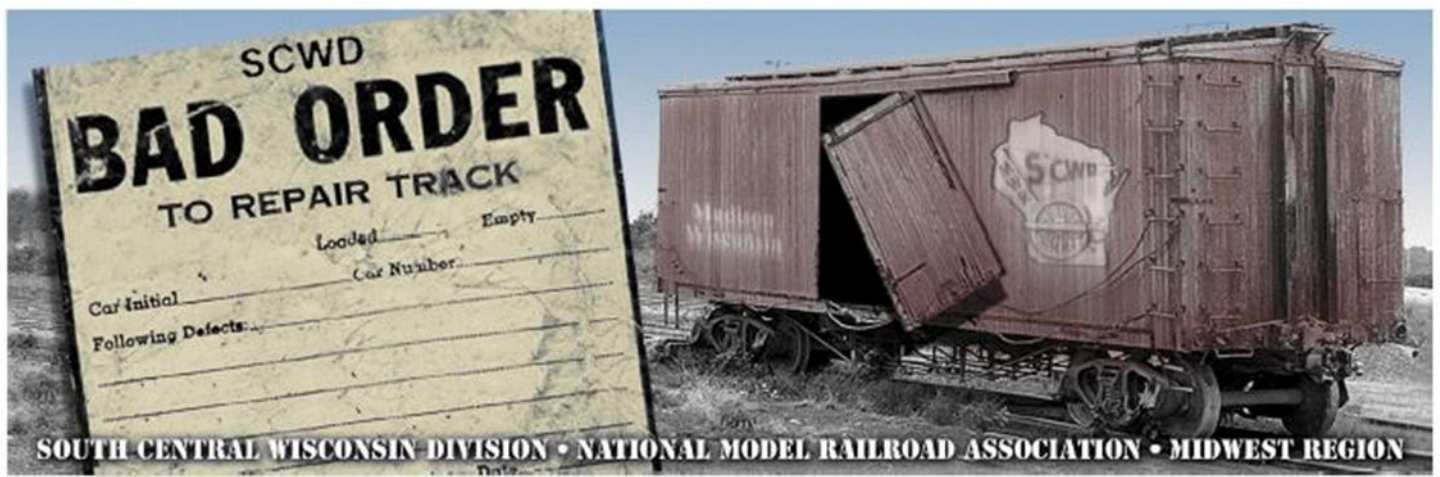




September 2026

www.nmra-scwd.org

Volume 58 No. 1

**Ironman Wisconsin is September 13th
the day of our first meet,
plan on travel issues!**

Super's Report

Dave Down
Division Superintendent

Summer is moving along at a steady pace and we are about a month out from our first meeting this fall. I hope you have had a great time this summer and hopefully trains have been part of it. With the excessive heat we've had, I hope some of you have been able to do more modeling. I know Steve Lanphear would like to have pictures and descriptions of some of your projects.

As I get settled into the Superintendent's role, I am hoping to be effective in using this column to keep us informed, challenged and educated. In May I made a trip to West Allis to attend a monthly meeting of the Wisconsin Garden Railroad Society. Most of us have seen their displays at the February train show and the Olbrich Gardens in December. We have a number of our members who belong to the WGRS, so I feel like I need to know more about larger scale modeling. I had a great time at the May meeting and recommend this group to anyone who wants to know more about G-scale modeling. Check out the layout tour at the September meeting.

Here is a challenge for you. We need someone to step forward to help with the popular vote model and photo contests we have at our monthly meetings. I will be conducting the contest in September, but after that it will depend on someone stepping forward. I will help make the transition go as smoothly as possible. This is also a good time to raise the topic of transition planning for other future changes.

Next SCWD Meet
Verona Senior Center, Verona
September 13, 2026 at 1 PM

Next BOD Meeting:
September 15, 2026 at 6:30 PM
ZOOM Meeting



Next Youth Group
Verona Senior Center, Verona
September 12, 2026 1 PM

Bob Wundrock has been coordinating clinics for our monthly meetings and will also be turning over his responsibilities sometime in early 2027.

I received a notice the other day about Optoberfest. Here is an opportunity for learning something new. I was always intimidated about operations. I never had any exposure to how and why railroads do things the way they do, so getting involved in operations always felt beyond my comfort zone. Milwaukee Optoberfest is a chance to expose yourself to various styles and methods of running model railroad operations. Fifteen layouts (N and HO scales) in the Madison and Milwaukee area will be open September 18-20. A motel has been lined up for those that need accommodations. See the announcement in this Bad Order that has a link to more information about this event.

I look forward to seeing you all on September 13 and hearing about your summer adventures.

Dave Down, SCWD Superintendent
dfdown2000@gmail.com

Clinic Column

Bob Wundrock

Hope you all had a relaxing, fun summer. I also hope you haven't forgotten about the hobby of model railroading.

In case you've neglected your layouts, our first clinician for September has a solution.

Brian Sheron of the Potomac Division in the Mid-Eastern Region will present "Cleaning Your Layout." This clinic will discuss various methods to clean your engines, rolling stock and scenery.

Brian (MMR #469) lives in Poolesville, Maryland and has been in the hobby for more than 40 years. He retired in 2015 from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission after 42 years of service.

I'll need to pay attention to Brian's clinic because most of my layout's rolling stock and engines haven't moved since March!

Our second scheduled clinician regretfully had to bow out. So, I went back to my archives and found a clinic I last presented (to my memory) at the Milwaukee NMRA National Convention in 2010. I am currently updating it a bit.

My clinic is titled "The Milwaukee Electric Railway System; An Overview and Search for Remnants, Etc." I will cover some history, system maps, some remnants that I found back in 2010 and a few "side tracks" which I refer to as et cetera. While I will cover a bit about Milwaukee's streetcar system, it will mostly be about the sprawling interurban system that once graced southeastern Wisconsin.

See you virtually,
Bob



Southbound Station Stop in Grafton, late 40's

Layout Tours

Phil Hottmann

Our layout tours for September are at the Tolley's. They will have both of their layouts open. I'm hoping we have great weather so we can enjoy their outdoor garden railroad.

I have a number of spots to fill for the upcoming season. So please think about having your layout open for a tour. We love to see new layouts or ones with new additions. Or if we haven't seen yours for awhile, we would love to see that too!

We have the Fall Color Layout Tour coming up on October 17th. Please mark your calendars. All the details are not set yet. Like fifteen years ago when we last did this tour, we will likely have a meeting spot. This would allow us to do some carpooling. I don't think I'll provide printed maps this year. I will likely provide timing, addresses, parking and entry information. More information should be available at the October meeting and can be provided via Constant Contact.

Phil

Youth Group

Steve Preston, Chair



Saturday August 8th, I picked up Karl Hauth at his house to go forth on an adventure to Argyle to the toy train museum. We put the address in our GPS and took off for the unknown. We thought we had the right address, but the GPS took us miles out of our way. We finally stopped and asked a guy for directions. (I know men are not to ask for directions, but we bit our lips and did it anyway). As it turned out, we were about 12 miles out of our way but at least the scenery was nice. We finally reached our destination out in the middle of NOWHERE.

The kids and their families were already there. We had a good turnout and a nice day to enjoy it. This is the first time the group has been there. (They had a choice between going to Steam Town in Pennsylvania or here to Argyle. The kids voted to go to Steam town, but it seems their parents didn't want to go the few extra miles for their kids). Later that day the owner took the kids on a mile long train ride around his property. He let one of the kids in the cab of the loco for a ride; that loco's horn sure got a work out.

Overall, we had a great time, maybe we can talk the parents to go to Steam Town next year.

Thanks Karl and Phil for all you do!

Steve Preston
Youth Group Director
Membership Chairman



Contest Column

Dave Down, Chair

Our new season of meetings is starting, which means new opportunities to participate in the model and photo contests. The themes for each month will be on the website under the Contest tab and also announced each month in the Bad Order. As always, if you have an idea for a contest theme please send me an email.

For our first meeting back (September) the theme is **Specialty Freight Cars**. A good source of ideas to illustrate this theme is the **listserve**. Steve Lanphear has a monthly mystery car picture showcasing unusual specialty cars. For September there will be only this one category. The theme will apply to both the models and the photographs.

September: **Specialty Freight Car**

Your entry can be any kind of freight car as long as it is specialized for, and limited to, service in a particular industry or for an unusual commodity.

Since it is a “new modeling year”, I once again encourage each of you to set a “new year resolution.” A good resolution would be for everyone to submit at least one model and one photo in the next nine months. The full list of themes for the year will be posted on the website so you can plan ahead. (It is posted on the next page and was also in the July/August Bad Order.)

Popular Vote Model and Photo Contests

1. Popular vote contests shall be held at each regular membership meeting except when we have the modeling project entries.
2. The theme of models and photos to be entered in the Popular Vote Contests each month shall be determined by the Model and Photo Contest Chair with the approval of the BOD and published in advance in the Division newsletter, the Bad Order.
3. Categories shall be determined by the Contest Chairs and published in the Bad Order in advance.
4. Each member present at the meeting may vote for their favorite model and photo in each category. A first, second, and if necessary, a third award will be given to entries receiving the most votes in each subclass.
5. Photo entries should be either 4”x 6” or 5” x 7” in size in B&W or Color. Larger photos will not be considered entries, but can be shown as “Display Photos”
6. The categories for photos will match the categories for the model contest unless otherwise noted in advance. You may enter up to 3 photos in each category. You may enter photos in multiple categories.
7. All contest entries must be logged in on the appropriate category sheet, with the entry number placed on a tag that goes on or next to the model or photo.

Everyone who votes likes to see which entries received awards, and some would like to ask questions of the modelers or photographers, so if at all possible, at the end of the meet, please return to the contest area to see if anyone has questions before retrieving your entries.

Dave

2026 - 2027 POPULAR VOTE MODEL AND PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS

September:	Specialty / Dedicated Freight
October:	Box Cars
November:	Flat Car w/Load
December:	Holiday Cars
January:	No contest (Rail School)
February:	Snow Reefer
March:	April Foolery
April:	No Contest (model project)
May:	Speeder / Inspection Car

Modeling Project

Mike Vivion

Tentatively, subject to the SCWD's Board approving it, I made an excellent deal with the owner of Phoenix Model Buildings Company for us to purchase their "880's Main Street Series Gem Hotel/Zelda's B & B". This laser-cut wood kit is available in both N and HO (see photo). It is a mid-level wood kit that I think everyone will want to build. I will have more details at our September meeting.

See you there on September 13th.

Mike Vivion
Modeling Project Chair



Milwaukee Optoberfest 2026

If you are at all interested in model railroad operations I want you to be aware of an upcoming event.

For those of you in the Madison-area, Milwaukee Optoberfest 2026 is coming up a bit sooner this year on September 18-20. As in the past few years, it's a bit of a joint effort between Milwaukee and Madison layouts.

There are 15 layouts participating in N and HO scales. Want switching? We have plenty of that. Want heavy modern mainline action? We have two layouts with that. Want a mix of mainline and switching? We have that, too.

As for getting to it, well for most of you that's just a short hop east on I-94. Want to make it a weekend? We have a hotel with a good rate of \$129 a night including breakfast, that's in sight of I-94. Want to just participate one or two days, that works too. I'm still working on layout tours for Saturday night. One will be new, small HO switching layout upstairs with the design and room overview of the Gn3 that will be under construction this winter in the basement. I'm hoping to get a new N scale layout on tour as well.

So come on over to Milwaukee to operate. For more information and to register, see the link below.

<http://my.execpc.com/B9/4A/jruss/Optoberfest2026/Opfest2026.html>

Joe Russ
Milwaukee Optoberfest 2026 coordinator



2026 SCWD Summer Picnic Review

The 2026 Summer Picnic was held on July 18th at Little Amerricka Amusement Park in Marshall. About 60 SCWD members and their guests attended. The weather turned out OK. Four steam engines pulled passenger trains for the Park's Railway Day. Smoke from the Canadian and northern Minnesota wildfires was minimal but the promised model railroad vendors invited by Little Amerricka did not appear in the Park during the afternoon.

Angelos' was contracted to serve the picnic again this year. The caterer and his wife had the food ready at 12:30 pm as requested. Three primary meats (burgers, brats, and chicken breasts) and buns were offered as well as hot dogs for the younger kids. Hot baked beans, a cheese plate, veggies, pickles, fresh fruit, condiments, and chips were also included as well as cookies for dessert. A variety of cold sodas, bottled water, and ice were available for drinks. Attendees provided very positive comments, again, to me and the caterers! And the overall cost was the same per person as last year.

For those who attended the Picnic, I hope you had a good lunch and a good time at the park. For those who couldn't attend, there will always be next year!

John Haverberg, SCWD Summer Picnic Chairperson

Thanks to Phil Hottmann for providing the following picnic pictures in my absence!







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.

This 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 compare your solution to the one on the website, posted by one of our SCWD experts.

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.

We also send out additional selected videos, articles , Modeling tips and other posts of interest to the hobby via the SCWD listserv!

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!

Happy Railroading!
Steve



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

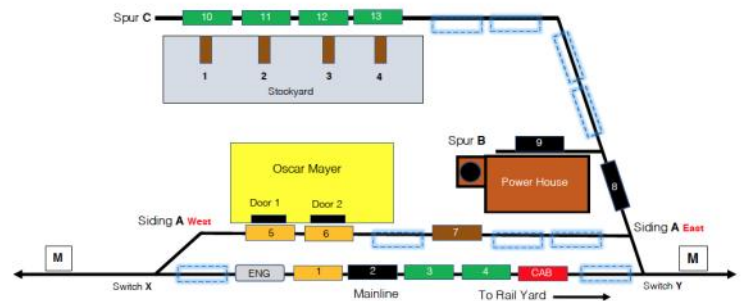
Join The 120+ SCWD members and members from other Midwest Regional Divisions who are participating in the SCWD listserv. You can expect 5 - 10 photos of railfan photos or model railroad photos or other items per week on average, as well as SCWD announcements, monthly Mystery Photo contests, Modelers 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.

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

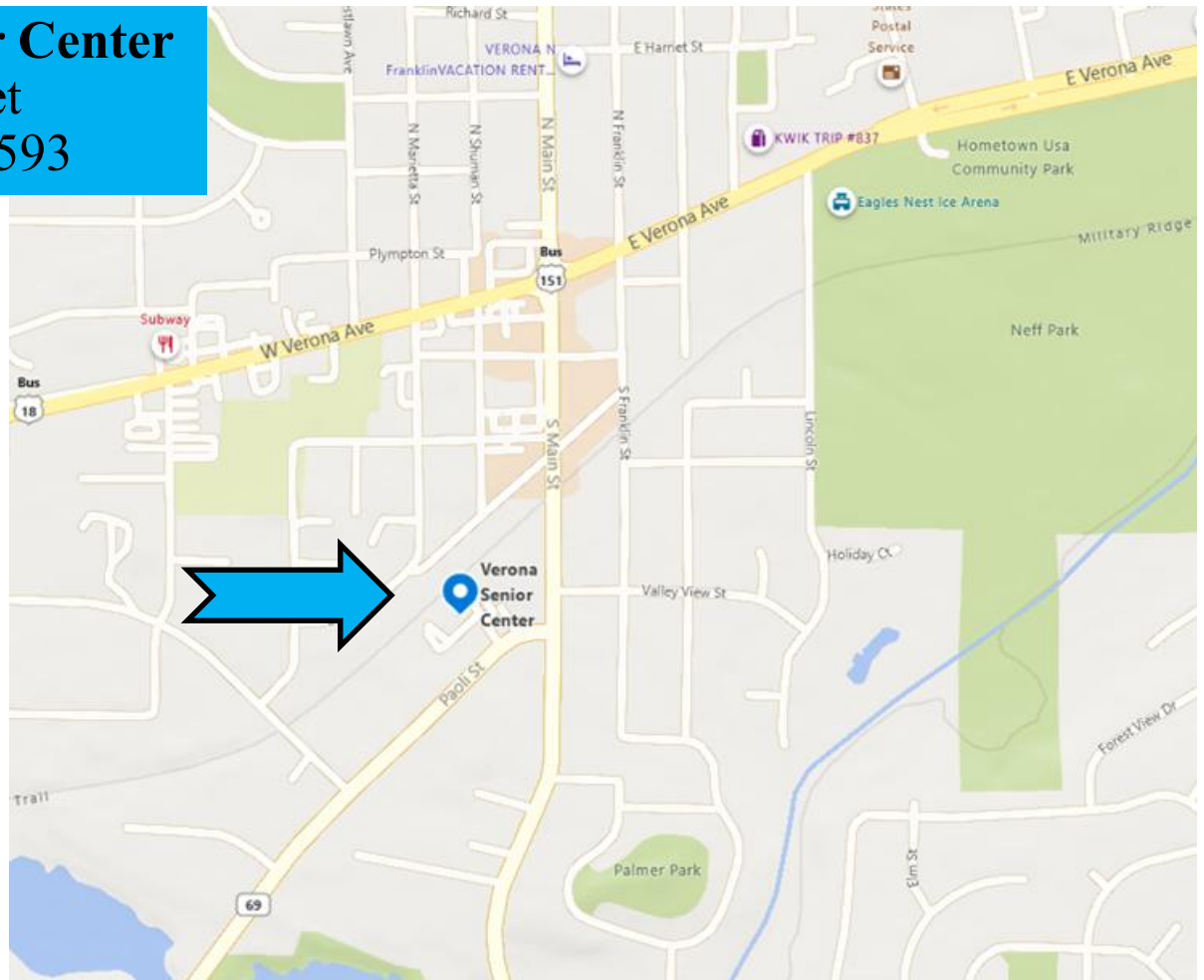
OPS Puzzles



OPS Puzzles have arrived! We now have a section on the SCWD Website that has all 12 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 Then go to [Contests and Operations Puzzles](#)

Steve Lanphear

Verona Senior Center
108 Paoli Street
Verona, WI 53593





NMRA NEWS



your portal to more fun in scale model railroading



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In The News

[A brand new AP Certificate can be earned in the Settings group!](#)

During the 2026 Scenic City Express National Convention in Chattanooga, the NMRA Board approved the youngest certificate to be earned to get you closer to become an MMR: **Master Builder Modular Railroading**.

The purpose of the Modular Railroading Achievement Program (AP) Certificate is to recognize individual model railroaders who demonstrate integrated excellence in the design, construction, operation, and public exhibition of modular model railroad sections (modules).



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Trainfest 2026



Baird Center
400 W Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53203
November 7 & 8, 2026
9:00am to 4:00pm

[Trainfest Website](#)

<https://www.eventcreate.com/e/trainfest-2026-reg>



**Minutes SCWD Board Meeting
6:30 PM, 9 June 2026
via Zoom meeting**



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

Minutes

Motion by McGeever, second by Preston to approve the minutes of the SCWD Board Meeting held on May 12, 2026. Motion carried.

Paymaster Report

David Down asked for comments on the May Paymaster Report. There were no comments. Motion by Dingman, seconded by Preston, to approve the May Paymaster Report as presented. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Picnic – Scheduled for July 17th, 2026 at Little Amerrika.

Achievement Program – Nothing to report.

Advertising - Nothing to report.

Bad Order – Nothing to report.

Clinics – Nothing to report.

Contests - Model and Photography – Ideas for Fall 26/ Spring 27 contests – email David Down.

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

Door Prizes – Nothing to report.

Layout Tours – Please email Phil Hottmann if interested in hosting a tour of your layout. Phil is working on a “fall color layout tour” for Saturday, Oct 17, 2026.

Membership – Nothing to report.

Spring Banquet – Nothing to report.

Publicity – Nothing to report.

Rail School – Nothing to report.

Rail Show – 59th Annual Rail Show is scheduled for February 20-21, 2027.

Youth Group – Summer visit to Toy Train Museum in Argyle in August. Scenery demonstrations tentatively scheduled for this fall by Bob McGeever.

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 6:58 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



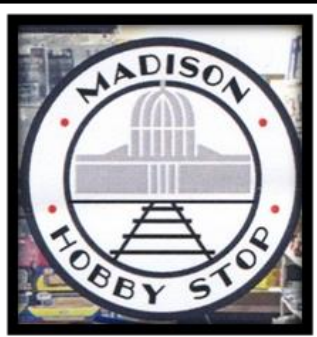
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- Please visit nmra.org/members
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- Once logged in, click on Member Info (top right corner).
- Make sure your information is correct.
- If not, please go to:

nmra.org/request-membership-info-changes

to submit a request for changes to be made.

Thank you!



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Thank you for your continued support.



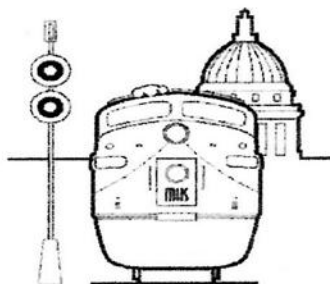
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TRAINS & MORE



**South Central Wisconsin Division of the
National Model Railroad Association**

Publishes eleven issues yearly of the

BAD ORDER

Official Mailing Address:
BAD ORDER
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Verona, WI 53593

Photos in the Bad Order, unless otherwise noted,
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**Deadline for submissions: 14th of the month
prior to publication. Email Bad
Order Editor at SCWDKATHY@AOL.com**

Place your ad here!!!
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Bad Order Editor
SCWDKathy@aol.com

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* = Train Show Ticket advance sales

SCWD 2026-2027 Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting

September 13, 2026
October 4, 2026
November 1, 2026
December 6, 2026
January 3, 2027 Rail School
February 7, 2027
March 7, 2027
April 4, 2027
May 2, 2027 Joint at Rockford

BOD

September 15, 2026
October 13, 2026
November 10, 2026
December 15, 2026
January 12, 2027
February 16, 2027
March 16, 2027
April 13, 2027
May 11, 2027
June 15, 2027

Youth Group

September 12, 2026
October 10, 2026
November 7, 2026
December 12, 2026
January 9, 2027
February 13, 2027
March 13, 2027
April 10, 2027
May 8, 2027

UPCOMING EVENTS

Train Show February 20-21, 2027
Banquet May 14, 2027
Picnic July 17, 2027

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".