

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

February 2026

www.nmra-s cwd.org

Volume 57 No. 6

Super's Report

Art Dawson
Division Superintendent

Hello fellow modelers,

Happy New Year!!

We had an amazing turnout for the Rail School on January 4th. Including club members, nearly 250 people attended the event. As has been usual for me the last several years, I did not get to visit any of the clinicians as I spent the whole afternoon (along with several others) helping our younger attendees build Athearn car kits. It was a fun afternoon. We have officially exhausted our supply of these kits and are looking for something different for the "make and take" tables for next year. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please pass them along.

Upcoming events:

February meeting: Feb 1st

Mad City Railroad Show and Sale: Feb 21, 22

March meeting: March 1st

April meeting: April 12th (A week later than otherwise as Easter is the 5th!)

May meeting, joint with the Rock Valley Division, held here this year: May 3rd

Annual Banquet: May 8th. More information to come.

Annual Picnic: July 18th. See information later in this issue.

Next SCWD Meet
Verona Senior Center, Verona

February 1, 2026



Next BOD Meeting:
February 10, 2026, 6:30 PM
ZOOM Meeting

Next Youth Group
Verona Senior Center, Verona
February 14, 2026



Please volunteer for the Railroad Show if you have not already. Volunteers make this show run as well as it does. No skills required; you will get instructions a/o training if needed.

I look forward to seeing you on February 1st!

Art Dawson, SCWD Superintendent
Model railroading is fun!

Contest Column

Dave Down, Chair

It is February and we are well into the winter. In keeping with the season, our contest theme in February is **Snow**. Back in the spring when the themes were being selected little did I realize we might need this theme to remind us of the time of year. Recently I took a trip to Utah, and it turns out we have as much snow as they do, even though they need it more than we do. There was no snow along I-80 in either direction. And the ski slopes in Utah are really hurting.

So, use your imagination to tackle the theme of snow.

Snow

- A. Wedge snow plow (for example: Russell snow plow)
- B. Engine mounted plow
- C. Motorized (Rotary) Snow plow

Dave

A poster for the Mad City Model Railroad Show. It features a large image of a train engine on the left and a circular badge on the right that says "Save! FAMILY PACK \$36* TICKETS".

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

The logo for the Mad City Model Railroad Show. It features a circular graphic with a train engine and the text "CATCH THE TRAINS" above the word "Mad" and "City" in a stylized font. Below the text is the "MODEL RAILROAD SHOW" in a bold, sans-serif font.

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

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South Central Wisconsin Division of the
National Model Railroad Association,
Midwest Region
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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)

Clinic Column

Bob Wundrock

For our February clinics we'll have two experienced model railroaders.

Our first will be Bernie Kempinski presenting "Manifest Destiny - The USMRR Aquia Line."

It is a well-known axiom that model railroads expand to fill all available space. Bernie will describe how he used system analysis tools to help design the optimal plan for his expanding O Scale USMRR Aquia Line railroad. He'll also discuss what's new on the railroad including an automated telegraph, random events, time table and train order operations in the 19th century, AI enhancements and 3D printing. If you're not interested in the techy stuff, there will be plenty of pretty pictures, bad jokes, and dancing girls. There will even be a movie. Just kidding about the dancing girls, but come anyway.

Bernard Kempinski is a freelance writer and award-winning modeler and photographer who has written dozens of magazine articles and several books on model railroading. He is an active modeler and has built models on commission for museums and individuals. He is a certified Master Model Railroader by the National Model Railroad Association. A former U.S. Army captain, Bernard is retired defense analyst. See his blog for more info on his layouts and projects.

www.usmrr.blogspot.com He is also the proprietor of Alkem Scale Models, a cottage industry specializing in fine scale kits and detail parts www.alkemscalemodels.com

Our second clinic will be "Railroading Along the Waterfront with Walthers: Some Modeling and Prototype Ideas," with John Teichmoeller.

His clinic covers close prototypes for the models produced in Walthers' Waterfront series, discusses some improvements, illustrates some suggestions for modifying and kitbashing them, shows examples of modeling work already done using them and gives references. He will take some quick looks at the numerous additional rail-marine products introduced after the Walthers project. Some ideas will even be offered for those of you who like this stuff but who have absolutely no use for carfloats and floatbridges in your operational scheme. Along the way, he will share some stories about the research that went into the subjects and the development of the products.

John Teichmoeller has been an NMRA member continuously since 1978 and lives in Ellicott City, Maryland. He models an HO scale fictionally industrialized seven-mile stretch of the Old Main Line of the B&O in the Patapsco River Valley west of Baltimore, Maryland. The time period is late 1967. The layout occupies a 20 x 20 foot basement space, with the core of the layout built by Lance Mindheim. He is interested in freight cars in general with an emphasis on eastern railroads, the B&O, PRR and WM in particular. He served as coordinator of the Rail-Marine Information Group from 1993 to 2007.

See you virtually.

Bob

Layout Tours

Phil Hottmann

We did not have any tours in January due to the Rail School.

For February we will visit Ron Halvorson's layout. Ron continues to work on his impressive layout. I am looking forward to seeing what's new.

I do not have March or April's tours solidified yet. If anyone is interested in showing their layouts, I should be able to find space for you. Please let me know!

Phil

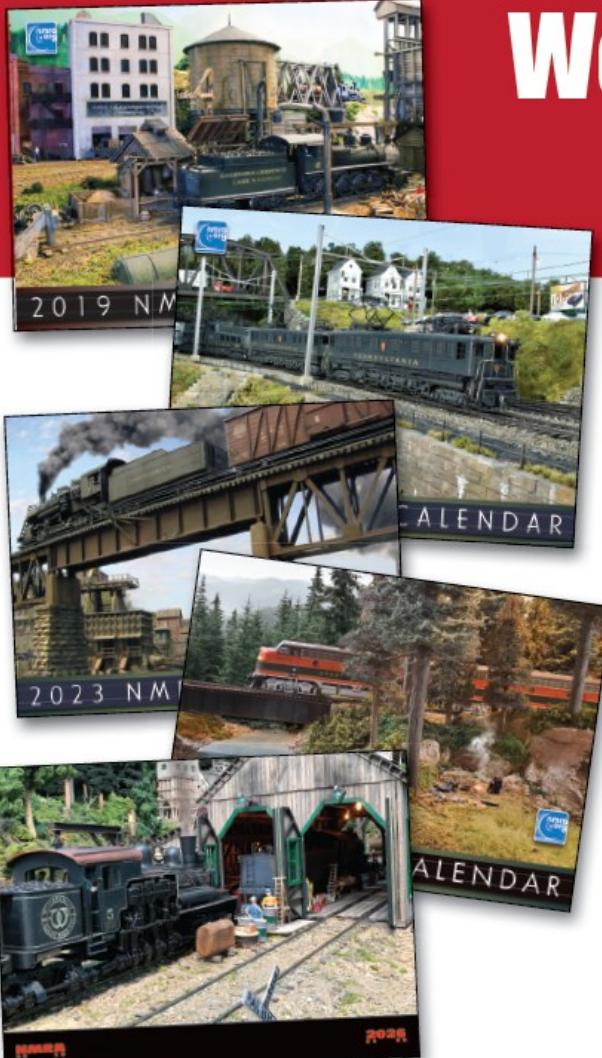
Modeling Project

Mike Vivion

By the time you read this column, there will only be about two months left to finish your mini-diorama and get it ready to bring to our April meeting. I hope everyone who signed up is making good progress and will complete their project for showing and popular voting in April.

Get to work, time's wasting!

Mike Vivion
Modeling Project
Chair



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 2026 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.



printed-calendar
web page

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.

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

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.
2026, photo and HO scale modeling by Carl Brainerd, Houston, TX.

RAIL SCHOOL 2026

Sean Hadfield
Rail School Chairman

Thank you to all the
Clinicians!









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

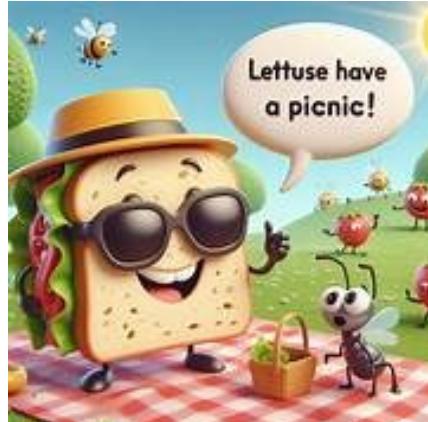
Cost each: (\$5>11 or \$0<12)

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.



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!

NEW ONLINE WELLBEING COMMUNITY Gordy Robinson, NMRA President

NMRA members are invited to explore a new online community space inside Hello by Grouper - our digital clubhouse designed to help members stay connected, healthy, and inspired.

This new benefit for dues-paying NMRA members is a dedicated place to share updates, spark conversations, and stay engaged between events, while also offering access to a wide range of healthy-living experiences. Hundreds of NMRA members across the USA have already joined and are exploring fitness and strength classes, healthy living and eating content, wellness challenges, and supportive interest groups - all in one place.

We are working with Hello by Grouper to provide access to the platform for members located outside of the USA early in 2026.

This is your space - a place to connect, learn, and build healthy habits that last.

Join and explore: join.hellogrouper.com/nmra

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



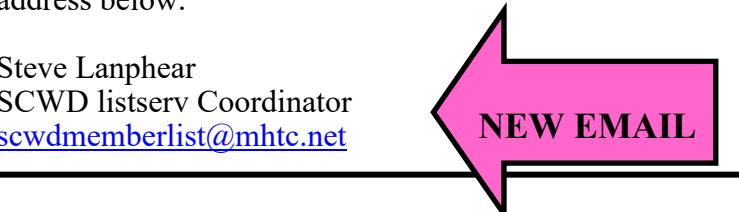
Enjoy receiving
interesting rail photos,
model railroad tips,
Operating puzzles, and
challenging
Mystery Photos??

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.

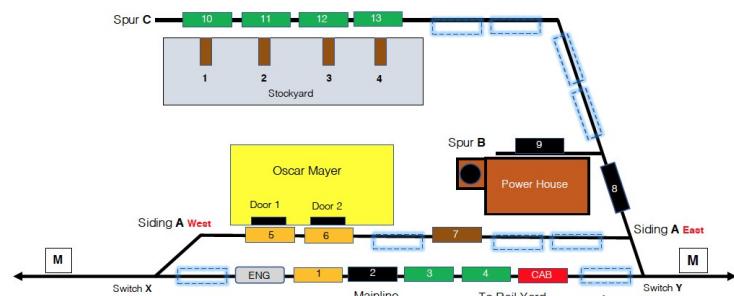
The listserv is a one-way email broadcast to you, not a social media type service. The emails are sent in bulk, but as a BCC: type email.

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

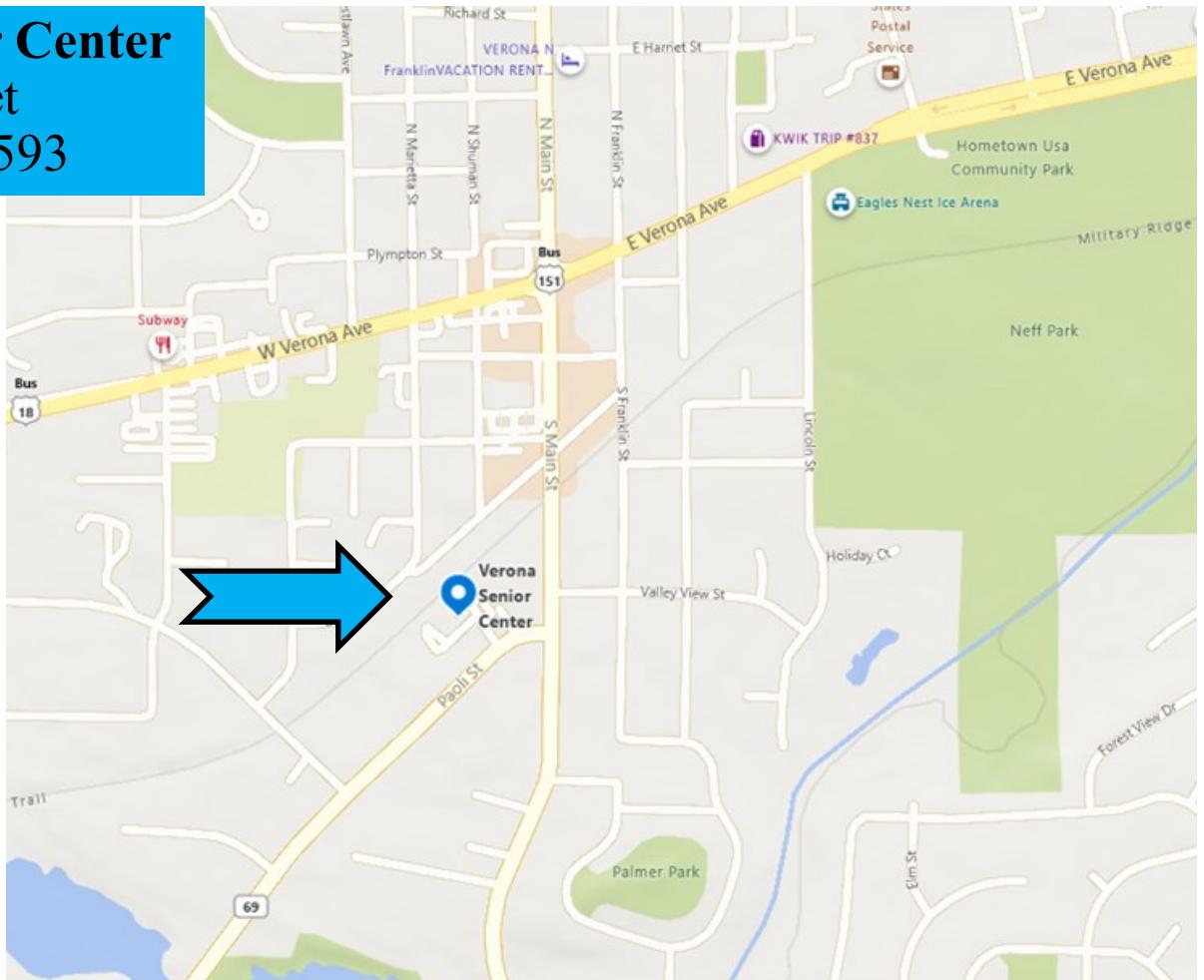


OPS Puzzles have arrived! We now have a section on the SCWD Website that has all 11 puzzles that we have published on the listserv, including the handouts and diagrams. You can start from the beginning, or pick and choose which puzzles you would like to try.

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



December 9, 2025

The meeting of the South Central Wisconsin Division Board of Directors was called to order at 6:38 pm by Superintendent Art Dawson. Bob McGeever, David Dingman, Phil Hottmann, Steve Preston, David Down and Sean Hadfield were present. .

Minutes

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

Paymaster Report

Art Dawson asked for comments on the November Paymaster Report. There were no comments. Motion by Dawson, second by Preston, 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 December 15th.

Clinics – Nothing to report.

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 – Ideas for next year's modeling project, contact Mike Vivion.

Door Prizes – Nothing to report.

Layout Tours – 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 has everyone booked for the Jan 2026 Rail School. Advertising for Rail School has been setup.

Rail Show – Bob McGeever stated that table sales are starting to come in for the upcoming Rail Show. Rail Show committee will be meeting Wednesday, December 10th via Zoom.

Youth Group – Nothing to report.

Website – Tom Morrison is working on moving the website to the new host. Hopes to complete the move before the end of December.

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 7:02 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**



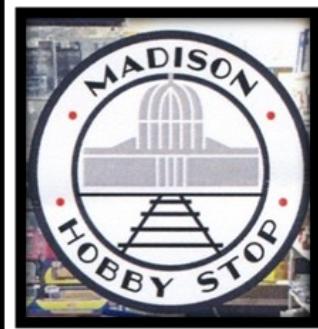
Please make sure the NMRA has your current contact information. You will not be able to access the full range of NMRA benefits unless we can reach you.

- 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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2026 is starting out good even without the Snow!

**Thank you to my regular customers for making 2025
the 3rd best sales year since opening up 21 years ago.**

**New items starting to come in along with
old/new collections.**

Stock up on all your railroad supplies, before we get a lot of snow!

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

Thank you for your continued support

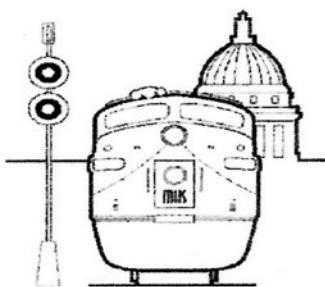


**Preorders are 20% off regular price except
Walthers Proto which is 20% off**

**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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Contact

Kathy Clancy

Bad Order Editor

SCWDKATHY@aol.com

South Central Wisconsin Division of the
National Model Railroad Association

Publishes eleven issues yearly of the

BAD ORDER

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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

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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

February 1, 2026
March 1, 2026
April 12, 2026
May 3, 2026

BOD

February 10, 2026
March 10, 2026
April 14, 2026
May 12, 2026

Youth Group

February 14, 2026
March 14, 2026
April 11, 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".