

THE WINNEBAGOLAND WHISTLE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WINNEBAGOLAND DIVISION
MIDWEST REGION – NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

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WINTER 2015-16

When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer. — Corrie ten Boom

COVER PHOTO:

Andy Sperandeo, 1945-2015.

Longtime contributor and editor of *Model Railroader*, well known and liked by many in the profession and hobby. He modeled the 1940's Santa Fe through Cajon Pass and often wrote about operations.

Andy passed away October 3rd after a long illness.



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Superintendent's Report

By James C. Cruthers

Happy New Year Model Railroaders!

I believe the next model railroad event in our area will be Arctic Run in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, Saturday and Sunday, January 16 & 17, 2016. The Division will have a table at the event so if you're in the neighborhood stop by and say 'hello' to one of the Division members.

Spring 2016 Meet: The Division was hoping to co-host this event with one of the model railroad clubs in the Division but it just did not work out the way we had hoped. The contract for the Boys & Girls Brigade in Neenah has been signed and we are on track for Saturday, May 14, 2016. Our new clinic chair is working on putting together a line-up of clinics but other than that I do not have any details. We would expect to have some sort of luncheon and then of course the spring meet is our annual membership meeting. Watch the Division website for more details. I would also expect that we will include a copy of the registration form for this event when we mail the ballot for the spring election. But for now, save the date!

Fall 2016 Meet: Mark your calendars for Friday, October 14 through Sunday, October 16, 2016 in Marquette, Michigan. We're looking at possible operating sessions for Friday night (this is not confirmed as of yet), Saturday morning clinics with a luncheon and speaker and layout tours in the afternoon. We are also looking into the possibility of an

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Superintendent's Report

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industrial tour Sunday. Please remember the schedule of events may change, e.g., industrial tour Saturday afternoon and layout tours Sunday, etc., but the specific dates of the meet are set. Please keep an eye out at future WLD events and future editions of the Whistle for more information. We hope to see you in Marquette!

So for now that's the news I have. I hope you have time this winter to work on your (or a friend's) model railroad. I still have wiring and insulating to do in the room where my next layout will be so the layout itself is in planning stages. I really hope to see you at an upcoming Division event.

Until next time...

ARCTIC RUN TRAIN SHOW!

January 16-17, 2016

Stevens Point Holiday Inn, 1001 Amber Avenue

Admission: \$3.00 Adults, \$2.00 Ages 11-16.

Saturday 9 am - 5pm and Sunday 10 am - 4pm.

<http://arcticrun.com/arcticrun/arcticrun.html>



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Editor's Note

By Todd M. Bushmaker

Well another holiday season has come and gone... hope you had a wonderful time with family and friends, celebrating with your own faith and traditions. Christmas kinda snuck up on me personally, probably because it didn't feel like Christmas without snow. Although it was the lack of snow that allowed for a lot more in the way of light displays around the area this year, now that there's a foot of the white stuff on the ground I won't be able to put ours away for a while!

Unless you're a winter sports enthusiast, after the holiday season is over for most of us the rest of the winter with its short dreary cold days seems to drag on with nothing really happening until spring. Look around however and that's just not true! Sure, many of us take advantage and get a lot of work done on our own pikes, perhaps adding stuff that we got for Christmas. Beyond that, there's a lot of model railroad fun to be had, whether tightly or loosely organized.

Start with the Ready Track schedule in the back of this newsletter: there's the popular Arctic Run train show in Stevens Point in early January, and the large Mad City show in February; both are well worth the travel.

Visit a local club or two, if you aren't already a member (or perhaps you're a member who hasn't been around for a while)... many of them have regular operating sessions or open houses. Paper Valley and the Green Bay club are two that come first to mind. The National Railroad Museum in Green Bay is open during the winter season too.

Help a friend with a layout! If you need a change of scenery, so to speak, offer to help someone else with their empire, no matter what phase it's in. I myself know at least a couple that are just getting started, and others that welcome assistance or simply appreciate a fresh perspective.

Share your talents by headlining a clinic, or brush up on your skills by participating in one. Many local hobby shops, such as EngineHouse Services, offer a regular schedule of sessions that range from beginner to expert, DCC to rock cliffs. Revisit some of your favorite articles in those modeling magazines you've saved; perhaps something will spark a fresh idea.

If you're more adventurous, get out of the house and take a short vacation on the rails, perhaps Amtrak's Empire Builder through the desolate northern plains to the Pacific northwest. Or if you're headed out of state anyway, take a ride on a local scenic train like the Durango & Silverton through the breathtaking Colorado Rockies.

See? Plenty to keep occupied. Before you know it, spring will be here with more to fill your schedule!

On that note, *keep on trainin'!*

WLD Fall Operating Session

By Scott Payne

It was a beautiful autumn Saturday morning [November 7th] as Ivan Ver Gowe and I drove west from Sheboygan County toward Larsen WI for a date with the Winnebago Land Division's Fall Operating Session. An hour plus trip allowed for some good model railroad conversation.



The session started at 8:30am at Randy Williamson's layout in Larsen. We had a half hour to use before knocking on Randy's door so we stopped at the local Kwik Trip for a cup of coffee and breakfast sandwich.

Randy was the morning host of the full day of operating fun. His layout is a large one; he models the Pennsylvania Railroad. Randy uses the Digitrax DCC system to power his layout's engines. Everyone gathered in the crew lounge as Randy described the layout and assigned trains. Most trains had two crew, an engineer who handles the throttle and a conductor who works the switches and uncouples the cars. The conductor also utilizes the train orders or switch lists to tell the crew what work they have to do at each town or industry. Then it was time to operate and have some fun.



There were eleven paid participants at the morning session

and a number of observers showed up as well. Most were experienced operating heads, but happily there were some newbies to operations which gives us the chance to spread the word about the fun of operations. These Fall Op Sessions are perfect for introducing operations of model railroads to the curious and interested. Billy Gabert helped Randy with the layout and questions of the operators.



At about noon the session broke up and we had an hour or so for lunch. Ivan and I opted to go into downtown Waupaca for lunch and stumbled upon "Fat Little Gretchen's" diner. It was packed, a good sign for good food and it was delicious.



We then left town and drove to Roger Hildebrandt's layout. He harbors his layout in an "A" frame house where the whole basement is filled with a double- and sometimes triple-decked layout. Roger models the Green Bay and Western. Roger, as Randy did, assigned trains to the operators and played Superintendent and all-around helper all afternoon. It is a fun railroad to operate and ran very well.

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Railroads Finding Hidden Freight Car Trackers

By Justin Franz, *Trains Magazine*

METUCHEN, N.J. — Railroads are uncovering hidden freight car tracking devices near rights-of-way around the country.

The discoveries began earlier this month when a Metuchen, N.J., resident found two people installing boxes near a Conrail Shared Assets Operation right-of-way. Unsatisfied with those persons' answers and the local police response, the person called Norfolk Southern railroad police who investigated and found an automatic equipment identification or AEI reader, used to track freight cars by monitoring their built-in radio beacons.

On Sept. 15, the Association of American Railroads' Railway Alert Network issued a security warning to members to keep an eye out for the unauthorized devices. *Trains NewsWire* obtained a copy of the security alert earlier this week.

According to the eight-page report, railroad police investigated further and found that a company called ClipperData had installed the reader. ClipperData was formed about two years ago and sells comprehensive data regarding the energy industry, including the movement of crude oil and other commodities. According to the report, Norfolk Southern police say they have a copy of a "lease agreement" between a homeowner near the right-of-way and ClipperData which gave the homeowner \$500 to use a nearby electrical outlet to power the equipment reader.

In an interview with *Trains News Wire*, ClipperData CEO Sterling Lapinski confirmed that his company installed the first AEI reader discovered in New Jersey. He says his company's work is legal and that ClipperData is currently looking at trying to sell data to and about the railroad industry, which is why it installed the AEI reader. Lapinski says his company sells data and information to government agencies, trading groups, and energy companies.

"We do have devices installed but the network isn't operational yet," Lapinski tells *Trains News Wire*. "We're not currently selling data, we're just trying to see if it's feasible."

Railroads around the world use similar equipment reader technology that uses radio waves to automatically identify freight cars at speed. Railroads typically gather the information to update their own records before



A close-up photo of an automatic equipment identification reader found in New Jersey.

sharing it with other shippers, such as trucking companies, railroads, or steamship lines, and customers.

Sources close to Class I railroad corporate offices say executives are upset and are ready to take a "scorched earth" approach to dealing with ClipperData and other companies that may have installed readers throughout the country. A second security alert dated Sept. 22, says railroaders have uncovered at least one other equipment reader in New Jersey and one in Sheridan, Wyo. The one in Wyoming reportedly interfered with BNSF Railway track equipment.

The Railway Alert Network report raised concerns that the people who installed the equipment readers trespassed on railroad property to do so. It also raises concerns about selling data on the movement of specific types of rail cars, arguing that the information could be used to "disrupt rail operations through intentional, and potentially destructive, acts." The security alert asks railroads that find similar AEI readers to inform the alert network immediately so that it can consolidate all of the reports.

In a statement to *Trains News Wire*, AAR spokesperson Ed Greenberg says the organization is keeping a close eye on the developing situation. "The AAR was aware of this situation and pleased that local law enforcement and railroad police took steps to address the situation as quickly as possible," Greenberg says.

WLD Fall Operating Session

(Continued from page 3)

It was a wonderful day of friendship and operating fun. The participants included Paul Hillmer, Joe Lallensack, Jerry Thompson, Al Archer, Billy Schulz, Ivan Ver Gowe,



Dave Jasch, Michael Yanacek, Joel Weeks, Chic Hartert, and myself, Scott Payne. Hopefully I didn't miss anyone. There are many ways to enjoy our multi-faceted hobby. One of the best is operations and these operating sessions sponsored and arranged by your NMRA Division are one of the best ways to discover operations if you haven't done it before, or a unique opportunity to make new friendships and bond with like minded railroad brothers. So come join us next November, or seek out an operating opportunity in your area soon.



As the sun set and Ivan and I headed back eastward, the day's activities gave us plenty of model railroading things to talk about. Things we learned and enjoyed and how we might take ideas to improve our own layouts back at home. See you next year!

NMRA Convention Chart

Compiled by the NMRA's Tom Draper, a chart listing the locations of all the past National Conventions.

By City						
City	Year	No.	City	Year	No.	
Anaheim	2008	73	Milwaukee	1935	1	
Atlanta	1948	13		1940	6	
	1973	38		1950	15	
	1995	60		1985	50	
	2013	78		2010	75	
Baltimore	1955	20	Minneapolis	1969	34	
Birmingham	1988	53	Montreal	1962	27	
Boston	1986	51	New York	1939	5	
Buffalo	1938	4			1951	16
Calgary	1979	44	Oakland	1947	12	
Chicago	1936	2	Orlando	1980	45	
	1954	19			2017	82
	1960	25	Peoria	1941	7	
	1976	41	Philadelphia	1964	29	
Cincinnati	1943	9		2006	71	
	1966	31	Pittsburgh	1944	10	
	2005	70			1958	23
Cleveland	1961	26		1990	55	
	2014	79	Portland	1952	17	
Columbus	1992	57			1994	59
Dayton	1975	40			2015	80
Dearborn	1978	43	Rochester	1942	8	
Denver	1949	14	Sacramento	2011	76	
	1977	42	Salt Lake City	2019	84	
	1991	56	San Diego	1959	24	
Detroit	1937	3			1974	39
	1946	11	San Francisco	1968	33	
	2007	72	San Jose	2000	65	
Eugene	1987	52	San Mateo	1981	46	
Ft. Lauderdale	2002	67	Seattle	1972	37	
Grand Rapids	2012	77		2004	69	
Hartford	2009	74	St. Louis	1970	35	
Houston	1957	22			2001	66
	1989	54			2020	85
Indianapolis	1963	28	St. Paul	1956	21	
	2016	81			1999	64
Kansas City	1984	49	Toronto	1953	18	
	1998	63			2003	68
	2018	83	Valley Forge	1993	58	
London	1971	36	Vancouver	1965	30	
Long Beach	1996	61	Washington DC	1982	47	
Madison	1997	62	Winnipeg	1983	48	
Miami Beach	1967	32				

The Green Bay Area Model Railroaders' Club

Note: The GBAMRC hosted the WLD's 2015 Fall Meet. They'd like to welcome all modelers in the Division to come visit. Here are a few facts:

- Club was formed in 1987 and was originally located at the National Railroad Museum.
- In 2011 the club moved to its current facility located in the lower level of the Kress Library in DePere.



- The layout is constructed in a modular form but is considered permanent in many respects.
- Construction began in 2011 with some of the existing layout being moved to the new location. Several new areas were begun and continue to be worked on today. Layout is about 70% complete.
- The layout models Northeast Wisconsin from the late 70's to present.



- Key scenes on the layout include a scratch built replica of the Green Bay C&NW depot, a large farm area with all scratchbuilt structures as well as a narrow gauge area within the HO scale layout. There is also a small On30 diorama that is separate from the layout.



- The club has between 50-60 members.
- Operating sessions are held once a month from September through May.

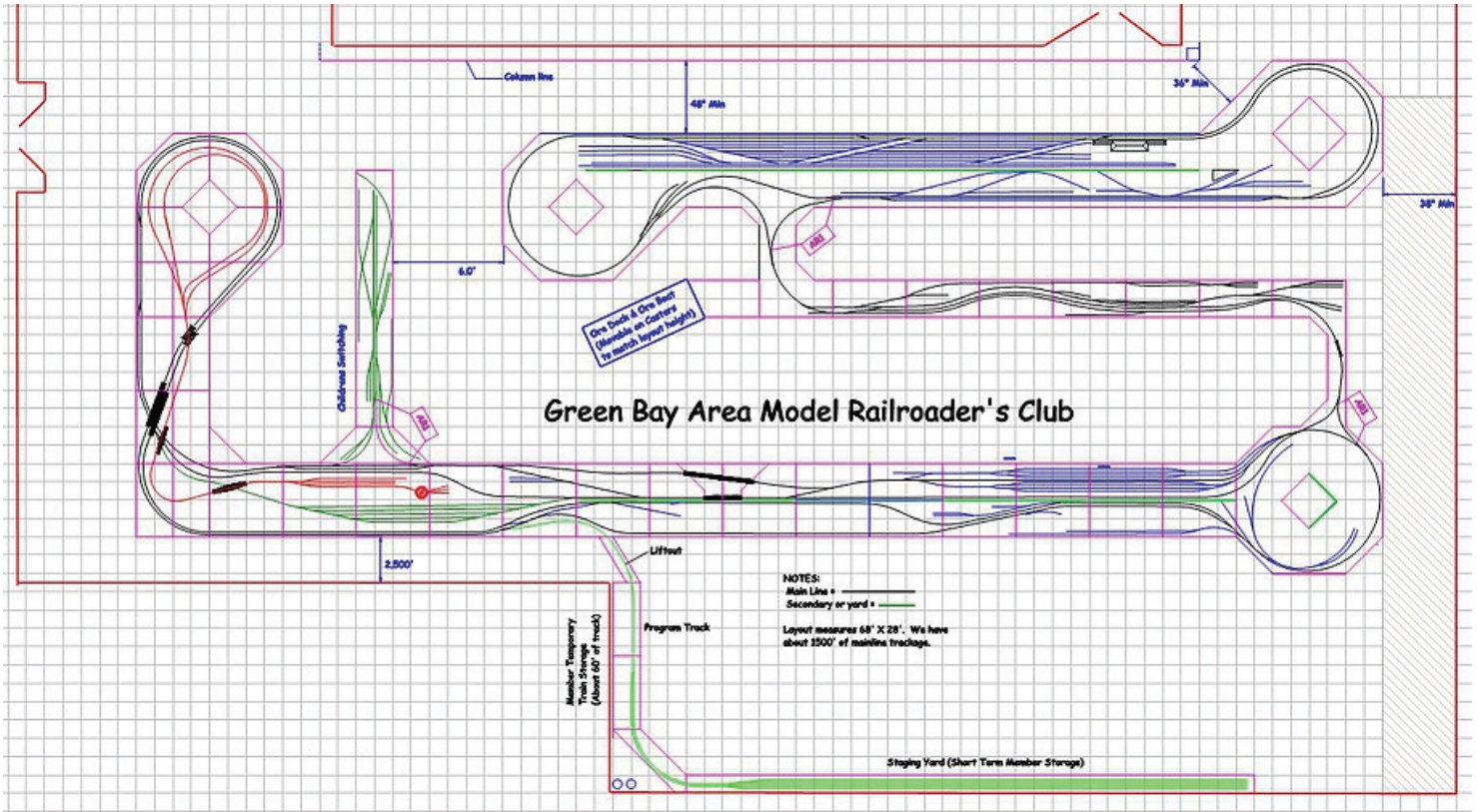


- Club is open Thursdays from 8am till 7pm. Members are there almost anytime during the week, but no regular hours are established.
- The club sees mostly C&NW and Milwaukee Road operating on our layout.
- Control is Digitrax with 3 boosters and about 2000 feet of track.
- For more information, visit:
<http://gbamrcdepere.wix.com/gbamrcdepere>



The Green Bay Area Model Railroaders' Club

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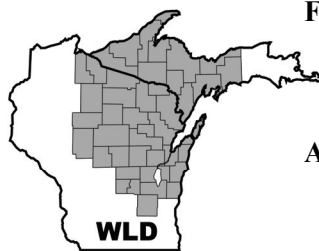
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James C. Cruthers	Superintendent
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Scott Payne	Paymaster
Vern Ehlke	Chief Clerk
James C. Cruthers	Division Director

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Dave Allen	thru 10/16
Wally Rogers	thru 04/17
Roger Wurtzel	thru 04/17
Joe Lallensack	thru 05/17
Dave Nitsch	thru 05/17
Todd Bushmaker	thru 06/17
John Leow	thru 06/18
Mary Eiden	thru 09/19
Mike Eiden	thru 09/19
Phil Herman	thru 11/19



Committee Chairs

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Vacant	Convention Co-Chairman
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Joe Lallensack	Photo Contest Chairman
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Vacant	Scout Coordinator

Classifieds

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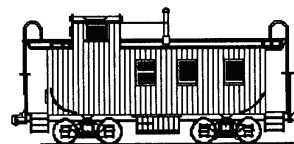
www.wld-nmra.com

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On the Ready Track

January 9	WLD Board of Directors Meeting Soo Line Archives, Appleton, 11am
January 16-17	Arctic Run Model RR Show Stevens Point: www.arcticrun.com
January 30	Great Tri-State Rail Sale LaCrosse Center, WI
February 20-21	Mad City Train Show http://nmra-scvd.org/Rail_Show_Info.php
April 23-24	Titletown Train Show www.ttsgblc.com
May 14	WLD Spring Meet Boys' and Girls' Brigade, Neenah



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