

## Waybill Subscriptions

The members of the NMRA approved a new organizational structure and a new organizational document in 2004. The Regulations, as the new organizational document is called, provide for a unified dues structure beginning September 1, 2005. With a few exceptions, this means that members of the NMRA will automatically be members of the Region and the Division where they live.

This also means that Region dues are a thing of the past. However, the NMRA recognizes that Regions have costs that must be recovered. As a result, the NMRA permits Regions to charge fees such as convention fees, publication subscription fees, etc.

While a printed version of the *Waybill* will continue to be available to those members who pay an annual subscription fee (formerly annual dues), in early 2005 the Region explored the feasibility of delivering the *Waybill* electronically. The primary advantage of electronic delivery is free delivery. There will be no subscription fee for those members who provide their e-mail addresses to the Region. Other advantages include more timely delivery after publication, the ability to use color and color photographs in the *Waybill* and the ability to embed links to railroad, model railroad and other websites in the *Waybill*.

The Region conducted a test of the electronic delivery concept in March, 2005 and decided to make electronic delivery available to members. The remainder of this article addresses the following questions about the electronic delivery process and about subscriptions to the printed version of the *Waybill*:

- How does electronic delivery work?
- How do I sign up?
- I don't have a computer. How can I take advantage of electronic delivery?
- I prefer a printed copy of the *Waybill*. How do I subscribe?
- I have paid Midwest Region dues for life or for a year or more. What happens now?
- How do I determine my current subscription status?

### Q. How does electronic delivery work?

A. The *Waybill* is published in the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter and is usually distributed in late February, May, August and November. When the *Waybill* is published, a *pdf* version will be made available on the Region website (<http://www.mwr-nmra.org/>). Electronic subscribers will receive an e-mail notifying them when an issue of the *Waybill* is available for viewing and/or downloading. A link to the Region website will be included in the e-mail.

### Q. How do I sign up?

A. Send an e-mail to [mwrsecy@mwr-nmra.org](mailto:mwrsecy@mwr-nmra.org) with your name, e-mail address, NMRA number and division. Use "Electronic Delivery Subscription" as the subject of your e-mail. Or, if you are reporting a change of e-mail address, use "E-Mail Address Change" as the subject of your e-mail.

Q. I don't have a computer. How can I take advantage of electronic delivery?

A. Although you may have to sign up in advance for a time period, most public libraries provide free access to the Internet. Library policies regarding charges for printing of Internet pages vary from library to library. Please check with your library to find out about its policies.

You have two choices for accessing the electronic version of the *Waybill* from a library:

- Periodically check the Region website for a new issue. The Internet address is: <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/>.
- If you regularly access the Internet through your library, sign up for a free web-based e-mail account. A Google search on "free e-mail" will list a large number of providers including Google's Gmail, Yahoo! Mail and MSN Hotmail. After you establish an e-mail account, subscribe to electronic delivery by e-mailing the information requested above (name, e-mail address, NMRA number and division) to Bert Lattan at [mwrsecy@mwr-nmra.org](mailto:mwrsecy@mwr-nmra.org).

Q. I prefer a printed copy of the *Waybill*. How do I subscribe?

A. Subscribe for one or two years when you join the NMRA or renew your membership. A one-year subscription is \$6.00; a two-year subscription is \$12.00. New and renewal membership forms are available from the membership coordinator for your Division or from the NMRA website at <http://www.nmra.org/>. The website offers both online and mail-in options.

Q. I have paid Midwest Region dues for life or for a year or more. What happens now?

A. If you have paid Midwest Region dues for life or for a year or more, you will continue to receive a printed version of the *Waybill* without paying a subscription fee until such time as your current dues term expires. However, if you have an e-mail address, you can help the Region reduce its operating costs by agreeing to forego a printed copy of the *Waybill*. You can opt out of printed delivery by sending an e-mail with the subject "Printed Delivery Opt Out" to Bert Lattan at [mwrsecy@mwr-nmra.org](mailto:mwrsecy@mwr-nmra.org). Please include your name, e-mail address, NMRA number and division in your message.

Q. How do I determine my current subscription status?

A. You can determine your current subscription status by referring to the first line of your address information on the last page of the printed *Waybill*. There are four possibilities:

- **Subscription Does Not Expire.** You are a Midwest Region Life Member. You will continue to receive a printed *Waybill* unless you opt out as described above.
- **Subscription Expires *Date*.** Your subscription expires on the stated date. Switch to electronic delivery or renew before that date to avoid missing an issue.
- **Subscription Expired *Date*.** Your subscription expired on the stated date. Subscribe to electronic delivery or renew now to avoid missing the next issue.
- **Sample Copy. Subscribe Today!** You have never subscribed. Subscribe to electronic or regular delivery now to avoid missing the next issue.