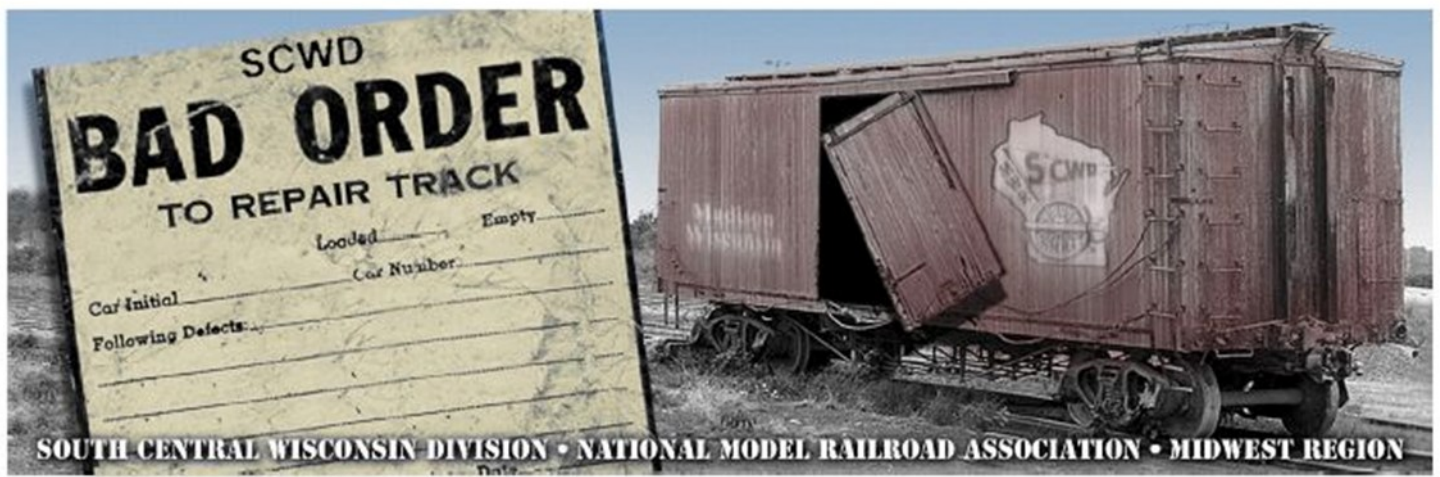




October 2026

www.nmra-scwd.org

Volume 58 No. 2



Super's Report

Dave Down
Division Superintendent

Our first meeting of the current year is under our belts and we are underway. Make sure you check out all the info in the Bad Order because we have lots of things going on and there is something for everyone going on around us.

Mike Vivion shared some info at the meeting regarding the modeling project this year. He has been working to get some questions answered so keep an eye out for his updates. There are some changes coming through from the NMRA you will want to hear about and there will be some information about that coming up. Bob McGeever has given us some updates on table sales for the next train show and in a month or two I'll be starting to fill in the blanks for volunteers. The youth group is getting clinics lined up for the year and you will want to see some of the things they are working on, and of course the rail school is coming up in January. So.... It is full steam ahead!

We have a new chair person for the popular vote model and photo contests. Actually it is chair **persons**. Sean Hadfield and Colton Meyer will be taking over that responsibility and will be leading that activity going forward. We appreciate their willingness to step in and take charge. This is also a good time to remind everyone we are looking for someone to take over scheduling clinics for our monthly meetings after Bob Wundrock finishes up next spring. Now is a great time to learn more about how to make this work while Bob is still in charge.

Next SCWD Meet Verona Senior Center, Verona

October 4, 2026 at 1 PM

Next BOD Meeting:

October 13, 2026

ZOOM Meeting at 6:30 PM



Next Youth Group Verona Senior Center, Verona

October 10, 2026 at 1 PM

On a more serious note, we have received information from Sue Welch about the memorial service for Jon coming up on September 26. There will be an informal service at Tyrol Ski Basin from 4 to 8pm in recognition of Jon and the many ways he embraced life, family, and friends. Jon was enthusiastic about many things and model railroading was one of them. He was a regular and prolific contributor to the listserv and now there are numerous modeling supplies being donated to the youth group. The address is 3487 Bohn Road, Mount Horeb.

Also, Art Jennrich, a long-time active member of the SCWD recently passed away on September 15th. Art had an active life and was always a willing volunteer at the Mad City Train Show working at the Company Store for many years. He will be greatly missed. Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, October 3 at 11:00 am at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in New Glarus. Visitation will be at the church starting at 10:00 am until the time of the service. Full obituary can be found at shgfuneralhome.net.

Continued next page

Continued from page 1

I am continuing to plan visits to clubs and organizations that have some connections to the SCWD. I recently attended a meeting of the Southern Wisconsin Sandhouse Crew. They have been regular exhibitors at the Mad City Rail Show for many years and regularly show up at a number of shows every year. They put together a modular layout each year made up of club modules and modules owned by members. This allows them to assemble a fairly large layout that can be configured in different combinations to keep things interesting. I have also seen them at the public library in Sun Prairie and they will be showing again in September at the train show in Monroe. If you want to know more about them you can find information on their website sandhousecrew.com.

Last but not least I want to remind you about the fall layout tour coming up in October. This is a marvelous chance to see some new layouts and catch up on some older layouts you may not have seen.

Dave Down
SCWD Superintendent
dfdown2000@gmail.com

Youth Group

Steve Preston, Chair



Not much exciting happened this time around. Phil Hottmann had organized a big box of rolling stock we use for the kid's layout. He had a large box of cars which needed repairs in the form of some new couplers. He had some couplers from his own stock, as well as a few we got from Madison Hobby Stop. The kids put new couplers on a lot of cars and even had some help from some moms and dads. We did get a good deal of them done, and now they have some good, updated rolling stock to use in future layout sessions. The next few months should be much more exciting.

Thanks Phil and Karl for all you do.

Steve Preston
Youth Group Director and
Membership Chairman



Contest Column

Dave Down, Outgoing Chair

For September, our theme was **Specialty Freight Cars**. We were looking for your models and photos of unique single-purpose freight cars. This was the only category in the contest so we had fewer models than when there are multiple categories. We still had good participation.

September 13: **Specialty Freight Car**

Models

Cat. A Specialty Freight Car
1st Phil Hottmann: Pickle Car



2nd Don Swinton: Pickle Car
3rd Phil Hottmann: Watermelon Car

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.

Next month the theme is Box Cars.

Category A: Wood Sheath
Category B: Outside Brace
Category C: Double Door
Category D: Waffle Side

Dave

Clinic Column

Bob Wundrock

Our October two-part clinics will be presented in person by Dave Nelson of the WISE Division.

Dave's clinic/clinics is on open loads of stone and rock. The first part is a general review using prototype photos of the variety of such stone loads and how they are shipped. The second part is a closer look at "dimensional" loads of large blocks of stone, with some specific (and "frugal") ways to model them.

Dave has been a modeler railroader for over 60 years, a member of the NMRA since around 1980, and a longtime member of the Chicago & North Western Historical Society and the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, for which he is a past President.

He's been an active volunteer at Trainfest and at the 2010 National Convention in Milwaukee. Over the years he has presented dozens of clinics to six NMRA Divisions and at several Regional Conventions.

He's also been the "Frugal Modeler" columnist in the Midwest Region's quarterly *Waybill*. In 2024 Dave was presented with the President's Award by the NMRA for his service to the hobby and to his Division and Region.

See you virtually.

Bob

Layout Tours

Phil Hottmann

It turned out to be a wonderful day to see an outdoor layout. Donn and Rose Tolley's layouts were beautiful. There was plenty to see on both the indoor and outdoor layouts. Both were excellently done. It was great to see these once again. Thanks to both Donn and Rose for presenting their work!



For October we will be visiting Jon Welch's layout. Even though Jon is gone, we have a chance to see Jon's work once again. I understand that Sue plans to keep the layout running so the grandkids can maybe develop an interest over the years.

Don't forget about the Fall Color Layout Tour coming up on October 17th. We are planning to meet at Middleton Park-and-Ride at 9:00 AM. This is located at the intersection of Parmenter Street and Highway 12. We will have more detailed information at the October 4th meeting and will also provide information via "Constant Contact". With 8 layouts scheduled and the peak of fall colors this should be a wonderful day! There is even an opportunity to cross the Merrimac ferry. I hope you are all considering going. Five of these layouts have not had tours before. It should be spectacular!

Phil

Modeling Project

Mike Vivion

It official! The SCWD Board of Directors approved at their September 15th meeting, my proposal for the 2026-2027 Modeling Project. In case you did not read my column in last month's Bad Order or did not attend our September Division meeting, the modeling project will be based on construction of a laser-cut wood structure kit. I believe this is the first time we have used such a kit as the basis for the modeling project. Like last year, the kit will be available in both HO and N scales. The structure (which is shown below as fully assembled and painted, was copied from the manufacturer's web site)) is offered by **Phoenix Model Buildings** located in Peoria, IL. The kit I have selected is called the **"1880s Gem Hotel or Zelda's B & B"**. It is an intermediate level laser-cut wood kit per the owner. Footprint for the HO kit is 4.5" x 7", and for the N scale kit 2.50" x 3.75". As in previous years, you will not only assemble the kit, but include it as part of a mini-diorama that you create. Also in past years, maximum sizes for the mini-dioramas are : HO scale= 2 square feet or 288 square inches, and for N scale= 1 square foot or 144 square inches. You are free to add railroad trackage, streets, other structures, vehicles, and figures as you may choose to do.

Because these kits are more expensive, you will be required to make a \$30.00 deposit to receive a kit and participate in this year's project. If you complete the kit and mini-diorama and bring it to our April, 2027, Division meeting for popular vote judging, you will receive your deposit back. Otherwise, your deposit is forfeited, but you are allowed to keep the kit. As in previous years, prizes will be awarded separately for both scales, and will be gift certificates to the **Madison Hobby Stop**.

Please note, if you did not already sign up for the project at the September meeting, you will have only two opportunities to sign up, i.e., the October and November meetings. If you are unable to attend either meeting, you can sign up by contacting me directly. **NO Sign UPs will be accepted after Sunday, November 1st.** I will be placing only one order for all the kits the week following our November meeting. All kits will be available for pick-up at our December 6th meeting. If you have not given me your \$30 deposit previously, you must give it to me no later than December 6th in order to receive your kit. If you will be unable to attend the December 6th meeting, you must contact me prior to that date and we will arrange getting your deposit to me and the kit to you. I will make no exceptions to these rules!

This looks to be a great project, and I hope that there will be other members signing up besides the 15 people who signed up at the September meeting.

Mike Vivion

Modeling Project Chair





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](#)



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.

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??**

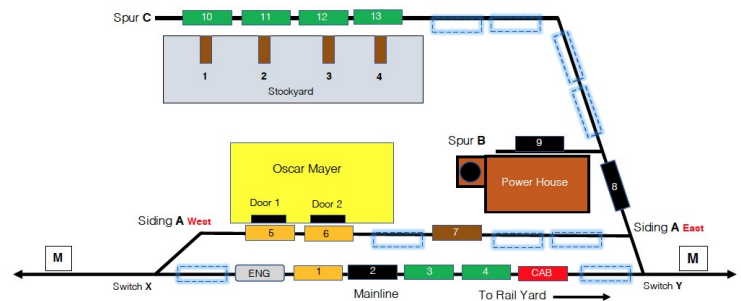
Join The 120+ SCWD members and members from other Midwest Regional Divisions who are participating in the SCWD listserv. You can expect 5 - 10 photos of railfan photos or model railroad photos or other items per week on average, as well as SCWD announcements, monthly Mystery Photo contests, Modelers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

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

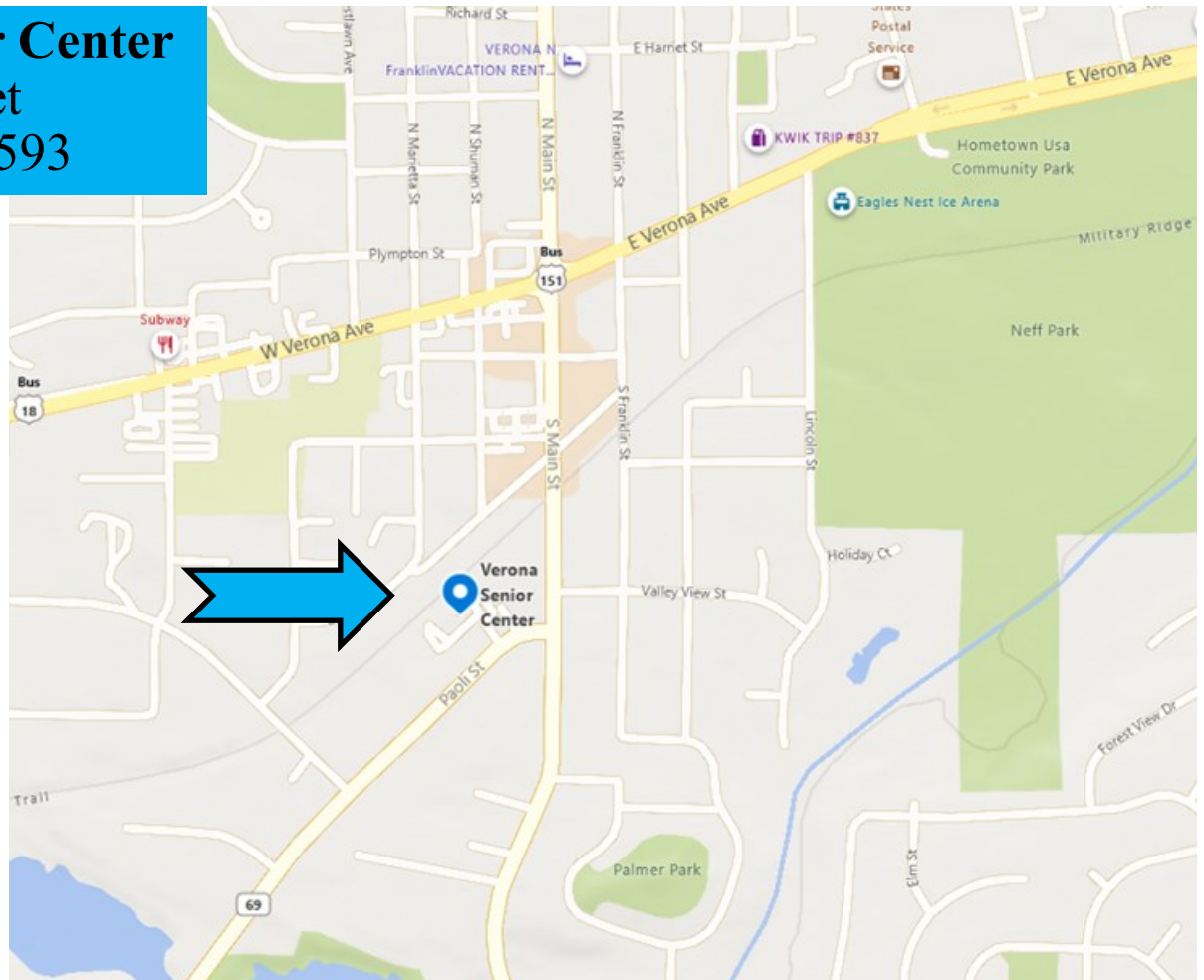


OPS Puzzles have arrived! We now have a section on the SCWD Website that has all 12 puzzles that we have published on the listserv, including the handouts and diagrams. You can start from the beginning, or pick and choose which puzzles you would like to try. Go to:

www.nmra-scwd.org
then: **Contests and Operations Puzzles**

Steve Lanphear and the Puzzle Development Team.

Verona Senior Center
108 Paoli Street
Verona, WI 53593





SCWD 2025 - 2026 Board of Directors Meeting - via ZOOM August 11, 2026



The meeting of the South Central Wisconsin Division Board of Directors was called to order at 6:33 pm by Superintendent David Down. Bob McGeever, David Dingman, Sean Hadfield, Phil Hottmann, Chris Bradley and Steve Preston were present.

Minutes

Motion by McGeever, second by Preston to approve the minutes of the SCWD Board Meeting held on June 8, 2026. Motion carried.

Paymaster Report

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

Committee Reports

Picnic – Nothing to report.

Achievement Program – Nothing to report.

Advertising - Nothing to report.

Bad Order – Nothing to report.

Clinics – Clinics for this year are scheduled. September clinics will be presented by Brian Sheron (Cleaning your layout) and Bob Wundrock (Milwaukee Interurban RR). October will be Dave Nelson from Milwaukee.

Contests - Model and Photography – Fall 26/ Spring 27 contest list has been sent to Tom Morrison to update the SCWD website. Contest ideas – email David Down.

Modeling Project – Nothing to report.

Door Prizes – Nothing to report.

Layout Tours – Phil Hottmann has set up a “fall color layout tour” for Saturday, Oct 17, 2026. Currently Phil has 8 layouts scheduled to be open on Saturday, Oct 17, 2026. Please email Phil Hottmann if interested in hosting a tour of your layout on meeting dates.

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. Vendor invitations have been sent out for the upcoming Rail Show.

Youth Group – Good turnout for the August 8th visit to Toy Train Museum in Argyle. New storage boxes have been purchased for cars and locomotives.

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 7:32 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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Hello Fall

**Now that the horrible summer is over and
yard work slowing down, time to focus on the layout.**

**For all your hobby needs, I have most supplies
in stock or can get in a few days.**

**New/Old stock continues to come in,
more than the new items. Many *like-new* items at half price.**

Closed on Sundays until late November.

Thank you for your continued support.



**Preorders are 25% off regular price except
Walthers Proto which is 20% off**

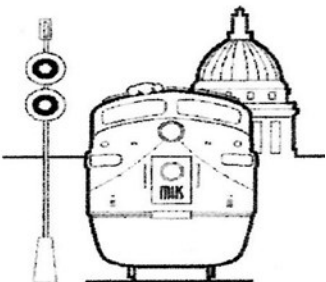
New/old consignment coming in weekly, stop in for best selection

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

Excludes discounted or sale items, magazines, and consignments

Gift Certificates Available

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Chris Roosli, Proprietor



The Hobby Depot
Brian Stackpole, owner

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Call ahead to be sure we're open!
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TRAINS & MORE



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

Publishes eleven issues yearly of the

BAD ORDER

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Deadline for submissions: **14th of the month
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Place your ad here!!!
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Madison Hobby Stop – 6622 Mineral Point Rd (inside Clock Tower) – Madison WI *

* = Train Show Ticket advance sales

SCWD 2026-2027 Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting

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 (At Rockford)

BOD

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

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

Other 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".