

# THE WINNEBAGOLAND WHISTLE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
THE WINNEBAGOLAND DIVISION  
MWR/NMRA

VOLUME 45- ISSUE NO. 1 SPRING 2012



## **Moving Snow** -*When It Used To Snow!*



**Inside This Issue:**  
Elections and Candidates  
Modeling Scale Cars  
WLD Spring Meet Info

**On the Cover:**

*A big Thank You to Ivan Ver Gowe from Gibbsville: for providing this shot of winter along the Lakeshore: Subdivision south of Sheboygan on the CNW circa: 1980's. With the winter we've had in 2011-12 it: makes one think how often the plow or spreader: was sent out this year.*

# Superintendent's Report ...

By: Mark Preussler, MMR

**B**ack for more! Yes it's a song by RATT, but it's also what I got railroaded into for the coming year. As I was crowing about how this would be my last term as Superintendent for awhile, it seems we ran into a roadblock. Those interested in running for the position were not eligible to do so according to our By-Laws and Constitution. After some thought, I agreed to throw my name into the hat for one more year. So I'm on the ballot which will be in all NMRA members mailboxes soon.


I'm sure the modelers who originally wrote up the "rules" for the WLD couldn't have seen the changes in the last 50 years of our hobby and society in general. I'll try not to sound too political, but let's look at this realistically. We probably have less railroad enthusiasts today and they're certainly older overall. Probably more important has been the rise of one parent families, families with other interests- mainly sports, and the lack of a steady work situation for a lot of our younger fellow hobbyists. How can Dad (or Mom) volunteer any large amount of time towards the WLD when he or she never knows when they're going to work or when they will be carting kids all over the state to soccer or hockey games? Many barely have time to enjoy the hobby on their own terms much less try to help others enjoy it or spread the hobby.

This is not just a WLD problem. Ask anyone in a group from church groups to the Elk lodge and you'll hear the same thing. Where are all the volunteers? We are lucky here in the WLD as we have found a good core of volunteers through the years, but as it reads now, our group is set up for term limits of four years or more accurately four consecutive one year terms. Even the President of the US can serve 2 four year terms, so I think it's time we investigate a change. This change must be eventually approved at our annual spring meeting of the membership.

So, moving forward if you have any thoughts about term limits just drop me a line. My contact info is included in the recent mailing to all NMRA members of the ballot and Whistle Toot Newsletter. I believe we will be able to bring this to the Board of Directors and vote on this change May 5th at our meeting in Plymouth so now is the time to let your thoughts known if interested. When a final proposal is drawn up you'll be able to see it on our website. Remember only NMRA members are eligible to vote in the upcoming election. Please write your number on the ballot in the space provided.

We have a busy spring. Make sure to stop by our booth at TTS to say hi and sign up for a door prize. We'll also be looking for you a week later in Plymouth!

Mark



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## Fantasy Modeling with the Walthers Scale Test Car

*by Marv Preussler, MMR*

Recently a friend of mine wanted to have a Walther's Scale Test car painted and decaled in HO scale. I told him I would do it and that we would just make it look nice and somewhat believable. He told me to do it in the Soo Line paint scheme seeing he is a major Soo Line fan and modeler. I did not do any research on the scale test car project, as he was not looking for an exact prototype or contest quality model. So going into this fun project, it made me find the Wisconsin Central version of this model that I had built many years ago. I dug it out of my showcase and showed him what I had done a long time ago, and it kind of made me think about how it was just a nice, simple, and enjoyable project.

I started with the Walther's scale test car that they made a few years ago. It was an undecorated model and so I went and painted it with Scalecoat LV Maroon. I then picked up an n-scale Microscale WC locomotive decal set. I thought it would look neat to have the two cream colored bands on the top of the car with the Wisconsin Central lettering over the bands just like the locomotives. I then added some WC lettering, numbered it 106 and installed the railing and brake wheel. I added "dummy" couplers from Accurail and weathered them a little. I painted the railing white to match what the WC were doing on the locomotives, and that was that. My friend thought it was pretty neat!

I then showed him a photo that I took of a SSW (Cotton Belt) scale test car that came to Sheboygan





This SSW Cotton Belt was the idea and inspiration behind the project of both the WC and Soo Line Models.

many years ago. We don't have too much industry served by rail in Sheboygan anymore, so seeing this SSW scale test car was somewhat rare. I looked at the SSW #99203 for some ideas and details that could be added to my friend's test car. I also used it to see what type of lettering was used on it. The weight is listed, the build date, the fact that it must be hauled on the rear of a train, and things like that. A plate was added to it telling shop crews to not make any repairs on it until they called a scale inspector with a phone number listed as well.





It was certainly interesting to look at the SSW car but my friend did not want to get too involved with it for a static display model. So I just painted the Soo Line X-116 with Floquil boxcar red, and used decals from DM Decals to make it look somewhat prototype. I went and painted the grab irons along with the center railing reefer white. I added number 58 scale couplers from Kadee and an air hose on each end. I also added horizontal yellow safety stripes too. One could certainly shave off the molded on grab irons and replace them with metal ones. More lettering could be added along with coupler lift bars. It just always depends on how much you want to do. In the end, it was just a nice little modeling project, that you can have fun with. There certainly is something to be said about freelance model railroading. As the shift has taken place to more "prototype modeling" this was a welcome diversion from the normal "rivet counting" that many of us do. I had fun doing the WC version for myself. My friend was very happy with the final product when he got his Soo Line X -116.





# We're *Almost* 50!

Yup, almost 50 years old and it's time to celebrate! What to do? Well your Board of Directors has a few ideas. How would you feel about returning to Green Bay, either in spring 2013 or spring 2014? Green Bay is where it all started with a meeting at the National RR Museum in 1964. While the paperwork was sent in during 1963, it appears the first WLD meet was held in 1964. While the idea of holding a meet at the museum itself is wonderful, understand that a lot has happened on that property in between then and now. Long story short we just can't afford to rent out their facilities. But, there are other sites being investigated and we certainly will try to work with the museum to offer attendees something as an incentive to visit the museum. It certainly has moved upscale in recent years with huge improvements.

How about a custom decorated car? Thanks to Ken Soroos, we have several options via Dennis Storzek at Accurail. What type of car should we offer? What color scheme? Now is the time to decide! Watch our website closely in the coming months. If I can figure out an easy survey that Webmaster Mary Eiden can post we'll do it that way. Perhaps it can be interactive with a chance to see the votes adding up! Maybe facebook is the way to go with a survey or comment? Info will be forthcoming.



### ***Where does the time go?***

Our last run of custom cars sold out quickly. We are considering this 50' Accurail car to once again celebrate the WLD, this time for its 50th anniversary. The color and graphics may be updated or changed. How about a more modern outside braced car? Or, maybe an old wood sheathed Accurail 40' boxcar. We will narrow down our choices and color schemes this year and take your input throughout 2012.



## From Larry Easton's Archives...



Amherst Jct. as it appeared in 1924 boasted a depot shared by the Soo Line and the Green Bay and Western -whose track passed over the Soo Line as shown. By this time most Soo passenger trains were assigned a 4-6-2 Pacific type loco, though a high stepping 4-4-2 Atlantic ( Shanghai in old Soo Line parlance) could be substituted in a pinch. How long did this depot survive? Your editor is not sure when the depot was razed and when the last passenger trains plied either line, though it's a safe bet GB&W pulled their varnish well before the Soo which on this line didn't survive the era of The Beatles. Thanks for sharing Larry!

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- **MODEL CONTEST** (trains, cars, trucks, ships, buildings, scenery) – Categories - adult and junior (see website [www.wamrtd.com](http://www.wamrtd.com) for contest rules) – Saturday only!
- **HOBBY SHOP DEALERS AND VENDORS**
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- Model Contest: Dennis (above) or Eugene Much (920) 598-3484
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### SP&W RR To Investigate Missed Royalties From Photographer

**Two Rivers, WI-** In a move not seen since the early days of web-piracy involving illegal downloads of MP3 music files via Napster and other Internet sites, Sandy Point and Western Railroad officials are investigating intrepid model railroad photographer Mr. M. McGee for fraud related to royalties owed to the railroad. McGee, who brazenly poses next to the image in question is no stranger to controversy with issues involving several well run railroad properties in the Winnebago-land Division.

McGee, a railroad baron of the first order has been linked to controversies involving the Crystal Rock and Northern and Soo Line in past years. In late 2009, SP&W President and CFO Joe DeGroot commissioned McGee to create scale track plan drawings for an ore loading facility, a job which was never completed. This job has now fallen to a more qualified firm with much progress as of late. How much this plays into the current dust-up is being openly questioned by McGee. If charges are filed against McGee, they are expected to be met with a defense of not guilty by reasons of temporary insanity. This plea tactic has worked well for McGee in the past involving the charges brought up by the CR&N for illegally inspecting the line via private railcar.



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## Popular Vote Model Contest Returns To Strawberry Fest

Here's a great way to see what your fellow modelers have been up to and see models outside the realm of trains. Once again WAMR is holding a popular vote contest and a demonstration derby during Strawberry Fest on Saturday June 16th. Info on following page.

This is not a NMRA sponsored contest. It's a total popular vote and display scenario. I view these types of contests as a "look what I did this year" opportunity. As a participant, your main focus should be on sharing if anyone wants to know about the model. As a popular vote at a family event like Strawberry Fest often times the most complex model doesn't "win". Usually it's the model with the most eye candy that wins a popular vote contest with many of the voters being general public or inexperienced modelers, and that's OK. In this event there are cars, ships, military etc. I feel we can learn about something looking at all types of modeling, so if you're in Waupaca, stop by and enter!

### Waupaca Area Model Railroaders

Waupaca, Wisconsin



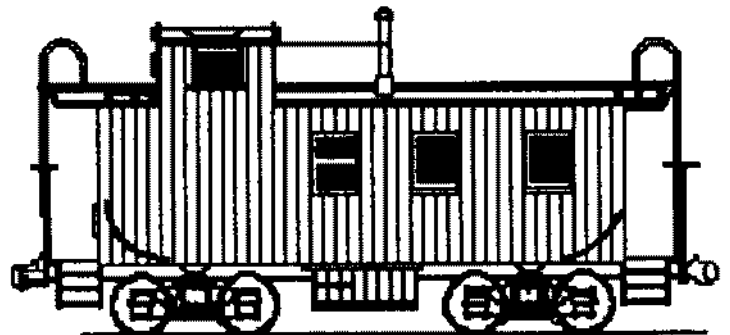
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*Plus + The Demonstration Derby, a continuous two-day (June 16 & 17) opportunity to demonstrate your skills and watch other modelers work on a variety of projects: trains, cars, trucks, boats, buildings, scenery, trees and more*

*Contest: June 16, 2012 Waupaca, Wisconsin Recreation Center*

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. The Waupaca Area Model Railroaders (WAMR) is the sponsor of the model contest.
2. Everyone is welcome to enter the model contest.
3. The Waupaca Area Model Railroaders will assume **NO** responsibility in the event of loss or damage to a model. However, reasonable precautions will be taken for the protection of entries and exhibits.

**ENTRY OF MODELS**

1. The first 3 entries are \$5.00 for the Juniors and \$10.00 for the Adults; each additional entry will be \$1.00. There shall be no restriction on the number of models entered by each contestant.
2. Each entry must be accompanied by an official entry blank, properly filled out with all required information. The entry form is available on the day of the contest.
3. All scales will be combined in the various categories. There will be no division based on the scale of the model.
4. The contestant can enter models from 8 am until 12 pm (noon). All judging is by popular vote balloting. If a tie vote, a judge will decide the winner.
5. All entered models must be picked up after awards by 5 pm on the day of the show.

**CLASSES**

1. JUNIORS – 17 & younger
2. ADULTS – 18 & above

**CATEGORIES**

**Juniors**

1. Automotive
2. Truck
3. Military, Aircraft, Ships
4. Trains cars, engines
5. Lego and Miscellaneous

**Adults**

1. Automotive
2. Truck
3. Military, Aircraft, Ships
4. Train cars, engines
5. Structures
6. Photo & Miscellaneous

**AWARDS** – Awards will be made from 3 pm to 5 pm

1. Best of Show Junior
2. Best of Show Adult
3. First, Second and Third place for each category

For show information see our website: [www.wamrtd.com](http://www.wamrtd.com) or call -

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**It's Election Time!** All NMRA Members will receive a ballot via mail. Please vote for your candidate of choice for each office and return to the address provided on the ballot. Please affix proper postage. The profiles are included here as a way to publicly thank those people running. You must be an NMRA member to vote. Winners will be announced during TTS on Saturday April 28th.

## **Candidate Profiles:**

### **For Superintendent: Mark Preussler-**

Although I was not planning on fourth term, I'm entering the election again as everyone else who was interested in the position could not run due to by-law limits. This will be the focus of my final term; to tweak the by-laws so that we can assure ourselves of competent people who are willing to serve in the capacity of WLD Officer not being hindered by their time on the Board of Directors basically being forced to take a year off after completing their maximum years in that position. We need to keep those with the time and means to serve active for more than 4 years. I would appreciate your vote.

### **For Assistant Superintendent: Gregg Condon-**

As I look sideways in the mirror, I conclude that my profile in the belt area is larger than I'd like! But my satisfaction with the model railroad hobby is complete. I've been a scale model railroader since age 11. Neither girls in high school nor the rigors of college shook me from it; I've never had a lapse from the hobby in the past 64 years.

In adulthood I've built five "good" layouts, all with 100% visual finish. My previous layout was in GREAT MODEL RAILROADS, 2007 and my current layout will be in GMR, '13. I've had about 20 model railroad and railfan articles published over the years. I've always tried to build "complete" models railroads with equal emphasis on trains, electronics, scenery, and operations. While my major layouts have been HO or HO<sub>N3</sub>, I've also done some modeling in O, On3, On30, Sn3, N, and HO trolley. I'm active in several railroad historical societies, have been on the Board of the SLHTS, and have been banquet emcee for a number of their conventions.

Model railroading has been the most enjoyable and rewarding feature of my life outside of personal relationships. Model railroading is the source of some of my closest friendships. I'm retired; I can give something back to the hobby that's given so much to me!

### **For Chief Clerk: Larry Easton-**

Model railroading has been my hobby since I was a child, starting with an electric train set on a 4' x 8' board while in grade school. I have modeled in HO and O scales, but have graduated to large scale (1:20) in the last ten years. My model railroad theme is iron mining in northern Wisconsin using geared locomotives for most operations. I have hosted several open houses for the Spring or Fall meets that the Division has held in Neenah.

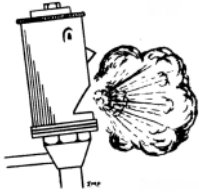
In 1964 I became a Life Member of the NMRA. At the time I was Secretary of the Neenah-Menasha Model Railroad Club and was asked by a Midwest Region officer if I would spearhead an effort to form a division in the northeastern Wisconsin area. I suggested we call it the "Winnebagoland" division, thinking it would be centered mainly in the Fox Valley area. As it turned out the division was established to encompass the entire northeastern half of Wisconsin and half of the UP of Michigan!

Years ago I earned two Achievement Awards and working on another, but when the Soo Line Historical & Technical Society was being formed and in need of an editor for the SOO, I jumped in with both feet. This eventually led to the SLHTS Archives being established in Appleton and more involvement for me. With these major responsibilities accomplished and a little more free time to spend on the basement empire, I want to get back to model railroading on a regular basis. This also means contributing to the organization that promotes the great hobby we share. I look forward to again serving the Winnebagoland Division and ask for your vote for the office of Chief Clerk.

### **For Paymaster: Lynn Jasch-**

This is my final year of eligibility for Paymaster and would like to serve it out. I am active with TTS as well as the WLD and am willing to serve again in the future.

# 2012 NMRA Winnebagoland Division Spring Meet



**SATURDAY May 5, 2012- Plymouth, WI**

Join the Winnebagoland Division, NMRA as we partner with the Plymouth Model Railroad Society for another great day of model railroading!



An entire day of learning and camaraderie is what you'll find at this year's WLD Spring Meet. Imagine *Clinics* on topics from the prototype and scenery techniques to DCC programming and realistic weathering. *Sales Tables* to help you find unique model railroading items and an *Old Fashioned Plymouth Brat Fry* for lunch. It's all happening in Plymouth at The Plymouth Arts Foundation on May 5th. Bring *YOUR Models and Photos* along to share with your fellow model railroaders and historians as a display or in a NMRA judged contest format. All happening under one roof. **BE THERE!**

## CLINICS and PRESENTERS:

(more to come!)

Weathering Models -Fred Firkus  
Pickle Stations in WI -David Leider  
More Prototype Modeling- Jim Singer  
DCC Primer and Speed matching- Chris Heili  
Gary Children -TBA  
Realistic Trees- Peter Turk

Clinic times and topics subject to change.

## MEET & LUNCHEON:

Plymouth Arts Foundation  
520 E. Mill Street  
Plymouth WI

Corner of E. Mill (Hwy. C) and North St.

## ADMISSION:

Meet Only ( At The Door ) = \$5.00

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Registration 8:00 - 12:00  
Swap Tables and Displays 8:00 - 3:00  
Model/Photo Contest 9:00 - 12:00  
Clinics 9:00-2:00  
NMRA Meeting of Membership 12:00-1:00  
Home Layout Tours: 3:00-5:00 PM

**"GENERAL PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO ATTEND"**

# THE BIG BRAT FRY LUNCHEON!

The Winnebagoland Division is trying something new this spring. We have had requests for a less formal and less costly luncheon program from the membership. With the help of the Plymouth Model RR Society we have a unique twist this year - A Sheboygan County Style Brat Fry complete with hard rolls! It's another way the WLD is trying to make our meets affordable and fun! The way it works is simple: **NO NEED TO PRE-REGISTER!** The admission to the WLD Spring Meet is only \$5.00. **The food is optional and NOT INCLUDED in the \$5.00 admission to the meet.** Since the PMRRS is also selling to the general public that day there is no need to pre-register for a lunch. Our Annual Membership Meeting will begin at 12 noon -so grab a brat and a drink, take a seat and find out what's happening today in the WLD! We also will award certificates for the model and photo contests as well as have a presentation by the Plymouth Historical Society as they recognize the ex-CNW Plymouth depot with a Landmark Award. Then it's back to the meet with more clinics and layout tours to follow.

Pricing on the food is as follows:

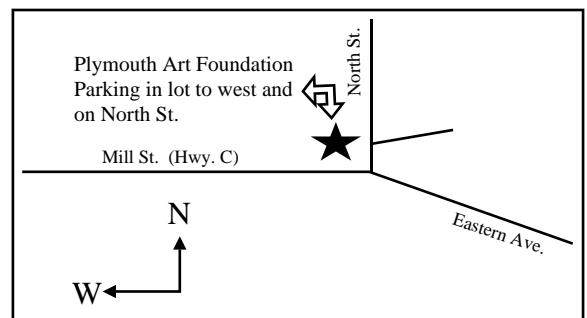
**Brats and Hamburgers, \$3 for singles, \$4 for doubles.**

**Condiments: cheese, pickles, onions, mustard, and ketchup.**

**Soda and water for \$1.**

**The food sale runs from 10 to 2.**

**We Hope To See You May 5th In Plymouth!**





# On The Ready Track



March 3-4, 2012- High Wheeler Train Show- Palatine, IL  
Info at: [www.highwheelertrainshow.com](http://www.highwheelertrainshow.com)

March 8-11, 2012- NMRA- MWR Convention- Springfield, IL  
Info at: [www.railsplitter2012.org](http://www.railsplitter2012.org)

March 11, 2012- Metro Model RR Club Show & Swap Meet  
Circle B Recreation -6261 Hwy 60- Cedarburg, WI  
Info at [www.metroclub.org](http://www.metroclub.org)

March 18, 2012- WISE Division Meet- Best Western- Brookfield, WI  
[www.wisedivision.org](http://www.wisedivision.org)

April 28-29, 2012- Titledown Train Show- Shopko Hall- Green Bay, WI  
[www.ttsqblc.com](http://www.ttsqblc.com)

May 5, 2012- NMRA Winnebagoland Division Spring Meet- Plymouth, WI  
More Information to come!

May 17-20, 2012- CNW Historical Society Convention- Norfolk, NE  
Info at: [www.cnwhs.org](http://www.cnwhs.org)

June 16-17, 2012- Annual Strawberryfest Model Railroad Show- Waupaca, WI  
Waupaca Recreation Center

June 28-July 1, 2012- Milwaukee Road Historical Assoc. Annual Convention  
Moscow, Idaho- Info at: [www.mrha.com](http://www.mrha.com)

July 21, 2012- Rail fair- Copeland Park- LaCrosse, WI [www.4000foundation.com](http://www.4000foundation.com)

Sept. 13-16, 2012- Soo Line Historical Society Annual Convention  
Thief River Falls, MN [www.sooline.org](http://www.sooline.org)