

May 2026

www.nmra-scwd.org

Volume 57 No. 9

Super's Report

Art Dawson
Division Superintendent

Hello fellow modelers,

This will be my last article for the Bad Order as you have a new Superintendent – David Down! Sean Hadfield will be Assistant Superintendent and I continue to serve on the board as Past Superintendent.

The Annual Banquet is going to be on May 15th. The Reservation sheet is still in this Bad Order as well as the Summer Picnic. The Banquet is coming up soon, and I need your reservation **by the meeting on May 3rd**. You can bring your reservation to the picnic to John at the meeting also or he says he will accept it from you at the Banquet. Don't miss these two fun member events!

The summer will be busy. Our Annual Picnic on July 18th, the National Convention in Chattanooga July 25th-August 2nd, and for those not going to the convention, the folks at Milwaukee Light Engineering Society will be open on Sunday July 26th. They have an impressive 7 ½ inch Gauge Railroad located near Cedarburg, Wisconsin.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

Thanks,

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

Next SCWD Meet
Verona Senior Center, Verona
May 3, 2026 at 1 PM

Next BOD Meeting:
May 12, 2026 at 6:30 PM
ZOOM Meeting



Next Youth Group
Verona Senior Center, Verona
May 9, 2026 1 PM



Modeling Project

Mike Vivion

First, I want to thank again all who signed up to participate in this year's modeling contest. While we had 20 members sign up, only 7 completed their project and brought them to our April 12th meeting for popular vote judging. There were seven HO entries and two N scale entries.



All the winners will receive their gift certificates to Madison Hobby Stop via mail from Bob McGeever. Member winners were as follows:

HO Scale: 1st place = \$75; Dave Casey ; **2nd place = \$50;** Sean Hadfield; **3rd place (A Tie) = \$25 each;** Don Swinton and Karl Hauth. **N Scale: 1st Place: \$75;** John Haverberg, and **2nd Place: \$50;** Chris Roeben.

In addition, the *SCWD Youth Group* also participated in this year's Modeling Project, and they brought seven completed mini-dioramas to our April meeting for popular vote judging. Winners for the Youth Group were not judged separately for scale as only one N scale entry was entered. Based on popular voting, the winners were announced and presented with their gift certificates from Madison Hobby Stop at the meeting. Winners were as follows:

1st place: Ashton; **2nd place:** Emerson; **3rd place (a Tie):** Teddy and Levi. Note, youth members last names have been omitted as they are minors.

Photos of all the winners' mini-dioramas are shown below. Thanks to Kathy Clancy for taking these photos.

Congratulations again to all the winners. I am already looking for ideas for next year's modeling project, so contact me if you have any suggestions.

Mike Vivion
Modeling Project Chair



First Place HO
Dave Casey



Second Place HO
Sean Hadfield

Continued next page



**Third Place-Tie
Karl Hauth**



**Third Place-Tie
Don Swinton**



**First Place N
John Haverberg**

**Second Place N
Chris Roeben**



Youth Group Entries



**First Place Youth
Ashton**



**Second Place Youth
Emerson**



**Third Place Youth-Tie
Teddy**



**Third Place Youth-Tie
Levi**

Contest Column

Dave Down, Chair

The contests from 2024-2025 are nearly completed. Our last contest before the summer is on May 3 and the theme is **Circus**. There are three categories of models:

- Passenger Car
- Animal Car (horses, wild animals, etc.)
- Flat Car with Load

This will be a joint meeting with the Rock River Valley Division and there is the possibility they will bring contest entries.

One additional request is suggestions for contest themes for the 2026-2027 contest season. We will bring back some themes from previous years, but we are always in need of additional topics.

One additional reminder, the results for the year are being tabulated and presentations will be made at the banquet for Modeler of the Year and Photographer of the year. See you at the banquet on May 15th.

Dave

Layout Tours

Phil Hottmann

The rain was pouring as a number of us ventured up to Prairie Du Sac to visit Peter Reinhold's newly constructed layout. This is a beautifully engineered and constructed design. This is the Elmira Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Designed for operations, scenery was well underway. Peter Promised that in a couples of years we could come back and see more of the structures and scenery completed. Can't wait to see this layout again.

He also mentioned that he is planning to grow his own Sea Foam "Super Tree Material". I want to see how well that works out!



For May we'll have four layouts open. Two of them have not been open before. It's the joint meeting with Rockford so these are basically on their way home. We'll start with Al Potts in Fitchburg, John Kosobucki in McFarland, Bob McGeever in Stoughton and Art Dawson in Union. We haven't had John's and Art's open before, so these should be interesting to all.

I have lots of slots to fill for next season. I hope you are considering opening up your layout! Let me know if you're interested, I'll try to get you on the schedule.

Phil

Clinic Column

Bob Wundrock

As we wrap-up our 2025-2026 meeting schedule, I'm looking to fill the February through April 2027 SCWD meeting clinics' schedule. I already have the September through December slots scheduled.

If you're interested in presenting a clinic and/or need help with a Power Point presentation, please let me know. SCWD members will get a \$50 stipend for a 45-60 minute presentation.

Our May clinician, Rich Mahaney, will be doing a "two-fer" in person to present two clinics:

His first will be: **Five Busy Railroad Traffic Locations For Your Layout (Interchanges, Freight Houses, Team Tracks, Bulk Transfer Facilities and Rail Car Repair Facilities).**

This clinic looks at five busy locations that can be built on your layout to increase rail car operations. You can use any kind or type of car on your layout to create rail car traffic and operations. The cars can be used to support industries that don't have a railroad spur and can fit into a small space on your layout.

His second will be: **F.A.S.T. Rules? Modeling Tank Cars From 2025 and Beyond!**

This clinic looks at the rule the changes in tank cars and tank car uses for flammable liquids in North America, if you are modeling from 2025 and beyond.

See you virtually,
Bob

Youth Group

Steve Preston, Chair



As you can see from the pictures from our April Youth Group meeting, last minute preparations were being done on their dioramas for the big day on Sunday for the judging.

Moms and dads helped to get things done and to tweak a few things here and there to make sure everything was just right. As all of you could tell from Sunday's judging, they did a great job on all of them. Phil, Karl and I were very happy on the turnout we had.

Congratulations to our winners, as you guys know, we matched the prize money the adults were getting as an incentive to show them off. We had 8 entries from all who got the kits, way to go kids!

Thanks to Phil, Karl, and to the moms and dads who made this a great success. And to all to of you kids for your great effort, you ALL DID A GREAT JOB. I also want to hear for more feedback from you kids about this summer's trip.

Steve Preston
Youth Group Chair and
SCWD Membership Chair





It's banquet time!

May 15th 2026

To be held at the:

American Legion Hall
207 Legion Street
Verona, WI 53593



Cocktails at 6pm

Dinner will be served starting at 7pm — so don't be late.

Reservations must be received by May 8th

Cost of meal: SCWD/NMRA members, \$15.00

Non-NMRA attendees, \$25.00

Children 12 & under, \$5.00

Name:

\$

Note: If you are an NMRA member, your spouse, child over 12 or significant other is the same price as you.

If more than 4 then add to a separate piece of paper and send it along with your reservation.

Address: _____

City: _____ WI Zip _____

Send your reservation to:

Art Dawson
16317 W. Union Rd.
Brooklyn, WI 53521

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ Checks should be made payable to the SCWD



SCWD 2026 Annual Summer Picnic

Saturday, July 18, 2026

For the past several years, except for 2020, the SCWD has held a catered picnic at Little Amerricka Park in Marshall. The SCWD Board has agreed to do so, again, this summer on Saturday, July 18. SCWD members and their families, Youth Club members and their families and other invited guests approved by the Board, can attend the picnic. Reservations have been made with the amusement park for use of their Blue Rose Pavilion and catering is being provided by Angelo's, used in 2024 and 2025. The park opens at noon and closes at 5 pm. Lunch will be served starting at 12:30 pm. Railway equipment can be viewed for free, but train and other rides require purchased tickets from the Park. Also, model train vendors will be at the Park on July 18th.

Please provide the form and payment to me by check or cash at a SCWD meeting or by mail to the address below. To determine the food quantities for the caterer, you will have to sign up and pay by July 10, 2026.

Little Amerricka is located on STH 19 on the east edge of Marshall. Parking directly at the Blue Rose Pavilion can be reached off Box Elder Rd., intersecting USH 19 just east of the Park's regular entrance.

SCWD 2026 Annual Picnic Sign-up and Payment Sheet

SCWD Member and Family Attendee names

Cost each: (\$5>11 or \$0<12)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

My address is: **John Haverberg,
4797 Delmara Rd,
Middleton, WI 53562**

Any questions, contact me at:
email address: haverdj@tds.net
or Phone: 608-836-7963.



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.

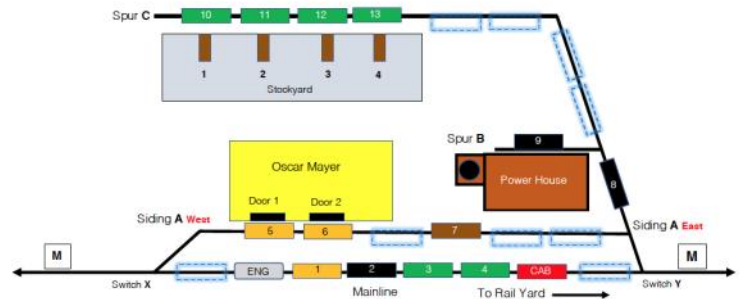
The listserv is a one-way email broadcast to you, not a social media type service. The emails are sent in bulk, but as a BCC: type email.

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

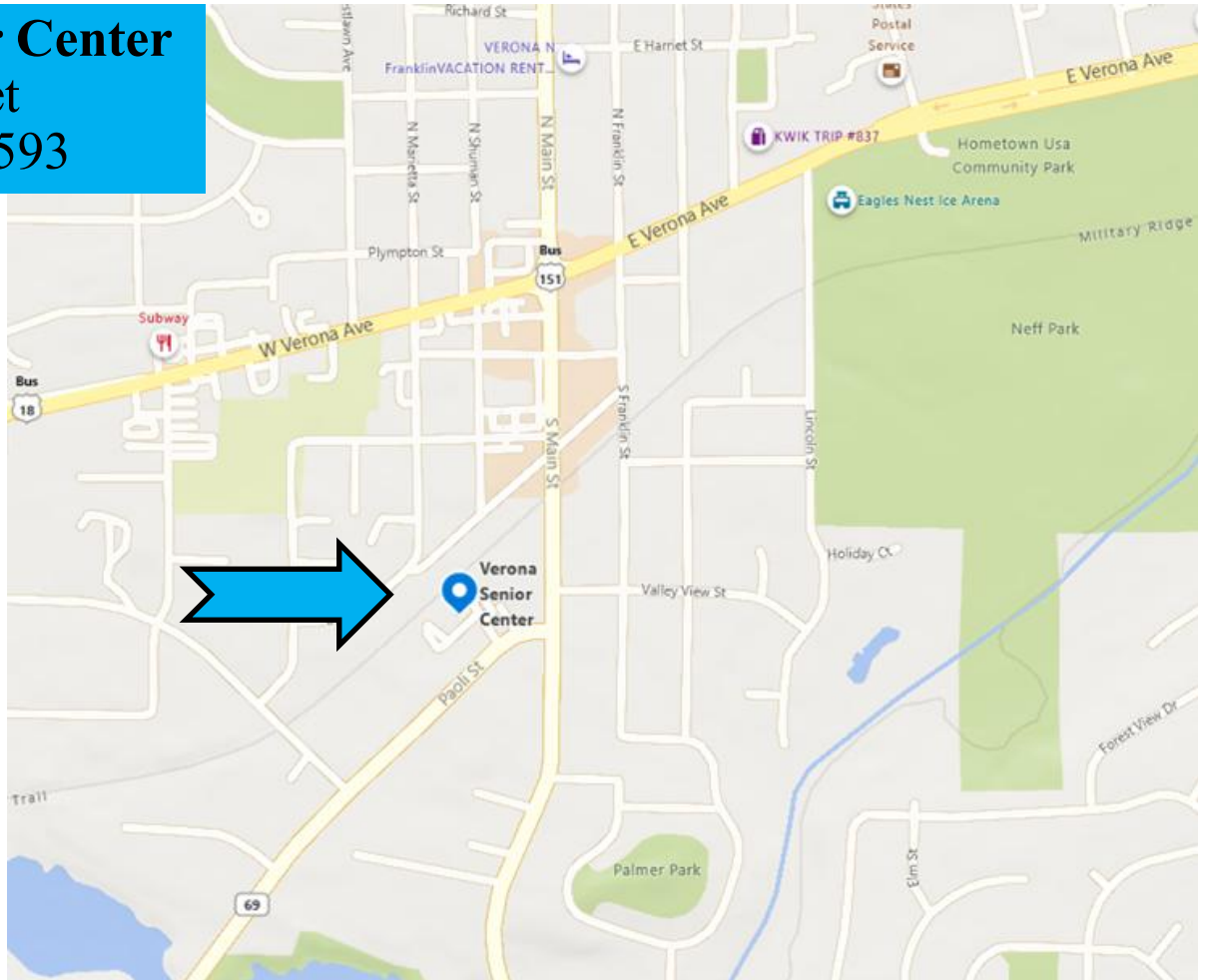


OPS Puzzles have arrived! We now have a section on the SCWD Website that has all 11 puzzles that we have published on the listserv, including the handouts and diagrams. You can start from the beginning, or pick and choose which puzzles you would like to try.

www.nmra-scwd.org/ops-puzzles.html

Steve Lanphear and the Puzzle Development Team.

Verona Senior Center
108 Paoli Street
Verona, WI 53593



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:

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

We're looking for a few good layouts...

...12 to be exact!

You're proud of your model railroad. Why not share it by submitting a photo or two (up to four) for the 2027 edition of the NMRA Model Railroad Calendar?

The calendar is distributed to every U.S. member as a fundraiser every November.

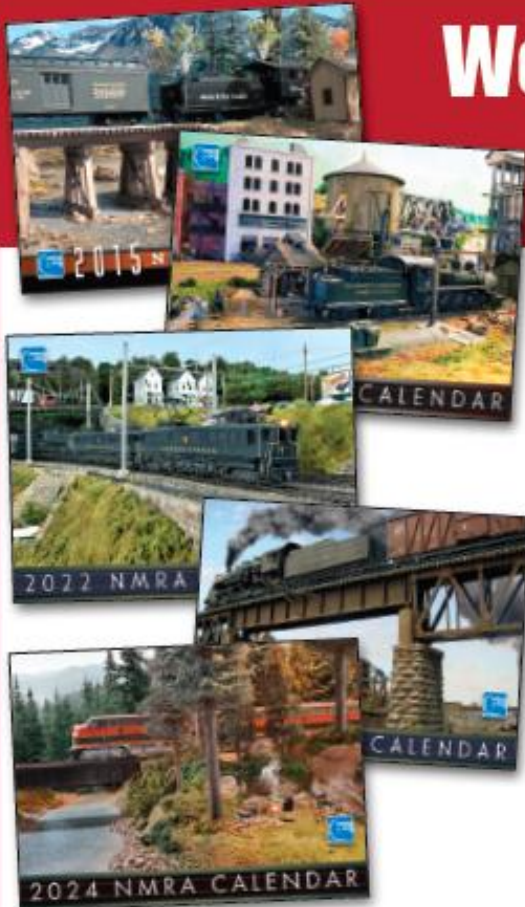
It's easy to submit your photos. Just visit www.nmra.org/printed-calendar and you'll find answers to all your questions, along with a detailed explanation of the photo requirements and how to submit. *Photography tips videos too!*



More questions?

Just drop an email to calendarphotos27@nmra.org or call Gerry Leone at 952-334-3445. This email address is updated yearly and previous addresses are no longer active.

PLEASE NOTE: By submitting your photograph(s) for the NMRA Calendar you certify that none have been AI-enhanced and you are giving permission to the editors to alter them as needed (cropping, smoke and lighting effects, etc). Please indicate if you do **NOT** want your photos altered when you submit them. Your photos may also be used for NMRA promotional purposes however, you do retain ownership of your images.



2015, photo by Greg Komar, O/G scale modeling by Jim Gore, MMR, Santa Clara, UT.
2019, photo and HO scale modeling by Jerry Lauchle, MMR, State College, PA.
2022, photo and O scale modeling by John Sethian, Exton, PA.
2023, photo and HO scale modeling by Richard Walz, Northampton, MA.
2024, photo and HO scale modeling by Larry Blaylock, Kansas City, MO.

Photos may be submitted between January 1 and the final deadline of **July 15, 2026** for consideration.



MIDWEST
REGION

Join the Fox Valley Division
On Our Summer Outing to the

Milwaukee Light Engineering Society

Visit the 7 1/2 inch Gauge Railroad
With Over 5,000 Feet of Track



FOX VALLEY
DIVISION

Sunday July 26, 2026
12:00 noon – 4:00 pm

The MLES Railroad is located near Cedarburg, Wisconsin
(about 25 Miles Northwest of Milwaukee)
Watch for Further Information and Details, from the FVD
An Entrance Fee of ~\$5 will be collected by MLES



FOX VALLEY
DIVISION

Background

The Milwaukee Light Engineering Society owns seven acres of land about 25 miles Northwest of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It provides members who own large scale steam and diesel locomotives a place to operate their equipment. This is not an amusement park for public entertainment, but is available for public visits on designated run days and special event evenings. Public visits are subject to cancellation due to inclement weather.

The Railroad

The members of MLES have constructed more than 5280 feet of 7 1/2 inch gauge track, with another 1800 feet of sidings, spurs, train yards and storage tracks. This gives Railroad Park one full mile of mainline: that is 8 scale miles in 1 1/2 scale railroading. There are several bridges spanning the creek that runs through the property, and a variety of routes that can be traveled by the trains.

Location

Railroad Park is located in the Town of Jackson, Wisconsin, North of Pioneer Road (CTY C) at 2620 North Country Aire Drive (CTY M). This is directly west of Cedarburg, Wisconsin.





**Minutes SCWD Board Meeting
6:30 PM, 10 March 2026
via Zoom meeting**



The meeting of the South Central Wisconsin Division Board of Directors was called to order at 6:32 pm by Assistant Superintendent David Down. Bob McGeever, David Dingman, Phil Hottmann, Steve Preston, Sean Hadfield and Chris Bradley 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 February 10th, 2026. Motion carried.

Paymaster Report

David Down asked for comments on the February Paymaster Report. There were no comments. Motion by Dingman, seconded by Preston, 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 March 20th. BOD members provide updated Bios prior to March 20th, 2026.

Clinics – Bob Wundrock – April clinics are Bob Sprague (Prototype Track Planning) and Jon Dettmann (CNW Short Lines – Fond du Lac). Bob has the fall 2026 clinics tentatively scheduled.

Contests - Model and Photography – No April contest due to Modeling Project contest. May theme is “Circus Trains”. More details can be found on the SCWD website and in the Bad Order. Ideas for contests – email Dave Down.

Modeling Project – Ideas for next year’s modeling project, contact Mike Vivion.

Door Prizes – Nothing to report.

Layout Tours – Pete Reinhold’s layout is scheduled for April, Art Dawson, John Kosobucki and Bob McGeever are scheduled for May. Please email Phil Hottmann if interested in hosting a tour of your layout.

Membership – Steve Preston – Memberships are mostly up to date.

Spring Banquet – Art Dawson – Banquet date is May 15th, 2026.

Publicity – Nothing to report.

Rail School – Nothing to report.

Rail Show – Bob McGeever stated that we had fairly good attendance at this years’ show, however, we were below our budget numbers. 59th Annual Rail Show is scheduled for February 20-21, 2027.

Youth Group – Several new members signed up at the Rail Show.

Website – Website appears to be working well.

Old Business:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

Annual SCWD member elections will be held at the next meeting. Sunday, April 12th, 2026.

Nominations for upcoming Spring Banquet awards should be emailed to Art Dawson and David Down. The Bob Davis (volunteer of the year) and Mac Brown (lifetime volunteer) awards need nominations.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by McGeever, second by Preston to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 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!



SCWD 2025 - 2026 members meeting

April 12, 2026

The meeting of the South Central Wisconsin Division members was called to order at 1:02 pm by Art Dawson.

Board Of Directors (BOD) members present were Bob McGeever, Art Dawson, David Dingman, Phil Hottmann, Steve Preston, Chris Bradley and Sean Hadfield along with 44 general members.

Phil Hottmann introduced the existing BOD members.

Motion by Don Swinton, seconded by Bob McGeever to vote for the current BOD members by acclamation.

Motion carried.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Don Swinton, second by Rusty Dramm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 pm.

David Dingman - SCWD Clerk



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Thank you for your continued support.



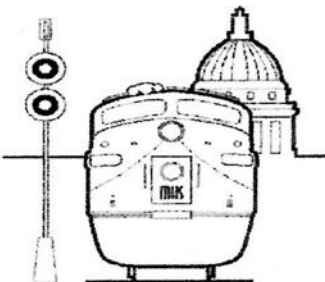
**Preorders are 20% off regular price except
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New/old consignment coming in weekly, stop in for best selection

**Remember, most model railroad items are 20% off
with a valid NMRA or other club id card**

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The Hobby Depot

Brian Stackpole, owner



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Phone: 608-325-5107

Call ahead to be sure we're open!

email: hobbydpo@tds.net

TRAINS & MORE

South Central Wisconsin Division of the National Model Railroad Association

Publishes eleven issues yearly of the

BAD ORDER

Official Mailing Address:

BAD ORDER

3940 Trempealeau Trail

Verona, WI 53593

Photos in the Bad Order, unless otherwise noted,
are by Kathy Clancy

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

Place your ad here!!!

Contact

Kathy Clancy

Bad Order Editor

SCWDKathy@aol.com

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The Hobby Depot – 835 17th Street – Monroe WI
Madison Hobby Stop – 6622 Mineral Point Rd (inside Clock Tower) – Madison WI *

* = Train Show Ticket advance sales

SCWD 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule

| Regular Meeting | BOD | Youth Group |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| May 3, 2026 | May 12, 2026 | May 9, 2026 |

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| May 15, 2026 | Banquet |
| July 18, 2026 | Picnic |

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".