

December 2025

www.nmra-scwd.org

Volume 57 No 4

Happy Holidays!

Next SCWD Meet
Verona Senior Center, Verona
December 7, 2025

Next BOD Meeting:
December 9, 2025, 6:30 PM
ZOOM Meeting



Next Youth Group
Verona Senior Center, Verona
December 13, 2025



Super's Report

Art Dawson
Division Superintendent

Hello fellow modelers,

We had an excellent turnout for the November meeting including a couple of visitors. Let's keep it up and encourage folks to visit. We can always use visitors who may become future members. The turnout for the annual Regional Membership meeting, via Zoom, was also larger than expected. Speaking of the Region, and National, you will be seeing the new NMRA Logo soon on paperwork and webpages going forward as they are updated. Please let your board members know your opinions of it.

Trainfest was enjoyable, I saw several SCWD members there, including some volunteers.

I'll be working the next few weeks on the Red Book updates, and you should see an email with a link to a secure site where you can download it by mid-December.

Expect to hear from Sean Hadfield regarding the Model Railroad School soon. 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. This will be on Sunday January 4th, 2026.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting December 7th!

Thanks!

Art Dawson, SCWD Superintendent nkp284@yahoo.com
Model railroading is fun!



Mad City

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW

February 21–22, 2026
Saturday 9–5 • Sunday 9–4

Alliant Energy Center, Exhibition Hall
Madison, Wisconsin

A GREAT FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT VALUE!

*Includes: Two adults (regular/senior) & two kids (5–15). Kids under 5 FREE



CATCH THE TRAINS

Mad City

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW

Sat. Feb. 21, 9AM–5 PM • Sun. Feb. 22, 9AM–4 PM • 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-scwd.org
Presented by the volunteers of the
South Central Wisconsin Division of the
National Model Railroad Association,
Midwest Region

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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)

Youth Group

Steve Preston, Chair



If you were at our November meeting, there was a table in the back of the room with 4 dioramas on it. Those dioramas were the hard work and imagination of our Youth Group members. If you ask me, in a few years we'll have us some Master Modelers in our midst.

At the end of the meeting, we were told that those priceless pieces of artwork were going to be shown at the Governor's Mansion for their Christmas displays. What an honor it is to have your artwork shown in such a prestigious place. This is because one of our members has connections in high places. Othmar Vorburger said he would take them to the Governor's Mansion and display them.

Some of the youth said no at first because they had trains and stuff on them, and they were not sure if they would get it back in one piece. Othmar calmed their fears when he told them that their pieces of art were going to be insured by the Lloyd's of London, and there was nothing to worry about. I know you kids had some bragging rights at school on Monday. I would like to see those on display at our Youth Group/Membership booth in February.

Thanks guys, you kids did a GREAT JOB! Let's see what we can do with the Donut Shop for April's meeting.

I would like to show the youth group kids how to use a Dremel power tool. If anyone out there has any ideas for a project or projects to use it on, please let me know. Something kids can carve or cut or whatever, just to get them into using a simple tool. Please let me know. Thanks.

Steve Preston
Youth Group Director
Membership Chairman



Ashton Peterson Age 15



Teddy Harrison Age 11



**Charlie Mitchell
Age 9**

**Emerson Palmer
Age 9**



Layout Tours

Phil Hottmann

I was glad to see that we had at least a small group of people out to see the layouts in Lake Mills. I know it's a bit far to travel, but it's nice to see these layouts when we can. Thanks to Bob and Kerry for being open.

For December, we will be traveling to Waunakee to see a new layout. Phil Smith is really making a lot of progress on a layout he just started a year or two ago. I think you will be quite impressed by what I have seen on Facebook. Also, Rusty Dramm will be open again. We were at his layout about a year or two ago, but Rusty tells me that he has completed new work. He always does great work, so it will be great to see his layout again.

Phil

Kerry Denson



Bob Boelter



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



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

Sunday, January 4, 2026, 1–4 pm

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

www.nmra-scwd.org

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

Modeling Project

Mike Vivion

I am pleased to announce that we have a total of 20 members signed up for this year's "Hole-In-One" modeling project, that is, 12 in HO and 8 in N scale. In addition, the SCWD Youth Group has at least four members doing the same project. I hope that we will have more than 50% of those who signed up, actually complete their mini-dioramas and bring them to our April 2026 meeting for popular-vote judging. Everyone present at that meeting will get to vote for their favorite mini-diorama in each of three categories: HO, N and Youth.



So, for now if you signed up for the project and haven't yet received the kit, I will have it available for pick up at our December 7th meeting. Remember you must pay the \$15 deposit before you can pick up your kit. For those who have already received their kits, I encourage you to get working on your mini-dioramas. You have only about four months left to complete them!

Mike Vivion
Modeling Project Chair

Contest Column

Dave Down, Chair

Those of you who follow this column regularly will notice like last year we are now approaching the holidays. They are upon us AGAIN. Halloween has come and gone, Thanksgiving is just around the corner and Christmas is on the horizon. Happy holidays to all of you.

The December contest for our next meeting is **Maintenance of Way** equipment. The categories for this contest are:

- A - Crew cars (dorm, dining, etc.)
- B - Ballast Hopper
- C - Flat car w/ Maintenance Load
- D - Crane

These pieces of MOW equipment are fairly common, but there are many more which are more specialized. Next contest season we will have a contest for MOW equipment other than the ones listed above. If you have suggestions as to which equipment we might include please share them with me at the December meeting.

A reminder, there will be no contest in January because of the Rail School.

November 9 Popular Vote Contest Results — Railroad Structures

Models

Cat. A Engine Servicing

- 1st Skip Streng: Enclosed Water Tank
- 2nd Don Swinton: Wood Water Tank w/ Windmill



Cat. B Passenger Station

- 1st Al Potts: Sarahville Station
- 2nd Don Swinton: Generic station
- 3rd. Al Potts: Hawk Springs station



Cat. C Freight Station

- 1st Al Potts: Sarahville Freight station
- 2nd Don Swinton: PB&S freight station



Photos - Prototype

Cat. PB Passenger Station

- 1st David Down: Red Wing MN station
- 2nd David Down: Brunswick MD commuter station
- 3rd Jason Martin: Galena IL station

Photos - Models

Cat. MA Engine Servicing

- 1st Jim Thayer-Hart: BN Loco Servicing Yard, Denver CO

Cat. MB. Passenger Station

- 1st Art Dawson: Bruce Chub Depot

Cat. MC. Freight Station

- 1st David Down: Water Street Freight Station (Jon Welch layout)

Dave

Clinic Column

Bob Wundrock

For December we have two clinicians from different parts of the USA.

Our first clinician is Joel Morse from Southern California. His clinic is **Overview of Modeling the New York, Ontario and Western Railway in N Scale**.

His presentation provides a brief history of the NYO&W and explains why he chose to model the NYO&W, along with the basis for modeling this segment of the railroad in the summer of 1954. The next portion of the presentation provides an overview of the components of this 125-square foot E-shaped N Scale NYO&W. This section will describe the physical plant, and explain the operational concept, including the rationale behind the selection of Car Cards and Waybills for car forwarding and the hybrid method of train management, as well as crew positions and train types.

Joel is a member of the Cajon Division of the Pacific Southwest Region/NMRA with which he's held several offices. He's given clinics at Division, Region and National conventions as well as authored several articles that appeared in various publications.

Our second clinician is Bob Frankrone. He will present **Creating Operations on the Louisville Southern Lines**.

In his clinic Bob discusses how he transformed his Louisville Southern Lines (LSL) layout into an operating layout long after it was designed and built. He presents a short history of the layout; describes the cities, towns and industries and diagrams the LSL route map. Bob explains his requirements for model railroad operation, the constraints his layout poses, and the mechanics of an operating session on the LSL.

Bob has been a model railroader and a member of the NMRA for over 35 years. His model railroad, The Louisville Southern Line, has been featured in a couple of model railroad publications and continues to be a work in progress. Bob is the author of the series "Love Those Loads" appearing bi-monthly in the *NMRA Magazine*. He has presented countless clinics over the years at both regional and national NMRA conventions. Bob lives in Louisville, Kentucky and is a member of Division Eight of the Mid-Central Region, NMRA.

See you virtually.

Bob



Electronic Red Book Opt-in Form

The following is the information needed from you for inclusion in the SCWD Electronic Red Book-Membership Roster. If you want to be included in the Red Book, please complete this form and return to me. Or feel free to give it to me at one of our meetings. Keep in mind that your NMRA membership dues must be current, and you must live in the boundaries of the SCWD to be included.

If you are new to the Division AND want to be included in the Red Book, please fill in all pertinent information. Please also use this form to update your existing information.

Please Print LEGIBLY!!!

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code _____ NMRA#: _____

E-mail address: _____

Telephone: _____ Scale: _____

Layout status: _____

Layout name: _____

Favorite prototype: _____

Do you wish Layout help? YES or NO (please circle)

Willing to work on other layouts: YES or NO (please circle)

Please include my above information in the Electronic Red Book.

Please sign and Date: _____

Mail to: Arthur Dawson
16317 W. Union Rd
Brooklyn, WI 53521

Or scan and email to: nkp284@yahoo.com

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.

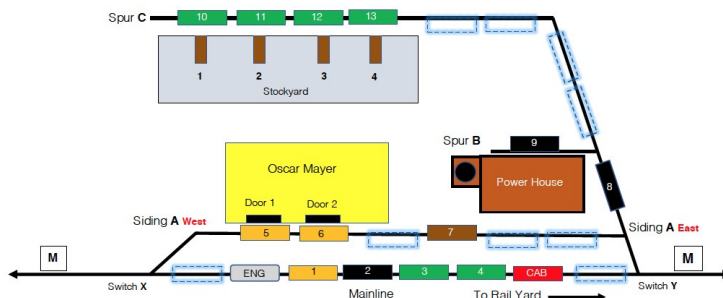
The listserv is a one-way email broadcast to you, not a social media type service. The emails are sent in bulk, but as a BCC: type email.

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

NEW EMAIL

OPS Puzzles

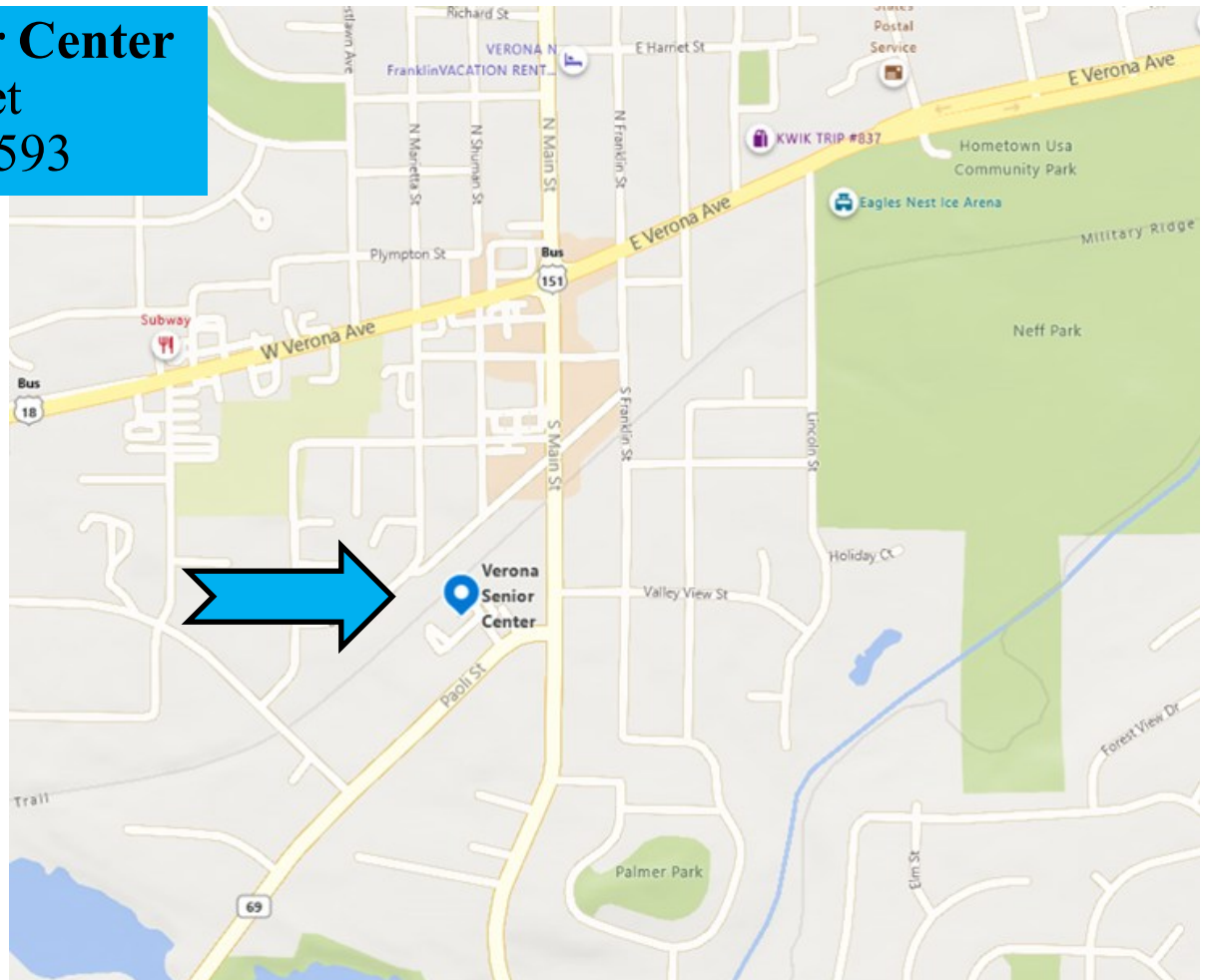


OPS Puzzles have arrived! We now have a section on the SCWD Website that has all 11 puzzles that we have published on the listserv, including the handouts and diagrams. You can start from the beginning, or pick and choose which puzzles you would like to try.

www.nmra-scwd.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 October 14, 2025



The meeting of the South Central Wisconsin Division Board of Directors was called to order at 6:32 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 Preston to approve the minutes of the SCWD Board Meeting held on September 9th, 2025. Motion carried.

Paymaster Report

Art Dawson asked for comments on the September Paymaster Report. There were no comments. Motion by Down, second by Hottmann, to approve the Paymaster Report as presented. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Picnic – Nothing to report.

Achievement Program – Nothing to report.

Advertising - Nothing to report.

Bad Order - Articles to be submitted for the newsletter by October 19th.

Clinics – Bob Wundrock – Bob has scheduled Mike Tylick for both clinics for the November meeting - Scenery Construction and Scenery in Tight Places.

Contests - Model and Photography – List for coming season is in the Bad Order and on the SCWD website.

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.

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 and Tom Morrison have an upcoming meeting with KennedyC for Rail Show advertising. Invitation letters have gone out to exhibitors, vendors and layouts.

Youth Group – Distributed model kits for the model contest. Model contest will be judged at the April SCWD meeting.

Website – Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Nothing to report.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by McGeever, second by Preston, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 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



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

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

nmra.org/request-membership-info-changes

to submit a request for changes to be made.

Thank you!



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during these cold days.



New items starting to come in along with New/Old stock weekly so you
have lots of choices for that special railroader on your Christmas list!

Pre Orders are now 20% instead of 25% due to my discounts being cut.

NMRA members will still receive 20% on all purchases.

Starting Sunday November 30,
we will be open 12:00-5:00 on Sundays
thru next February!!



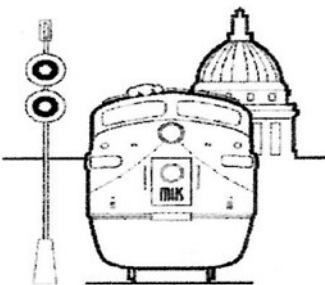
Thank you for your continued support!

**Preorders are 25% off regular price except
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New/old consignment coming in weekly, stop in for best selection

**Remember, most model railroad items are 20% off
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Photos in the Bad Order, unless otherwise noted,
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Deadline for submissions: **14th of the month**
prior to publication. Email Bad
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Madison Hobby Stop – 6622 Mineral Point Rd (inside Clock Tower) – Madison WI *

* = Train Show Ticket advance sales

SCWD 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting

December 7, 2025
January 4, 2026 RAIL SCHOOL
February 1, 2026
March 1, 2026
April 12, 2026
May 3, 2026

BOD

December 9, 2025
January 13, 2026
February 10, 2026
March 10, 2026
April 14, 2026
May 12, 2026

Youth Group

December 13, 2025
January 10, 2026
February 14, 2026
March 14, 2026
April 11, 2026
May 9, 2026

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".