

THE WINNEBAGOLAND WHISTLE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE WINNEBAGOLAND DIVISION
MWR/NMRA
VOLUME 46- ISSUE NO. 1 SPRING 2013



Heading Out On *The Laker*



Inside This Issue:

**WLD Election Time
Spring Meet Sign-up
Making the Pieces Fit**

On The Cover: Superintendent Mark Preussler is heading out for a vacation on the *Laker!* When will he be back? Photo by Dave Rickaby.

Superintendent's Report ...

By: Mark Preussler, MMR


Finally, the last Super's Report! It's been quite a run over the last four years and I'd like to thank all those people who have helped me and created a more active, or at least opinionated, division. As with everything there is a time to step back to re-assess and take a break. I think that time for me is long overdue.

You'll soon get a ballot for the election and a sign-up sheet for our WLD Spring Meet in your mailbox. Please vote and show the new officers that you care about the WLD and when you see them at one of the upcoming shows, thank them for their service to the hobby.

Not much else to say about the last four years that isn't described in my article "Making All The Pieces Fit" found on the following pages. I don't know if we'll achieve what I hope to happen, but I know the new leadership is committed to expanding the hobby in N.E. Wisconsin in perhaps a little less dramatic fashion that I'm known for. One thing for sure, the leadership roles are filled by people who care and have the time to see things through.

As for me, I can't vote on the BOD for one year, but as Past-Super there is a chair with my name on it. I'm proud of all that has been accomplished over my time, especially regarding our meets and our new "official" status as an entity in WI with a sellers permit, allowing us to get in step with other groups.

If nothing else, I hope all membership realizes that I care deeply about the WLD and the hobby. I'm not one to mince words and I tried to lead the group by example. Down the road there may well be another chance to run for office, but for now it's break time. I'm still working as *Whistle* editor and will help along with convention duties, but it's time for others to step up and carry on (or improve) the WLD with their ideas and actions.



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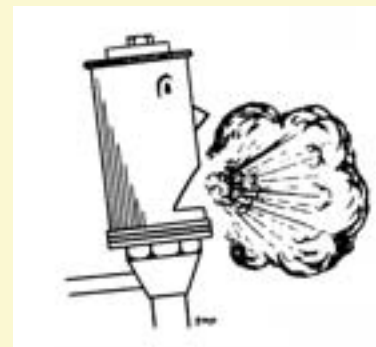
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The week following our WLD meet is this one in the Thousand Lakes Region! Looks like a good time !

**Service to the Winnebagoland Division
A look at the Jerry Nichols Service Award Recipients
by Marvin Preussler, MMR**

From time to time it is good to take a look back at those who have gone above and beyond to make the Winnebagoland Division of the NMRA what it is today. Back in 2001, it was decided by the Winnebagoland Division officers and board of directors to present an award to someone who has done an exceptional job in serving the division by using their time and talents to help shape what the division is today. It was agreed to name this special service award the "Jerry Nichols Service Award" in honor of all Jerry had done for the Winnebagoland Division. The following is a list of those who have received this award.

- 2001- Jerry Nichols (Accepted by Lynn Nichols post humously)
- 2002- Larry Easton
- 2003- Don Manlick, MMR
- 2004- John Franzen
- 2005- Albert & Linda Krueger
- 2006- Mark & Marvin Preussler
- 2007- Mary Eiden
- 2008- Frank & Sue Kozlovsky
- 2009- Roger Wurtzel
- 2010- Dave Rickaby
- 2011- David Allen
- 2012- Joe Lallensack

There are many more individuals, both past and present, who are deserving of this award. Without folks like these, the division would not be as strong as it is today. If you know of someone that you would like to see nominated for this award in the future, let a Winnebagoland division officer or board member know. Always remember that your input as a NMRA Winnebagoland Division member is always necessary and very important to the future direction of the WLD!

Making All The Pieces Fit; The WLD NMRA, Modelers, Hobby Shops, and Clubs

Mark Preussler, MMR

As I will be stepping down as Superintendent in 2013, I thought it would be a good idea to write down some thoughts of where we've been as a division over the last several years. I also wanted to follow up on an article written roughly 5 years ago as to where I hoped we would be as a group by 2012. We've had some successes, but work still needs to be done in several areas. Once again in this case I'm speaking my opinions, not necessarily the opinions of the Board of Directors or the people who will take the job of Superintendent in years to come.

Certainly, the most encouraging thing I've seen is the attendance of our WLD Spring and Fall Meets steadily climb. It should be our goal to further this success by continuing to offer activities for experienced modelers and for those looking to improve their modeling skills and knowledge of the hobby. While we traditionally welcome the general public, most of our meet activities are now geared towards you, the NMRA member, rail historian, and skilled modeler. I would hope you mark the dates on your calendar or i-device and plan on attending the upcoming meets. While we all have interests outside the hobby we really need more NMRA members to make us their priority that day and attend.

An issue that has been discussed recently at our BOD meetings is what I would describe as the frugality of people, including many model railroaders, in our area. I **know** we have a lot to offer today at our meets, but I've heard several comments that are along the lines of "why should I pay for "your" meet when I can see clinics for free at my hobby shop or online?" To that I answer that our meets are usually only \$5.00 to attend and while it's a good thing clinics are offered at hobby shops, they usually don't have several going on during a day and they don't include layout tours. Of course the real reason may be not the entry fee to the meet, but the gas prices to travel to it. There's nothing we can do about that other than suggest a carpool across this large division. I have predicted to some BOD members that the time *may* be coming where everyone will be required to have a membership in the NMRA to attend a WLD meet. In other divisions which hold monthly meets, this is the norm. As we hold only 2 meets per year, we are well within our rights (for now) to continue the generous policy of letting guests (non-NMRA members) in to attend our clinics and layout tours. The hobby in this area is already splintered, helped in part due to the large boundaries of the WLD. What perhaps needs to happen first is that NMRA members get a price break on attending our meets or maybe a new NMRA Railpass member could attend a WLD meet for free if they join the NMRA at our event. I don't think we're doing anyone a favor by restricting meet attendance, but we may come to a point in time where the policy of the National NMRA will force it upon us. The job we have is to stay ahead of the curve.

Tied in with this is the recent slow, but steady decline in WLD membership. I knew we'd have a huge bounce with the National Convention in 2010 due to the policy of layout owners needing to be members in order to be seriously considered for a visit from a National layout tour bus. We topped 200 members at one point, but now shrunk back to 150. Yes, some have members have died since 2010, but many who dropped out just don't want to spend the money to belong. Many of them don't attend our meets either, so my question is simple: Why? We are trying to do our part making membership worthwhile as mentioned with our meets, but for some reason we just can't make the connection with them to realize that in a way, their National NMRA membership allows us to continue to bring our local meets affordably to them or their modeling friends.

The WLD/NMRA is not the "be-all/end all" authority in Wisconsin model railroading. I have always seen the group as a piece of the puzzle in making the hobby more fun and educational. We in the leadership roles of the WLD have got to work with and take advantage of our partners in the hobby; our strong hobby shops, local clubs, and the non-NMRA modeler for the hobby itself to thrive and grow in our area. We have done this over the last several years, but there's room for improvement on both sides.

One thing I see as an active modeler or Superintendent that troubles me enough to single it

out in this piece, (though it's sometimes inevitable), is when a club schedules an event in our division opposite of our annual spring or fall meet. This also extends down to the hobby shop level. It makes no sense to me why we must "compete" for modeler attendance with WLD-area clubs or why a store in our division would run a series of their own clinics during our meets, no matter where they are held, to further dilute the potential attendees at a WLD meet. I personally find it a lack of courtesy to the division that in many cases helped those entities years ago and in some cases continue to help them in various ways today. Our meets are not secret society events. They are posted in some cases almost a year in advance. Info is mailed to all NMRA members and shops twice a year. Everyone can find out where, when, and what will be offered. Having a hobby shop or a club do a clinic at *our* event on that day instead of on their own or in their store would be much appreciated and appropriate. We need all the help we can get in driving up attendance.

Instead of just complaining about this, I think there are some possible answers that would benefit both the WLD and the groups mentioned above. For instance, if you are a member of a club, why not develop a small traveling display or layout? Leave the big 50'x50' loop of track layout that takes an army to set up behind and think about presenting your group at one of our upcoming meets with a smaller prototypical display or switching layout. People move every day due to job changes, etc. and I would think it might be a good idea to promote your group to modelers in other cities as well since they may be your neighbors soon. This would also help take care of the old issue that plagues a club; not enough help set up or tear down that triple track layout. Same general idea goes for our local hobby shops- minimize the display. Bring along a select group of items geared towards the cliental at the WLD Meet or the town in which the meet is being held. Perhaps bring a special closeout item? Let's face it, with the conservative nature here in Wisconsin, most people are either waiting for a blowout price at Trainfest or buying online at deep discount anyways. What I hope would happen someday is that a few members from each club or from a hobby shop could attend our meets, rent a table for a day, and then communicate/interface with other modelers. Building commeraderie with other modelers is what we're talking about. As an example, just last year many people got to know the active modelers in Wausau better and I look forward to visiting with them again soon.

In conclusion, I know most of the above sounds like the ramblings of someone who's burnt out of the job of leading the WLD. In reality, that's not the case. While I do need a break to concentrate on my own affairs, the Supers job is quite fun. It can be as hard or as easy as you want to make it. As an experienced modeler my goals in the Superintendent's position were to suggest and guide the Board of Directors into transforming the WLD into a more active division and one that holds its meets twice a year that I personally would like to attend with advanced clinics and content. Luckily, I was able to fill BOD positions with other experienced modelers and talented people who are willing to devote serious time to the job of promoting the NMRA. As a fellow member, I want you to know I'm excited about the people who are coming into office later this year. While most of the goals that were mentioned back in 2008 have been met, it's possible that if all interested parties could make the pieces fit just a little closer, we'd have a chance to "circle the wagons" with all modelers working closer to really expand the hobby within our area and build new friendships. That will be the goal of those who lead us in 2013 and beyond. It has been an honor serving as your Superintendent. Perhaps our rails will cross again down the road.



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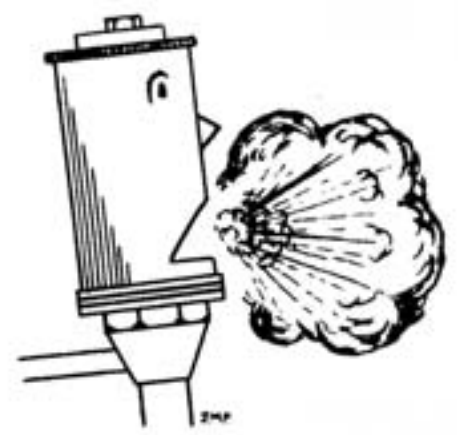
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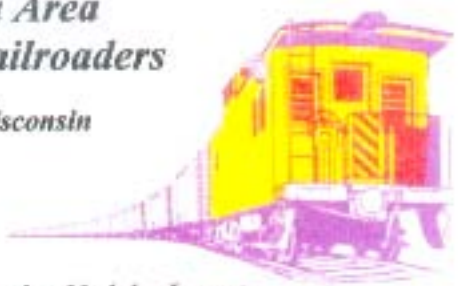
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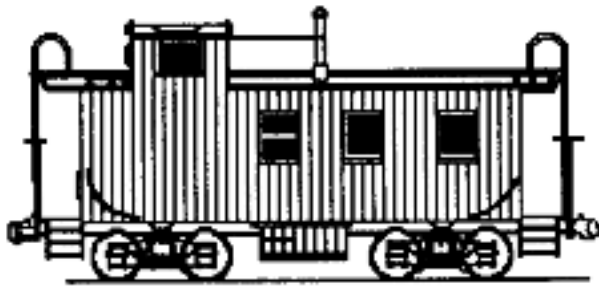
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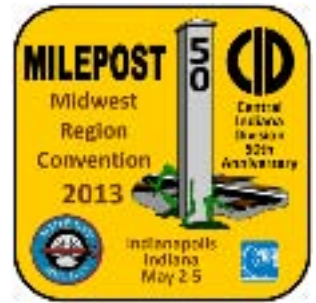
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Registration Fees For MILEPOST 50 Program Participants

<i>Fees On or Before April 2, 2013</i>	<i>MP 50 Fees After April 2, 2013</i>	<i>Sub-Total</i>
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Full Fare (Non-NMRA Member) ___ x \$90.00	Full Fare (Non-NMRA Member) ___ x \$105.00	\$
Weekend Fare (NMRA Member) ___ x \$60.00	Weekend Fare (NMRA Member) ___ x \$75.00	\$
Weekend Fare (Non-Member) ___ x \$70.00	Weekend Fare (Non-Member) ___ x \$85.00	\$
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ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM NEWS

by Marvin Preussler, MMR

I am happy to report that there has been some activity in the Achievement Program in our Winnebagoland Division once again. I presented David E. Allen of Marquette, MI, with his Structures AP certificate back in January. David is a fine modeler and a long time member of the NMRA. He currently serves the Winnebagoland Division as a Board member and is the Winnebagoland Division Contest Chairman. Seeing his scratch built HO scale structures is really a treat! I got the opportunity to judge several of his outstanding models at our convention in Plymouth a while back, and I have got to say they were really outstanding. David's attention to detail is second to none in my opinion. He is always quick to point out that he models the '80's and '90's. Then he has to add that he is talking about the 1880's and 1890's! Not many modelers go back that far with their model railroad layouts. David's layout was on the front cover of Model Railroader magazine a few years ago as well. So if you see David at the next model railroad show, be sure to congratulate him on his achievement. David is well on his way to becoming the next Master Model Railroader in the Winnebagoland Division. Congratulations David!

I would certainly encourage any of our members to bring their models to the Winnebagoland Division Spring meet coming up in May. You do not have to enter the model contest per se if you do not want to. You can bring your models along just for display only if you would like. Even if you have a model that is still being worked on, many of our members like to see what is all involved to get to a finished model. Sometimes, that is more interesting to see than the final completed model. If you plan on working on a model for a contest, be sure to stop in to the model contest room at the Spring meet in Neenah in May. It is a good way to see what is involved and a chance to talk with the modelers on how they did what they did. So again, keep on working on those models for our spring meet, and I hope there is a good turnout of models for the contest during our meet in Neenah on May 11.

It's Election Time...

Once again we're at the time of year when we vote on new leadership in the WLD. Here's a list of the people running for Officer positions in the WLD and a little about them.

For Superintendent: James Cruthers-

James has the professional experience and problem solving skills needed for the position of Superintendent. He heads a department at the Theda Clark Medical Center in Neenah. He has been a tireless worker for the division since joining the WLD Board in 2005-2006. He has lead the revitalization of our meets. You may know him as the "survey guy" who makes sure everyone's opinions are heard. James has worn many hats in the WLD, including leading us towards 501c3 status, re-writing and clarifying our by-laws, and serving as Chief Clerk.

For Asst. Superintendent: Gregg Condon:

Since moving to Greenville a few years ago, Gregg has given much time and experience to the WLD. Recently, he developed a nice display for future train meets. He's always been there with ideas and opinions for the Board and wishes to continue in this role for 2013. An experienced and published model railroader, he brings a guiding hand for people planning meets and conventions. He's also the best emcee in the NMRA!

For Paymaster: Scott Payne:

Scott also bring his work experience as a manager for the John Crane Co. to this WLD position. Scott models the CNW during the 1960s and 70s in the Prairie areas of MN. He has served on the Board for several years and would like to fill the Paymaster position in 2013.

For Chief Clerk: Larry Easton:

Larry took over the Chief Clerk position last year and wishes to continue in 2013. Larry helped to create the WLD back in 1963 and continues in an active role 50 years later.

Please vote using the ballot which will be mailed to all NMRA WLD members no later than March 1, 2013.

2013 NMRA WinnebagoLand Division Spring Meet



SATURDAY May 11th 2013- Neenah, WI



Join the WinnebagoLand Division NMRA for another day at The Brigade!

ADDITIONAL FORMS AND INFO AT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.WLD-NMRA.COM

An entire day of learning and camaraderie is what you'll find at this year's WLD Spring Meet. We have clinics on topics ranging from timetable operating basics for your railroad to DCC programming, to a virtual tour of the late John Franzen's layouts dating back to 1964. It's all happening at the Boys and Girls Brigade Building on May 11th. We'll have our usual model and photo displays along with NMRA-judged contests for those interested. Bring YOUR models and photos along to share with your fellow model railroaders and historians. All happening under one roof.

CLINICS and PRESENTERS:

The Modeling of John Franzen 9:00 - 10:00 -Larry Easton
Time Table and Train Order Operation 9:00 - 10:00-Dave Baukus
Weathering with Powders 10:00 - 11:00 - Gregg Condon
DCC Programming with Decoder Pro 10:00 - 11:00 - Mike Key
The Foamer's Slide-o-Rama of Wisconsin Railroads
11:00 - 12:00 -Mike Wadinski
Enhancing Vehicles 11:00 - 12:00 - Fred Firkus
Catered Lunch & NMRA Meeting - 12:15 - 1:30
Clinic times and topics subject to change.

MEET & LUNCHEON: Boys and Girls Brigade Building

109 W. Columbian Ave.
Neenah, WI 54957
Corner of S. Commercial St (Hwy. 114) and Columbian in Neenah.

ADMISSION: Meet Only (At The Door) = \$5.00
Pre-Registered Luncheon Only = \$12.00
Pre-Registered Meet and Luncheon= \$17.00

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Swap Tables and Displays 8:00 - 12:00
Model/Photo Contest 9:00 - 12:00
Clinics 9:00-12:00
Luncheon and NMRA Meeting of Membership 12:15-1:30
Home Layout Tours: 2:00-6:00 P.M.

"GENERAL PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO ATTEND"

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On The Ready Track



March 9-10, 2013- High Wheeler Train Show- Harper College- Palatine, IL
Info at: www.highwheelertrainshow.com

March 10, 2013- Metro Model RR Club Show & Swap Meet
Circle B Recreation -6261 Hwy 60- Cedarburg, WI
Info at www.metroclub.org

April 27-28, 2013- Titledown Train Show- Shopko Hall- Green Bay, WI
www.ttsqblc.com

May 2-5, 2013- NMRA Midwest Region Convention- Indianapolis, IN
More Information at www.mwr-nmra.org

May 11, 2013- NMRA Winnebago Division Spring Meet- Neenah, WI
Info at www.wld-nmra.com

June 6-9, 2013- CNW Historical Society Convention- Waterloo, IA
Info at: www.cnwhs.org

June 15-16, 2013- Annual Strawberryfest Model Railroad Show- Waupaca, WI
Waupaca Recreation Center

September 19-22- SLHTS Convention. Crystal Lake, IL Holiday Inn. Details at
www.sooline.org

October 12, 2013 WLD Fall Meet Rhinelander, WI More Details to Come!



"The Modeling of John Franzen" will be a featured clinic at our Spring Meet. This is John's HO3 layout being built in the basement of his home in High Cliff. A young John is deep in thought (center). Can you identify the other two gents? If you can't attend the meet and find out! Thanks to Erv Hagen for these images.