

Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA –
Summer 2011



WEB EDITION



Bennett Levin's restored Pennsy E-8's # 5711 and 5809 crossing the ex-PRR bridge over the Calumet River. The train had just slipped out of Union Station on this bright Sunday morning. Fortunately Jim Burd was there with his camera to record this scene which had not taken place for many years.

The WAYBILL

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The WAYBILL

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CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles, photographs and artwork are encouraged in either hardcopy or electronic form. The editor uses Quark 4.1 as his publishing software on a Mac. Word documents are also acceptable, but please send the photographs as an attachment. Copy is due by the 10th of February, May, August and November and should be sent to the editor at the above address. Submitted material will be returned upon request.

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Editor's Column

National Train Day

Prior to this, I had never attended a National Train Day at Chicago's Union Station. After Jim Burd sent me an email with photos of two Pennsy E units on the on their way to Union Station, I decided I had to go.

The day was cloudy and cool, but I got on the train at Glenview for my ride to the depot. Can't beat Metra on the week-ends, \$7.00 roundtrip!

After disembarking I walked over to the far side of Union station and on one track was a UP engine painted for C&NW and another for the Mopac. On the other side was a line a mile long waiting to get in the Milwaukee Cedar Rapids observation car used behind the 261. Since I had been on that train a number of times, I skipped waiting in line. Luckily Phil Hehn had a friend on the Super Dome #53 and we made our way to the front and got in. (It helps to know people) I next toured some Amtrak equipment, but got stuck with the crowds and escaped through an open door. To say the place was crowded was an understatement. Looking at all the people patiently waiting in line after line, I realized that was not for me!

In the main concourse of the station was a stage with bands playing and lots of exhibitors. Kato, Lionel Club of Chicago, R&LHs, 20th Century railroad club, IRM, Operation Lifesaver and others too numerous to mention were set up along the perimeter handing out information and trying to attract new members. Too bad the NMRA was not represented. Of course there were the usual "collectors" who walked from table to table, taking every scrap of free material, home to add to their collection.

The highlight of the day (in addition to seeing the Pennsy trainset) was a trip around the station in an Amtrak train. We went as far south as the lift bridge, through the station and north past the yard throat. It was a very nicely conducted and informative trip.

Thanks to Larry Maquire for the corrections.

Midwest Region Convention

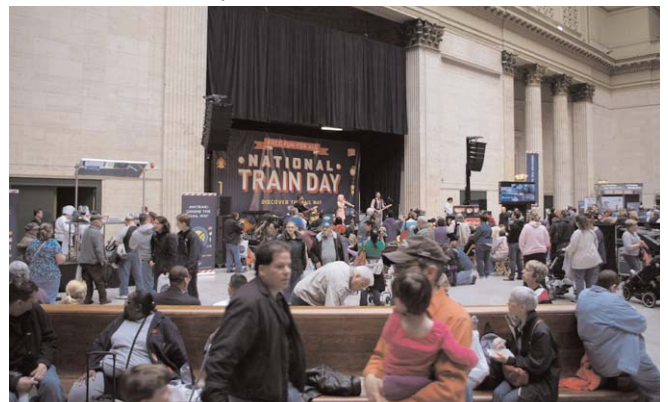
Hats off to the South Central Wisconsin division for hosting this years convention. Although the weather was cold with a hint of snow, everyone I spoke with had a great time. You will find a list of winners along with some photos on Page? If you have never attended a Regional convention, they are an excellent way to learn and meet new friends.

The Illinois Valley Division will host the 2012 Mid West Regional Convention on March 9-11 in 2012. The convention hotel will be the Abraham Lincoln in Springfield Illinois, within walking distance to many historic sites in the capital. The Convention is dubbed Railsplitter 2012. Mark your calendars and watch for further information in the Waybill or their website: www.railsplitter.org

Joint meets. The Winnebagoland Division and Soo Line Historical and Technical Societies Archive's Joint Meet on May 14th was a roaring success! They had 119 attendees, including 7 MMR's! I am sure that the reasonable cost, only \$16.00 with a hot lunch, was a major factor. Why do some meets have to be in the \$50-60 range?

If you missed it, there is another chance for the modelers to mingle with the historical society folks. (Although I would guess that most NMRA members belong to at least one Historical society.)

October 1 is the date and Sheboygan is the place for the joint NMRA/Historical Society meet. So far the Burlington, C&NW, GB&W, Milwaukee and Soo Societies will be represented.



Frugal Modeler by David Nelson



Wood matches were a frugal source for scale timbers going back to the early days of the hobby, but matches stopped being given away by local eateries once they went smokeless. My wife, an artist who shops at craft stores, introduced me to Forster Mini-Sticks (500 per package) and Loew Cornell "Woodsies" Mini Dowels (250 per pack). Both are similar in size to fancy restaurant matchsticks and are cheap enough to qualify for frugal modeling. I use them to stir paint or apply cement, just as I would use a toothpick, and the Mini-Sticks make good interior stiffeners for the sides and roofs of structures. But the uses shown in this article are as frugal substitutes for scale timbers and stripwood.

I measured the Mini-Sticks using a dial caliper that reads out precisely in HO scale, but I had to hold the materials against N and O scale rulers, so those measurements won't be so precise, particularly given a slight size variation from stick to stick. (The lengths of the two products differ even though both claim to be 2 5/8 inches long.) Here is how they scale out. The Forster Mini-Sticks in HO

are 7'x 7' and 19 feet long; in N, they are 1'x1' and 35 feet long; in O scale about 3'x3' and 10.5 feet long.

In HO, the Mini-Sticks have uses as timbers for fences and fence posts, bracing for open loads, landscaping ties, and narrow gauge ties. In N, heavy beams for structures and mines; in O, they make furring strips for home construction, parts of furniture, and very light fencing,

The "Woodsies Mini Dowels in HO are 6.5' in diameter and 18.5 feet long; in N scale they are about 11' in diameter and 34 feet long, while in O they are 3' in diameter and about 10.25 feet long. In HO, they would make good fence poles and posts, small utility poles, and light timber piles for bridges. In N, they would make robust utility poles and trestle bents. For O, I could see them be used as small residential flag poles, light fence poles, metal pipe, handrails, and satellite dish mounting. Obviously our S scale friends can also find uses for these products.

The walkway and fence posts on the short steel girder bridge were my first modeling use of the Mini-Sticks. The other photos show "quick and dirty" little projects thrown together just to demonstrate their potential. Normally I'd choose the modeling project first, and then see if these project sticks are useful substitutes for scale lumber, but for these purposes the size of the materials dictated the choice of project.



The retaining wall next to the steel girder bridge uses both products. The rural fence also uses both products. The old fashioned rural phone line uses the Mini Dowels. I then photographed the same phone line poles, slightly shortened, in an N



scale scene with an N scale house and truck. I did not change the size of the line brackets, however, which are oversize for N.

The flatcar load is a Bucyrus Erie shovel bucket made from deodorant containers, as shown in the Spring 2010 Waybill's Frugal Modeler. The bracing and support uses the Mini-Sticks and some wire.

The old fashioned light pole is shown next to an HO scale depot.

The wood trestle bents, or pilings, use both products except for the truss braces, which are (frugally) taken from laser kit leftovers. The track shown is HO; the Mini



Dowels could also be used for heavy duty N scale pilings and bents but I suspect the Mini-Sticks would look bulky in N.

Maybe these craft sticks and dowels will inspire some interesting projects of your own. If the dimensions work out for you, they are a frugal substitute for scale timbers and strip wood.



By the way, the Division Business Car column in the February 2011 issue of the NMRA Magazine has a nice shout-out for John Wolfe's guest Frugal Modeler in the Winter 2010 Waybill, showing how John uses "Happy Meal" toy speakers in his modeling. If you have a frugal modeling idea or article, even if it can be written up in just a few sentences, send it to our editor. And here is an advanced peek at some future Frugal Modeler articles: if you build laser kits, save every scrap and leftover, and if you should see a cheap burning pen at a garage sale, consider buying it.



Region News

President's Report

By Bill Litkenhous, President, MWR

Well, here I am again. Thank you to the MWR members for reelecting me. And also for reelecting my Vice President, Paul Mangan. And for electing new three directors, Jim Allen, Fox Valley Division, Fred Henize, DuPage Division David Leider, Fox Valley Division. I welcome our new directors to the board.

These election results were announced at the annual meeting at the Badgerland Express, our spring convention in Madison, WI. This was an excellent, well run convention and I want to thank the South Central Wisconsin Division for a job well done.

I had a very enjoyable trip to the convention even though the travel time from southern Indiana is lengthy, around ten hours of car time. I met my travel companion Bryan Lemonds, our region treasurer at his house in Bloomington, IN and we took off for Madison just before 10:00 am. Bryan and I enjoy talking about model railroading on these trips and this one was no different. We also discussed some regional topics along the way. It helps make the ride more tolerable. This was especially true this trip since we ran into very heavy wind and rain most of the trip. The wind was moving things across the highway, our car was buffeted at times and passing semi-trucks was an experience.

We finally made it to Madison and registered for the convention. We checked into the hotel and had an excellent steak dinner at a local steak house. We then headed to Bill Weber's Union Pacific layout for our operating session. I elected to run on the North Platte to Salt Lake section of the layout. My first train started at North Platte with two light engines running to Hershey to pick up covered hoppers at two industries making up a full train and then continuing to Salt Lake City turning my train over

President's Rewport Continued

to the SLC crew. I followed up with a coal train and several other general freight trains. I had a lot of fun running on Bill's Union Pacific railroad.

Bryan and I then headed back to the hotel for the evening. I checked to see if anything was still going on and found the Clinic given by Neil Besougsloff, Editor of Model Railroader had just started. Neil's clinic was "The Future of Model Railroading and Model Railroader Publications". It was a very interesting clinic with a lot of audience participation.

Saturday morning, after an excellent breakfast, I went to Captain Al Nelson's clinic "Hopper to Load-Load to Hopper. I have attended several of Capt. Al clinics in the past and have found them to be very interesting and this one was no exception. Capt. Al's title seemed to get him to some locations not always accessible to most of us and he had the videos to document these excursions.

My second clinic of the morning was "Digital Command Control" by Paul Pasowicz of Engine House Services, LLC. Now, I have been using DCC for many years now and have a Digitax system on my layout and regularly use an Easy DDC System. Both are good systems and fun to use. But with sometime as technical as DCC you can always learn something new or increase you knowledge in something you are already familiar with. I came away from the session with new knowledge.

After the clinics Bryan and I went to lunch, where we sat by a window watching the snow fall, something we thought we were done seeing. While we were eating lunch I remembered that I had left my camera back in the hotel room so we went back to the hotel where I got my camera out, went to the bathroom and then we headed out on the layout tours.

One we visited was Ron Betlach's Union Pacific Railroad. Very nicely done, especially the snow scene. I went back to the car to get my camera to take a few pictures and my camera was not in the car. Apparently when I went to the bathroom before leaving for the tour I had set my camera on the vanity and left it there. Another senior moment for your President.

Another layout we visited was Don Tolly's Virginia and Truckee. I liked the details involved in modeling this area. I also found his throttles extremely interesting, radio controlled engines carrying their own power. No track pick-up problems with this system. We tried to sneak out without viewing his G scale layout since it was pouring down rain, but Don's wife said it just a short detour to see so we went. In spite of the rain it was well worth the detour out the kitchen door.

As you can see I was quite impressed with the Badgerland Express. The meal for the Banquet was one of the best meals I have ever had in conjunction with a convention.

At the MWR board meeting Sunday Morning a lot

of business was conducted and you can check it out by accessing the minutes of the meeting on line. One of the most important items agreed on was setting the dates for next years convention which will take place in Springfield, IL. A lot of information on the Convention is showing up on the internet now. Plan now to attend. It looks like it is going to be a good one.

Midwest Region Achievement Program Report by Marvin Preussler MMR- MWR AP Manager

I am happy to report that there has been a lot of activity from our members. Members continue to take part in the Achievement Program all over the Midwest Region. It is always fun to help answer questions and to guide our members in the AP. Take a look at the following:

The following members received AP Certificates:

Robert Sherman , Brookfield, WI - MWR Certificate # 890	Official
Steven Johnson , Carmel, IN- MWR Certificate # 891	Chief Dispatcher
Steven Johnson , Carmel, IN- MWR Certificate # 892	Electrical
Robert Sherman , Brookfield, WI MWR Certificate # 893	Volunteer
Raymond Meyer II , Port Washington, WI MWR Certificate # 894	Volunteer
Raymond Meyer II , Port Washington, WI MWR Certificate #895	Author

The following member received the Golden Spike Award:

Michael Paulina, Lake Forest, IL

It was good to see many of our members take in my AP clinic at the Midwest Region convention in Madison back in April. Hopefully you were able to check out the model contest room and see what it takes to earn an AP merit award. It is always good to see what others are doing and is a good way to get back in focus on your own modeling projects. So keep track of what you do as you do it. As always, work with your division Achievement Program Manager first, and if there is a problem, feel free to contact me. Thanks!

Marvin Preussler, MMR

MMR's at the Joint Winnebago/SLHTS meet,
 left to right: Mark Preussler, Don Manlick, Bob
 Wundrock, Marvin Preussler, David Leider
 Not pictured: Ralph Wehlitz and Bill Elhert



A Few More photos from National Train Day



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2012 Election

Petition Deadline Is July 27, 2011

Although the 2012 election is several months away, it is time to start the election cycle. In 2012 we will elect four (4) Directors-at-Large.

Jim Osborn from the Fox Valley Division, one of the four incumbent DALs, will complete his second two-year term in 2012 and under the Bylaws will not be eligible to run for another term in 2012. Thanks to Jim for his dedicated service. Ingrid Drozdak from the Fox Valley Division, Mike Hurlburt from the Wisconsin Southeastern Division and Barb Rothwell from the South Central Wisconsin Division will complete their first two-year terms in 2012 and will be eligible to run for another term.

There are two ways that your name can be placed on the ballot. The first is by recommendation of the Nominating Committee and approval of the Board of Directors. To be considered by the Nominating Committee (Chairman Barb Rothwell from the South Central Wisconsin Division and Members Dave Johnson from the Fox Valley Division and Reid Kahrs from the Wisconsin Southeastern Division), you must submit a biography/candidate's statement of 200 words or less and a 2x2, passport-style photo to the Committee with a copy to the Region Secretary (Bert Lattan) as soon as possible, but no later than July 27, 2011.

The preferred method of delivery is electronic mail. (While e-mail is not required to serve on the Board, it is highly desirable since the Board conducts pre and post meeting activity by e-mail.) If you do not have e-mail, you may mail your bio/photo to Bert Lattan, who will convert it to an electronic format and send it to the Committee. Addresses and e-mail addresses for the Committee and the Secretary are on the Region website (www.mwr-nmra.org).

The second method is by petition signed by at least ten (10) current, resident NMRA members. The petition form is available on the Region website or it may be requested from Bert Lattan. Your petition must be accompanied by a biography/candidate's statement of 200 words or less and a 2x2, passport-style photo. It must be received by Bert Lattan no later than July 27, 2011. He will convert it to an electronic format and forward it to the Committee.

The Committee will submit its recommendations and the names of all resident members nominated by petition to the Board of Directors for review and approval during its next meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 2011 in Lafayette, Indiana.

Each candidate's biography/statement & photo and a ballot will be included in the Winter 2011 issue of the Waybill. The results of the election will be announced during the 2012 Annual Meeting of Members, which will be held during the Spring 2012 Convention. The convention, Rail Splitter 2012, will be hosted by the Illinois Valley Division and will be held on Friday, Saturday & Sunday, March 9, 10 & 11 at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, Illinois.

If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to contact any member of the Committee or the Secretary. —Barb Rothwell

Minutes, Annual Meeting of Members, Midwest Region, NMRA, April 16, 2011

President Bill Litkenhous called the meeting to order at 8:06 pm at the Radisson Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin. Bill thanked the South Central Wisconsin Division for hosting the 2011 Spring Convention.

Minutes from the Annual Meeting of Members held on April 24, 2010 were unanimously approved as written and published in the Summer 2010 issue of the Waybill.

Reports

Bryan Lemonds summarized Region finances. As of December 31, 2010 the General Fund and the Youth Fund had combined assets of \$38,980.64. For the year then ended, income, primarily from Waybill subscriptions and the NMRA dues rebate, was \$7,065.04; expenses, primarily for the Waybill, were \$4,279.89 and net income was \$2,785.15.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Bill Litkenhous announced the winners of the recent election:

President	Bill Litkenhous, Central Indiana Division
Vice President	Paul Mangan, South Central Wisconsin Division
Directors-at-Large	Jim Allen, Fox Valley Division Fred Henize, DuPage Division David Leider MMR, Fox Valley Division

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.
Respectfully submitted,
Bert Lattan, Secretary

Upcoming Conventions and Board Meetings

Please put them on your calendar for future reference..

1. Fall 2011 Board Meeting

Saturday, September 10, 2011; Lafayette, Indiana; Central Indiana Division host. There may be an operating session before or after the meeting.

2. Spring 2012 Convention, including the Annual Meeting of Members and the Spring Board Meeting.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, March 9, 10 & 11, 2012; President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield, Illinois; hosted by the Illinois Valley Division

3. Spring 2013 Convention, including the Annual Meeting of Members and the Spring Board Meeting (Tentative)

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, April 19, 20 & 21, 2013; Marriott Indianapolis East Hotel, Indianapolis, Indiana; CID host.

Other Divisions should start thinking about hosting the 2012 and later Fall Board meetings and the 2014 and later conventions. It might improve attendance at these events if we could get the Fall 2012 Board Meeting on the calendar at the Fall 2011 Board Meeting and the Spring 2014 convention on the calendar at the Spring 2012 convention.

What Division Am I In ?

The NMRA assigns members to Regions and Divisions based on their Zip codes. There are at least two ways that you can determine your assigned Division.

You can go to the Midwest Region website (<http://www.mwr-nmra.org/>). Click on the Divisions page and then click on Click HERE if you would like to look up a division assignment by zip code. The Midwest Region Zip Code Table will open in Adobe Reader. Follow the instructions at the top of the table to look up your Zip code and your Division.

Or, look at your membership card. You should find a four digit code, 28nn. The 28 stands for the Midwest Region. The two digit code following the 28 identifies your Division:

01	Wisconsin Southeastern
02	South Central Wisconsin
03	Winnebagoland
05	Illinois Valley
06	Central Indiana
07	Illinois Terminal
09	Fox Valley
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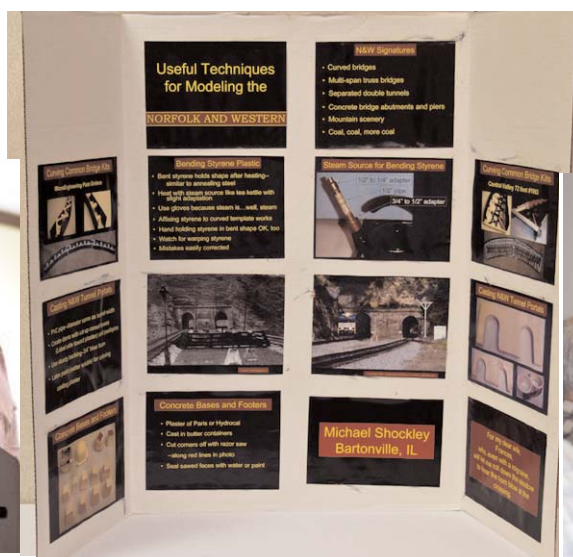
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PHOTO SECTION MIDWEST REGIONAL CONVENTION



Ingrid Drozdak announces the winners



Marv Preussler MMR, talks about the AP with a member.

AWARD WINNERS

Category	Award	Modeler	Description
Steam locomotive master	1st place	Jim Allen	On3 Beyer-Garratt
Diesel locomotive, master	1st place	Jim Allen	ATSF TR4
Diesel locomotive, novice	1st place	Michael Shockley	N&W 506
Diesel locomotive, novice	2nd place	Michael Shockley	CSX 7892
Non-revenue master	1st place	Jim Allen	On3 air compressor car
Passenger car, master	1st place	Tyrone Johnson	GN 2nd class coach
Structures, off-line, master	1st place	James Wise	Whiley's warehouse
Structures, off-line, master	2nd place	James Wise	Ezra Cooper's Garage
Structures, off-line, novice	1st place	Dave Casey	Humbird Cheese
Structures, off-line, novice	2nd place	Dave Casey	Ogden's Bookstore
Structures, on-line, novice	1st place	Michael Shockley	Coal sorter
Display, off-line, master	1st place	James Wise	Wise Meat Packing
Display, off-line, novice	1st place	Dave Casey	Rock Springs Bank
President's Award		James Wise	Wise Meat Packing
Moskal Award		Jim Allen	On3 Beyer-Garratt
Best of Show Master		Tyrone Johnson	GN 2nd class coach
Best of Show Novice		Dave Casey	Rock Springs Bank
Best of Show		Jim Allen	On3 Beyer-Garratt

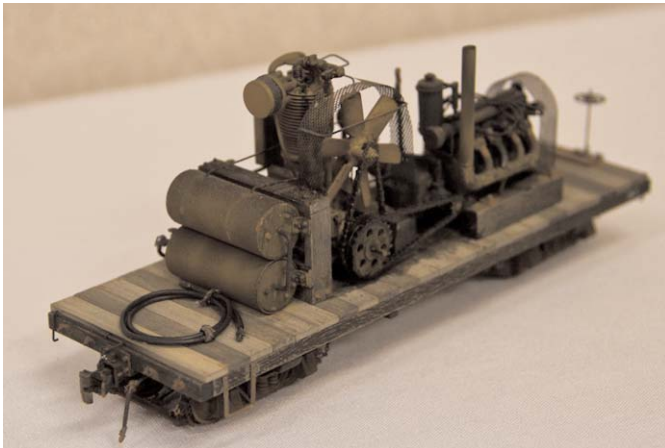


Above:
Best of Show and Steam locomotive master 1st place
Jim Allen's On3 Beyer-Garratt

Below:
Best of Show Master and Passenger car, master 1st place
Tyrone Johnson's GN 2nd class coach



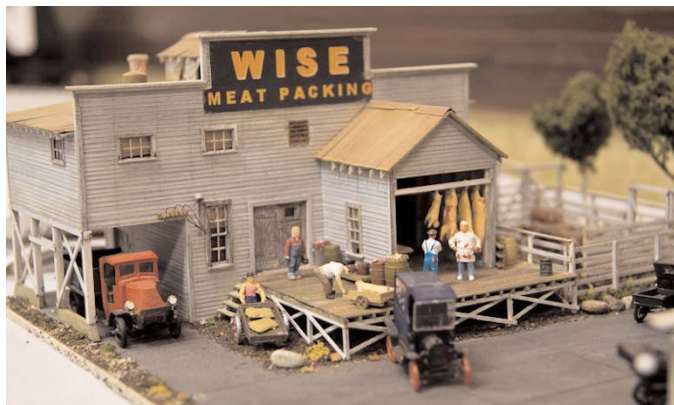
MORE MIDWEST REGIONAL
CONVENTION PHOTOS



Above: Non-revenue, master, 1st place.
Jim Allen's On3 air compressor car
Below: Display, off-line, master, 1st place
and President's Award
James Wise's Wise Meat Packing



Above: Diesel locomotive, master, 1st place.
Jim Allen's ATSF TR4
Below: Diesel locomotive, novice, 1st place
Michael Shockley's N&W 506



Above:
Another view of James Wise's Wise Meat Packing
Below:
Jim Osborn takes a photo as we leave the Wauunakee
depot. Yes, that is snow.



Above: Structures, off-line, master, 1st place
James Wise's Whiley's warehouse





Above Right: John Cloos introduced a little whimsy at Highwheeler
 Below: Another view at Highwheeler
 Above left: Two views of Phil Hottman's excellent layout



Left: Don Tolley's narrow gauge empire
 Left Below: Mark and Marv Preussler along with Emory Luebke man the Winnebagoland NMRA booth at the Titledown train Show
 Below: Some of the models at the Titledown Show.



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Cisco Junction Train Show

October 15, 2011 Saturday 9-4

October 16, 2011 Sunday 9-3

Place: The Cisco Center 325 N Eldon St.
Cisco, Illinois

Admission: Adults \$3.00, under 12 free

All proceeds benefit the Cisco Junction depot, built in 1874. The line was originally the Champaign, Montello & Decatur Railroad, chartered in 1867, and completed in 1873. The tracks are now owned by the Decatur Junction Railway.

For particulars, contact:

Don@ ciscojunction.com Or 217-669-2261

Cisco is off I-72 between Champaign and Decatur, Exit #156.

Tentatively, Monticello Railway Museum will operate the 401 Steam Locomotive that weekend

I hope that you enjoyed this special expanded addition. Drop me a note and let me know. Your comments will determine if I do it again.
David