

# THE WINNEBAGOLAND WHISTLE

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

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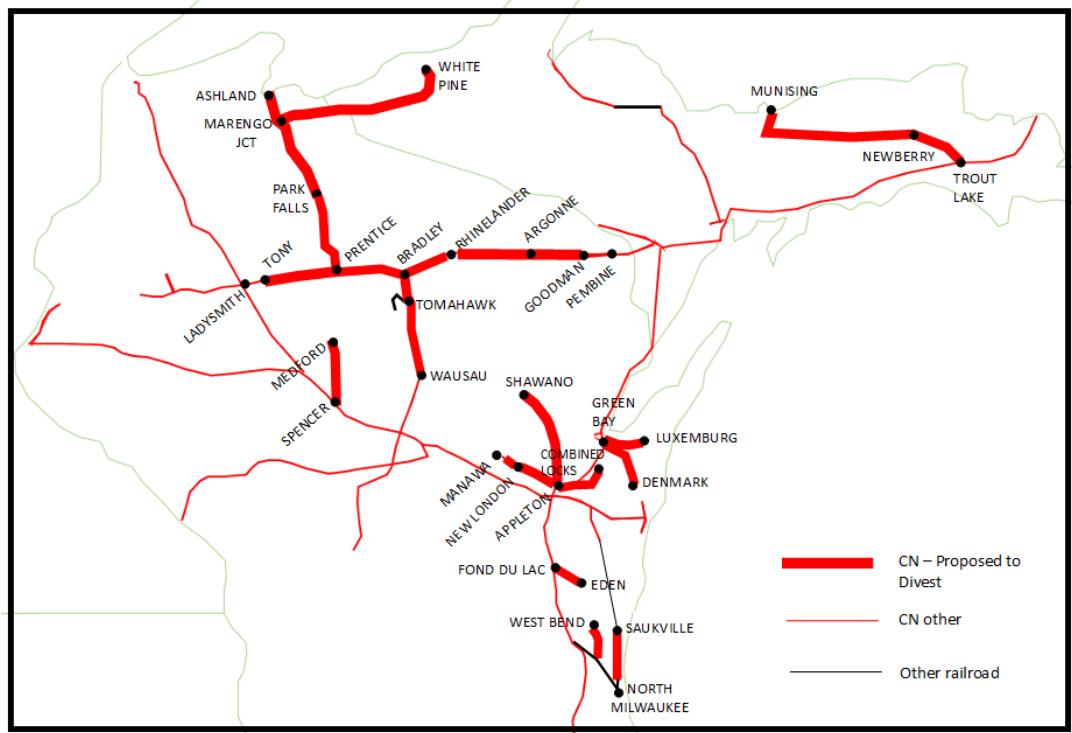
*What do you get an Amtrak Conductor for Christmas? Platform shoes!*

## COVER PHOTO:

*déjà vu: CN is looking to unload some unprofitable segments of their Wisconsin and UP network, presumably to a short-line or regional operator like WSOR or ELS.*

*Could this be the second resurrection of Wisconsin Central? Story on Page 3.*

*Graphic by CN.*



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## Superintendent's Report

By Phil Herman

First, I would like to thank Andy for serving as Superintendent over the past year. He brought a new style to the leadership role. What do I mean by that? Well, Andy is very active in social media. Posting updates and videos of his modeling work, thoughts, successes, failures in a very real look at what we do and go through being model railroaders. We are continually searching to make our models act more like the real ones maybe for a particular period, company and/or location we are modeling attempting to maximize our personal enjoyment. For everyone of us our priorities are different, some of us it's how it looks, some it's design and for some it's how it runs.

During this Pandemic I have found myself becoming a little more like Andy posting updates on projects I have been working on. Which personally, is something hard to motivate myself to do but the end result is always positive with encouraging likes and helpful feedback. A big thanks to Paul Hillmer who posted his daily quarantine (Virus Express videos). Paul leads the division in posting events on his layout but I encourage everyone to post your personal hobby related experiences. The pandemic caused many new events to occur. The NMRA is holding virtual conventions and some local modelers took part in showing their layouts or sharing clinics on Facebook live. That platform allows viewers to interact with the host which gives it a real in-person feel. I've seen so many stories of modelers elated to be forced into their basements and enjoy their hobby with many of life's other distractions being taken away. I tried to put myself in the shoes of so many that could not enjoy their favorite pastime. Just imagine not being able to do anything related to model railroading for a long period. It would be difficult for me. So,



(Continued on page 2)

# Superintendent's Report

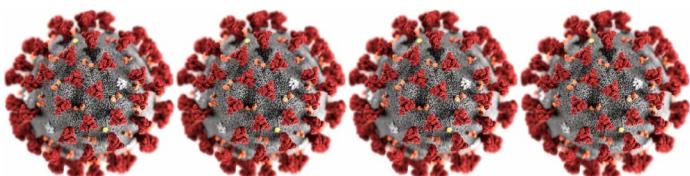
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if you haven't already participated in an online event or posted something you've done, try it.

I think for many of us this time has given us a chance to slow down and reflect on our priorities in life. Many have had more time to spend time with family, at home making meals, taking walks, gardening and so on. Resulting in empty shelves at the grocery, the landscape nursery and beds at the humane societies. But as we near the six-month mark of restrictions and cancellations I'm seeing less enthusiasm being in the basement alone and am starting to see more and more people getting together in groups, feeling the need for human contact and "Community". Despite the great avenues of communication that technology has brought us, there still is that basic need to fellowship in person, go places and see things up close and in person. All this has strengthened my belief that there still is a need for organizations like the NMRA.

So, what will the future be like as we go through the next few years. I do like some of the new ingenious ways we have been forced to use when sharing the hobby. I hope they are incorporated into our new normal. This hobby has so many niches, and cyber communication really allows a broader reach to connect those with like interests from all around the world. I recently got hooked up online with a gentleman who shared with me information on a depot he worked at 50 years ago at a Summit, Montana location I am modeling. This exciting experience for me is not something I think the NMRA can offer. Over the next year I plan to engage many WLD members on what is valuable to them and strengthen our local NMRA "Community".

Over the past year the WLD leadership has put a lot of new ideas out on the table and I hope we continue those discussions and bring a few new events to reality. Some of the things being discussed are, changing a Spring or Fall meet to an RPM (Railroad Prototype Modelers) style meet, increasing the frequency and timing of the Division coordinated operating sessions. I hope we can continue with our fall events as scheduled stay tuned - **Fall Meet October 3<sup>rd</sup> Neenah and Operating Session November 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Until we meet again, "proceed on signal indication, Phil out."



# View From the Cab

Your Editor

The COVID-19 pandemic has stretched into almost half a year now and like others in the hobby I know you can only spend so much time in the basement before going crazy. I have managed to tackle some long-overdue projects during this time, and my family is taking advantage of our regular summertime camping excursions, which are well-suited to social distancing.

Still, there's a lot more going on than just COVID. Long-gestating protests and statue-toppling are continuing in major cities across the country, usually in spite of COVID restrictions. It is an election year with some very unpopular candidates and a ton of rhetoric and fear-mongering on both sides. Meaning, EVERYTHING has become political, even peer-reviewed science and the idea of wearing masks.

I don't care where you fall on the political spectrum... we all need to be helping each other get through 2020. There are many things we can focus our energies on, things that should have a high priority. Hobbies can sometimes feel like low-priority luxuries in times like this, but truth be told they constitute one of the ways we can stay sane.

For those of you who post YouTube videos, Instagram photos, and podcasts of your modeling skills and railfan excursions, thank you—it's a way to entertain each other, learn from each other, and show that some parts of our lives can be "normal" despite the cancellation of meets, train shows, conventions, and other group activities.

Speaking of which, as an update to Phil's report (congrats on becoming Superintendent!), both the Spring (Fall) meet and November operating session have been pushed to next year. 2020 is basically written off (including Trainfest!) and 2021 can't get here soon enough. Mad City is preparing to have their show in February, and TTS is contracted for April 17-18... hopefully they can proceed in one form or another.

Stay well. Wash your hands. Visit your local hobby shop (with a mask please) and keep showing us all the cool things you're doing in your basement! — *Todd tbushmaker@sbcglobal.net*



# CN to Divest Lines in WI, UP

From WXPR Radio, Rhinelander

Canadian National railroad confirmed to WXPR last week that they intend to divest from hundreds of miles of track in northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula. When asked to confirm rumors of the action, Canadian National issued a statement saying they were taking the first step in the process to find another party interested to purchase segments in northern Wisconsin and the U.P.

Not all lines the company uses here would be sold, according a map obtained by WXPR [see cover photo].

In total, they're looking to divest about 456 miles of track over 13 different segments in this region. The company's statement says Wisconsin remains a core to Canadian National, but they want to leave lines that are under utilized.

The statement said those lines still would remain connected to CN after a new owner comes forward. Among the sections of track to be divested are from near Ladysmith through Rhinelander to Goodman, from Bradley through Tomahawk to Wausau, Prentice

through Park Falls to Ashland. In the U.P., a line from White Pine to Marengo, Wisconsin would be sold and a line at Munising.

We have the Canadian National statement below.

*"After careful review and study, CN announced we are taking the first step in the process to find another party interested in purchasing segments of our non-core network in Wisconsin with a different value proposition and service options. We are looking to divest approximately 456 miles of track over 13 different segments in Northern Wisconsin. Wisconsin remains core to CN. Today's announcement impacts only the underutilized portions of our network, not the main line that is so vital to linking our network. If a new owner acquires these lines CN will still play a central role in the region as these segments will remain connected to our network, safely and reliably linking Wisconsin businesses to markets around the world."*



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## Division Merch

Check your closet and see if it is time for a new Winnebagoland Division shirt. Available through the Division website store with a link to the shop for you to direct order.

Also available is a visor cap with the train curving around the edge! Nice additions to your list this year.

Just a few of the HO-scale Winnebagoland boxcars



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).

# Captain Al Nelson

*As printed in the Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter*

Manitowoc - Captain Albert D. Nelson, age 85, a resident of Manitowoc, entered eternal life while surrounded by family on Monday, July 20, 2020 at his residence.

Al was born on August 22, 1934 in Menominee, MI to the late Gustav and Beatrice (Schomer) Nelson. He attended elementary school in Menominee, MI and graduated from Lincoln High School in Manitowoc with the class of 1952. He then began his maritime career on the Great Lakes. Al had served in the United States Army as a Radio Operator and was stationed in Italy for 18 months. He received his honorable discharge while achieving the rank of Sergeant. Upon returning to the United States, Al obtained his 1st Class Pilots License, Great Lakes, from the Burns School of Navigation in Buffalo, NY. He then went to the University of Minnesota Duluth where he obtained his Unlimited Masters License, Great Lakes. Al had worked for US Steel, Great Lakes Fleet from July 1952 to October 1993 where he served as Seaman, Deck Officer, and Master on 26 different Vessels until his retirement at age 59 from M/V Edwin H. Gott, 1004 foot ore carrier. On June 13, 1959, Al married Diane Bieberitz at Christ the King Church in Duluth, MN. He was a member of the Manitowoc Kiwanis Golden K where he founded The K Kids and also served three terms as President and one term as Lieutenant Governor for the Wisconsin, Upper Peninsula Michigan District. Al was active in the Clipper City Model Railroad Club where he chartered the club as a non-profit and had served four 2 year terms as President. His passion for trains led him to own and operate Lakeshore Choo Choo. Al was also a member of the Manitowoc County Historical Society and a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church in Manitowoc. He enjoyed volunteering for the Lakeshore Weekend for Kids which benefited the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

Survivors include Al's wife of 61 years, Diane; two daughters, Lynn (Randy) Kirt and Lori Waniger, all of Manitowoc; two sons, David (Eileen) Nelson, Tampa, FL; and Steven Nelson, Waddell, AZ; seven grandchildren, Eric (Deanna) Waniger, David "DJ" Waniger, Jeffrey Kirt and his girlfriend, Leena, Kimberly Kirt, James Nelson, Katelyn Nelson and her boyfriend, Ryan, and Alexis Nelson; brother, Captain John R.



(Beverly) Nelson, Boulder City, NV; also other relatives and many friends. Al was preceded in death by his son-in-law, Randy Waniger.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at Grace United Church of Christ, 2801 Garfield Street, Two Rivers. Out of respect for the health of our family and friends, both the visitation and funeral service will be held outdoors at the church. Pastor Kim Henning and Pastor Colie Bettivia will officiate the outdoor funeral service in which family and friends will have the option to listen to the service through their car radio or social distance outside with seating provided by the church. Also, the family will greet relatives and friends under the canopy at church from 10 a.m. until the time of the funeral service at 11 a.m. Military rites will be accorded at Evergreen Cemetery by Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 731. A luncheon will then be held for family and friends at the Harrigan Parkside Gathering Center, 620 North Water Street, Manitowoc, located on the south property of the Harrigan Parkside Funeral Home. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.harriganparksidefuneralhome.com](http://www.harriganparksidefuneralhome.com)

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorials in Al's name which will be used to benefit the Wisconsin Children's Hospital and the [Wounded Warrior Project](#).

The family would like to thank Dr. Andrew Yetter and his staff at Vince Lombari Cancer Clinic, Felician Village Next Step, and Al's hospice and homecare nurses for all of the loving care they provided.

The Harrigan Parkside Funeral Home and Crematory, North 11th and St. Clair streets, Manitowoc is assisting the family with funeral arrangements.



## Mark's Model Railservices

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# Team Track

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Phil Herman	Superintendent
Todd Bushmaker	Asst. Superintendent
Scott Payne	Paymaster
Vern Ehlke	Chief Clerk

## Board of Directors (*terms thru 04/2021*)

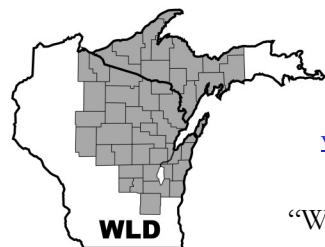
Division Officers (above) PLUS:

Wally Rogers	Joe Lallensack
Dave Nitsch	Dave Allen
Mary Eiden	Mike Eiden
Chris Heili	Rich Hopfensperger
Jason Hethke	Paul Mastalir

## Committee Chairs

(Asst. Supt.)	Property Manager
Todd Bushmaker	Whistle
Marv Preussler	Achievement Program
Wally Rogers	Membership
Phil Herman	Clinics
(At-will, current meet)	Convention Chair
Paul Mastalir	Company Store
Scott Payne	Operating Sessions
David Allen	Model Contest
Joe Lallensack	Photo Contest
Vern Ehlke	Technology
Paul Hillmer	Social Media
Michael Eiden	Webmaster
Rich Hopfensperger	Hobby Shop/Model Club Liaison
Paul Mastalir / Mike O.	Scout Coordinators
(At-will Volunteers)	Financial Review

Note that these positions need not be Directors; any member in the Division may chair or participate in these committees!



[www.wld-nmra.com](http://www.wld-nmra.com)

Facebook:  
“Winnebago Land Division  
NMRA”

# Timetable

Please note that these events are subject to the fluid COVID-19 situation. Check with each individual event.

**October 3  
Cancelled**

WLD Fall Meet  
*Best Western Bridgewood, Neenah*

**Nov 14-15  
Cancelled**

Trainfest  
*State Fair Park, West Allis*



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