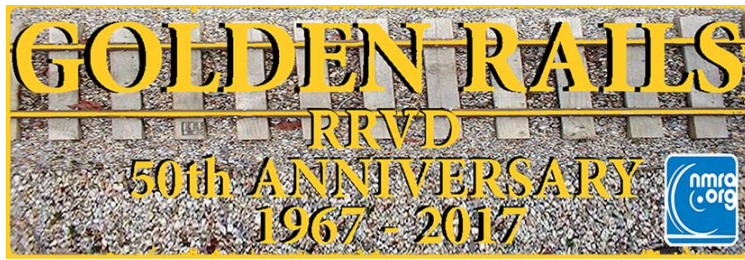


Rock River Valley Division



HOLIDAY INN ROCKFORD, IL
APRIL 28, 29 & 30, 2017



Welcome to RRVD – Golden Rails

The members of the Rock River Valley Division would like to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Division with you. We are hosting the 2017 Midwest Region Convention with layout tours featuring many great railroads in our Division, operating sessions on some fine layouts, numerous clinics - some yet to be confirmed - which will include some well-known clinicians, a silent auction (bring items to sell), a photo and model contest, a few great non-rail activities showcasing the Rockford area and a not-to-be missed banquet program by Randy Garnhart and Jerry Pyfer.

The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn located west of Interstate 90 and north of Business U.S. 20 (State St.) at 7550 East State St in Rockford, IL. The Holiday Inn is only 60 minutes from O'Hare airport. The hotel also has an indoor pool, Jacuzzi, fitness center and free Wi-Fi service.

The Holiday Inn has reserved a block of rooms and is offering a special convention room rate of \$99.95 (mention NMRA-RRVD). Reservations can be made by calling the Holiday Inn front desk at (815) 398-2200 or 1-800-315-2621. You may also reserve via the Internet at [National Model Railroad Association](#).

Clinics

We are lining up some very fine clinics this year. Several clinics will be offered twice. As we go to

press, the following clinics have been scheduled:

Cody Grivno (*Model Railroader* magazine)

- TBD

Randy Garnhart

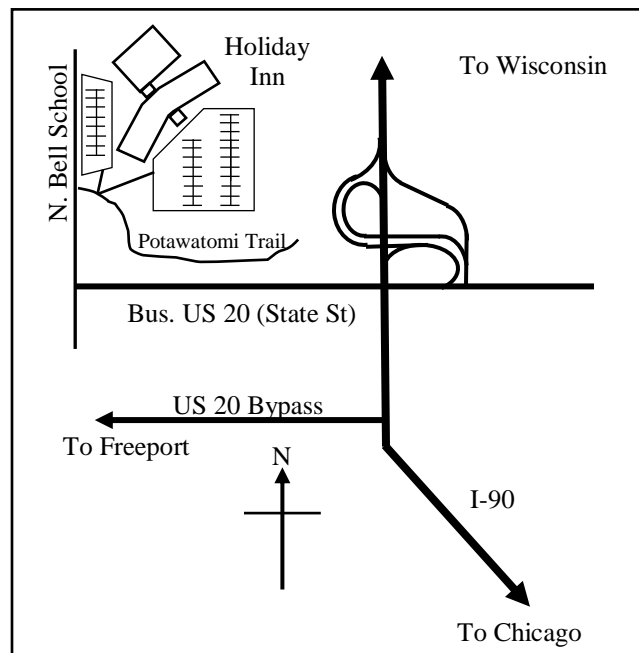
- How to Design your Model RR for Realistic Operation
- Realistic Operation of Your Model Railroad

Jerry Pyfer

- Chicago North Western – KD Line

McKeegan Curran (Nat'l Conv clinician)

- Teenagers: The Next Generation



Friday Night Operating Sessions

There will be three layouts open for Friday night operating sessions:

1. Toma, Onalaska & Western (TO&W); HO; Double decked; 2 staging yards, lots of industrial switching in 5 towns; Digitrax; 12 operators
2. Chicago & North Western (CN&W); West Chicago, IL to Clinton, IA; HO; double decked; 1950's; steam; 12 operators
3. Toledo, Peoria & Western (TP&W); HO; double decked, lower level is Peoria, IL, upper level is Effner, IN to Fort Madison IA; a lot switching and interchange with other railroads; 1960's; 15 operators

The operating sessions will be limited to the first 39 operators who register. Indicate your layout preference and the Registrar will make every attempt to get you to the one you want. A waiting list will be established for registrants who don't make the cut. You will be notified of your assignment when you check in at the Registration desk.

Layout Tours

We have layout tours planned for Saturday afternoon, and Sunday afternoon. There will be a number of layouts open for your enjoyment as we go to press. About half are fully scened. Most layouts are diesel; some are steam.

Convention Mug

All attendees will receive a commemorative RRVD - Golden Rails Convention Mug.

Non-Rail Activities

The Klehm Arboretum – provides a uniquely wonderful place to enjoy a beautiful natural landscape. With quiet space for contemplation, another for horticultural demonstration, and another designed for child's play; choose the places most intriguing to your personal interest. Klehm demonstrates standards of horticultural excellence through creative displays, collections, and educational programming. Klehm also offers a shuttle from which you can see everything in comfort.

Tinker Swiss Cottage – Robert Tinker's inspiration for the Cottage came during a tour of Europe in 1862, where he fell in love with the architecture of Switzerland. In 1865, Tinker began building his Swiss Cottage on a limestone bluff overlooking Kent Creek. He surrounded his Cottage with 27 acres of trees, vines, winding pathways, flowerbeds, and gardens. A Swiss inspired barn housed cows, chickens and horses. Tinker constructed a suspension bridge crossing Kent Creek, which linked the Cottage with the limestone mansion and estate grounds of his wife Mary Door Manny Tinker. In 1906, the railroad bought the remainder of Mary's estate. At the end of the suspension bridge, Tinker planted elaborate gardens, where passengers could stroll as they waited for the train.

Nicholas Conservatory & Gardens – Wander around inside and outside as you look at all the many different plants and flowers and great gardens; also visit the fish pond. From March to May you can find the Butterfly Exhibit.

Midway Village Museum – Come step back into Rockford's past. The main museum building holds a number of permanent exhibits reflecting Rockford's history and culture, including The Girls of Summer: Rockford Peaches of the AAGPBL. Stroll the grounds and tour the many Rockford area Victorian buildings which have been relocated to the museum.

Model/Photo Contest

Models will be judged in the Master and Novice classes. The Master class is for those modelers who have won a 1st place in the category at the regional level. The Novice class is for those who have not won a 1st place yet. The following categories will be judged: steam locomotives, diesel locomotives, traction, passenger cars, freight cars, cabooses, on-line structures, off-line structures, on-line displays and off-line displays.

The photo contest will include Model and Prototype in Black and White, Color Slide, and Color Print.

And don't forget the Bob Moskal Memorial Award for models and the Mick Grimsby award for best all-around N-scale model.

Auction and Banquet

This year we are planning an evening of super entertainment. Following the banquet buffet, Randy Garnhart and Jerry Pyfer have created a beautiful presentation centered on the 50th anniversary of our division using dual slide projectors and music. This program "must" be seen and heard! The program will be followed by the Awards presentations and the results of the silent auction. Don't forget to bring your own overstocked items for consignment.

Confirmation

Confirmation of Registration will only be mailed to those individuals whose registration materials are delivered to the Registrar by April 21, 2017.

Registration

Use the registration form on the next page or go to www.2017mwrconvention.com to download a form.

Registrar:

Don Brindle

815-874-6095

donbrindle@aol.com

Tentative Timetable

Friday, April 28, 2017

11am – 4pm	Hobo Grill at Rochelle Railroad Park
4pm - 10pm	Registration
7pm – 10pm	Clinics
7pm – 11pm	Operating Sessions
6:30pm – 10:30pm	Hospitality Suite
7pm – 9pm	Contest Entry (Model)*
8pm – 10pm	Auction Entry

*tentative

Saturday, April 29, 2017

7am – 10am	Registration
7:30am – noon	Hospitality Suite
8am – 12:30pm	Clinics
8am – 10am	Contest Entry (photo/model)
8am – 10am	Auction Entry
10am – 4pm	Non-Rail Events
1pm – 5pm	Layout Tours
5pm – 6pm	Attitude Adjustment
6pm – 9pm	Banquet
9pm - ????	Auction

Sunday, April 30, 2017

9am - 11am	MWR Board Meeting
10am – 5pm	Layout Tours

Hospitality Room

The Rockford Club Car will be open Friday night, providing snacks, soda and coffee. Stop by and visit with old friends and make new ones.

Hobo Grill

Friday, April 28th, 2017

11:00am - 4:00pm

Rochelle Railroad Park

The Rock River Valley Division will be hosting a free grill-out to all pre-registered guests. We will be offering brats, dogs, chips and drinks; you sit back and watch the trains go by. You may want to bring a folding chair since there is limited seating. The park includes a gift shop, parking, public restrooms, picnic area, and RR artifacts. A great way to kick off the Convention weekend!

To help us plan for food, please indicate on the registration form if you expect to attend.

Midwest Region NMRA 2017 Spring Convention

“RRVD – Golden Rails” Registration Form

April 28, 29 & 30, 2017

FARES^{##}

(Spouse of a member will qualify for the member price)

	<u>NMRA</u> <u>Member/Spouse</u>	<u>Non-NMRA</u> <u>Member/Spouse</u>
Full Fare (Includes Banquet) ^{##}	\$50/\$50	\$60/\$60
Convention Only (No Banquet) ^{##}	\$40/\$40	\$50/\$50
Banquet Only ^{##}	\$30/\$30	\$30/\$30

^{##}Registrations received after April 14, 2017 or at the door will be \$10 extra

Activities Registration

- Friday Night Operating Session (indicate your preference, i.e., 1, 2, 3):
(Not a “layout tour;” you are expected to operate)

TO&W _____ CN&W _____ TP&W _____

- I expect to attend the Hobo Grill lunch at the Rochelle RR Park: # attending: _____

Enter Desired Meal Choice in the “Meal” column: B = Buffet (chicken & pork), S = Special Diet

<u>Name</u> (PLEASE PRINT)	Circle One for each registrant			
	Full	Convention Only	Banquet Only	Meal B/S
NMRA Member: _____ Last name First name	\$50	\$40	\$30	
Member Spouse: _____ Last name First name	\$50	\$40	\$30	
Non-NMRA Member ^{**} : _____ Last name First name	\$60	\$50	\$30	

Add \$10 each for late registration: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

****Includes \$10 RailPass membership – must be eligible (either never been a member before OR haven’t been a member for 2 years or more; can join at RailPass rates **ONLY ONCE**)**

NMRA #: _____ Phone #: (____) _____

Street: _____ E-mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: “RRVD – Golden Rails”
c/o Don Brindle – Registrar
3159 Far Hill Rd
Rockford, IL 61109

Office Use Only

Am’t Rec’d: \$ _____

Check No.: _____

Op Session Status: _____

Make checks payable to: “Rock River Valley Division - NMRA” (No cash, please)

Additional registration forms available for download at www.2017mwrconvention.com.