

Waybill

Mid West Region NMRA –
Summer 2017



President's Report

Steve Studley President, MWR

The Midwest Region (MWR) Board of Directors meeting held Sunday, April 30 marked the end of Paul Mangan's second term as President of the Region. Thank you, Paul, for your outstanding service to the Board over the last four years. Never fear, though, he's not done yet. Paul continues on the Board as Immediate Past President, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, and representative to the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) Regional Advisory Council (RAC). Paul takes over the Past President position from Bill Litkenhous. Thanks, Bill, for your years of service on the Board.

Another change on the Board was that of M. David Johnson who needed to step down from his position on the Board. David, thanks for serving as Secretary. We'll miss you at our Board meetings. Paul Wussow has agreed to take David's place as Secretary. Thank you, Paul, for agreeing to move to this position.

My name is Steve Studley. I'm pleased to have been elected to be your Region President for the next two years. I'd like to extend a hearty handshake to all the MWR members. We can accomplish that handshake as we meet at various MWR events. When you see me at these events, stop by and say hello. My wife, Penny, and I live in Bloomington, IN.; are members of the Central Indiana Division (CID); and both of us have been retired from Indiana University for the past five and a half years. We were able to fill up a lot of that "spare" retirement time by helping to host Highball to Indy 2016 last July. Penny served as Non-Rail Chair and I was the Chair of the Host Committee for the Convention. I am also the current Past Superintendent of the CID and serve the Region as the alternate RAC representative.

Taking over my former position on the Board

is Reid Kahrs, who is your new Vice President. Reid is also the Convention Chair and in charge of Promotions and Special Projects. As mentioned above, Paul Wussow is the new Secretary. He also serves as Chair of the Clinic Clearing House and is the Illinois Registered Agent for the Region. Keith Thomsen retains his position as Region Treasurer. With Paul Wussow moving to the Secretary position, that left his former position as Director-at-Large (DAL) open. Fred Henize has agreed to serve the last year of Paul's term in that DAL position. Glad to have you on the Board, Fred. When Don Cook passed away we lost not only a great modeler, but also the Chair to the Election Committee. Fortunately, Jim Osborn has stepped up to take on that position. Helping Jim on the committee will be Bert Lattan. Thanks to both of you for serving. There is one more change of position to note. With Reid Kahrs moving to the Vice President position, his Wisconsin Southeastern Division Director position will be filled (after June 1) by Peter Lakatos. Welcome to the Board, Peter. Whew... that's a lot of changes. I'd like to, once again, thank all those who were willing to accept new/different positions on the Board. It's easier to take care of the work needed to keep the Region operating when we have a full complement of Board members.

This year's Midwest Region Convention, "Golden Rails", was sponsored by the Rock River Valley Division. It was held in Rockford, IL from April 28-30, and coincided with the division's fiftieth anniversary (yes, there was an anniversary cake). The convention began Friday morning with a Hobo Grill held at the Rochelle Railroad Park. Trains were running early, followed later in the day by a pesky rain and the maintenance crews welding on the diamonds.

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The WAYBILL

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Editor's Column

I would like to congratulate Steve Studley on being elected President of the Midwest Region. Also a round of applause to Reid Kahrs, our new Vice President.

If you read Steve's President Column, you will see that these gentlemen, as well as the entire board, wear many hats. If you want to be involved help is always needed. Volunteering is much more than filling a position. It is a way to meet like-minded folks and have fun at the same time. The meetings are held all over the region, so you do not always have to drive far.

One of the best ways to get a toe in the water is to get elected as a Director-at Large. This year we are looking for four people to fill vacancies. I served two terms as DAL and it was a fun experience. I met a great group of folks, and was proud to serve. If you are interested, more information is on the following page.

I spent two weekends in Rockford this spring. First was the Midwest Region convention, always a fun event. Everything was top notch. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate. One of the best clinics was by NMRA president Charlie Getz. He spoke about the future of the hobby and the NMRA, as well as leading edge technology as it relates to the hobby.

One item that I found intriguing was the progress in power on board. This is where rechargeable batteries power the engine instead of track power. The DCC works as before. The concept was first adapted by the On3 folks. I remember hearing about it at a layout during the 2010 Milwaukee National Convention. Charlie said battery technology was such that within 4-5 years it would be available for HO. The batteries would not have to be removed to be charged, it would be on a special induction charging track. I would like to see it applied to passenger car lighting, doing away with track pickup shoes or replaceable batteries. There is a whole world of uses on the layout.

The second Rockford convention was the Chicago & North Western Historical Society's annual meet. The highlight was groundbreaking for their new archive building on the grounds of the Illinois Rail Museum in Union Illinois. Fortunately it stopped raining just as the ceremony began. But it was still a cold, raw day.

Speaking of historical societies, I was able to ride the last remaining full dome car in Amtrak service, car number 10031 between Chicago and Galesburg. It was previously used on the Chicago-Seattle Empire Builder when the train was operated by the Great Northern Railway and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. It was built in 1955 by the Budd Company for the Great Northern and carried the name "Ocean View," car number 1391. Its final renovation was in 1999, when it was renumbered to 10031, and has been used in various Amtrak services including charters and excursions. This car is equipped for food service on the lower level and the entire dome section consists of lounge tables and comfortable seating.

The occasion was a fundraiser for the Burlington Route Historical Society archives, put together by the archives committee, of which I am a member. The weather was warm and sunny, and everyone had a memorable trip.

Finally, I was fortunate to be able to photograph one of the few remaining working towers in Chicago. It was a great experience and something I will always remember.

Coming up in September is the Soo Line Historical & Technical Society convention in Minot, ND. We have been talking about this for many years and it is finally a reality. The dates are September 7-10. More information at sooline.org

The Michiana Division Conference on the campus of Notre Dame University is also coming up in September. It will be held in McKenna Hall on September 22 and 23. I will be giving a clinic, but don't let that stop you. More information is on their website at <http://michiana-nmra.org>

Several members have expressed an interest in forming an On3 club. If you know of one please contact Steve Studley at studely@indiana.edu

Enjoy your summer and see you in the fall

Continued from page 1

Not to worry, though, as grilled brats and hotdogs, and many conversations, were in abundance as we gathered in the pavilion staying dry awaiting the few trains that ran in the afternoon. Friday evening's offerings included clinics at the hotel and operations on three area layouts. Saturday offered more clinics in the morning and area layout tours in the afternoon. The contest room was busy with judging and then viewing for both the photo and model contests. Bidding continued for the silent auction. For the Non-Rail attendees, there was a contingent working on Project Linus in the hotel and several self-guided tours to visit local points of interest. The banquet was held Saturday evening. It included good food (I already mentioned the cake), entertainment by "Trinadora" (Ron Holm and Jannie Nelson), who performed familiar train songs. There was a musical slide show presented by Jerry Pyfer titled "In Dreams – Looking Back at the Milwaukee Road in the Midwest". A brief MWR Annual Members' Meeting was held along with the announcement of the silent auction results and the awarding of a multitude of door prizes. The evening proved to be a great way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Rock River Valley Division. Happy Anniversary! The MWR Board of Directors met on Sunday morning and there were layouts open for touring that afternoon. Thanks to all who helped put on the convention. It's a wonderful time to get together with friends and share in the hobby.

Our special guest for the weekend was NMRA President, Charlie Getz. Charlie was here to help celebrate the 50th anniversary. He also presented two clinics, spoke at the banquet, and attended the business meeting of the MWR Board of Directors on Sunday morning. Thanks for visiting, Charlie. We appreciate hearing about what's happening at the National level.

Future conventions include the NMRA National Convention and National Train Show to be held July 30 - August 6 in Orlando, FL. At the Sunday MWR Board meeting, the bid from the South Central Wisconsin Division for the 2018 MWR Convention was accepted. The convention, "Capitol 400", will be held in Madison, WI next April 13-15, 2018. For more information: <http://www.nmra-scwd.org/convention.html>

In the meantime – back to the layout!
Steve

Region News

2017 Election

Petition Deadline Is August 15, 2017

Although the 2018 election is several months away, it is time to start the election cycle. In 2017 we will elect four directors at large.

By serving the Midwest Region and your fellow NMRA members as a Director-at-Large for two terms (four years), you will qualify for the Association Official certificate under the NMRA Achievement Program. You will also meet many NMRA members from other Divisions and perhaps form lasting friendships.

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 Fred Robinson from the South Central Wisconsin Division and members Dan Brewer from the Michiana Division and Lou Venema from the Central Indiana 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 (Paul Wussow) as soon as possible, but no later than August 15, 2017.

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 Paul Wussow, 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 Board of Directors page of the Region website (www.mwr-nmra.org).

The second method is by petition signed by at least ten (10) current NMRA members who live in the Midwest Region. The petition form is available on the Region website or it may be requested from Paul Wusso. 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 Paul Wussow no later than August 15, 2017. He will convert it to an electronic format and forward it to the Committee.

The Committee will submit its recommenda-

tions 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 scheduled for Sunday, November 12, 2017 at Trainfest in West Allis, WI.

Each candidate's biography/statement & photo and a ballot will be included in the Winter 2017 issue of the Waybill. The results of the election will be announced during the 2018 Annual Meeting of Members, which will be held during the 2018 Spring Convention held in Madison, WI. See the region website for details.

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

Frugal Modeler

by Dave Nelson

In the Spring 2017 Waybill I showed a way to replicate the typical scars and wounds on wood flatcar decks. Steel-decked flat cars (frequently very heavy duty cars) often hold various welded-on load supports and securement items, such as L, H, and C shapes and other angle pieces, and welded anchors that hold straps or steel rods which secure the load. The prototype photos show some examples. In some cases the load itself is welded to the deck. When torched off for delivery and the next load, the decks show visible remnants of steel and welding material. The prototype photos show examples of this.

Capturing this look on a plastic flatcar deck can be surprisingly easy and very like the prototype in sequence. First, I cement a few short (perhaps 1/4") lengths of small, raw styrene



Fall Board of Directors Meeting

Trainfest
West Allis Wisconsin
Sunday

November 12, 2017; 10:30 am

L, H and C shapes from Plastruct or Evergreen to the deck. Unless you have a cement that works reliably on painted styrene (I have yet to find one), it is best to start with an unpainted styrene deck. Although the prototype photos can make the "scars" seem random,



the load braces and supports trace the exterior dimensions of various past loads, square or rectangular, on the unpainted flatcar deck, so I cement the angles with some thought to the size and shape of loads that "used to be there."

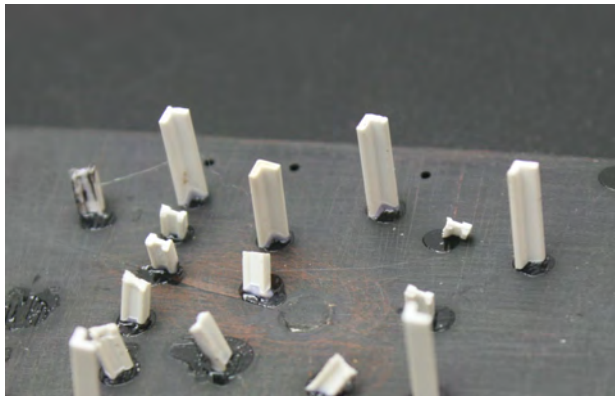
Second, once the cement has hardened, I use sprue nippers to remove the pieces, almost but not quite to the base of the deck itself, as you would clip fingernails.

Third, I take the removed parts and start the process over again, until



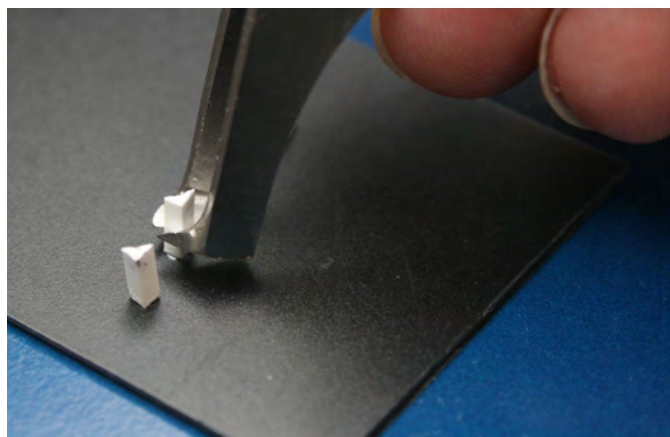
there is no more usable styrene. I usually do a follow-up clipping of the nubs with the sprue nippers very close to the surface of the deck.

Fourth, I paint the deck a reddish brown color, perhaps using spray cans of primer. An application of DullCote follows, and then a wash of 50% or 70%



isopropyl alcohol with a small amount of India Ink mixed in. If you let the alcohol/ink mix pool slightly on the flat deck surface, some interesting and prototypical pitting and light corrosion of the typical steel flatcar deck can result.

Lastly, dry-brushing or rust colored powders



and pastels can enhance the look of torched off rusty metal on the slightly raised bits of plastic on the deck.

The model photos show the steps in the process as well as the final result on one HO car.



All photos by the author.
See the finished flatcar deck on page 8.

NMRA MIDWEST REGION CONVENTION MADISON, WISCONSIN APRIL 13-15, 2018

All Aboard for the Capital 400 Midwest Region Convention. Mark the dates: April 13-15, 2018 for a weekend filled with model railroad fun.

Headquartered at the Madison Raddison Hotel, the convention kicks off Friday with operating sessions in the afternoon and evening on four local model railroads: Bill and Rose Weber's Union Pacific, Dr. Bill Clancy's Rio Grande Pacific, Bob Wundrock MMR's Rice Lake Dallas & Menomnie and Ken Hojnacki's NYO&W Auburn division. Some great clinics are planned starting Friday evening and continuing Saturday morning and afternoon.

Two special presentations will take place Saturday morning. First will be Tom Garver who was an assistant to renowned photographer O. Winston Link, who will provide us with a rare look at the OWL, focusing on the Norfolk & Western steam safaris in the 1950's. Next will be a presentation by Model railroader magazine editor and modeler extraordinaire, Tony Koester.

Saturday afternoon will also begin tours of local layouts. We'll be looking for layouts on the north and west sides for Saturday afternoon and all around the Madison area for Sunday.

Judged model and photo contests and Non-rail activities including project Linus will begin Friday evening and continue Saturday.

Saturday night we will have a fine banquet that is included in every registration. In addition to the regions member's meeting and the announcement of contest winners, our guest speaker will be Tony Koester.

The convention will conclude Sunday, beginning with the Region board of director's meeting in the morning.

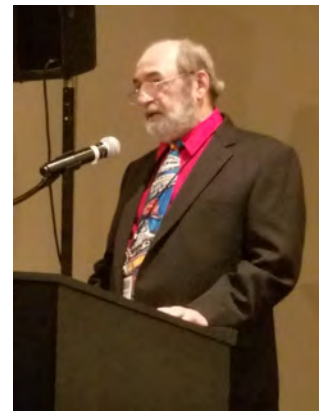
Registration will start in September. Rail registration, including banquet, is \$55 and Non-rail, including the banquet is \$40. Watch the SCWD webpage for more information. Go to <http://www.nmra-scwd.org> and click on convention at the top, then join the fun.

Around the Midwest Region

By **Walt Herrick**

Golden Rails was Great!

I'm just back from a thoroughly enjoyable two and a half days at this year's MWR Convention "Golden Rails" held in Rockford, IL. I say this in spite of the lousy cold, rainy, windy weather we had for the entire convention. Golden Rails was hosted by the Rock River Valley Division to celebrate their 50 years as a division in the NMRA and they did a great job. Convention turn-out was excellent with 157 paying customers. The Rock River folks kept costs for attending to a minimum—a modest \$50.00 fee was charged to attend the complete convention including the banquet which was really good with live railroad music by the Trinadora Duo, great food (I loved the carved roast beef), and an outstanding slide show by Jerry Pyfer. Golden Rails had all the typical convention stuff (that's MMR Bruce DeYoung giving a clinic in the middle right photo, for example) and then some. Friday's Hobo Grill out doors at Rochelle's Railroad Park (above right photo) was a big hit. Having NMRA President Charlie Getz attend the whole convention was special. Charlie was easily accessible and answered any and all questions thrown at him. He was also a fount of model railroad hobby information. (Did you know there are 250,000 model railroaders in China? Really!) Other highlights of the convention for me were 1) 15 year old McKeegan Curran's clinic on "Teenagers and the Next Generation of Modelers". McKeegan and his message were great and quite inspiring and informative, 2) I enjoyed having lunch at the Machine Shed Restaurant on Saturday with Jim Allen, Mike Hirvela, and David Leider from my Fox Valley Division with great conversation and a gut busting joke by Jim which cannot be repeated here, 3) Recognizing outgoing MWR President, Paul Mangun (center photo with Paul at the lecturn) and finally, the Sunday after-noon layout tours where I saw MMR Bill Lorence's (photo next to Paul Mangun) superb, new HO Tidewater & Southern set in 1926, Dick Caudle's 1915 HO railroad with its amazing old ships and bridges (photo to the right shows Dick's amazing pontoon bridge which rotates into position), and finally the Rockford O Scalpers huge layout with a ton of gorgeous O scale, transition era equipment in a ton of different road names all over the layout and house for that matter! Thanks Rock River Valley, for letting me and 156 others join in on your 50th anniversary celebration! I had a blast!



Note: Top photo by Mike Hirvela, all others by Walt Herrick.



**Midwest Region Convention
Rockford, Illinois
May 28-30 2017**

Best of Show - Master

Dave Poquette
1935 Residential House

Best of Show - Novice

McKeegan Curran
Three Shack Junction

Best of Model Contest

Gustan (Jay) Kabitzke
Milwaukee Road 8 - 2 - 1 Sleeper



Above:
Jim Allen won 1st place Display on line category
for his Auction House Junction diorama

Below
Dave Poquette
1935 Residential House-Best of Show Master



Above: Pency J tower by Jim Allen-1st Place
Structures category

All photos by Walt Herrick. For more convention
photos and winners link to:
<http://www.mwr-nmra.org/mwr2016/mwr.contestphotos.html>



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