

Waybill



Mid West Region NMRA –
Winter 2025



The *WAYBILL*

Editor

David J. Leider MMR®
9070 64th Way N
Pinellas Park, FL 33782-4663

sooauthor@netzero.net

847-454-6481

Associate Editor

Jim Osborn MMR™

The *WAYBILL*

is published quarterly by the Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association Inc. for the benefit of the model railroading community.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Electronic delivery is free to all members of the Region. Go to <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/mwr2016/waybill.html> to subscribe or to change your e-mail address. Out of Region NMRA members who want to be notified that the Waybill is available can contact Jim Osborn at webmaster@mwr-nmra.org to be put on the Constant Contact email notification list.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles, photographs and artwork are encouraged in either hardcopy or electronic form. The editor uses Quark 5.0 as his publishing software on a Mac. Word documents are also acceptable, but please send the photographs as an attachment. Copy is due by the 10th of February, May, August and November and should be sent to the editor at the above address. Submitted material will be returned upon request.

ADVERTISING

Deadlines for camera ready ads are the same as for the copy deadlines. Please submit by email to the editor as a TIF or .jpeg. We accept only railroad related ads.

Advertising rates are:

	yearly	or	per issue
Full page	\$100		\$35
Half page	75		25
Quarter page	50		20
Business card	25		15

Make checks payable to the **Midwest Region NMRA** and mail to: David Leider
9070 64th Way N
Pinellas Park, FL 33782-4663
sooauthor@netzero.net
847-454-6481

In this issue

Page 2	Editor's Musing
Pages 3-4	Presidents Report
Page 4	Next BOD Meeting
Page 4	AP Report
Page 5	90th Anniversary Celebration
Page 6	Obituary for Bert Lattan
Pages 6-8	2025 Trainfest Report
Pages 8-11-	Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge
Page 12	Mad City Train Show ad
Page 13	Danville Train Show ad

David Leider MMR
John Coy MMR

Jim Landwehr
John Coy MMR

David Leider MMR
David Leider MMR

Editor's Musings

Congratulations to Rich Hanke on getting his MMR. I was saddened to hear that he fell down a flight of stairs and is in rehab. Get well soon.

The last few months have been very hectic for me. In mid-September I flew to Madison and drove to Tomahawk, Wisconsin for a talk and book signing for my Marinette, Tomahawk & Western book. I was very pleased with the turnout and signed a lot of books.

After that it was down to the Dells for the Soo Line Technical & Historical Society convention. As president, I was busy, but had time to do a presentation and visit the Riverside & Great Northern Railroad before returning home.

A few weeks later my wife and I took a cruise on MSC's new World America. It is one of those mega ships and BIG.

Then I returned to the midwest, Chicago in particular, for the RPM Naperville convention, where I again spoke.

ON THE COVER

Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge #476 and #450 getting ready to depart Durango for Silverton.
More photos are on pages 8-11.
Notice the new NMRA logo!
Photo by David Leider.

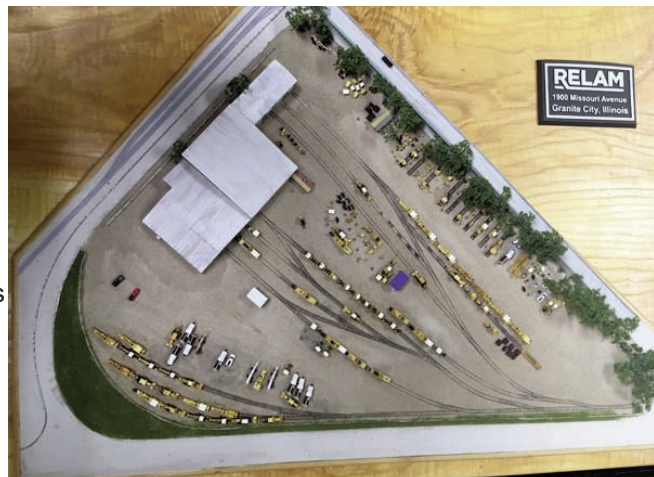
After a rest of a few weeks I was off again, this time to Milwaukee for Trainfest. See more photos on pages 6-8.

Naperville RPM



Above: Midwest Mod-u-Trak brought both their N and HO layouts to Naperville RPM as well as Trainfest. Above is a scene on their impressive HO layout.

Below: This Z scale diorama was at Naperville. It is a re-creation of RELAM's (Railway Equipment Leasing and Maintenance) facility in Granite City, Illinois.



President's Report (John's Junction)

John Coy MMR president, MWR



I wish you, your family, friends and fellow model railroad enthusiasts a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I can't tell you how odd that feels to write that as I sit here in Indy on an 80 degree October afternoon. Where is Fall?

There is less than one month to go until National Model Railroading month, which of course is November! We start off that month with TRAINFEST in Milwaukee on the weekend of November 1st and 2nd. There is also a train display November 1st at the Carmel, Indiana, library that drew 1,500 people last year. Simply amazing! And then, there is the Danville (Indiana) Train show held at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds which is a super popular show.

There is something going on every weekend in November involving model trains all around Indiana. Our good friends in Division 8 (Mid-Central Region), have a Louisville show coming up in November that I hope to visit.

NOTE: so that you don't find yourself in the unfortunate position many did this time around, REGISTER for the 2026 Convention in Chattanooga, NOW!!! Today. Don't get left out, again. There were MULTIPLE members who waited until the last second to attempt to register for the Novi convention of 2025. All of these folks were left disappointed. The 90th anniversary convention was FABULOUS and thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Our brand new NMRA Logo will come out on November 1st, 2025, per the information I have as of the time I'm writing this. Our new logo will be "universal" meaning that there will be ONLY ONE NMRA Logo. This was done for the sake of "branding" and name recognition.

The bulk of regions and divisions have their own logos. This is too much confusion for those outside the NMRA. It appears as if we are multiple organizations when we are one.

The purpose of ONE logo is to be able to get people world-wide to recognize the NMRA. This is a wise decision from a marketing perspective. I personally was hoping that our organization's name was going to be amended to the: International Model



Railroad Association, which truly reflects reality. No such luck and this was first mentioned in July of 1944. This is not a new thought.

And, as in my previous columns, If you are contacted via email or text supposedly by me, or any other Board Member, asking you for money, gift cards, electronic transfer of funds, etc., there is a 100% chance it is fraudulent scheme.

Just this past week, I SUPPOSEDLY received an email from our past President, Bob McGeever, asking me to reply for assistance with some matter. It was written in a very formal style and not in a manner in which Bob would use. I replied saying: "Go ahead. I'll play." No response.

If or when ever in doubt, always, always, always, contact me, directly from the MWR Website and inquire if you have any doubt at all. Unfortunately, this scam has happened before, multiple times, BE AWARE! It will happen again. The bottom line is that NOBODY ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD IS GOING TO WRITE YOU ASKING FOR MONEY, GIFT CARDS, ETC.

Region News

Midwest Region Achievement Program Report

by Jim Landwehr- MWR AP Manager

I am happy to report that there has been a lot of activity from our members. They continue to take part in the Achievement Program all over the Midwest Region.

The following members received awards:

Richard Hanke	Manitowoc, WI	Motive Power
Richard Hanke	Manitowoc, WI	MMR

As always, work with your division Achievement Program Manager first, and if there is a problem, feel free to contact me.

Thanks,
Jim

The last MWR BoD meeting was held via the on-line Zoom application on Saturday, November 8 2025 at 9:00 am CDT. If you wish to participate as a guest at a future meeting, please contact the MWR Webmaster at: mwr.nmra.webmaster@gmail.com with your request.

Important!

All Non-Resident Waybill subscribers will need to re-register to continue to receive future notifications. Please click below to continue to receive Waybill publication notices.

<https://form.jotform.com/250665560434962>

Questions? Contact the webmaster at:

mwr.nmra.webmaster@gmail.com

Next subject: Our MWR Constitution and By-Laws. I, along with the assistance of the entire MWR Board, and an experienced Member, have completed updating our MWR Constitution and By-Laws. Currently as written, both refer to the NMRA Regulations and Executive Handbook—both which were phased out years ago. We will be voting on accepting the corrected updated versions at our November 2025 meeting.

“Ask Someone to Join the NMRA.” It is been my personal experience that a person is more apt to join the NMRA if you ask them face-to-face. The most effective means of increasing our membership is by each member asking someone to join.

Can you imagine what would happen if every member got one person to join each year? I have belonged to the NMRA since August of 2018 and I have gotten better than an average of one person per year to join the NMRA. Please ask someone!

National Model Railroad month and the “train season” is upon us. I wish that I could get everyone to ask someone to join because we could double our membership in no time at all.

Ask all your friends to come join us! Take them to our events. The social aspect of this hobby was one of the two main reasons that the NMRA was created.

Next year, 2026, the Region is hoping to have at least two Field Trips. One for certain will be to the Rochelle (IL) Railroad Park, where there is a lot of 1 to 1 action. It would be fun to have a day long train watching event with our fellow members of the Midwest Region. Please look for a date come my February 2026 column.

I want to publicly acknowledge the MWR Audit Committee for their efforts in ensuring our finances are as up-to-date and correct as possible.

Thank you to all of you who volunteer and support the NMRA. The only way the NMRA can grow is that you, and I mean, YOU, get involved and ask others to join. YOU are the “grassroots” level and most important resource in the NMRA. That isn't a “Rah! Rah!” speech. It is reality.

The following was stolen from John Kennedy long ago: Ask not what the NMRA can do for you, ask what can you do for the NMRA.

God bless and I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season. Enjoy and treasure moments with your family and friends, because life is far too short.

90th Anniversary Celebration of the NMRA

NMRA 90TH Anniversary Celebration was held Monday, September 1st, 2025 at 11 a.m. at the MCL CAFE 1390 Keystone Way East, Carmel, IN. Special guest speakers were Fred Soward, Central District Director and Ray Persing MMR, AP National Chairman.

Photo Credits to Richard Seymour, CID member.



The three award recipients with their awards.



Obituary for Bert Lattan

Hubert "Bert" M. Lattan

April 28, 1941 ~ October 27, 2024 (age 83)

Obituary & Services

Bert died peacefully on Sunday, October 27th after a long illness. He was born in 1941 to Jean and Aurilla (Arnold) Lattan and grew up in Oak Park and Glen Ellyn. He is survived by his beloved wife, Judith (Judy) Johnson, sister Milla Cummins, brother David (Janice) Lattan, and many cherished nieces and nephews.

Bert was a graduate of Glenbard West High School and Iowa State University, where he was in Pi Kappa Phi and Army ROTC. He received his commission the day of his graduation and went to Vietnam shortly thereafter, where he was awarded the bronze star.

Upon his return, he joined Arthur Anderson, LLC who he worked for his entire career, retiring in 1995 as a Participating Principal. He also remained in the US Army Reserves after his return from Vietnam and retired a Lieutenant Colonel.



Bert Lattan

Bert was a well-known steam and model railroad enthusiast in the Chicago area, and served the Midwest Region, NMRA
Dupage Division, NMRA
Rock River Valley Division NMRA

Fox Valley Division, NMRA

Central Indiana Division, NMRA and suburban areas and served as an officer in both national and local rail organizations.

Interment was at Mt. Emblem Cemetery in a private ceremony.

Memorial gifts may be made in Bert's name to The College of Business of Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.



Trainfest Report

by David J. Leider MMR

I attend Trainfest every year, so I was especially interested to see what changes were made since the NMRA took over. I was impressed.



Sign at Mitchell Field in Milwaukee welcoming Trainfest attendees.



This simple wooden layout was a hit with the small fry. It was built by the gentleman with the Got Train's? shirt.



Z-scale layout placed in a suitcase.



NMRA president Gordy Robinson MMR, enjoying the show at the NMRA booth.

There were a lot of new vendors as well as layouts. The manufacturers returned again, so it was interesting to see what was new. What caught my eye was the number of small, modules and exhibits. Many modular clubs that started small have grown over the years into giant layouts, so it was nice to see smaller displays.



This lady built a small module whose purpose was to take sand from the tipple and dump it into the waiting VW truck. The locomotive was operated with her cell-phone.

Once again our group, the Soo Line Historical & Technical Society had a great location, with lots of exposure. I always enjoy talking to attendees and networking.

I do not know what the final attendance was, but it was helped by the fact that \$5.00 off coupons were given for Sunday admission. There were lots and lots of strollers and youngsters present that day. (future NMRA members). One of the highlites of the show was the unveiling of the new NMRA logo on Sunday. Those I talked to liked it much better than the blue smurf.

Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad & Museum

by David J. Leider MMR

I got a chance to mark one more item off of my bucket list- a visit to the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge railroad. It was all I expected and more. It is something everyone should visit. Rather than write about it, I will let these photos speak for them-selves.



Admission to the museum is free.



Number 1 is busy assembling the trains for the morning departures.



Above: The museum is packed with artifacts, including an engine and caboose.

Below: I always like to see what is behind a museum.





Above left: This is the first class coach we rode in. It had a bar for refreshments and platform on the back for taking photos.
Above right: View inside the shop.



Right: The blue flag has been removed allowing the train to proceed.



Left: Another view of #1 in Durango.

The Animas River is never far from the tracks.



Silverton depot. The train goes a few thousand feet beyond the depot, closer to town.

Arrival in Silverton



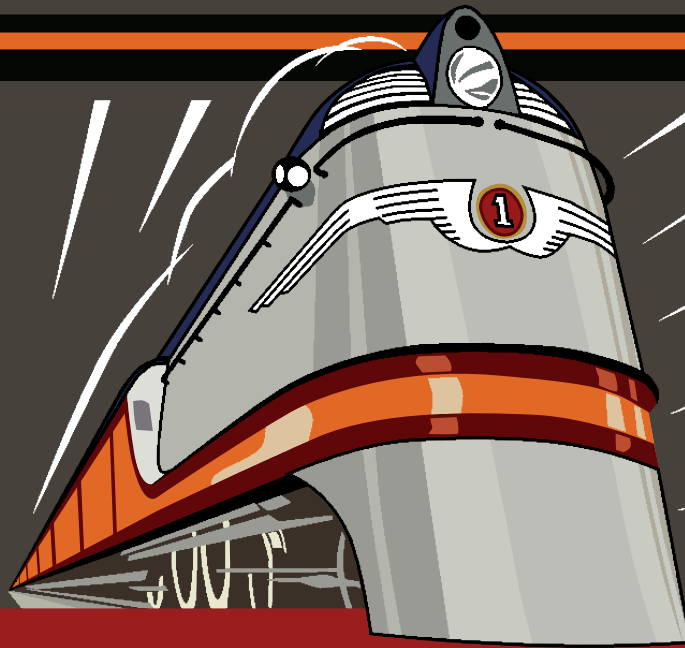


Meeting another train along the way.

#476 and the train have been turned in preparation for the return trip to Durango. After a rainy arrival, the skies have cleared for our departure.



I got up the following morning to watch the trains leave the station in Durango. This is the train we rode the prior day. All of the locomotives have been converted to oil.



MadCity

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW

February 21–22, 2026

Saturday 9–5 • Sunday 9–4

Alliant Energy Center, Exhibition Hall

Madison, Wisconsin

A GREAT FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT VALUE!

*Includes: Two adults (regular/senior) & two kids (5–15). Kids under 5 FREE



The
Central Indiana Division
of the
National Model Railroad Association
Presents the 18th Annual



Danville Train Show

Saturday - November 22, 2025

10 AM to 3PM

**At the Hendricks County Fair Grounds
1900 E Main St. Danville, IN**

**Admission
\$3.00 per Person
Under 16 free with parent**

**NMRA Members Only
Admission at 9am
with your card!**

Show Features

Over 29,000 Sq. Feet With:

- Operating Layouts
- Dealer Tables
- Food Vendor
- Modeling Demos
- Model Judging
- Door Prizes
- Free Parking

**• Popular Vote Contest •
100x100 Scale Foot Diorama
"Engine Servicing Scene"**

Model registration: 10am to 11am
Voting open: 11am to 1:30pm
Winners announced: 1:30pm

2 Expo Halls - 8 Foot Vendor Tables \$16 each

Setup Fri. 3-6 pm; Sat. 7-10:00 am

Vendor table rental forms at <https://www.cidnmra.org>

Contact Dave at danvilletrainshow@gmail.com for more information

The Next CID Train Show Will Be at Lebanon, IN on January 25, 2026

See the CID NMRA website for more information: <http://www.cidnmra.org>