



# The Winnebagoland Whistle

The Official Publication of the Winnebagoland Division  
Midwest Region - National Model Railroad Association

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## Photo

*CNW F units pulling empty ore cars on Hans Shlagel's beautiful layout in Two Rivers.*

*Photo courtesy Al Archer*



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## Superintendent's Report

*Paul (Tree) Hillmer*

It is a rainy, chilly day as I type this. While many people do not like the incoming winter weather, many of us model railroaders embrace it! Good chance to hide out in our basement, run our layouts, work on projects, and enjoy the hobby with others. Exactly what I plan on doing. You?

It has been a fun Fall for the Winnebagoland Division. I can report that our Fall Meet in Appleton was well attended with 52 people. And the meet went off without a hitch. Luke Lemmens and Michael Ostertag had approached me this past summer about adding a modeler's roundtable for the Friday night before the meet. So, we did, and what fun that was. Saturday's clinics were excellent, and the layout tours were a success as well (I was running my Badger on the tour).

A huge shout out for Phil Herman for setting up the clinics and help organizing the meet. And of course, Joel Weeks for all he did having St Peter's open for the meet. Many others pitched in and sure made my job easy.

The Spring Meet 2024 will be held on April 6, 2024, in Stevens Point at St Paul's Church. Roger Wurtzel and his "Tuesday Morning Group" of The Waupaca Area Model Railroaders is helping organize. So, mark your calendars.



We will also do something Friday night before the meet. Should we do another modeler's roundtable? Or do we do operating sessions? My thought is to continue modeler's roundtables at future Fall Meets and operating sessions at the Spring Meets. I welcome other ideas or thoughts on this. Please, feel free to reach out to me on this and any other ideas.

So, work on those models this winter and either enter them in the model contest for judging (we must keep John Leow busy) or bring them for display and maybe win our "Best of Show" award voted by the meet attendees. And work on photos, to keep Joe Lallensack and Randy Williamson busy and stumped on who to vote for, like they were this fall.

We are looking for a Fall 2024 meet location. Let me know if you are interested. 2025 will have WLD meets in Sheboygan (Phil Hermann) and Marinette (Dave Rickaby).

November 4 was our "WLD Annual Operating Day" in Manitowoc. Phil Herman worked hard putting this together. Sadly, I couldn't attend this year, I was taking care of my wife who had surgery in Milwaukee. I think I have attended every year (but one) since we began this back in the 1990s.

Operating layouts has become my favorite part of the hobby. In 2013, Randy Williamson and I decided we needed to have a monthly round-robin op session in our area Fall thru Spring and formed the informal Facebook-based Fox River Operating Group (FROG). The only rule we have is that you must operate if you attend. No standing around and watching. All this was spun out of the WLD Annual Operating Day. I encourage all WLD members to give it a try.

One of my plans this winter is to write about operating my N-scale Badger Midwestern. And continue writing about other FROG layouts after that. (Duly noted, ed.)

Hope everyone has a wonderfully holiday season and has lots of model railroad time as the snow flies.

## View From the Cab

*Gerry Ring, Whistle Editor*

The WLD Whistle is traditionally published four times a year, fall, winter, spring, and summer. The winter and summer issues will concentrate on the Division's Fall and Spring meets respectively. The

winter issues will also feature the WLD Annual Operating Session.

You will be able to find The Whistle on the Division's website: <http://www.wld-nmra.com/?action=whistle>. For NMRA members, The Whistle will also be emailed to you directly. Look for the fall issue early in September, the winter issue early in December, the spring issue in early March, and the summer issue in early June.

You will notice that a modeler's roundtable is featured in this year's Fall meet. I think the idea is a great one and I would like to suggest that the idea be introduced into the Whistle. So if you have a model whose construction merits discussing but does not meet the more stringent requirements of a full publication, please send your write-up and a photo to [wldwhistleeditor@gmail.com](mailto:wldwhistleeditor@gmail.com).

## 2023 Fall Meet

### Modeler's Roundtable

The Modeler's Roundtable is an event designed to allow modelers a chance to describe their model to attendees and field questions about their construction techniques, materials used, and any problems that occurred during construction.



*Roundtable attendees listening intently to Emory Luebke describe one of his projects.*

### Photo Contest Winners

*Joe Lallensack, Photo Contest Chairman*

It was a good contest with 13 entries from 5 entrants. There was a very good selection of



photos, and the judging was extremely difficult. I want to thank Randy Williamson, Mike Eiden, and Roger Wurtzel in assisting me in the judging. We spent quite a bit of time looking and discussing different things about each photo.

You have a chance to win at the contest, but you need to bring something to enter! All we ask is that the photos be at least 5 x 7 but no larger than 11 x 14. We also like them mounted to allow handling during judging. I look forward to you and your entry at the next Meet.



*Left to right: Paul Hillmer, Dave Rickaby, Michael Ostertag, and Emory Luebke.*

- Best of Show: Michael Ostertag - Then and Now, UP 7368
- First Place, Prototype Black & White Print: Michael Ostertag - Coupled
- First Place, Model Black & White Print: Dave Rickaby – C&NW Tarin #12 crossing the Eagle River
- First Place, Prototype Color Print: Dave Rickaby – CN A450 at Marinette
- Second Place, Prototype Color Print: Emory Luebke – Two Fallen Flags
- Third Place, Prototype Color Print: Michael Ostertag – Pride of Lisle
- First Place, Model Color Print: Paul Hillmer – Working Vermillion Mine in Aurora

## Model Contest Winners

*John Leow, Model Contest Chairman*

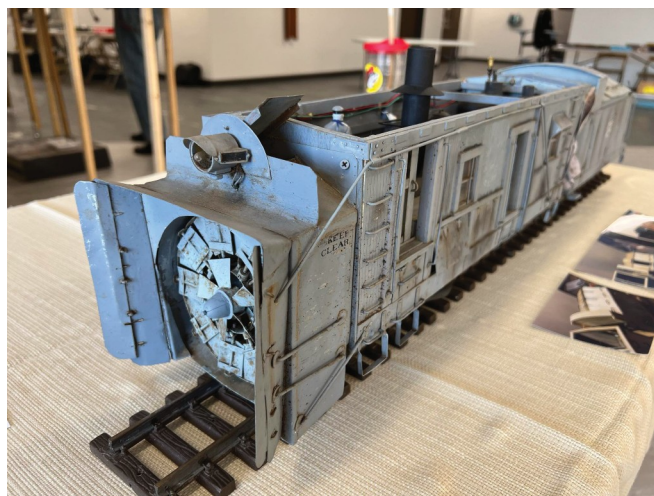
The Fall Meet in Appleton saw a plethora of really nice models on display, but only two entered in

the contest to be evaluated and only three for popular vote.



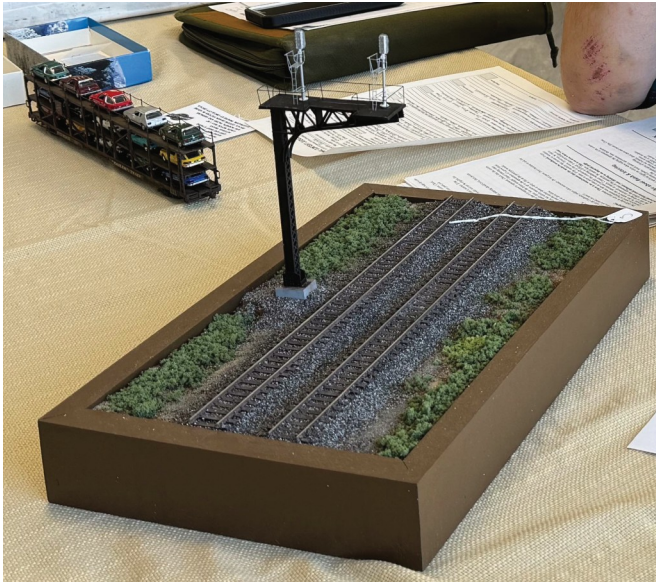
*Left to right: Al Archer, John Leow, Matt Holman, and Phil Herman.*

First place in Non-Revenue Cars went to Al Archer for his model of a large-scale rotary snowplow, which was scratchbuilt some years ago from plans in *Railroad Model Craftsman*. It was very nicely done, and Al recently sent me a video of the plow actually moving snow!





First place in On-line Structures, as well as the Richard Eggert Award for Best of Show (Points), went to Phil Herman for his model of a GN signal bridge. It was a beautiful model complete with operating LEDs. Phil also earned a Merit Award.



The Don Steffen Award for popular vote went to Matt Holman for his model of a CNW auto rack flatcar. Another great model, complete with autos.



I'd like to encourage you all to consider entering the contest. Having your models evaluated in the contest is a great way to improve your modeling. If you don't want your models evaluated, be sure to fill out the entry form to enter it in the Popular Vote.

See you all at the Spring Meet!

## The Clinics

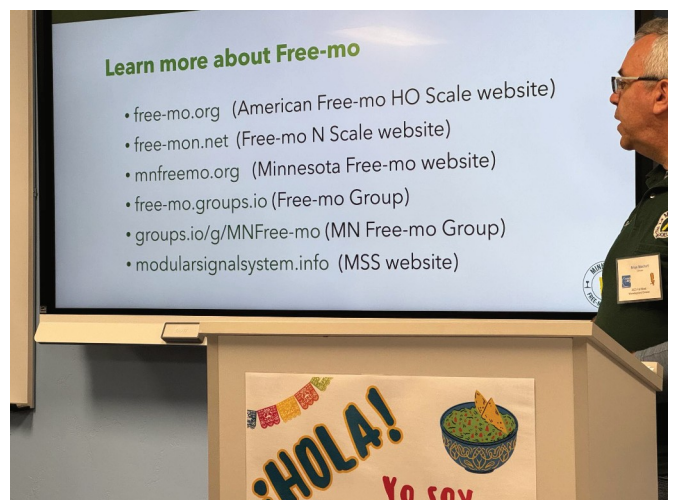
### Gregg Condon, Modeling a Milwaukee Road Branch Line



### Dennis Eggert, CNW in Southern Minnesota



### Brian Machart, Free Mo, What it is, what's new, is it right for you?



#### Learn more about Free-mo

- free-mo.org (American Free-mo HO Scale website)
- free-mon.net (Free-mo N Scale website)
- mnfreemo.org (Minnesota Free-mo website)
- free-mo.groups.io (Free-mo Group)
- groups.io/g/MNFree-mo (MN Free-mo Group)
- modularsignalsystem.info (MSS website)



## **Kevin Marks, Fast tracks soldering**



## **Layout Tours**

### **Joel Weeks, HO Great Northern Wilmar Line, Appleton**

Travel back in time to the summer of '69 with Joel's beautiful double-deck prototypical Great Northern Wilmar line layout. The double deck connected with a large helix that can also be used as a dispatcher area. Joel operates the layout using the GN 1969 timetable and waybills with photos of cars on them. It features scratch-built depots and buildings. Joel has captured the western Minnesota and GN mainline in all its glory!

### **Paper Valley Model Railroad Club HO and Lionel O scale PV RR, Kaukauna**

The PVMRC dates to 1939 and has been in the current clubhouse (old radio station) since 1995. On the main floor the club has built a large HO scale Paper Valley RR that runs thru four rooms and is loosely based on a line from Milwaukee to Green Bay. A branch line to the upper deck features a coal mine and large iron ore complex. The club is currently remodeling several areas of the layout. In the basement of the building, the club is completely rebuilding its current 42x45' Lionel O scale layout.

### **Ron Kahler's "unnamed" HO and N scale layouts, Appleton**

Ron's love for the hobby includes buying and selling large estates of model railroad items. Ron purchased and moved a 12x23' N scale layout in winter of 2021 that was loosely based on the Dells area. It features code 55 track and is partially

sceniced. Ron has a huge collection of rolling stock and buildings and is working on getting the layout back to its former operating status. In 2023 Ron also began building a double deck 10x35' HO layout. Ron also has a huge collection of HO buildings and rolling stock and has the mainline operating.

### **Paul Hillmer N scale Badger Mid-Western RR, Appleton**

The Badger is a large freelanced 29x29' walk around N scale layout with scenery that is 95% complete. The BMW is a bridge line that runs from Lake Michigan (CNW & MILW) to Lake Superior and Minnesota (GN and SOO). It has DCC and features around 1000 pieces of rolling stock, The Badger features 35 trains during an operating "cycle" that uses index cards and a "homemade" waybill system.

### **Bill Moede, HO Scale Lakeshore & Beecher RR, Appleton**

The L&B RR is a DCC 12x20' operational switching layout based on The Milwaukee Road's Chestnut ST Line and Jones Island in Milwaukee. Urban scenery features Milwaukee's foundries, breweries, small industries, light rail passenger service, and harbor area. It also interchanges via a branch "up north" to Paul's BMW RR (and vice versa above) at Lake Likaysa.

### **Emory Luebke, HO Scale Winnebago Rapids & Northern RR, Greenville**

The WR&N is a 14x18' freelanced layout. The time frame is 1956 and features hand laid track and beautiful scenery that is 90% complete. This short line is not only short on mileage but on cash too. That means you will find old steam engines still pulling trains, since diesels are too expensive for such a poor pike. The WR&N interchanges with the SOO and is operated via timetable and train orders. Most buildings have detailed interiors and you may recognize some names on the buildings. If you look closely enough, most scenes have "people" interacting with each other.

## **Fall Operating Session**

*Phil Herman*

The WinnebagoLand Annual Fall Operating Session was held Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Nine operators took part in the event which consisted of two, three-hour sessions, one during the morning and one during the afternoon. Three layouts were on the tour this year.

Joe DeGroot's Sandy Point and Western. Joe's SP&W is a freelanced railroad, it is set during the transition era running mostly steam with a few diesels on the roster. The layout scenery is 80% complete and track is hand laid. Joe has his layout running like a Swiss watch. Two Rivers yard is at the center of the action as trains leave to serve ore and coal mines and deliver those materials to the coal and ore dock, Local trains also serve numerous industries including a large meat packer and brewery. Joe hosted both morning and afternoon sessions.

Fred Firkus hosted an afternoon session. Fred's layout is a proto freelanced railroad featuring Soo/CP in the mid 80's. Fred also created his own short line the Tisch Mills and Southern. Numerous southeastern Wisconsin towns are featured on the layout. Locals leave the main yard and serve several industries, including multiple agriculture, brewery, power plant, limestone processing, plastics, lumber, intermodal and much more. Fred is known for vehicle kit bashing and realistic weathering. The layout is littered with his custom vehicles. Much of the rolling stock and industries Fred has beautifully weathered.

Hans Schlagel also opened his home for the morning session. Hans' layout is a prototype layout featuring four iron mines around the Hurley, WI/Ironwood, MI area served by Soo Line and Chicago Northwestern. Mines are scratch built replicas of what existed in the area in the 1950's. Hans used actual ore from each of the mines for scenery. The layout is nearly 100 percent complete, and this beautiful layout has been featured in Model Railroader and Great Model Railroader magazines. Trains operate mostly with first generation diesels with a few steam engines still in operation in the north woods.

Thanks again to the three hosts for allowing us to bring their creations to life that Saturday. It was a lot of fun and great conversations were had during all the sessions and during the lunch at Two Rivers Family Restaurant. Watch next year for details on the 2024 WLD Fall OPS Day at <http://www.wld-nmra.com/?action=homePage>.

## Remembering Dave Allen

*John Leow*

In April of this year the WLD lost one of its more active members in Dave Allen. Dave was a good friend and mentor to me, and Paul Hillmer asked me to write up a few words.



*Left to right, Al Archer and Dave Allen.*

Dave was born in Buffalo, NY in 1937. He graduated from high school in San Anselmo, CA and earned a Bachelor of Engineering degree from UC-Berkley in 1960. He married his wife Judy that same year and moved to Utah to begin working for Kennecott Copper Co. (or as he called it, "The Lazy K").

In 1978, after earning two master's degrees and a PhD from the University of Utah, Dave and his family moved to Milwaukee where he taught at Marquette University and UW-Milwaukee. He later moved to Marquette to teach at Northern Michigan University.

Dave was an Eagle Scout and enjoyed the outdoors. He was a skier, fly fisherman, hiker, and biker. He was also passionate about environmental conservation.

Although he was a private person, Dave did sometimes tell stories about his pretty interesting past. One involved an old Model T that he and his friends bought one spring. They ran it up and down the old fire roads in California all summer and then sold it in the fall (much the worse for wear) for more than they paid for it. He also had stories about his time in scouts—needless to say, scouting was a little bit wilder back then.

I first met Dave when he joined our local model railroad club, the U.P. Shorelines. I immediately gravitated toward him because he was the sort of modeler I wanted to be, and he eventually became a mentor to me. He was the one responsible for me becoming more interested in prototype modeling, gaining an interest in early 1900s railroading, joining the NMRA, and entering contests. He was also the one who talked me into becoming a WLD board member. He had a knack for convincing you that you could do it. Before I met Dave the idea of scratchbuilding a railroad car was terrifying. He convinced me that I could do it, and now there's not a lot I'm afraid to tackle (except maybe soldering - that's still terrifying). He gave me the confidence to try new things.

Of course, we all knew Dave through his duties as division contest chair. He was always fair and open in his evaluations. He took the job seriously but always maintained a positive outlook. It's a formula I do my best to follow as I evaluate models.

His layout was outstanding, as those who've seen it can attest. He really was a Master Model Railroader, even if he didn't have the certificates. His models were all contest-worthy. Among his many scratchbuilt structures were an engine house and stamp mill, both with complete interiors. Numerous scratchbuilt and resin kit-based freight cars rode his rails, but there were still some upgraded venerable early craftsman kits (such as Central Valley and Ulrich) toiling alongside them. During one operating session, I asked him about a particular flatcar that turned out to be his first scratchbuilt car. His locomotives were all heavily modified to match specific prototypes from the UP, NP, and others. He used to joke about one loco that started life as an MDC kit. After several rebuilding's (including one necessitated due to a dive to the floor), the only remaining kit parts were the main side rods. Which of course disqualified it as scratchbuilt for the AP program.

Dave also had a couple different Abyssinian cats in the time I knew him. He was convinced that there was a substance secreted through their paws that made track non-conductive, and which was extremely difficult to remove. And while his cats got on the railroad rather regularly, I only remember one instance of any real damage. That

was when Misha "rekitted" a wood Howe truss bridge. Of course, Dave had it repaired in no time.

His layout was built to very high scenic standards, yet it still operated flawlessly and was a joy to run. (Except for the pipes - but after you whacked your head on them a few times, you remembered to duck.) But even though his layout was built to these standards, he wasn't afraid to let novices and even youngsters run it. When my son Paul was young, he came to our club meetings with me. Dave always had a passenger train set up as the first train of the day, and he always made sure Paul would run it. And when the local Boy Scout troop was working on the Railroading merit badge, he gladly offered his layout for the operations requirements.

So, to close, I know Dave is missed by the WLD membership because of the many comments I've heard from members. He will certainly be missed by me. Back in the '90s RMC ran a series of articles on building prototype freight cars by Ted Culotta (who is well known in RPM circles and a phenomenal modeler). Well, Dave adopted the slogan "WWTD", as in "What Would Ted Do", for whenever he encountered a modeling dilemma. I've changed it slightly to "WWDD", as in "What Would Dave Do". I'm very lucky to have known such a positive and giving person, and I will miss him.



Website: <http://www.wld-nmra.com>

Facebook: [Winnebagoland Division, NMRA](#)



# Team Track

## Division Officers

Paul Hillmer Superintendent  
Phil Herman Asst. Superintendent  
Paul Mastalir Paymaster  
Vern Ehlke Chief Clerk  
Paul Hillmer Division Director

## Board of Directors

(terms thru 06/2024)

Division Officers (above) PLUS:

Al Archer Dave Allen  
Dave Nitsch Fred Firkus  
Gerry Ring Joe Lallensack  
John Leow Mary Eiden  
Mike Eiden Phil Herman  
Rich Hopfensperger

## Committee Chairs

Gerry Ring Whistle Editor  
Gerry Ring Membership Chairman  
Marv Preussler AP Chairman  
Phil Herman Clinic Chairman  
Paul Hillmer Operating Session Chairman  
Paul Mastalir Company Store Chairman  
Richard Cooke Model Contest Chairman  
John Leow Assistant Model Contest Chairman  
Joe Lallensack Photo Contest Chairman  
Michael Eiden Webmaster  
Mike Ostertag / Paul Mastalir Scout Coordinator  
Paul Hillmer Social Media Chairman

# On the Ready Track

<http://www.wld-nmra.com/?action=onTheReadyTrack>

**January 6, 2024**

WLD Board Meeting - Soo Line Historical Society building and Zoom.at 10:00 AM.

**January 20-21, 2024**

Arctic Run Train Show - Stevens Point, WI.

**April 6, 2024**

WLD 2024 Spring Meet - St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Stevens Point, WI.

**May 4-5, 2024**

Titletown Train Show, Green Bay, WI.

## Company Store

Make sure to check out the WLD Merch store for WLD boxcars, shirts and caps: [http://www.wld-nmra.com/?action=co\\_store](http://www.wld-nmra.com/?action=co_store)



Just a few of the HO-scale Winnebagoland boxcars are left; let Paul Mastalir know how many and he will work out getting them to you. His phone is (715) 853-7274, or email him at [mastalir54166@yahoo.com](mailto:mastalir54166@yahoo.com) or [wldpaymaster@gmail.com](mailto:wldpaymaster@gmail.com).







**26th Annual  
Model Railroad Show and Sale**

**Arctic Run 2024**

**January 20 – 21, 2024**

**Stevens Point, Wisconsin**

**Holiday Inn – Convention Center Hotel**

**1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54482**

**Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM**

**Sunday 10 AM – 3 PM**



**Admissions: \$5.00 Adults \$2.00 Ages 12-17 11 and under FREE**

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For layout or vendor information contact Don Anderson at (714) 340-8105 or email Don at  
[cwmr\\_mnw@yahoo.com](mailto:cwmr_mnw@yahoo.com) or Jim Miller at (715) 340-0265 or email Jim at [jimb67@gmail.com](mailto:jimb67@gmail.com)**

**Our proceeds, after expenses, support local non-profit organizations.**