

# Warrant



January 2012

## **President's Message: Greetings from the "Old Man"** *by Jim Brown, President RRA*

Once again the "Old Man" has blundered in the thank you and recognition area of his message.

I wish to extend my thanks to member Paul Wussow for his time and effort he put in on the layout at the depot. Also, for all the numerous items he brought down to the depot as donations to the club. Thank you Paul and it's like Roger says, "Paul's father's stuff rides again with items being used on the modular layout!"

Another thank you goes out to member Ray Dust for his recent donation to RRA. It consists of a Broadway Limited New York Central J 1 E Hudson 464 that has sound and operates on both DC or DCC. This is a " must see ". The other is a Proto 2000 series E8/9 diesel locomotive. It's another beauty. It is a Southern Pacific. Thank you much, Ray!

We have taken on another new member at RRA. Tony Rio, from Rhinelanders. Welcome aboard Tony!

Our open house was a success with the modular layout running great. Scenery and track work is coming along well. Remember the modular layout address is currently 123 S Brown Street, Rhinelanders, WI and open noon until 4 PM daily (except for Monday) as long as we have the time and energy this winter. It's the storefront of the Northwestern Hotel where folks say you find the finest lunch menu in Rhinelanders. The cafe gets five star ratings.

Tom Kolbek informed us that the owner of the storefront, Tim Biermirer, said we can have the space for the winter months, allowing us to go past January so more work can be done on the layout. Thank you Tim for your support of us railroad nuts!

This past month has brought in a lot of people to view what is going on. At this time I would like to wish all members of RRA and TLMRC a great and happy holiday season. Your support this past year has been wonderful!

On that note, we welcome the New Year in with our business meeting of RRA to be held at 123 S Brown St. Meeting time and date is, 7:00 PM, Wednesday, January 4th, 2012! Election time and whatever else takes place. Hope to see you there!

Take care, Jim Brown, President, RRA

## Module Observations at 123 S Brown Street

by R.G. Blocks



Tim Sheldon, RRA member, is building one of the four curved sections of the modular layout. Currently, there are six straight sections in the layout as configured and five of them are under construction. At least three more modules are being built offsite if my sources are right.

Tim is shown here to the left. Contemplation always precedes and follows any step. It's that artistic pause that says.. "I like it.." or the one that ends in, "Hmm a do over comes next."

We'll not interrupt. He's contemplating.

Outcomes are always interesting. There is no such thing as right or wrong. The answer however must be pleasing to the builder.

To the right of Tim, Mike Koltz built up the straight section with a neat house under construction with 2x6s in view. Then, Tom follows at the next curve as we travel counter clockwise around the current layout. Tom's just assembled a nice retaining wall and had a freshly poured lake.



Lower left we find Jim Brown with his high priced 'spectacles' on his forehead. He's working on power zones and turnout controls. His two straight modules follow Tom's curve and are looking quite well. Jim has a wealth of experience and serves as an information source to all participants. The very next module, after Jim's is that of Bob Lake. Here, we find what appears



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to be sandstone cliffs. Bob's module has an exit from the yard area started on Jim's module. Cool. Bob was detailing structures (below left) when I dropped by and took these photos on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Norman Breager assembled the straight section next to Bob's curve. It looks to be the most complete of all. But, that's just opinion.



I'm not sure about the next module. It's an un-scenic-ed (phonetic for track is laid; but the rest has a way to go) curved module leading to two straight module segments, setup as a terminal and industrial spurs under construction by Tom Kolbek as seen below.



The crop of modules and enthusiasm has grown nicely considering the idea of a modular layout was at its genesis stage last spring, and was planted in the summer. Must have been plenty of water falling on these leaves; harvest looks good. The unit was operating for the public during December.

One of the two mainline tracks is setup for DC and the other DCC. Thus, anything old and everything new can run at the same time. The sounds of DCC make everything a little bit better.

There is plenty of dispatch, tower and engineer work possible. Switching appears to be inherent in everyone's scheme of things. This should be good fun for guys seeking to become Chief Dispatchers one of the eleven NMRA Achievement Program elements. We shall see.

So far, I was told that many visitors walked into the room and nearly immediately exclaimed, "I had a train set. Wonder where it is?" Then, the next day some showed up and donated model train engines and cars or left a little donation in memory of perhaps a well spent youth.

## The Face of Christmas Cheer:

by R.G. Blocks

We were put here on earth for a reason. My version of that story always includes giving pleasure to others. It starts as a child. We learn to mimic our parents: they smile with pleasure.

We go to school and get praised when we do well. Then, later we have families and work to support the offspring. Bosses, customers, clients all need to be pleased. So too our spouse. We work to that end.

It is all about giving pleasure.

The little O gauge tinplate train-table, set up, under garlands, at toddler height by Allen and others fits the description of an attempt to please small children.

The box of candy on the train-table is in the same vein. It's simply pleasure in a different form. Sugar is condensed pleasure.

Life's little lessons are learned in a variety of ways. Perhaps, the location 123 S Brown was offered to attract folks, mothers, grandpas and kids downtown. The idea, perhaps had its inspiration in some commercial vein. However, that thought was ultimately to give pleasure.

There is a powerful corollary that runs parallel to giving pleasure. It's like a double track main. It runs in two directions. When you give pleasure; you're apt to receive it also.

Do a good deed and it shall be returned. Not always on our timetable of expectations; but at some undefined point perhaps when you least expect it.



Bob, Brendan and Tom together for a Christmas photo op. Perhaps, this simple shot will give family and friends pleasure just to see the smiling faces of three guys that have done well this season of thanks. Pleasure produces and reinforces friendship.

Each of you has brought joy to the kid in each of us who cheer on your work. Pleasure, after all is where you find it.

Have a pleasurable New Year !

## **Railroad Happenings: or semi local coming events..**

January 15, 2012 WISE Division Meet, Best Western Plus Midway Hotel, 1005 S. Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI

January 21-22, 2012 Arctic Run Train Show – Holiday Inn – Stevens Point, WI  
More info at: [www.trainweb.org/cwmr](http://www.trainweb.org/cwmr)

January 28, 2012 Tri State Rail Sale – La Crosse Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> & Pearl Streets, La Crosse, WI  
<http://www.nmra-scwd.org/Badgerland> or [www.4000foundation.com](http://www.4000foundation.com)

February 18 – 19, 2012 Mad City Model RR Show – Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI  
[www.nmra-scwd.org](http://www.nmra-scwd.org)

February 19, 2012 WISE Division Meet, Best Western Plus Midway Hotel, 1005 S. Moorland Rd, Brookfield, WI

March 3 - 4, 2012 High Wheeler Train Show, Palatine, IL info at  
[www.highwheelertrainshow.com](http://www.highwheelertrainshow.com)

March 9, 10, 11, 2012, Midwest Region Convention, Annual Meeting of Members,  
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield, Illinois. Discount Amtrak fares: host  
Illinois Valley Division.

March 11, 2012 Metro Model RR Club Show & Swap Meet, Circle B Recreation  
6261 Hwy 60, Cedarburg, WI info at [www.metrorrclub.org](http://www.metrorrclub.org)

March 18, 2012 WISE Division Meet, Best Western Plus Midway Hotel, 1005 S. Moorland Rd,  
Brookfield, WI

April 15, 2012 WISE Division Meet, Best Western Plus Midway Hotel, 1005 S. Moorland Rd,  
Brookfield, WI

April 28 – 29, 2012 Titledown Train Show, Shopko Hall, Green Bay, WI  
Info at [www.ttsqblc.com](http://www.ttsqblc.com)

May 5, 2012 NMRA Winnebago Division Spring Meet, Plymouth, WI

July 29 – August 4, 2012 it's the 77<sup>th</sup> National Model Railroad Convention, Grand Rapids, MI.  
The host club is found at [www.grmrhs.org](http://www.grmrhs.org) a 100% NMRA club. For info on the  
convention: [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org) Seventy fantastic layouts within one hour of the 12<sup>th</sup> best  
hotel in North America (Amway). Let's all go!

April 2013 Convention, Midwest Region, Marriot Indianapolis, IN (tentative).

## Harvey Radke at the Dells

*photos by Harvey Radke*

These photos were taken by Harvey Radke: at the Riverside and Great Northern Railway located at N115 County Road N, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965. If you'd like to get more info either call 608-254-6367 or try their website at <http://www.randgn.com/>.



The railroad is 15-inch gauge and runs a distance of about 3 miles.

The train runs of weekends from some as yet unspecified date in April until Memorial Day when daily service begins. Then, after Labor Day it runs on Saturday and Sunday until Halloween.

The railroad has been known to run on Thanksgiving weekend; however, it never runs

when inclement weather makes operations unsafe.

Past year fees were: \$12 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$8 for kids down to age 3 where they ride free. Active duty military and their families ride free.

The rail museum and parking is free.

They intend to preserve the history of the Sandley Light Railway Equipment Works, Inc. It began operations in 1940s, inspired by Elmer Sandley and followed on by his son



Norman. The first steam loco was 4001 a 4-6-4 and the first and only oil fired steam loco. All

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the rest have been coal. What we see is a coal fired 4-4-2 steamer.

Engine #128 a 4-4-2 was built in 1952 and #127 another of the same configuration, based upon the Chicago and Northwestern, Class D Atlantics.



Engine house, water tank and turntable help make railroading as we who need nostalgia like it.



Harvey has been a pal for many years. We both are members of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Racine and Western Union Junction Railroad Club of Sturtevant, WI. Both of us enjoy railroading in its many forms. Harvey's always had a good photographic eye. Saying goodbye to grandkids at the station with a camera captures their excitement. All photos also capture the photographer. In this case reality suggests he is every bit as excited as the kids. Agree?