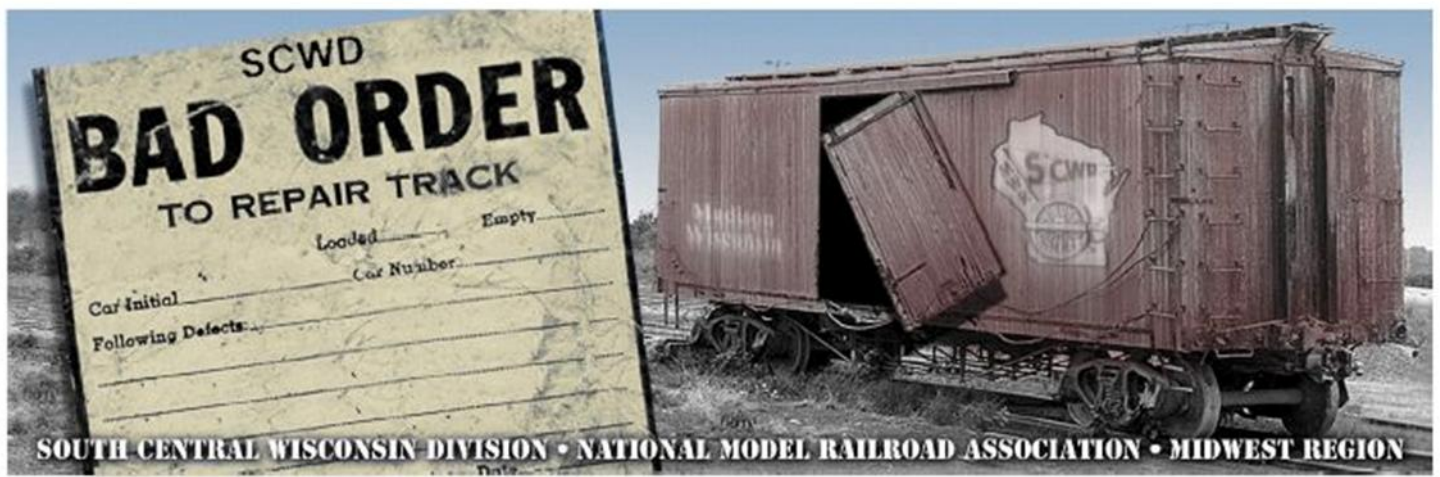




July August 2026

www.nmra-scwd.org

Volume 57 No. 11

Super's Report

Dave Down
Division Superintendent

Most of the year we have a regular schedule of activities: monthly meeting, committee meetings, layout tours, clinics and contests. Now we have entered the summer season with once-a-year activities. We have already had our banquet. The picnic is coming up in July (don't forget to sign up before July 10). This year's national convention is the Scenic City Express and it is being held in Chattanooga. If you have never been to a national this one is close enough to be a good option. I hope you all have a good summer whatever you have planned.

Last month was my first column as superintendent and I referenced the people aspect of the hobby. While it is great to be able to "play with trains", it is really the chance to interact others who have an interest in the hobby. My advice - make the most of those interactions while you can. We lost another of our hobby family a couple weeks ago with the passing of Jon Welch. If you never saw his layout you should check out the projects he shared on the listserv. Here is the link for his obituary: <https://www.gundersonfh.com/obituaries/Jon-Welch?obId=48671496>. My advice, make the most of the relationships we have because there are no guarantees. I was expecting to talk to Jon several days after his passing, so I was certainly taken by surprise.

I hope you will make the most of this summer and I look forward to catching up with you all in September. Or maybe sooner in some cases. In any case, I hope you have a great summer.

Dave Down, SCWD Superintendent
dfdown2000@gmail.com

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

Next BOD Meeting:
July 14, 2026 at 6:30 PM
August 11, 2026, 6:30 PM
ZOOM Meeting



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

Picnic
July 18th
*sign up forms in this
issue of the Bad Order*

**SIGN UP
NOW!!!**

Layout Tours

Phil Hottmann

Mark your calendars!

We are planning to do a Fall Color Layout Tour this year on October 17th.

We have eight layouts scheduled to be on the tour this year. Tours will include ones located in Lodi, Portage, Baraboo, Reedsburg, La Valle and Wonewoc. Five of these layouts we have not seen before on tour. This should be a very great tour, don't miss it. More details will follow as we get closer.

I hope we get to see a full schedule of layouts this season. So far, I just have a few layouts scheduled. If you have never opened your layout before I hope you are considering a tour.

Please let me know if you're interested.

Phil

Modeling Project

Mike Vivion

As mentioned at our May meeting, I am hoping to offer a late-cut wood building for our 2025-2026 Modeling Project. I am currently still searching for such a kit that is available in N, HO and O scales and is priced within our budget. I am certain that the deposit for the coming year's project will be at least \$20, so save a few bucks from your vacation fund.

I hope to announce the exact kit in the September Bad Order and at our September meeting. Enjoy the rest of your Summer.

Mike Vivion
Modeling Project Chair

Clinic Column

Bob Wundrock

No Clinic Column this month, but would like to share a photo.



The hobby shop shown was J & C Hobbies, also known as 'Charlies.' It was where the formation discussions of the SCWD took place back in the early 1960s. The Eastwood theater shown is now the Barrymore Theater on Atwood Avenue in Madison".

See you virtually,
Bob

Contest Column

Dave Down, Chair

Well, get ready for a new year. It will be here before you know it. Starting in September we will have a whole new season of contests. This year there will also be something else new. There will need to be a new contest chairperson. This will be one of the last times I am chairing the contests and someone new will need to be taking over this responsibility. If you are wondering who that will be you can find out by looking in a mirror! Let me know when you see who it is.

In the meantime, here is a list of themes for the 2026-2027 contest season. These themes will also be published on the website. Until then, happy modeling and happy traveling.

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	



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.

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____





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??**

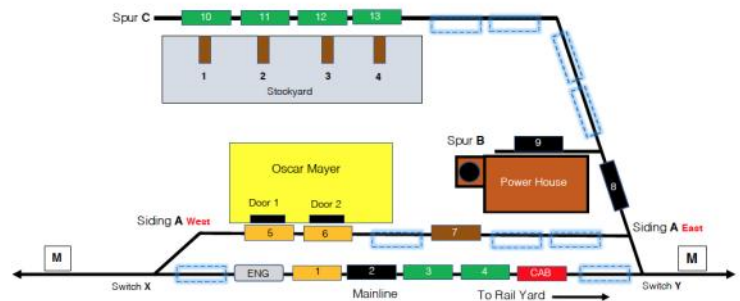
Join The 120+ SCWD members and members from other Midwest Regional Divisions who are participating in the SCWD listserv. You can expect 5 - 10 photos of railfan photos or model railroad photos or other items per week on average, as well as SCWD announcements, monthly Mystery Photo contests, Modelers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

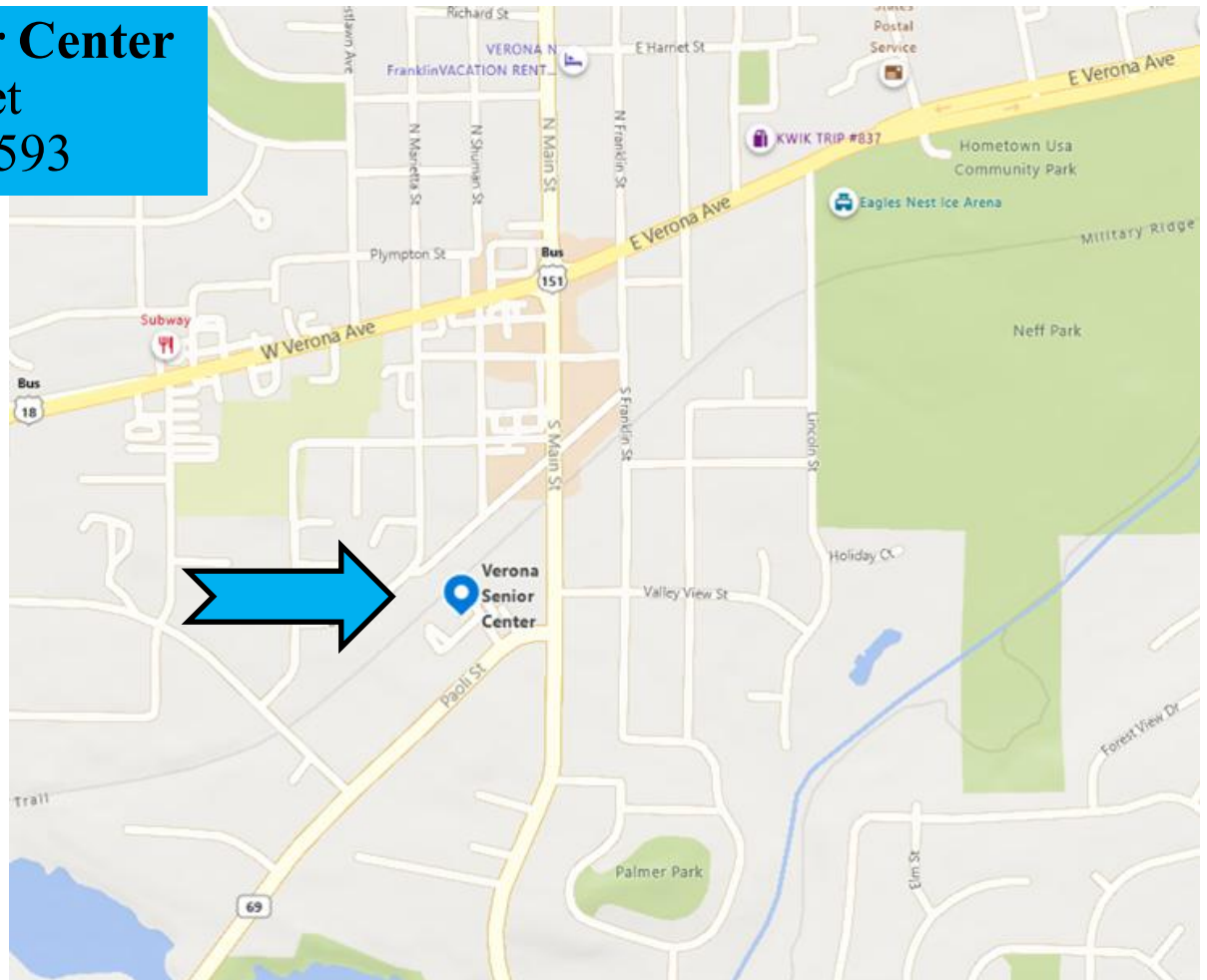
OPS Puzzles



OPS Puzzles have arrived! We now have a section on the SCWD Website that has all 11 puzzles that we have published on the listserv, including the handouts and diagrams. You can start from the beginning, or pick and choose which puzzles you would like to try. www.nmra-scwd.org Then go to [Contests and Operations Puzzles](#)

Steve Lanphear

Verona Senior Center
108 Paoli Street
Verona, WI 53593



2026 NMRA National Convention Scenic City Express, Chattanooga



The NMRA National Convention is coming to Chattanooga, TN for the first time ever in 2026! The Southeastern Region is excited to host NMRA members from around the world in the Scenic City. The dates are July 27-August 2 so mark your calendars. Visit the convention's webpage at nmra2026.org and sign up to receive updates on the convention plans as they unfold. Early bird registration is open at nmra2026.org/registration/ so you can start your plans now. There will be a week full of fun activities planned including:

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

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

...12 to be exact!

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

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

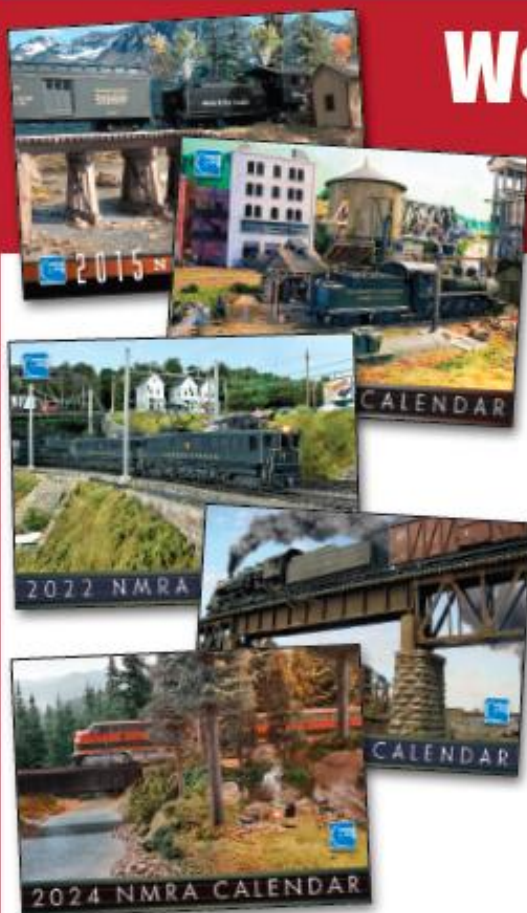
It's easy to submit your photos. Just visit www.nmra.org/printed-calendar and you'll find answers to all your questions, along with a detailed explanation of the photo requirements and how to submit. *Photography tips videos too!*



More questions?

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

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



2015, photo by Greg Komar; On30 modeling by Jim Gore, MMR, Santa Clara, UT.
2019, photo and HO scale modeling by Jerry Lauchle, MMR, State College, PA.
2022, photo and O scale modeling by John Sethian, Exton, PA.
2023, photo and HO scale modeling by Richard Walz, Northampton, MA.
2024, photo and HO scale modeling by Larry Blaylock, Kansas City, MO.

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



MIDWEST
REGION

Join the Fox Valley Division
On Our Summer Outing to the

Milwaukee Light Engineering Society

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

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

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



FOX VALLEY
DIVISION



FOX VALLEY
DIVISION

Background

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

The Railroad

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

Location

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





**Minutes SCWD Board Meeting
6:30 PM, 12 May 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 Art Dawson. Bob McGeever, David Dingman, David Down, Phil Hottmann, Steve Preston and Sean Hadfield were present.

Motion by McGeever, seconded by Dawson to approve the new BOD officers. Motion carried.

Meeting turned over to incoming Superintendent David Down.

Motion by McGeever, seconded by Dawson to approve a correction to March 10, 2026 minutes. Motion carried to remove “MAC BROWN” and replace it with “Madison Mac (modeler of the year) and Hank Brown”.

Minutes

Motion by McGeever, second by Dawson to approve the minutes of the SCWD Board Meeting held on April 21st, 2026. Motion carried.

Paymaster Report

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

Committee Reports

Picnic – Nothing to report.

Achievement Program – Nothing to report.

Advertising - Nothing to report.

Bad Order - Articles to are due to Bad Order editor by May 18th.

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. Possibility of “fall color layout tour” on a Saturday.

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

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

Publicity – Nothing to report.

Rail School – Nothing to report.

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

Youth Group – Good turnout at last meeting. Summer visit to Toy Train Museum in Argyle in August.

Website – Website is working well.

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 7:08 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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**We are closed on Sundays
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Thank you for your continued support.



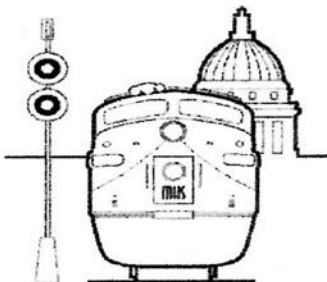
**Preorders are 20% off regular price except
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Photos in the Bad Order, unless otherwise noted,
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Deadline for submissions: **14th of the month
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Order Editor at 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

BOD

July 14, 2026
August 11, 2026
September 15, 2026
October 13, 2026
November 10, 2026

Youth Group

September 12, 2026
October 10, 2026
November 7, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 18, 2026 Picnic

A Word about Constant Contact e-mail

Each Constant Contact e-mail includes links to update or unsubscribe your e-mail address. **Please do not use these links.** If you unsubscribe using the Constant Contact link, your e-mail address will be removed from the NMRA membership database, from the Midwest Region e-mail database and probably from your Division's records. If you get an e-mail that you don't want, just hit the delete key. Furthermore, if you use the update link, your change may not be timely posted to the NMRA membership database.

If you need to change your email address with the NMRA please follow these directions:

The direct way is to log on to the "Members" page of the NMRA website, choose the "View your NMRA membership" box on the right side of the screen, scroll down to the bottom of the page and select "Update". Enter the new email address in the appropriate box and click "Submit".