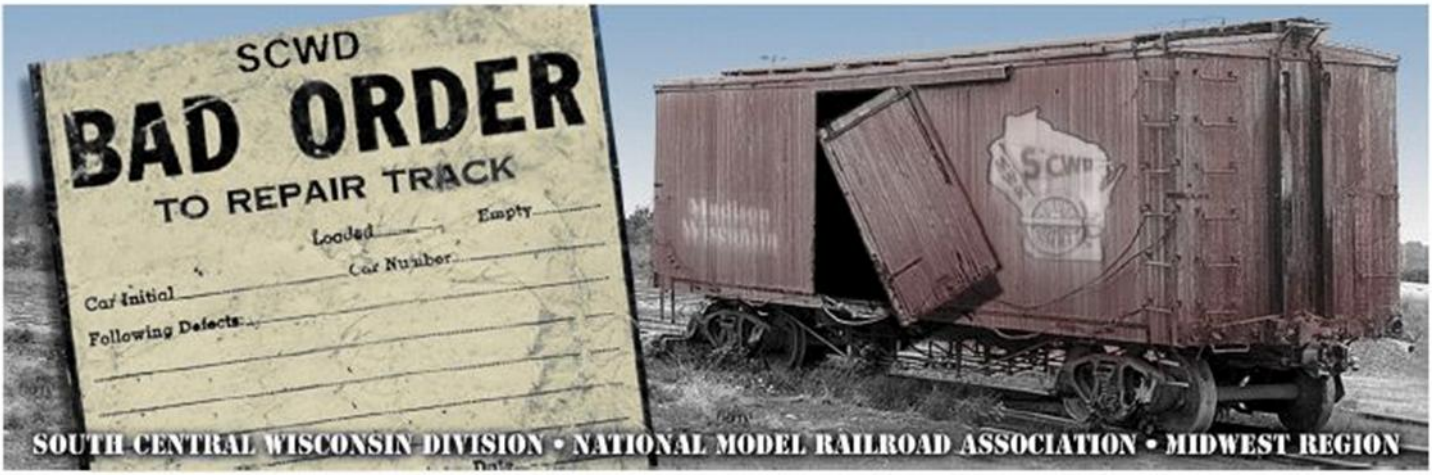


November 2026 **www.nmra-scwd.org** **Volume 58 No. 3**

Next SCWD Meet
Verona Senior Center, Verona
November 1, 2026 at 1 PM

Next BOD Meeting:
November 10, 2026 at 6:30 PM
ZOOM Meeting

Next Youth Group
Verona Senior Center, Verona
November 7, 2026 1 PM

My Train of Thought
Super's Report

Dave Down
Division Superintendent

One of the things I like most about our hobby is the wide variety of ways we can get involved. For most of us this is a blessing because we find our personal point of interest and it doesn't have to match someone else's expectations. Unfortunately, that also works against some of us (I'm looking in the mirror). It is sometimes difficult to zero in and focus on a 'personal point of interest', and the result is procrastination and what my grandmother called 'dithering.'

I am interested in lots of things about railroads. I enjoy traveling by rail; I am fascinated by train stations and the variety of interesting architecture; I can get immersed in a detailed history of railroads; I can get lost in a museum (and have); and… You get the idea. The result is a model railroad that is for the most part non-existent because it takes a long time to work through all the above listed interests (and more I didn't list) that grab my attention. The beauty of this situation is that I am having fun. I am not necessarily doing what everyone else is doing, but it is fun for me. My point here is that each of us has our own interests and none of them is wrong. So, whatever draws you to this hobby, great. More power to you. And I want to promote the celebration of YOUR interest.

In keeping with that purpose, I am hoping many of you will have taken advantage of the October layout tour. I have only seen one or two of the railroads on our tour list. It made for a fairly long day, but it was certainly interesting.

Other things coming up include TrainFest in November. It is my understanding this will be even bigger than last year. Parking isn't cheap in downtown Milwaukee, but if you carpool it can make it more affordable.

Check out the articles in this issue of the Bad Order and think about which of the things going on around us draws your attention the most. And then think about the people you know in the Division and what their activities tell you about the things that draw their attention. It can make for some really interesting discussions the next time you are in conversation together.

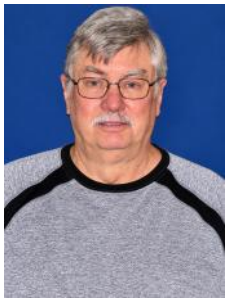
Your fellow traveler in this hobby,

Dave Down, SCWD Superintendent
dfdown2000@gmail.com

Clinic Column

Bob Wundrock
rwundrock@yahoo.com

As you my have heard at the September SCWD meet or in the Bad Order, I'm retiring from my current position of SCWD Clinics Chair after April 2027. It's mostly due to health reasons. The SCWD is currently looking for a replacement for that position. If any of you have questions about how I recruit and schedule clinicians, please contact me at the above email address, or if you prefer, call me at 608-842-2824.



For our November meet we'll first have Dave Wehner from the Gateway Division presenting "DETAILS AND TOOLS FOR YOUR LAYOUT."

You've got your layout built, track is down, ballast laid, trains running, buildings installed and scenery in place. But something's missing. What is it?

Details!!! Fire hydrants, trash bins, telephone poles and much, much more.

We'll look at dozens of little things that can be easily added to your layout to make it pop. Simple, inexpensive but very effective.

Then we'll look at workbench of tools that can make your model railroading enjoyable without breaking the bank.

Dave is From Eureka, Missouri and is retired from the construction industry in floor and roof truss sales and engineering.

He grew up in Festus, Mo. which is sandwiched between then Frisco and MoPac lines. His grandmother's house was 2 blocks from the Frisco line which could easily be seen from her backyard. Many a Sunday afternoon was spent "legally" taking a walk on the tracks as did many of the local residents.

His earliest recollection of seeing a train was at about the age of 4 when the family was traveling through Dupo, Il. taking his great aunt back home in E. St. Louis. Dupo was the home of a large Missouri Pacific Railroad complex complete with icing facilities that he remembers seeing.

Dave is the president of the Jefferson County and Southern Model railroad club which took 4 top awards at the National Train show during the 2022 NMRA National Convention in St. Louis, Mo. including "Best in Show". He is also the Assistant Superintendent of the Gateway Division, NMRA Mid-Continent Region. He models the MoPac and collects railroad memorabilia.

He has 2 daughters, 8 grandkids and lives with his wife Pat and dog Shadow.



Our second clinician hails from Long Island, New York and presented a clinic *live* to the SCWD last year.

This November Ed Koehler will present a Zoom clinic titled "Photography for Model Railroaders."

While he has won some minor awards for my images, he has never really concentrated on models. This does not mean he hasn't shot some of them, he just never concentrated on it like he has on the equipment and operations at some preservation locations.

Continued next page

He has photographed miniature firetrucks (one of his other hobbies) in his collection, so using those practices, he has put together a presentation. After discussing equipment, the show then talks about capturing images of model railroad equipment using a very simple and inexpensive photo backdrop. He also takes the show out on the road, visiting two model railroads; one high rail and the other of MMR quality, but the behind the camera photo work is identical!

Ed has been a member of the Sunrise Trail Division, NMRA Board since 2010. He joined the National Model Railroad Association at age 14 and the Long Island Sunrise Trail Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society at age 16. He has been a member of both organizations for approaching sixty years; and a member of the Ontario and Western Railway Historical Society since 1975.

He is also a member the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum, the Connecticut Trolley Museum, the Railway Museum of Long Island, the Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge Historical Society, the Long Island Chapter of the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society, both the Wisconsin and Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Chapters of the National Railway Historical Society; and the Volk's Electric Railway Association (in the United Kingdom).

Since retiring in 2009 he has had the ability to travel, take photographs and put together notes on several railway subjects that he's more than willing to share. A scheduling overlap enabled him to personally attend the SCWD's October 2025 meeting; He wished he had more time that day to visit with some of his acquaintances in the Badger State!

His current goal is to visit Wisconsin during the summer of 2027 to visit the East Troy Railroad Museum and then the Circus World Museum in Baraboo.

See you virtually,
Bob

Modeling Project

Mike Vivion



In case you did not read my column in last month's Bad Order or did not attend our October Division meeting, the modeling project will be based on construction of a laser-cut wood structure kit. Like last year, the kit will be available in both HO and N scales. The structure 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. 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.

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**.

Our November 1st meeting will be your last opportunity to sign up for this year's project. I will place a one-time order for the kits in the week following our meeting. You must give me your deposit before you can pick up your kit at our December 6th meeting. As I write this column, there are approximately 15 people signed up for the project. I was hoping we would get close to 20 participants this year, so please consider signing up in November.

Mike Vivion
Modeling Project Chair

Layout Tours

Phil Hottmann

Thanks to Sue Welch for opening Jon's layout for a memorial run. We had a very nice group enjoying Jon's work. What I seemed to enjoy the most on the layout are the scenes Jon created depicting job sites. The good news is Sue plans to preserve the layout in hopes that their grandson someday develops an interest in model railroading. Maybe it runs in the family?







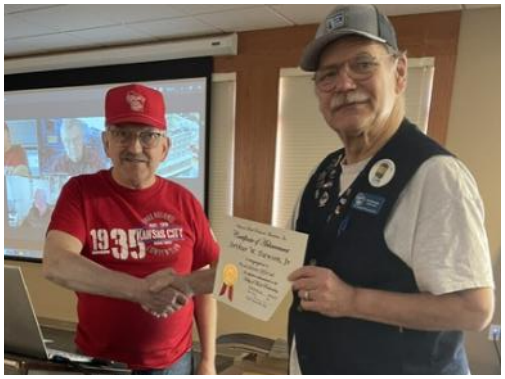
For the November tours we will be visiting Bob Wundrock's and John Mueller's layouts. If you haven't seen Bob's layout recently, he has made some very nice additions. My understanding is John has made a significant addition to his already incredible layout. I can't wait to see what he has done!

Phil

AP Corner

Ken Hojnacki, AP Chair

At the October meeting, I was happy to officially present Art Dawson with the NMRA Achievement Award. Art served as Division Superintendent and a member of the MidWest Region Board of Directors. Thanks to Art for all his efforts to further the Division and the Region. Congratulations.



I have recently been made aware of some AP activity bubbling under the surface. One member has talked about getting his Golden Spike Award, another is feverishly working to complete paperwork for two awards as well as having some items evaluated, another is completing a scratchbuilding project for merit award judging and another surprised me saying he has clandestinely been working toward some AP awards. Sounds like lots to look forward to and a lot of modelers improving their skills by striving for an AP award.

Keep up the good work, guys.

Ken



Time for a change...

In case you missed the new logo unveiling at the October Division meet...

…the new NMRA logo came with some brand requirements that prompted a review of the 1963 SCWD logo. Approved by the BOD in September, this updated logo meets the new requirements, boldly states who we are and clearly conveys what we are all about, all while maintaining the "flavor" of the original logo.

Tom Morrison

Contest Column

Colton Meyer and Sean Hadfield, Co-Chairs

For our October contest, our theme was Box Cars. We were hoping for a variety of unique box cars, from vintage wooden cars to modern steel cars.

The theme for November will be **Flat Cars with Loads.**

Category A: Flat Cars with Bulk Commodities (Lumber, pipes, wheel sets, etc)

Category B: Flat Cars with Machines

Category C: Flat Cars with Vehicles

The winners for the October contest were:

Models

Cat. A Wood Sheath Box Cars

1st Dave Casey: MBX 497 – "Pigseye"



2nd Don Swinton: L&S Box Car
2nd Colten Meyer: NKP Box Car

Cat. B Outside Braced Box Cars

1st Dave Lendved: Mather C&EI Box Car #437



2nd Phil Hottmann: Reading Reefer
3rd Dave Casey: CMO Box Car 32994

Cat. C Double Door Box Cars

1st Don Swinton: GB&W Box Car



2nd Dave Casey: CB&Q Box Car #48162 – 50' Auto

Cat. D Waffle Side Box Cars

1st Dave Casey: CNW Box Car #152793



Photos

There were no entries for the photo contest.

Colton and Sean

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



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Fun. Educational. Free.

Live demonstrations show you how to turn a toy train into an exciting, operating model railroad.

Kid's Make & Take Clinic: **free** freight car kit for kids* that we help them assemble and run on our test track. Open to adults and children (accompanied by an adult).

Sunday, January 3, 2027, 1–4 pm

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

Learn more: www.nmra-scwd.org

*While supples last.







Live demonstrations by expert model railroaders.
Model assembly, painting and weathering; engine and car maintenance; modeling trees; scratch building models; ballasting track; layout design; electrical wiring and more.

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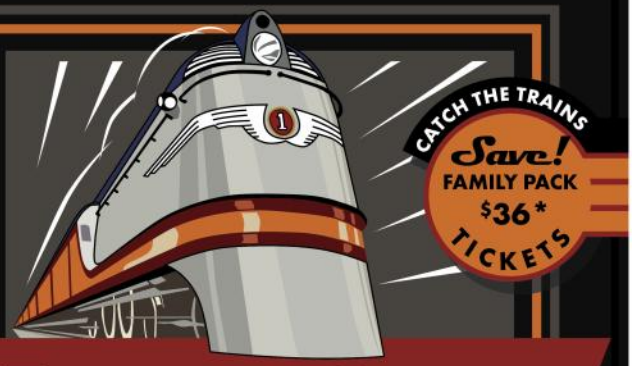

MadCity

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW

February 20–21, 2027
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

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Email Dave Down: dfdown2000@gmail.com

Sat. Feb. 20, 9AM–5PM
Sun. Feb. 21, 9AM–4PM • 2027
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

Presented by the volunteers of the South Central Wisconsin Division of the National Model Railroad Association, Midwest Region ©2026, NMRA-SCWD
www.nmra-scwd.org

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Fall Color Layout Tour

Phil Hottmann, Layout Tour Chairman

We had a perfect day for the Fall Color Layout Tour! Cool temperatures with bright sun.

With the eight layouts we were able to see a variety of layout designs, from small highly detailed to very large operating layout. Each layout was quite impressive in their own way. I still can't get over how impressive Alan Schroeder's layout is! He captures the Northwest Montana region feel extremely well.

We had between 20 to 30 people attend the tour which was a very nice group. It would have been good to see a few more.

I would like to thank all of the people that opened their layouts and the people that attended the tour. We even had some of our Youth Group members attend. I'm sure they were very impressed.

I am sharing several photos of each layout on the following pages.

Phil



Going Over
On the Ferry
Bill Weber

Tom Block





Dave Casey






Dave Lendved






Don Meyer





Mark Olsen







John Salzwedel







Alan Schroeder







Bob Welke









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??

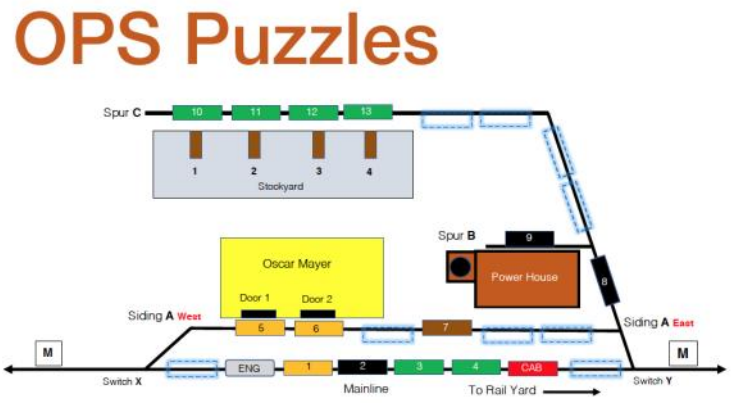
Join The 120+ SCWD members and members from other Midwest Regional Divisions who are participating in the SCWD listserv. You can expect 5 - 10 photos of railfan photos or model railroad photos or other items per week on average, as well as SCWD announcements, monthly Mystery Photo contests, Modelers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

e 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.

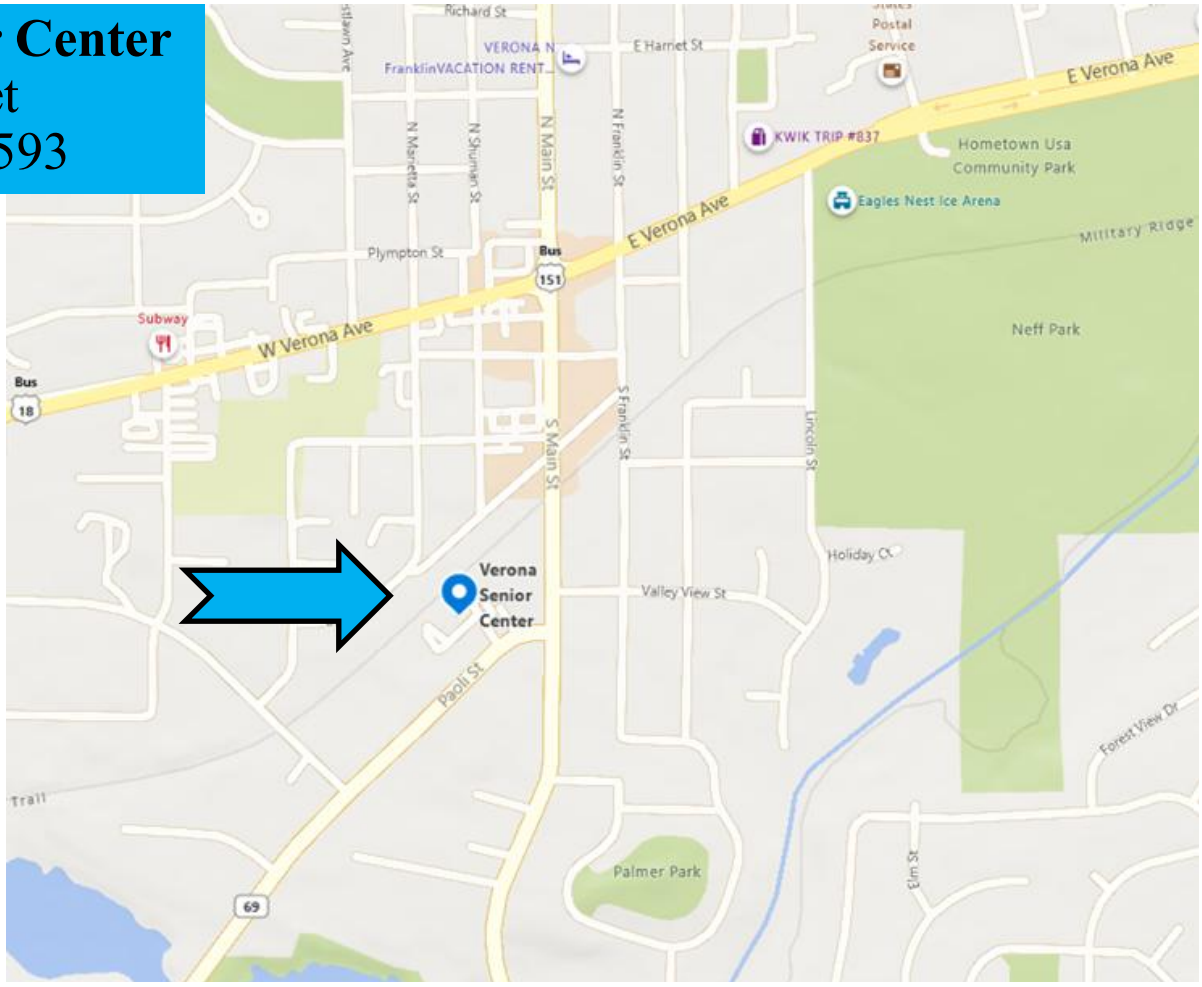
Steve Lanphear
SCWD listserv Coordinator
scwdmemberlist@mhtc.net



OPS Puzzles 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



WELCOME!

2027 NMRA National Convention

We are excited to welcome you to the **2027 NMRA National Convention: Puget Sound Express (PSX)!** The convention will take place August 10-15, 2027 in Tacoma, Washington.

For the latest information, visit our website at **2027.nmra.org**. You can also join the **PSX 2027 Facebook Group** to follow convention updates, connect with other attendees, and join the conversation as we prepare for Tacoma.

Register now **https://www.eventcreate.com/e/2027-nmra-convention-puget/**

Minutes SCWD Board Meeting
6:30 PM, 15 September 2026
via Zoom meeting

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, Art Dawson, David Dingman, Sean Hadfield, Phil Hottmann and Steve Preston were present. Tom Morrison and Mike Vivion were also present. Chris Bradley joined part way through the meeting.

Minutes

Motion by McGeever, second by Dawson to approve the minutes as corrected of the SCWD Board Meeting held on August 11, 2026. Motion carried.

Paymaster Report

David Down asked for comments on the August Paymaster Report. There were no comments. Motion by Dawson, seconded by Hottmann, to approve the August 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. October will be Dave Nelson from Milwaukee.

Contests - Model and Photography – New team running the contests. Welcome Sean Hadfield and Colton Meyer as new contest chairmen. Contest ideas – email Sean Hadfield and Colton Meyer.

Modeling Project – Mike Vivion – 15 people have signed up so far for the 1880s Gem Hotel wood laser cut kit from Phoenix Model Buildings. 12 HO and 3 N scale. Phoenix Model Buildings has offered SCWD a 50% discount on the kits for our contest. This requires a $30 deposit from each person. Motion by McGeever to authorize the higher deposit for this kit, seconded by Hottmann. Motion carried. A motion proposed for the Youth Group committee to select a simpler model was made by McGeever, seconded by Hottmann. Motion carried.

Door Prizes – Nothing to report.

Layout Tours – Phil Hottmann - Phil is finalizing the layouts for the "fall color layout tour" for Saturday, Oct 17, 2026. John Welch's layout will be open for October. 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 table sales have started to come in.

Youth Group – Averaging 6-7 children (and parents) for each meeting.

Website – Nothing to report.

Old Business:

Nothing to report.

New Business:

A – New updated logo. Tom Morrison presented an updated SCWD logo based on the new NMRA logo requirements. After discussion, motion by McGeever, seconded by Hadfield to approve adoption of the updated logo. Motion carried.

B – SCWD Budget for 2026-2027. Bob McGeever presented the proposed SCWD budget for 2026-2027. After discussion, motion made by Hottmann, seconded by Dawson to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by McGeever, second by Hottmann 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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Time to focus on working on the layout and running trains again every day.

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New/ old stock continues to come in.
Many nice like-new items priced cheap.

Starting Sunday November 29,
we will be open 12:00-5:00 on Sundays!!

Thank you for your continued support.

Preorders are 20% off regular price except
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Remember, most model railroad items are 20% off
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Excludes discounted or sale items, magazines, and consignments
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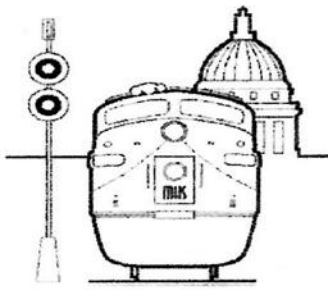

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Photos in the Bad Order, unless otherwise noted, are by Kathy **Clancy**

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

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

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR AREA HOBBY STORES

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 2026-2027 Meeting Schedule

Regular Meeting	BOD	Youth Group
November 1, 2026	November 10, 2026	November 7, 2026
December 6, 2026	December 15, 2026	December 12, 2026
January 3, 2027 Rail School	January 12, 2027	January 9, 2027
February 7, 2027	February 16, 2027	February 13, 2027
March 7, 2027	March 16, 2027	March 13, 2027
April 4, 2027	April 13, 2027	April 10, 2027
May 2, 2027 Joint at Rockford	May 11, 2027	May 8, 2027
	June 15, 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".