

SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN-DIVISION • NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION • MIDWEST REGION

January 2026

www.nmra-s cwd.org

Volume 57 No. 5

Super's Report

Art Dawson
Division Superintendent

Hello fellow modelers,

Merry Christmas! The December meet was well attended both in person and via Zoom. The Midwest Region is looking for volunteers to run for Director at Large positions. This involves 2 meetings a year, one in the spring, the other in the fall that are held via Zoom so that no travel is involved. This gives you a voice in how the region is run, the decisions made, and subjects discussed. If you are interested, check the latest couple of emails from the MWR or contact an SCWD board member.

I'll be working on the Red Book updates the rest of the month, and it should be ready to go by the first of the year.

The Annual Railroad School is January 4th! Expect to hear from Sean Hadfield regarding the Model Railroad School if you have not already. He will be looking for volunteers and demonstrators. This is an important part of the group's non-profit status, by educating the public about our hobby. See the ad in this issue of the Bad Order. Please help us spread the word.

Paul Mangan, a good friend and longtime member of the club is battling Alzheimer's and is in a memory care facility on the northeast side of Oregon. A recent request for notes, anecdotes and such from his wife Kathy was sent out via listserve recently. He's otherwise in good health and spirits!

I look forward to seeing you on January 4th! Thanks!

Art Dawson, SCWD Superintendent
Model railroading is fun!



**Next SCWD Meet RAIL SCHOOL
Verona Senior Center, Verona**

January 4, 2026



Next BOD Meeting:
January 13, 2026, 6:30 PM
ZOOM Meeting

Next Youth Group
Verona Senior Center, Verona
January 10, 2026



Model Railroad School

Fun. Educational. Free.

Live demonstrations show you how to turn a toy train into an exciting, operating model railroad.

Kid's Make & Take Clinic: **free** freight car kit for kids* that we help them assemble and run on our test track.

Sunday, January 4, 2026, 1-4 pm

Verona Senior Center, 108 Paoli St., Verona, WI

www.nmra-s cwd.org

Hosted by the South Central Wisconsin Division of the National Model Railroad Association.
*While supplies last.

Youth Group

Steve Preston, Chair



For December, we attempted to demonstrate a “DC” wired layout. Karl Hauth took the reins on this project, creating a “CAB” control system that would allow four operators to operate four locomotives simultaneously. Not an easy task! And like almost all model railroad projects, it took longer to complete than expected. We did not get the fairly large layout fully operational in the two-hour window we had for the meeting. I know that Karl was disappointed, but there was a lot that we learned. In the future, Karl would like to downsize the project and pre-wire some of the controls so that the layout will be operational for the group to operate.

Unfortunately, with all that was going on I neglected to take any photos. You would have been very impressed!

Hopefully Steve will be able to make it to the next meeting. He was out due to his recent surgery.

Phil Hottman reporting for
Steve Preston
Youth Group Director
Membership Chairman

The advertisement features a large, stylized drawing of a train engine with a prominent front grille and a red and white striped bumper. The train is set against a dark background with radiating lines suggesting speed. To the right of the train is a circular badge with a black border. The text "CATCH THE TRAINS" is curved along the top edge of the badge. Inside, the word "Save!" is written in a large, bold, cursive font. Below it, "FAMILY PACK" is written in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath that, "\$36*" is displayed, and at the bottom, the word "TICKETS" is written in a bold, cursive font. The badge is set against a dark background with radiating lines. Below this graphic is a large, stylized, italicized text "Mad City" in white, which is partially cut off on the right. Underneath "Mad City" is a red banner with white text. The banner contains the words "MODEL RAILROAD SHOW" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the banner, the text "February 21–22, 2026" and "Saturday 9–5 • Sunday 9–4" are in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the location "Alliant Energy Center, Exhibition Hall" and "Madison, Wisconsin" are in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the banner, the text "A GREAT FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT VALUE!" is in a bold, sans-serif font. The entire advertisement is framed by a thick black border. At the very bottom, there is a small, thin line of text: "*Includes: Two adults (regular/senior) & two kids (5–15). Kids under 5 FREE".

Mad City
MODEL RAILROAD SHOW
Sat. Feb. 21, 9AM–5PM • Sun. Feb. 22, 9AM–4PM • 2026
Alliant Energy Center, Exhibition Hall, Madison, WI

One of the Midwest's best model RR events showcasing beautiful model train layouts in Z, N, HO, S, O and G scale; classic toy trains; historical exhibits. **250+ vendor tables** of model train merchandise including tools, railroad collectibles, videos, books, clothing and artwork. Hourly door prizes for adults. Kids, age 5-15, can register to win an HO scale train set!

FOUR HO TRAIN SETS GIVEN AWAY EACH DAY!

Family Pack \$36: two adults (regular or senior) and two kids (5–15)
Adults \$15 (16 & older), **Seniors \$14** (65 & older)
Children \$5 (age 5–15), **Kids under 5 FREE**
Active duty military \$14. Two day pass \$20. Parking fee not included.
All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Advance Sale Discount Tickets
Adults \$14 (16 & older), Children \$4 (age 5–15), Two Day Pass \$18

For more information:
www.nmra-s cwd.org
Presented by the volunteers of the
South Central Wisconsin Division of the
National Model Railroad Association,
Midwest Region

Madison, WI
Alliant Energy Center
1001 University Street
Madison, WI 53701



Mad City

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW

Feb. 21-22, 2026 · Alliant Energy Center · Madison, WI

The 2026 Train Show is coming and we will need to sign up our volunteers.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be contacting you
to confirm your availability
to work one or more of the various jobs
during the show and during setup.

Volunteers will be needed for setup on Friday morning, 2/20
(includes breakfast for the crew going to the storage shed),
and both days of the show.

We assume you know what works best for you and your family.

Thank you to those of you who have already responded;
we will be in touch shortly to confirm assignments.
For the rest of you, a timely response will be appreciated.

If you have any question please contact our
Train Show Volunteer Coordinator (Dave Down).

Email: dfdown2000@gmail.com

Or

Phone: 608-235-5436
(Leave a voice message)

Layout Tours

Phil Hottmann

It was cold with some new snow and there was also a Packer game, but I thought we still had good attendance at our December layout tours. It was great to see one of the new layouts being built. Phil Smith's layout was fantastic! He just started about five years ago and was well along. It included a full signaling system with some fantastic scenery.

It was great to see!



We also saw Rusty Dramm's awesome layout again. He continues to add more wonderful detail as always.



Thanks to both folks for letting us see their wonderful work!

Due to the Rail School, there will not be any tours in January. I still have a few openings to fill to complete the remaining part of the season. If you would like to be open, please let me know.

Phil

Clinic Column

Bob Wundrock

Since we don't have a regular SCWD meeting in January, I'll cover the February clinics in next month's Bad Order.

In 2026 we'll have presenters from various locations in the country. Some subjects will include layout design, Arduino animations and layout tours.

I hope you'll take time over the holidays to do some modeling, especially work on some of the projects we've all thought about doing but have delayed.

See you virtually.

Bob



Modeling Project

Mike Vivion

Sign-up for this year's modeling project is now closed. If you have not received your kit, please see me at the January Rail School meeting to get it. I am pleased to say we had a total of 20 members sign up for the project. I assume everyone is now busy working on their project. Remember you must bring it to our April 2026 meeting for judging in order to get back your \$15.00 deposit.



I am looking forward to seeing all the projects in April. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Mike Vivion
Modeling Project Chair

Contest Column

Dave Down, Chair

The calendar year is drawing to a close and the Christmas holidays are upon us. Best wishes to all of you, however you choose to celebrate. With the January meeting rapidly approaching you are reminded this means there will be no contest. January is when we have the Rail School and those who are new to the hobby (or new to various aspects of the hobby) will be focused on the clinic displays.

The next contest will be in February, and the theme will be **Snow**. For railroads, snow is not valued for the wonderful clean white appearance resulting from wonderful snowfalls. Snow is an operational problem, and depending on the geography of the railroad it is anywhere from an inconvenience to a major operational hazard. Snow removal is the focus of the February contest. The categories will be non-motorized pushed plows (like Russel plows), engine mounted plows, and motorized plows (like rotary plows).

December's contest was maintenance of way equipment. The results are as follows:

Maintenance of Way Cars

- A. Crew Cars (dorm, dining, kitchen, etc.)
- B. Ballast Hopper (or gondola)
- C. Flat car with Maintenance Load
- D. Crane

December 3 Popular Vote Contest Results

Cat. A Crew Cars

- 1st Dave Casey: CNW transfer/work caboose
- 2nd Dave Casey: C&NW #526 Tool car
- 3rd Don Swinton: Crew Car



Cat. B Ballast Hopper

- 1st Sean Hadfield: CL #6755 Hopper
- 2nd Dave Casey: CNW #743095 Ballast gondola
- 3rd. Dave Casey: CNW #201824 Ballast hopper



Cat. C Flat with Maintenance Load

- 1st Dave Casey: CNW #48538 Flat w/ RR Ties
- 2nd Don Swinton: MW Flat



Cat D. Crane

- 1st Dave Casey: CNW #252 200 ton crane
- 2nd Dave Casey: EPC #0839 25 ton crane
- 3rd Cheryl Mitchell: MILW crane



There were no photos entered in December.

Dave

*Many thanks to
Othmar Vorburger and Terry Seese (WGRS member)
for arranging the Youth Group Dioramas
to be displayed at the Governor's Mansion Holiday Event*

(Photos by Othmar Vorburger)



Emerson Palmer, age 9



Mike Vivion



Charles Mitchell, age 10



Teddy Harrison, age 11



Jim Devorski and the
Wisconsin Garden Railway Display



Ashton Peterson, age 15



Jerry Vonderheid Diorama
by Othmar Vorburger

2026 NMRA National Convention

Scenic City Express, Chattanooga



The NMRA National Convention is coming to Chattanooga, TN for the first time ever in 2026! The Southeastern Region is excited to host NMRA members from around the world in the Scenic City. The dates are July 27-August 2 so mark your calendars. Visit the convention's webpage at nmra2026.org and sign up to receive updates on the convention plans as they unfold. Early bird registration is open at nmra2026.org/registration/ so you can start your plans now. There will be a week full of fun activities planned including:

- Layout Tours
- Prototype Tours
- Steam-Powered Excursions and Dinner Train
- Non-Rail Tours and other Activities
- Operating Sessions
- Special Interest Groups
- Railroad Historical Societies
- Modeling with the Masters®
- Celebration of Models
- Train Show
- Banquet

More details and information on the activities and events will be shared in future eBulletins.

Stay tuned!

A Puzzle for You

You like trains, or train watching, but have you ever wanted to go to an OPS (Operating Session) and run trains on someone else's layout, but were afraid you wouldn't know what to do?

Model Railroad Operation is a fun and interesting role-playing game where the players (operators) use model trains to simulate the movements of the prototype railroad. Operators fill the roles of railroad employees like engineers, conductors, yardmasters, dispatchers, and more. Many of our SCWD members participate each month at multiple layouts to enjoy this fun and stimulating practice of critical thinking and problem solving in the context of railroad operations.

Now, there is a way for you to get your feet wet in this critical thinking and problem-solving railroad environment in the privacy of your own home through the use of railroad switching puzzles.

In July 2020, a group of SCWD members started a project to introduce more of our members to the enjoyment of railroad operations, or as our wives call it, playing trains. Some of us have been engaged in operating sessions for 20 years or more, and would like to get more of you involved.

The project involves getting one to solve a series of train switching puzzles (on paper, or your computer) in the least number of moves possible. You can then submit your solution to see if yours was done in the least number of moves.

Beginners can start with **3 introductory puzzles** to show the kinds of skills used in railroad switching operations. Then, you can advance to a series of more advanced puzzles written and based on actual SCWD member area layouts. Or, if you have already been to an OPS session, you could do an introductory puzzle, and jump right into the more challenging ones.

Join the SCWD listserv now and begin learning what this is all about!

Email Steve Lanphear at scwdmemberlist@mhtc.net to be added to the list and start receiving your puzzles now!

Happy Railroading!
Steve



Enjoy receiving interesting rail photos, model railroad tips, Operating puzzles, and challenging Mystery Photos??

Join The 120+ SCWD members and members from other Midwest Regional Divisions who are participating in the SCWD listserv. You can expect 5 - 10 photos of railfan photos or model railroad photos or other items per week on average, as well as SCWD announcements, monthly Mystery Photo contests, Modelers Corner, and OPS Corner Puzzles. The listserv has been running this since April 2012, and it has been quite popular.

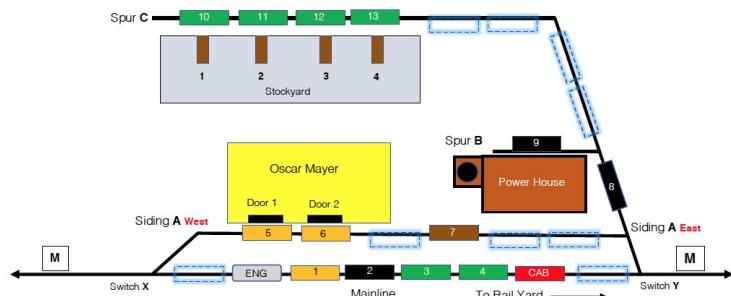
The listserv is a one-way email broadcast to you, not a social media type service. The emails are sent in bulk, but as a BCC: type email.

Please save this email so you know how to get a hold of me. So, if you would like to try out this FREE member service, just send me your **Name** and **email address**, and **City/State** to the address below. You may drop out at any time by sending an email stating such to the same address below.

Steve Lanphear
SCWD listserv Coordinator
scwdmemberlist@mhtc.net



OPS Puzzles

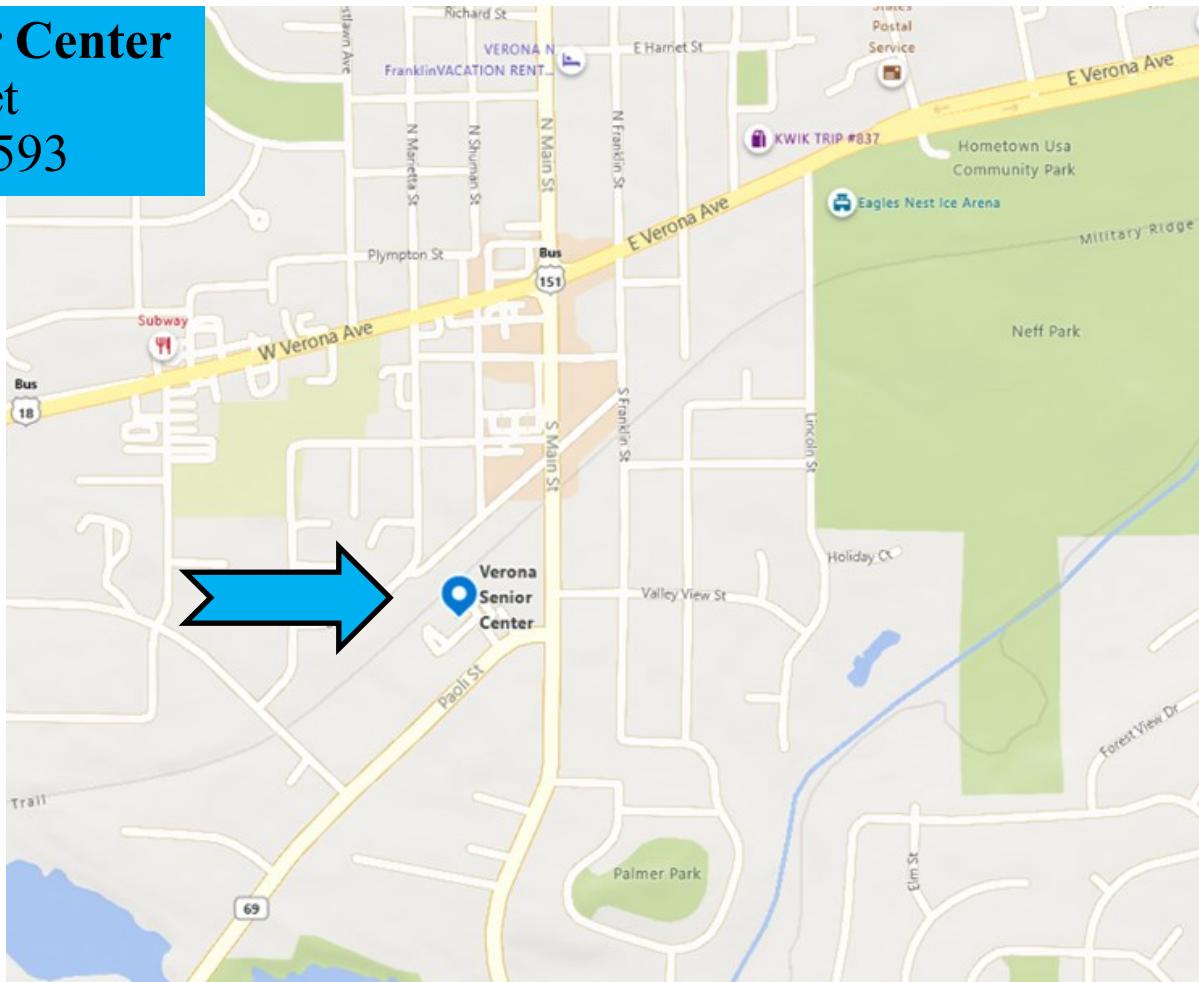


OPS Puzzles have arrived! We now have a section on the SCWD Website that has all 11 puzzles that we have published on the listserv, including the handouts and diagrams. You can start from the beginning, or pick and choose which puzzles you would like to try.

www.nmra-s cwd.org/ops-puzzles.html

Steve Lanphear and the Puzzle Development Team.

Verona Senior Center
108 Paoli Street
Verona, WI 53593





SCWD 2024 - 2025 Board of Directors Meeting - via ZOOM November 11, 2025



The meeting of the South Central Wisconsin Division Board of Directors was called to order at 6:30 pm by Superintendent Art Dawson. Bob McGeever, David Dingman, Phil Hottmann, Steve Preston, David Down, Chris Bradley and Sean Hadfield were present. Bob Wundrock was also present.

Minutes

Motion by McGeever, second by Down to approve the minutes of the SCWD Board Meeting held on October 11th, 2025. Motion carried.

Paymaster Report

Art Dawson asked for comments on the October Paymaster Report. There were no comments. Motion by Dingman, second by Bradley, to approve the Paymaster Report as presented. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Achievement Program – Nothing to report.

Advertising - Nothing to report.

Bad Order - Articles to be submitted for the newsletter by November 17th.

Clinics – Bob Wundrock – Bob has scheduled Joel Morse (his N scale proto free lance RR) and Bob Frankone (Creating his Louisville Southern Lines RR) for the December meeting.

Contests - Model and Photography – List for coming season is in the Bad Order and on the SCWD website. Ideas for contests – email Dave Down.

Modeling Project – Nothing to report.

Door Prizes – Nothing to report.

Layout Tours –Phil Hottmann has scheduled Bob Boelter and Cary Denson, both in Lake Mills, for the November layout tour. Please email Phil if interested in hosting a tour of your layout.

Membership – Nothing to report.

Spring Banquet – Nothing to report.

Picnic – Nothing to report.

Publicity – Nothing to report.

Rail School – Sean Hadfield is working on electronic flyers for local schools for the Jan 2026 Rail School.

Rail Show – Bob McGeever stated that table sales are starting to come in for the upcoming Rail Show.

Youth Group – Nothing to report.

Website – Tom Morrison has started moving the website to the new host. BOD members will be beta testing the new website.

Old Business:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Nothing to report.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by McGeever, second by Down, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm.

David Dingman - SCWD Clerk



For those members that participate in the listserv emails from Steve Lanphear, please remember to send him your new email if you change it! Changing your email with the NMRA does not change it on the listserv. His email is:

Steve Lanphear
SCWD listserv Coordinator
scwdmemberlist@mhtc.net

FROM the NMRA Please Keep in Touch



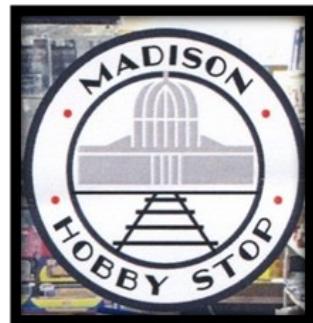
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- Once logged in, click on Member Info (top right corner).
- Make sure your information is correct.
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nmra.org/request-membership-info-changes

to submit a request for changes to be made.

Thank you!



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**Happy New Year
to all my customers!
Thank you for another
good year in 2025.**

**I look forward to another great year
providing for all your hobby needs.**



**We are now open 12:00-5:00 on Sundays
thru February!!**



Thank you for your continued support

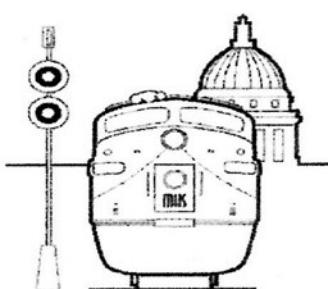
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Bad Order Editor

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are by Kathy Clancy

Deadline for submissions: **14th of the month**
prior to publication. Email Bad
Order Editor at SCWDKATHY@AOL.com

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* = Train Show Ticket advance sales

SCWD 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting	BOD	Youth Group
January 4, 2026 RAIL SCHOOL	January 13, 2026	January 10, 2026
February 1, 2026	February 10, 2026	February 14, 2026
March 1, 2026	March 10, 2026	March 14, 2026
April 12, 2026	April 14, 2026	April 11, 2026
May 3, 2026	May 12, 2026	May 9, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 8, 2026 Banquet
July 18, 2026 Picnic (tentative)

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".