

# Waybill



# The WAYBILL

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## The WAYBILL

is published quarterly by the Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association Inc. for the benefit of the model railroading community.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Electronic delivery is free to all members of the Region. Go to <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/region/waybill/waybill.html> to subscribe or to change your e-mail address. Regular mail subscriptions are \$6.00 per year; \$12.00 for two years. To subscribe, complete the applicable sections of the NMRA Membership Application at <http://www.nmra.org/>.

### 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.

### ADVERTISING

Deadlines for camera ready ads are the same as for the copy deadlines. Please submit by email to the editor as a TIF or .jpeg. We accept only railroad related ads.

Advertising rates are:

	yearly	or	per issue
Full page	\$100		\$35
Half page	75		25
Quarter page	50		20
Business card	25		15

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## Editor's Column

Well, It's Winter again, even though the calendar says Fall. I had the occasion to visit Santa Fe, NM with the Lexington Group. The Lexington Group is an organization of railroad and transportation executives as well as writers, historians and researchers. The highlight of the convention was a days excursion on the Cumbres & Toltec narrow gauge. We also took a ride on the regional Rail Runner from Santa Fe to Belén and back. Photos are below and on page 11.

The Friday before my trip I "officially" retired, although I said I would go back in April if we had not sold the house and moved to Florida by then.

Although I get laid off at the end of every October, it seems different this time. So what do I do since I am "officially" retired? The same as always, research for books, write and build kits. I have started my book on the Chicago Milk Shed, which is where Chicago got its milk. I am still looking for photos of Milk sheds, processing plants and milk cars in and around Chicago.

I was told that 110 people are subscribed to the Waybill from other regions. Thank you for your support.

You may have noticed that this issue has more than the usual amount of pages. That is because it is the annual election issue. This year we are voting on four directors-at-large. Their biographies are on pages 5, 6 and 10 and the ballot is on page 8. Please take the time to vote.

The Regional Meet will be in Peoria this spring. I hope to see all of you there. Meet details are on page 4 and there is a registration form on page 7.

I attended the Board of Directors meeting at Trainfest, and have a few things to report:

They are investigating the use of remote clinics, using Skype or another form of communication over the internet.

The 2021 convention will be in Rockford, Illinois and the 2022 convention will be with two other divisions, the North Central and Mid-central. The hotel will be the Marriott on the east side of Indianapolis on 21st Street. The date is May 18-21. This will be a Super convention, spread out over four days, with tours, clinics, operating sessions and lots of other things to do, like a mini-National. Stay tuned for more details.

Speaking of Trainfest, both Kalmbach and Model Railroad Hobbyist were streaming live on Saturday. There is footage on youtube and MRH.com.



Left: No trip to New Mexico is complete without seeing some Harvey Houses.

Below: Rail Runner at Belen. The BNSF has a large yard east of here.

Cover photo taken at Antonito where we boarded.



## Mid West Region NMRA – Winter 2019



### President's Report

Steve Studley President, MWR

#### It's Modeling Time

For most of us in the Midwest Region, fall has nearly ended. Here in south-central Indiana, the leaves are mostly down and we've seen a few flakes of snow. Farther north in the Region, there have been appreciable snows that let us know winter is fast approaching or has already made its presence known. Therefore, for most all of us, it is now "modeling time". Whether you are spending your modeling time building or expanding a new, or existing layout, or working on the details that help to "complete" (whatever that means) your railroad model, there is no time like the present to head to the layout and/or workbench to accomplish those tasks.

At the time this article is being written, I am working on a contest entry for an upcoming Central Indiana Division meet. I have eight days to finish the display and four of those days will be spent traveling to and attending Trainfest and the MWR Board of Directors meeting. I will be sure to pack a small tool box with all(?) the supplies I will need to continue work on the display even while I am an umpty-bunch of miles from my usual workbench. This idea worked to perfection during a trip north to attend the Michiana Division's "Training Day" activity. By going up a day early, I not only saved a very early morning drive, but was able to use the evening in my hotel room to advantage. That spare time allowed me to cut the necessary styrene pieces to length for the display. The job required minimal tools, so it was easy to pack only those tools needed for the task. I try not to pack everything from my workbench on these occasions, but do customize the tool box contents for the one or two projects I might work on while away from home.

Included in the tool box are: a chopper for cutting wood and styrene to length, a small cutting mat,

a padded box containing machinists' squares and a 6" scale, 12" HO scale rule, glues appropriate for the project, and cutting tools. When working with glues, I do so on glass. On my workbench I have a decent sized piece of 1/4" thick glass. This is too large to haul around so I visited a "dollar store" and bought a 4X6" picture frame with glass. The glass that comes with these frames is quite thin, < 0.060". At the same store, I also purchased a strip of non-skid shelf lining to keep items from sliding around on the hotel desk. The glass sits on this when in use and is kept in the frame with cardboard on each side while in transit. The idea is to only pack those items you believe you'll need, and, if possible, to utilize smaller amounts and sizes to keep the tool box small. So far this has worked well for me.

Hopefully, you, too, will be able to spend time working on railroad model projects in the coming months. Remember, though, you don't need to head to the train room and hibernate there till spring. Get out once in a while and visit with friends at model railroad meets and activities or find some operating sessions you would like to attend.

Speaking of model railroading activities, the following comes at a time when you should be coming out of hibernation: The MWR will hold our Regional Convention, Peoria Rocket 2020, this year in – you guessed it – Peoria, IL. The convention will be hosted by the Illinois Valley and Illinois Terminal Divisions. Dates are May 14–17, 2020 and further information may be found on the convention's website: [www.peoriarocket2020.org](http://www.peoriarocket2020.org)

Be sure to check back often as additional information will continue to be added to the site. In the meantime – back to the layout!

Steve

# Region News

## NMRA MIDWEST REGION CONVENTION East Peoria, Il May 15-17, 2020

### Midwest Region Achievement Program Report by Jim Landwehr- MWR AP Manager

I am happy to report that there has been a lot of activity from our members. They continue to take part in the Achievement Program all over the Midwest Region.

The following members received awards:

Dan Brewer	Granger, IN	Official
Ken Hojnacki	Madison, WI	Scenery
Bill Mitchell	Mc Farland, WI	Volunteer
James Huebler	Brookfield, IL	Electrical
James Huebler	Brookfield, IL	Civil
Robert Stone	Madison, WI	Volunteer
Emil Mosny	Rockford, IL	Author
Emory Luebke	Greenville, WI	Motor Power

As always, work with your division Achievement Program Manager first, and if there is a problem, feel free to contact me.

Thanks, Jim

There are a lot of interesting things to do in Peoria and they will be described in "The Peoria Magazine" which will be included in your welcome packet. One of the outstanding attractions is the "Spirit of Peoria," a 160 foot paddle boat which actually uses a stern paddlewheel for propulsion on the Illinois River. On Friday May 15 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm the "Spirit of Peoria" will take you on a moonlight cruise. An afternoon cruise is also available on Saturday May 16 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm. The charge for the moonlight cruise is \$23 for adults and \$21 for seniors over 55 and \$14 for children. The charge for the afternoon cruise is \$18 for adults and \$16 for seniors over 55 and \$11 for children. We have arranged a convention special of \$3.00 off the listed ticket price when you show your convention badge while purchasing your ticket at the ticket office, which is open one hour before departure. The boat has a snack bar which serves hot dogs, nachos, popcorn and beer, wine, and soda.

On Friday morning a canvas painting event is available under the guidance of Jody at the Hive Mobile Art Studio located in Peoria about 15 minutes from the convention hotel. Jody, a very enthusiastic former public school teacher, loves to share simple

**Annual Meeting of Members  
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, East Peoria  
101 Holiday Drive  
East Peoria, Illinois  
Saturday May 16, 2020; 8PM**

**Come one, come all! Join in the Fun!**

### Midwest Region Convention

*Peoria Rocket 2020*

**May 14-17, 2020**

**Keep watching [peoriarocket2020.org](http://peoriarocket2020.org) for more information**

**Clinics  
Layout Tours  
Operating Sessions  
Model Contests  
Displays  
Experts in Model Railroading  
Regular People, too!**

**Quilting with the Linus Project**



Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites East Peoria  
101 Holiday Dr. East Peoria, IL  
ReservationCounter.com: 309-698-3333

ways to nurture your inner artistic ability and bring out your hidden talent. Special techniques are demonstrated as the creation of your masterpiece is developed. This event will begin at 10:00 am at a cost of \$25 and pre-registration is required to assure a brush and canvas is available for you. The class is limited to twenty enthusiastic beginner artists – no prior skills required. Friday afternoon is free to enjoy lunch and shopping at the Levee District with its many fine restaurants and stores located in East Peoria near the convention hotel or to visit the Peoria Riverfront Museum.

On Saturday beginning at 9:30 am a special cooking class will be held at “The Cookery”, which is located in Morton about 19 minutes from our hotel. This class is unique compared to most cooking classes in that you actually get to prepare the meal rather than watch how it is done. Amanda and her team of chefs will guide you through the food preparation by sharing preparation techniques as well as tasty ingredients and recipes. This unique class is limited to 24 participants at a cost of \$45 for the class and a very tasty lunch. Pre-registration is also required for this class. The afternoon you are free to enjoy shopping at the unique shops and boutiques such as Lulu’s located two miles from “The Cookery” within Morton or taking a cruise on the Illinois River.

Bring your sewing machine and make new lifetime friends while you help with the Linus Project. A room will be available for this activity in the convention hotel.

### **Clinics, Education and Information Sharing for Members**

Traditional clinic presentations now usually include projected information and sometimes supplemented with live demonstrations. We need clinics that can be reused in additional venues as well as develop methods to provide educational material in new ways using newer tools.

Some of the tools to explore include developing a simple searchable list of past clinics available for repeat presentation. An improved way is needed for individuals and groups to request educational information on specific topics. We also will test remote presentation of clinics including Power Point type slides with question and answer opportunities. Comments, suggestions and ideas are welcome and you can contact Eric Peterson at 317-947-4829 or [ericgpet@gmail.com](mailto:ericgpet@gmail.com).

### **2018 Election Biographies for Directors-at-Large**

Yes, it is once again election time. Up for election are four seats for Director-at Large. Please vote to show your support for the region. The ballot is on page 7.

#### **Midwest Region Director-at-Large. Jim Allen, Fox Valley Division**

I have been involved in model railroading on and off for more than 50 years.

It started with a battery operated tinplate set, progressed to American Flyer and settled with HO with a dabbling in On3 and G.

My career path as an Industrial Designer has allowed me to not only work in corporate and consulting offices but to also run my own freelance business. I have been involved in the designs of everything from small consumer products to heavy earth moving equipment. As a freelance designer I have been able to combine my passions for design and model railroading. Alco Models, McKeen Models, Overland, Walthers, Circuitron, Magnuson Models and GCLaser are just a few of the companies in the Model Railroad Industry that I have done design, drafting, pattern work, model building and diorama design and construction.



As a NMRA member I have participated in and placed in a number of National and Regional Convention model contests. I have achieved an AP Certificate for Model Railroad Author, Master Builder-Motive Power, Chief Dispatcher, Association Volunteer and Association Official.

What is important to me as a Director is to promote the NMRA and build membership. In an attempt to accomplish this goal the Fox Valley Div., in cooperation with the Du Page Div., have been manning a NMRA membership table at the monthly Du Page train Show. With our Timesaver switching layout and our commercial display we have been able to draw enough attention to generate new interest in the NMRA, especially among younger modelers. I will continue this effort especially with the 20 thru 40 year old age group who will be the future of the NMRA.

Midwest Region Director-at-Large.  
**Gary Children, WISE Division**

I am a candidate for Director at Large of the Midwest Region of the NMRA. I would like to run another term as Director at Large. In the past I have been regional president, Vice president, and model and Photo Chair for the region.



There are several things between the region and division that need to be worked out. National also has come up with certain things such as the 501c3 tax exemption that need to be addressed. We, as a region, can work these things out with the help of all regional people.

I am a life member of NMRA and I model the Wisconsin Central, Southern and Santa Fe in S gauge. I have been railroading since age 5 with a Lionel train set given to me for Christmas. At age 15 I changed to HO gauge and at age 55 I changed to S gauge. I also enjoyed helping restore car #26 at the East Troy Trolley Museum.

Thank for your support.  
Gary E. Children

Midwest Region Director-at-Large.  
**Eric Peterson, Central Indiana Division**

My interest in model railroading and railroads is due to building models and attending NMRA activities with my Father in the North Central Region. I am a life member and support the NMRA because it is the organization for our hobby, not only providing standards, recommended practices, publications, contests, and achievement awards but more importantly the social and educational activities we enjoy.



We recently moved from Jacksonville, FL to Carmel, IN to be near family. I was active in the Sunshine Region including serving as the Northern Division Superintendent and SSR Board. The Northern Division organized quarterly division meetings in the Jacksonville area including clinics, show and tell, and local club updates for area modelers.

We have also had layout open houses, club visits, prototype field trips and some operating sessions.

My modeling started in HO and I have been modeling in O scale two rail since 1971. My sectional layout is now in the 6th different home due to work relocations.

I have also been active in the NMRA Achievement Program completing Author, Scenery and Electrical Certificates. I look forward to being involved on the Midwest Region.

Midwest Region Director-at-Large.  
**Walt Herrick, Fox Valley Division**

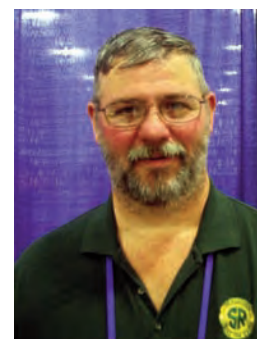
I have had an interest in trains since I was a toddler growing up in Crystal Lake, Illinois.

My first train set was a basic American Flyer 4-4-2 steamer set I received at Christmas when I was 6. I continued with Flyer until I was a teenager. At that time, I switched over to HO. I dropped out of the hobby in high school and college, but returned right after college after moving to Cincinnati in 1973 to start my first full time job. I've been active in the hobby since then joining the NMRA in 1995. I became active in the Fox Valley Division in 2011 when I became editor of its Semaphore newsletter and a board member, positions I still hold today. I became the MWR's Photographer in 2016 and Photo Contest Chair in 2017. I am running for Director at Large to further serve the NMRA and its mission to promote and serve our great hobby.



Midwest Region Director-at-Large.  
**Michael David Roderick, Central Indiana Division**

I am running for the Director at Large for the Midwest Region. I am fifty (50) years old and have enjoyed trains most of my life. My father & grandfather's collected n-scale and HO trains when I was a child and I have some of their trains today. I currently model in HO scale trains.



Continued on page 10

## **Midwest Region 2020 Ballot**

*(This ballot is for use only by resident members of the Midwest Region)*

**Director-At-Large** *(Vote for/Check Four Candidates)*

- [ ]        **Mike Roderick, Central Indiana Division**
- [ ]        **Jim Allen, Fox Valley Division** *(Incumbent)*
- [ ]        **Gary Children, Wisconsin Southeastern Division**
- [ ]        **Eric Peterson, Central Indiana Division** *(Incumbent)*
- [ ]        **Walt Herrick, Fox Valley Division**
- [ ]        **Write-In**        \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ]        **Write-In**        \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ]        **Write-In**        \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ]        **Write-In**        \_\_\_\_\_

*To validate your ballot, please print your:*

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**NMRA No.\*** \_\_\_\_\_

**Division** \_\_\_\_\_ **or Division Code\* 28 /** \_\_\_\_\_

*\* From your membership card. Also, you can go to <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/mwr2016/mwr.divisionmap.html> to look up your Division assignment based on your Zip code. "Midwest" is not your Division!!! It is your Region.*

*If you do not provide the above information, your ballot will not be counted.*

*Return to Midwest Region Election Committee,  
c/o Jim Osborn, 2202 Bay Oaks Dr. McHenry, IL 60051-3710. Your ballot must be post marked no later than Friday, January 31, 2020.*

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*Fold over last*

Midwest Region Election Committee  
c/o Jim Osborn  
2202 Bay Oaks Dr  
McHenry, IL 60051-3710

1<sup>st</sup> class  
postage

**Midwest Region Election Committee  
c/o Jim Osborn  
2202 Bay Oaks Dr  
McHenry, IL 60051-3710**

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# Midwest Region NMRA 2020 Spring Convention

“IVD & ITD – Peoria Rocket” Registration Form

May 14-17, 2020

## FARES

	NMRA Member/Spouse	Non-NMRA Member/Spouse
Full Fare (Includes Banquet)	\$60/\$40	\$80/\$40
Convention Only (No Banquet)	\$40/\$30	\$60/\$30

\*\*\* Registrations received after May 1, 2020 or at the door will be \$10 extra \*\*\*

### Activities Registration

- Thursday Operating Session (indicate your preference, i.e., 1, 2, 3): (Not a “layout tour;” you are expected to operate)  
 Penn Central \_\_\_\_\_ Twin Cities & Western \_\_\_\_\_ D&RGW, 4 Corners Div. (distant) \_\_\_\_\_
- Non-rail:** Friday Morning Canvas Painting Event with Jody at the Hive Mobile Art Studio @ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_
- Friday Operating Session: Penn Central \_\_\_\_\_
- Non-rail:** Saturday Morning Cooking class and lunch with chef Amanda Pyle at The Cookery @ \$45 \_\_\_\_\_
- Sunday Operating Session: Penn Central \_\_\_\_\_ Twin Cities & Western \_\_\_\_\_

Enter Desired Meal Choice in the “Meal” column: B = Buffet (3 meats), S = Special Diet

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (PLEASE PRINT)

NMRA Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-NMRA Member\*\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One for each registrant

Convention w/ Banquet	Convention Only	Meal B/S
\$60	\$40	
\$80	\$60	
\$40	\$30	

Add \$10 each for late registration (After May 1, 2020): \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Includes \$20 RailPass membership – must be eligible (either never have been a member before or haven’t been a member for 2 years or more; can join at RailPass rates. If you have ever purchased a NMRA RailPass Membership, you cannot do that again. You must purchase a full NMRA membership to attend this event)

NMRA #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

NMRA Region \_\_\_\_\_

NMRA Division \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Illinois Valley Division of NMRA  
 P.O. Box 645  
 Chillicothe, Il. 61523

Office Use Only

Am’t Rec’d: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Op Session Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: “IVD Convention Fund” (No cash, please) Registration forms available for download at <https://www.peoriarocket2020.org/register>

I enjoy working on my layout at home. I enjoy operation session's and once my layout gets done, I will have some at my house.

I was a member of the North Shore Model Railroad club in Boston and was chairman of operations for them. I am the former President of the Naptown Whiteriver Railroad club in Indianapolis and ran operations and train shows for them.

I decided to devote my time to CID as a trainmaster. I enjoy organizing train shows and currently I am the Train Show Master for the Indianapolis Spring Train Show in April 2020. I am the model railroader merit badge counselor for Boy Scouts of America for CID.

I am currently working toward my NMRA-MMR. I am on the board for INDY Junction 2022 and looking forward in working with everyone to make this tri region convention one of the best that has been held.

If I am elected as one of the Directors at Large I will do whatever I can to help in this position.

## My Second Favorite Day of the Year

(excerpted from a November 2013 FVD Semaphore article)

by Walt Herrick

From the time I was ten to about fourteen years old in the early 1960's, the Sunday before Thanksgiving was a special day of the year for me. It was on that day my dad would take me to the annual Valley Model Railroad Club's Open House in South Elgin, Illinois. For four years, the trip to the Valley Model Railroad Club's HO layout was a highly anticipated event, second only to Christmas in my mind.

I'd go to work on my dad early in November. "Can we go to the Elgin Model Train Open House again this year, dad? It's coming up in a couple of weeks, you know." I'd ask at dinner in front of the whole family hoping he'd say "yes" right away and I'd have witnesses. His reply was always the standard parental response, "We'll see." But, inevitably dad would give his consent.

The ride over to the club was filled with high anticipation. We always went on Sunday in the late afternoon when the sun was low in the sky. South Elgin was only about a 35 minute drive from Crystal

**CATCH THE TRAINS!**

**MadCity**  
53rd Annual

## MODEL RAILROAD SHOW AND SALE

Sat. Feb. 15, 9AM-5PM • Sun. Feb. 16, 9AM-4PM  
Alliant Energy Center, Exhibition Hall, Madison, WI

**Four HO train sets given away each day!**

Family Pak \$32

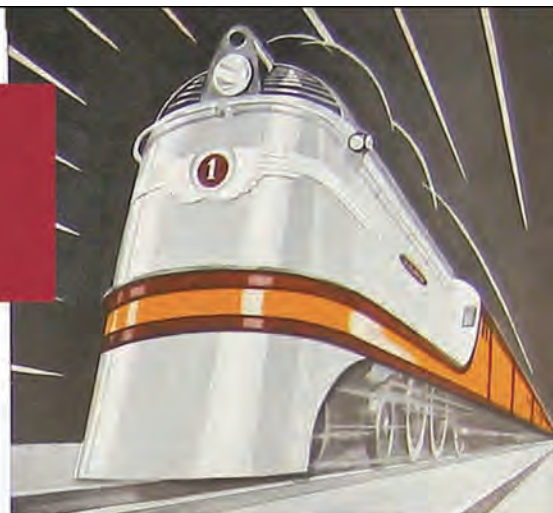
Includes two adults (regular or senior) and two kids (5-15)

Adults \$12 (16 & older), Seniors \$11 (65 & older)

Children \$6 (age 5-15), Kids under 5 FREE

Active duty military \$11. Two day pass \$16. Parking fee not included.

All children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.



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 & railroad videos. Kids can build a giant wooden train layout or run or ride a model train. **300+ 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 a train set!

Lake, but for a kid, the ride seemed to take forever.

The club was located in the old Chicago Aurora & Elgin electric line's Clintonville station out in the country in South Elgin. I thought it was the perfect place to have a model railroad club. The club's entrance was in the back of the station.

In the early 1960's upon entering the club, you were greeted by the inside of a huge nine foot tall mountain. All you could see was the back of the mountain with its chicken wire, burlap and white plaster scenery base.

The layout room was typically packed and the aisles narrow so getting out from behind the mountain could take several minutes. As soon as you came out, the club's full array of trains, scenery, buildings, signals and track came into view. Track. I never dreamed there could be so much track on a model railroad! My little 5 x 9 foot American Flyer layouts had a small fraction of the track the Valley Club had. There must have been a half dozen different long routes with electric switches (turnouts) and lighted, operating signals. Then there were the freight yards, industrial sidings, narrow gauge line, bridges, and trestles. And on all of this were running amazing trains of every shape and size. Steam, diesel, freight, passenger, and trolleys—they all were there. The back drop for all the railroading action was western scenery with the huge "Doorway Mountain" as the

focal point. Locomotive servicing facilities, town scenes and industries added to the layout's magic.

One year I got to go up into the second floor control tower of the Valley layout. It just about blew my little twelve year old mind. Guys running trains with head sets, 6 or 7 throttles and big control panels with hundreds of lights, it seemed. Now this was model railroading!

My time spent at the Valley Model Railroad Club's Open House always ended too soon. But I came home with a lot of inspiration to get me through the long winter months of kid model railroading. Today the Valley Model Railroad Club is still going strong in the old Clintonville station.

The layout has been changed over the years and "Doorway Mountain" is now gone. Their annual Open House is coming up in a few weeks. I just might go for old times sake.

### **Spring Board of Directors Meeting**

**Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, East Peoria  
101 Holiday Drive  
East Peoria, Illinois  
Sunday May 17, 2020; 10:30 am**

### **FAMILY FUN AT ARCTIC RUN**

The 23rd Annual Arctic Run Model Railroad Show & Sale; sponsored by the Central Wisconsin Model Railroaders Ltd, will be held February 1 & 2, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, 1001 Amber Avenue, Steven Point, WI 54481.

Exit 158 East, I-39/51 & Hwy. 10. East one mile on Hwy. 10- to Elizabeth Avenue (just past Fleet Farm). Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM; Sunday 10 AM to 3 PM. Cost: Adults \$4.00; Ages 12 – 17 \$2.00, Age 11 & under FREE.

Fun for the whole family. Enjoy a convention center full (25,000 square feet) of trains, trains and more trains.

Featured are operating model railroad layouts (some as large as 24' x 52'), a hands-on Thomas the Tank Engine layout for the children, swap/sales tables, hobby shop dealers and vendors. If you are just interested in watching trains, thinking of getting started in the hobby, or a seasoned model railroader there is something



The Valley Model Railroad Club's Annual Open House is packed. According to the club's web site, this photo was probably taken at the 1962 Open House, a year the author would have also attended. Note the club's second story "control tower". Photo courtesy Valley Model Railroad Club.

here for everyone. On a cold February week-end there is no better place to be than among friendly fun-loving model railroaders. The show is sponsored by the Central Wisconsin Model Railroaders Ltd. (a non-profit educational organization).

Activities include promoting model railroading as a life long hobby and family activity, supporting community events and organizations including the Portage County Historical Society. For more information contact Jim Miller at (715) 340-0265 or email Jim at jimbro67@gmail.com, or contact Don Anderson, (715) 340-8105 or email Don at crm114@tdds.net.

**THREE GOOD REASONS TO JOIN THE NMRA NOW:**

**10% OFF**      **15% OFF**      **20% OFF**

Those are the discounts National Model Railroad Association members are getting right now from manufacturers and hobby shops who've joined our Partnership Program. Partners like Micro-Mark®, Model Rectifier Corporation®, Monster Modelworks®, RR-CirKits®, Unreal Details®, And quite a few more. It's savings that can actually pay for your annual membership!

Want more member benefits? How about 100+ clinics recorded at national conventions. Or hours of "how-to" videos produced by the biggest names in model railroading videos. Or a directory of model railroad layouts all over the world that you can visit. The list goes on and on.

See for yourself what's happening in the NMRA by visiting [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). Then join up and start getting those discounts.



**Some photos of the Cumbres & Toltec**



Above: I sprinted up a large hill to get a birdseye view of the runby. You can see the photo line in the bottom photo.



The line skirts the Colorado/New Mexico border.



**Midwest Region  
NMRA Convention**

*Peoria Rocket 2020* **May 14-17, 2020**

Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites  
101 Holiday Drive, East Peoria  
1-309-698-3333

**Updates at [peoriarocket2020.org](http://peoriarocket2020.org)**



Kalmbach Display at Trainfest several years ago




**Experts in Model Railroadg  
Clinics  
Layout Tours  
Operating Sessions  
Model Contests  
Displays  
Banquet  
Quilting with the Linus Project**

**Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.**


That's exactly what happens when you participate in the National Model Railroad Association's Achievement Program. One Merit Award here, another there, and pretty soon you're on your way to becoming a Master Model Railroader. All the while learning and having a ton of fun.

The Achievement Program is modelers helping modelers become better modelers and get the most out of their hobby. And it's yet another benefit of NMRA membership.



Visit [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). Then improve your skills. And your hobby.

**We make it even more fun.**  
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*Happy Holidays to you and yours*