find yourself wanting to press into the surface.

When the point of a tortillon is worn and blunted, or where oil, paint, or weathering supplies have "contaminated" it, the point can be restored almost like new with some careful filing, or shaving away with a knife followed by filing. I have even used a pencil sharpener, followed by filing, to recapture the original point. Some tortillons by the way have points at both ends.

A tortillon is so useful you should get several; perhaps my initial question should have been Est-que vous avez des tortillons?

Finally, a shout-out of thanks to the NMRA Michiana Division for inviting me to give my Frugal Modeler clinic at their "Modeling Like a PROTOTYPE" conference in South Bend, IN this last September. I had a great time, learned a lot at the clinics, and met some nice folks.

Midwest Region Convention 2020
Peoria Rocket 2020
Thu, 05/14/20 - Sun, 05/17/20
Holiday Inn and Suites East Peoria
More information as it becomes available

NMRA President's Letter May-June 2019
by Peter Magoun

Spring has sprung!

It's here! Finally! As I write this, the daffodils have bloomed, the forsythia exploded the other day, the snow piles are gone and not lamented, and change is in the air. It's been a long winter up here in northern Michigan, and we're ready for change. Good change. The incoming stuff on tonight's weather radar map is not likely to arrive in the form of white gifts from above, and that is a welcome change!

We have a few changes to announce within the NMRA as well, and they are under what I call the "Mixed Blessing" category, as they are people changes that will relieve the watch, so to speak, with other good people.

The first of these is within the Standards & Conformance Department, where S&C Manager Didrik Voss, MMR®, has asked to retire. Di has done the job for over a decade, and done it well, and we'll miss his wisdom and insight. I have appointed Carl Smeigh to replace him. Carl is a retired US Navy Captain who understands standards and conformance. He was ordered to a shipyard decades ago, found piles of steel plate stacked up, turned those plates into a nuclear submarine, took her to sea for a year, and then moved onward and upward.

In our little world, he's finishing off his MMR® and happily modeling HO-scale Colorado Narrow Gauge from his home in Florida. He has worked with the National Contest team for several years (see the "S&C" influence in there?), and expects to continue to do so as time permits. Although the turnover is underway now, he'll formally relieve Di Voss at the Board Meeting in Salt Lake City. Please introduce yourself and welcome him aboard when you see him.

National Nominating Committee Chair Tony Koester has also asked to retire from that position to free up some time to deal with some Nickel Plate Historical Society issues that have come up. Tony founded the NKPHS decades ago, and it's a favorite of his. I have asked Mike Brestel to step up as Nominating Committee Chair, which he will do at the Salt Lake City convention when his Board of Directors term ends.

And speaking of Mike Brestel, his term on the Board of Directors indeed comes to an end in Salt Lake City. Mike is a stalwart NMRA volunteer, and his

Annual Meeting of Members

Holiday Inn and Suites East Peoria
date and time TBD

"corporate memory" is profound. We'll miss his counsel and advice, and wish him well in his "retirement," which, of course, I just complicated by asking him to be the Nominating Committee Chair. Mike also works the calendar and the NMRA insurance programs, so he'll stay involved and busy, which is good.

The Model Railroading Gallery Exhibit project at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento is finally underway after a lengthy period of issues within the State of California and not related to the NMRA. This is coming together nicely, as Past President Charlie Getz relates in the story below. They have targeted September 1st for an opening date, have received some very generous donations of hobby memorabilia and model railroad dioramas and small layouts, and are well on the way to adding an NMRA/model railroading presence to this Smithsonian Affiliate Museum's offerings.

Education is a major reason for the existence of the NMRA. Yes, we were founded mostly on the idea of Standards, but unless people are aware of those standards (and follow them -- that's the "education" part coming in), the hobby wouldn't work as well as it does for us. We have a number of "Beginner" pages on the website, and frankly, they're aging out. We need to replace them with new content, and Education Department Manager Bruce DeYoung, MMR®, will need some help doing this. You can find him at educate@nmra.org, or in-person at the SLC convention. We'll have more to say on this as time marches on.

High Green!

***Waupaca Area Model Railroaders
Waupaca, Wisconsin***

Hosts the - - -

***30th Annual (Free!)
STRAWBERRY FEST
TRAIN SHOW & MODEL CONTEST***

In conjunction with the Waupaca Historical Society
& Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce

Saturday, June 15 – 10 AM to 5 PM

Sunday, June 16 – 10 AM to 3 PM

Waupaca Recreation Center

407 School St or just three blocks east of downtown
at the intersection of School, State & Badger Streets

-Operating Model Railroad Layouts

- *Thomas the Tank Engine & Chuggington Friends playset for kids*
- *Hobby Shop dealers and vendors*
- *Swap Meet* (hobbyist sales tables).
- *Great Food & Strawberry Short Cake*

-Model Contest Saturday Only!

- Trains, cars, trucks, ships, buildings, scenery, Legos, & photos
- Adult and junior categories
- Rules at www.wamrltd.com

-Historic 1907 Soo Line Depot

Saturday & Sunday 8 AM to 9 PM!

- *525 Oak St* or only 7 blocks away as north on State St, right on Mill St, and then left on Oak St just pass the railroad bridge on your left

For information see our website: www.wamrltd.com

Train Show & vendor tables – Roger Hildebrandt, (715) 258-8218

Model Contest – Eugene Much (920) 596-3484





2019 Rail Festival
at Carillon Park

Dayton History and Carillon Park Rail and Steam Society
are proud to present the **14th Annual Rail Festival.**
Presented by the James F. Dicke Family
Additional support for educational programming is provided by The Mary H. Kittredge Fund of The Dayton Foundation

June 22 & 23
Saturday 9:30 AM - 5 PM ■ Sunday 11 AM - 4 PM
ADMISSION: \$10/Adult (18-59) ■ \$9/Senior (60+) ■ \$7/Child (3-17) ■ Under 3 are FREE

Join us for

Live steam engines ■ Model train displays ■ Historical exhibits ■ Railroad vendors
Free miniature train rides ■ Fun for all ages ■ Food and more

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The Old Depot Gallery -- features the artwork of railroad artist Robert (Bob) Frascella
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NMRA Discount Program

These companies are giving NMRA members discounts for buying their products when using a special discount code. You can find their websites and discount codes on our Partnership Page at <https://www.nmra.org/partnerships>.

Remember: your email address has to be registered on the website (not just with Headquarters) to get to the Members Only section of our website. You need to be logged into our site as a member to see the codes! **New partners since the last NMRA eBulletin issue are in red.**

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Midwest Region NMRA

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 WiFi Model Railroad, LLC
 If you're a manufacturer or know of one who'd like to join our Partnership Program, please contact Jim Gore, At-Large North American Director, at alnadir@nmra.org.

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return service requested