

Waybill

Fall 2003

Mid West Region NMRA



Summer 2003 – Somewhere in Illinois



EXECUTIVE BOARD & CHAIRPERSONS OF MWR STANDING COMMITTEES

(Please contact the Waybill editor for any corrections prior to the next Waybill deadline.)

Officers

President: Richard Cecil
3131 N Cramer St, Milwaukee, WI 53211-3004 414.332-3729,
MWRPREZ@hq.nmra.org

Treasurer: Bob Sherman
3705 Yukon Rd, Unit D, Brookfield WI 53045
Non4sherm@netzero.net

Vice President: Gary Children
2135 S. 95th Street, West Allis, WI 53227-1418
414.327-1666, csuperchief20@aol.com

Secretary: Bert Lattan
P.O. Box 448, Lake Bluff, IL 60044-0448
847.295-7959, blattan@attbi.com

Directors-at-Large

Mike Hurlburt
N7759 Laura Lane, Elkhorn, WI 53121-2772
262.742-3112; tng@genevaonline.com

Reid Kahrs
282 Woodland View Court
Colgate, WI 53017-9332
262.628-8489; rkahrs@execpc.com

Joel Lebovitz
1340 W. Greenleaf Apt 1N
Chicago, IL 60626-2992; 773.262.5668
jlebo@aol.com

John Mann
7303 Farmhouse Lane
Cherry Valley, IL 61019-9718; 815.332.2496
jimannmmr@aol.com

Capt. Albert Nelson
1661 Atlanta Circle
Manitowoc, WI 54220-1728
920.692.6787; captal87@aol.com

Bob Guinter
4449 Charles Street, Apt. E
Rockford, IL 61108-6268
815.399.6466
Rockfordunionstation@worldnet.att.net

Ron Scharping
5736 Hillcrest Road,
Downers Grove, IL 60516-1237;
630.968.0157;
suc_ron_scharping@compuserve.com

National Positions ⊗ MWR

National Trustee MWR: David Liesse
23 Christian Court, Oswego, IL 60543-7906
630.554.2755; mwrt@hq.nmra.org

Achievement Program: Bill Myers
5908 E 169th Street, Nobelsville, IN 46060
317.773.7159 bmyers31@aol.com

Division Directors

Calumet Division
Pat Mehegan, Division
Director
3601 Valparaiso Street
Valparaiso, Indiana
46383-2551
219-531-0944
caseyjones999@juno.com

Capitol Division
Doug Menke, Division
Director
532 N Randolph St
Macomb IL 61455-1561
309.837.5102
Douglas@cait.org

Central Indiana Division
Larry Gilbert, Division
Director
6675 S 200 E
Markleville, IN 46056-9704
(765) 779-4039
e-mail leghome@iquest.net

Du Page Division
Rob Schiavone, Division
Director
811 Erie Court
Carol Stream, IL 60188
630.690-3262

Fox Valley Division
Richard Sweet, Division
Director
762 Garth
Wheeling, IL 60090
847.459-1037
rsweet@pactiv.com

Illinois Valley Division
Kerry Del Vecchio, Division
Director
5902 Dickinson Cemetery Rd
Dunlap, IL 61525
309.243.1436
kerrydel@aol.com

North Shore and Western Division
Jim Spice, Div. Dir.
10141 Yorkhouse Rd
Beach Park IL 60087-2405
847-662-7267
jimjet2@attbi.com

Rock Island Division
Tom Rasmussen, Div. Dir.
4514 12th St
East Moline IL 61244-4117
309.796.0018

Rock River Division
Frank McCabe, Div. Dir.
6205 Pennsbury Ln
Rockford, IL 61016-9752
815.874.7036
FSM1019@aol.com

South Central Wisconsin Division
Chris Roeben
3590 Breckenridge Ct #4
Madison WI 53716

608.278.8361
608.271-5527

Southern Illinois Division
Joe Skamel, Division
Director
511 E. Congress
Rantoul, IL 61866
217.892-9740
brasshat@advancenet.net

Winnebago Division
Todd Rebhahn, Division
Director
3259 Old Military Rd
DePere, WI 54115
920.983-8384
treb@netnet.net

Wise Division
David Poquet, Division
Director
5665 N Bay Ridge Ave
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217
414-906-0678
dbpoquet@execpc.com

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President's Report by Richard Cecil, President MWR

As I think about these “reports” that I write, I like the chore even less then when I started writing them. And why is that, you ask? It's because they seem to be taking on the tone of sermons. I keep pleading with most of you to move it up a few notches and participate more in your organization.

Too often I hear it said that the NMRA offers too little. Yet, at Region convention after convention we see about 10% of the membership. That means that nearly 90% of you are copping out from the most beneficial offering we have. It's a time to have fun, to learn, to share knowledge and ideas, to make new friends, renew old friendships and did I mention, to have fun?

Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association.

The Waybill is published 4 times a year:
Winter – December, January, February
Spring – March, April, May
Summer – June, July, August
Fall – September, October, November

Edited by: Barb Rothwell
cvwrails@execpc.com

Mailing address for the Waybill entries:
5667 Concord Drive
Fitchburg, WI 53575

So why am I revisiting this subject now? Well, April 16-18, 2004 is the next convention. It will be held in Milwaukee, my home-town. Now mark next year's calendar or stick a note on December so you won't schedule a conflicting event. Now you have one less excuse to bail out. No, I'm not going to cover every possible reason that you can come up with to avoid: fun, learning, sharing and friends (present or potential). This may give you enough time to save a few bucks, thus avoiding another excuse.

Now I'm sure some of you may take the time to write and defend your non-participation. That's OK with me. I might even agree with some of you. But 90%? I think not!

On a lighter note. For those of you who care, the hair is now about one inch long.



Trustee's Report

by David Liesse

Greetings and salutations! I hope you're all enjoying the summer, and that you haven't had too many problems with flooded basements. Most of you missed an outstanding convention in Toronto, put on by the Niagara Frontier Region in the face of great odds (the SARS nonsense, an exchange rate that actually would have been the best for Canadians coming to the US in many years, seemingly overbearing Customs regulations for train show vendors, etc.). I hope you can get to one of the conventions in the next few years: 2004 in Seattle, 2005 in Cincinnati, 2006 in Philadelphia, 2007 in Detroit, or 2008 in Anaheim.

The Board of Trustees has been working in earnest, through its Long Range Planning committee, for over a decade, trying to come up with a way to revitalize the NMRA. We firmly believe we have come up with a viable plan, which was approved a couple meetings back. To implement the plan, though, will require approval by the membership. A new set of Regulations, replacing the current Constitution and Bylaws, will be on the national ballot toward the end of the year. If you're concerned about the NMRA keeping up with the times, I highly recommend voting in favor of the revisions.

Having said that, I realize there are a number of questions and concerns about the

proposed changes. Let me say up front that no one believes that what we're putting forward is absolutely perfect. Many, many compromises were made to reach this point. It may turn out that everything will work far better than anyone could expect; more likely, we'll find that some tweaking needs to be done over time. But this is a starting point, and if the NMRA continues on its current course under its current strictures then there is a very real chance that there won't be any members left after a few years because the association has become completely irrelevant.

It would be impossible for me to address all the changes in one column; the Regulations alone are 43 pages long (believe it or not, that's a reduction in size). For full information, I refer you to the NMRA web site, www.nmra.org. If you still have questions, please ask me (e-mail works best, mwrt@hq.nmra.org). What I'd like to do here is address the top concerns that members have expressed throughout all the regions.

To start, the Regulations are being introduced in order to streamline the governing documents. Any corporation has such a set of governing documents; in most states, these consist of the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws (aka Regulations, depending on state law). A constitution is not required, and primarily serves to add a layer of complexity. In the Midwest Region, for example, we do have our Articles of Incorporation, our Constitution, and our Bylaws. The main purpose of the separate Constitution and Bylaws have to do with how they are amended – the Constitution requires a vote

of the membership, while the Bylaws require only a vote of the Board of Directors. In the proposed Regulations, we have made provisions for certain sections – those coming from the Constitution – to have amendments approved by the membership, rather than simply by the Board of Directors. The membership thus will not lose any rights they currently have in this regard.

One of the most visible changes is a restructuring of the Board of Directors (and the name change, due to changes in Ohio law – the NMRA is incorporated in Ohio – but that's just window dressing). The number of trustees is being reduced from 17 to 9. Instead of each region electing a trustee, there will be one elected from each of five districts, two elected at large (one from the US and Canada, the other worldwide), and one elected by the new Region Advisory Council. The final trustee will be the President of NMRA Canada (who is currently a non-voting member of the Board of Trustees). The five districts are geographical in nature, with three for the US and Canada, one for Europe/South and Central America/Africa/Middle East, and one for Australia/New Zealand/Pacific Ocean areas/the rest of Asia. This arrangement has generated some criticism, so let me address that.

First, there are those who don't like the idea of the regions losing their representation on the board. In fact of law, the regions have no such representation now. The Board of Trustees is beholden only to the Association and not to the regions, and where national and region interests conflict they have to decide what is best at the national level.

Under the new arrangement, the regions do have an official voice. The Region Advisory Council will be made up of region representatives – probably the president, in most cases, but that's not a requirement – and will have a voice on the board. They will elect their own director who will have the right to vote.

The other major criticism of this structure is the possibility of having no directors from the US, which still has the bulk of the association membership. Yes, this is a possibility, but not at all likely. Reaching that point would virtually require no candidates from the US, which in turn means the nominating committee not putting up for vote any candidates from the US.

I would also point out here that, yes, we are guaranteed to have three non-US directors: the Atlantic and Pacific District directors, and the president of NMRA Canada. This is, in fact, a good thing. I travel overseas quite a bit, and am aware of the different economic situations in different parts of the world, but most average Americans don't, and I would include a number of past and present Trustees in that category. These three areas that will have their directors all face different sets of problems, and it is important that we have valid input into the decision-making process. Although we call ourselves the National Model Railroad Association, we are actually an international organization, with tremendous overseas growth potential.

It is true that region members will no longer have a trustee/director guaranteed to be elected from their own regions. However,

with the Region Advisory Council, there is still the direct channel of communication.

The other major visible change is the dues structure. You may have heard some amounts tossed around, but they are not yet set in stone and I won't even mention here what they are. The point is that once the Regulations are put into place, and on a schedule to be outlined therein, payment of dues will get you membership at all levels of the organization. Most of you will remember when that was the way within the Midwest Region, and we had to go to region dues collection because we had no income otherwise. Under the new scheme, a certain amount – still being debated at the time of this writing – will funnel down from the national level to the regions to help pay the administrative costs of running the region. What this will mean to the individual regions will vary; some are still dues-free, while the others will have to make adjustments.

There are a number of other changes included within the Regulations, but they are primarily clarifications of existing provisions. Some of the other changes include a mandatory periodic review of all departments and programs for continued viability, along with a provision that any dues increases beyond a cumulative cost-of-living adjustment since the last increase must be approved by the membership. The current and proposed documents are all available on the web site, and I encourage you to review them to the extent you feel necessary to get a good understanding of what we are asking. When the time comes, please remember to vote, and I strongly urge

you to vote in favor of the proposed changes!

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AP Awards

03 Master Builder - Structures
Midwest Region (Bill Myers, Manager)
Albert Kamm, Jr. (L 0273) MWR 711
20207 S. Greenfield
Frankfort, IL 60423-8325

04 Master Builder - Scenery
Midwest Region (Bill Myers, Manager)
Ted Luce (08994, exp. OK) * MWR 713
3110 N 400 W
W. Lafayette, IN 47906

06 Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical
Midwest Region (Bill Myers, Manager)
Frank Hermanek (76201, exp. 06/06) MWR 712
6818 Westlake Road
Indianapolis, IN 46214-2003
Coolspring, PA 15730-0022

And another MMR. Please send him a congrats note.

MASTER MODEL RAILROADER

Northeastern Region (Paul Allard, Manager)
Robert Hamm, MMR 322
460 Grand Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

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Fall 2003 Division Event Schedule

Calumet Division:

Contact: Richard Smurawski
(708)598-7876

Location: Calumet High School
Griffith, IN

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

\$3 per person, Children 12 and under free with paid adult

For information contact:

Larry Gilbert, 6675 S 200 E
Markleville, IN 46056-9704
765-779-4039

Central Indiana Division:

Contact: Larry Gilbert
(765) 779-4039

Location: As Announced

Date: Planned Topic/Event

Sept 27, 2003 Central Indiana Division

Train Show & Meet with clinics,
contests, and layouts.
Special KIT (Kids In Trains)
Clinic

Bedford National Guard Armory
2020 19th Street
Bedford, IN

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

\$3 per person, Children 12 and under free with paid adult

For information contact:

Bill Litkenhous at (812) 275-3634
or e-mail to mrlit@dmrtc.net
CID website at cid.railfan.net

DuPage:

Contact: Rob Schiavone
(630) 690-3262

robert_s_60188@yahoo.com

Location: Lisle Library
777 Front Street
Lisle, IL

Fox Valley Division:

Contact: Richard Sweet

rsweet@pactiv.com

11 Park Place Circle

Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047

(847) 550-1399

Meeting Place (unless otherwise specified):

Gary Morava Recreation Center
110 W. Camp McDonald Road
Prospect Heights, IL 60070
(1 blk west of Camp McDonald
Road and Elmhurst Road Rt. 83)

January 25, 2004 Train Show & Meet with
clinics, contests, layouts and
auction. KITs program
for youngsters - they build a kit
and take it home (kit is free).
Hamilton County 4H Expo
Center, 2003 Pleasant Street,
Noblesville

Meeting times: 1:30 - 4:30 PM

Dates:

Location:

September 21, 2003

October 19, 2003

November 9, 2003 Trip to Trainfest

December 21, 2003

Illinois Valley Division:

Contact: Kerry Delvecchio

(309) 243-1436

Email: kerrydel@aol.com

Location: Illinois Central College, East Peoria, IL

Date: Planned Topic/Event

North Shore and Western Division:

Contact: Jim Spice

(847)550-1399

Location: 1930 Glenview Road

Dates: Off for the summer

Rock River Valley Division:

Contact: Joe Whinnery

815-398-8973

Location: Midway Village and Museum Center, 6799 Guilford RD, west of Perryville and State St. Doors open at 12:30 with the meeting at 1:00. Donation is \$2.00.

Date: Off for the Summer

South Central Wisconsin Division:

Contact: Chris Roeben

(608) 278-8361

Location: Fitchburg Community Center*

Lacy Road, Fitchburg WI

Date: Planned Topic/Event

September 7 Monthly Meet

October 5 Monthly Meet

November 2 Monthly Meet

December 7 Auction

Southern Illinois Division:

Contact: Joe Skamel

(217) 892-9740

Location: NA

Anyone interested in helping Joe start some activities, please contact him directly.

Winnebago Land Division:

Contact: Tod Rebhahn

(920) 983-8384

Location: Varies – Call for information.

WISE Divisions:

Contact: David Poquet

414-906-0678

dbpoquet@execpc.com**Division Meets:**

- **September 21, 2003 ---** Midway Hotel - Airport, Milwaukee = Clinicians: #1 - Ted Jansen: Scratchbuilding Milwaukee Road Passenger Cars - slides and display. #2 - John Drozdak: Open Loads, models and prototypes (slides). #3 TBA
- **October 19, 2003** - Meet to be held at the Holiday Inn express on the Waterfront. Kenosha Transit is expected to be one of the tours.
- **November 8-9, 2003** - Trainfest
- **December 7, 2003** - Midway Hotel - Airport, Milwaukee.
- **May 15 - 16th, 2004** - Regional Convention held in Milwaukee, at Midway Hotel - Airport, Milwaukee

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Waybill Schedule

[Editor's Note: Current schedule of the Waybill:

Fall (September, October, November)
Winter (December, January, February)
Spring (March, April, May)
Summer (June, July, August)

Deadline for submission to each issue is the 15th of the month previous to publication:

*August 15th for the Fall issue
November 15th for the Winter issue
February 15th for the Spring issue
May 15th for the Summer issue.*

If you'd like to submit an article, please send it via e-mail it to: cvwrails@execpc.com.]

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AP Anyone

by Bill Myers, MWR Achievement Program Manager

Even though there has been the usual "Summer Slow-Down" your region Achievement Program is still up and running. I am awaiting a new printing of Merit Award Certificates but they should be here and out to the recipients sometime during September.

I do know of several members who are submitting paperwork in various AP categories so the coming winter should be a productive time for us. As vacation period passes and children are back in school, most of us will have more time to model. Those of you who are starting new projects should review the

Achievement Program requirements when setting your goals for the coming year. That way, you will have good guidelines that will enable you to earn certificates as you build.

Please remember that in most divisions you have Achievement Program Managers available to help you with the program. If you can't contact that person for help, let me know and I will either guide you to them or help you from this level.

I would remind Division Supers to make formal and recorded appointments of Committee Managers and Committee members so those people may properly record their volunteer services toward proper certificate recognition.

My phone number, address and e-mail are posted elsewhere in the Waybill and on the website, so don't hesitate to contact me. At the very least, I will learn something from you in our conversations and that will help us both.

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Looking for Something to do while Railfanning?

The Waybill editor is always looking for tid bits, photos and articles that might be of interest to our readers. So while you're sitting there waiting for the next local to pass through, why not pick up a pen or pencil and write about the location, time table, what you like or don't like about the spot. You'd be surprised how fast it will help pass the time.

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TRAINFEST

TRAINFEST - November 8-9, 2003

November will soon be here and it'll be time for TRAINFEST, "America's largest operating model railroad show," brought to you by the WISE Division. Dozens of operating layouts in all the modeling scales will be up and running, and there'll be lots of dealers offering show specials and hard-to-find items.

This will be the 32nd annual TRAINFEST and for the second straight year it will be held in the new 200,000 square foot Wisconsin Exposition Center at the Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis, Wisconsin. (West Allis is a western suburb of Milwaukee.) This is a roomy, well-lighted facility and a terrific place to visit a train show, especially one that is among the best in the country.

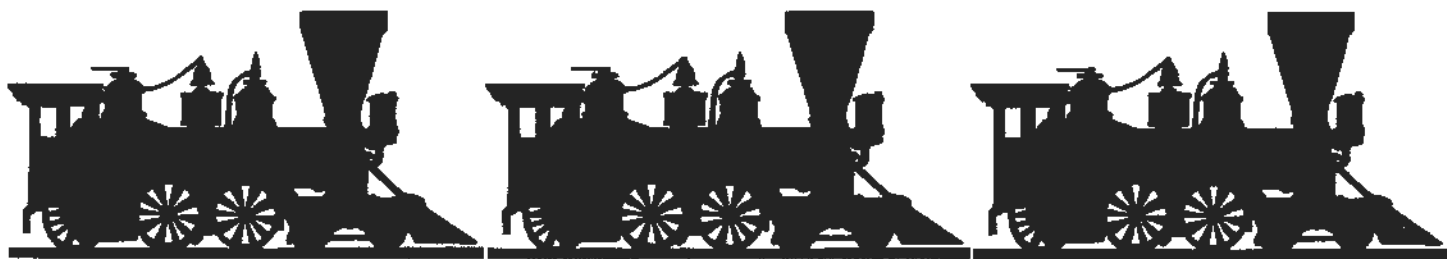
Also for the second year, the Model Railroad Industry Association (MRIA) will participate with many more manufacturers displaying. This is a chance to meet the folks that develop and produce your products, share your ideas, and find out what new products will be coming out. TRAINFEST will be held on November 8th from 9 to 5:30 and on November 9th from 9:30 to 5. Admission for adults will be \$10.00. Children, ages 14 and under, will be admitted free when accompanied by a parent or adult sponsor. Discounted early purchase tickets will be available at many Milwaukee area hobby shops.

So mark your calendars for Saturday and Sunday the 8th and 9th of November and plan on heading for Milwaukee. State Fair Park is just off I-94 at the 84th St. exit.

If you need additional information, contact:

John Tews, TRAINFEST director, at 262-820-3566 or e-mail john@trainfest.org.





Milwaukee Express 2004

May 14-16, 2004

Midway Hotel

Milwaukee/Airport, 5105 S. Howell Ave.,
Milwaukee, WI.

Friday afternoon:

Tours

Saturday afternoon/evening:

Dinner train at the

East Troy Electric Railway Museum.

Sunday morning:

Brunch with the awards being presented
Annual meeting.

For more information:

Reid Kahrs, Chair - 262.628-8489

rkahrs@execpc.com



