



The Rock River Valley Division, RRVD, is a local division of the Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association, NMRA. The RRVD serves the NMRA members in areas of Green and Rock Counties of Wisconsin and Boone, Jo Davies, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties in Illinois. The RRVD holds monthly meets typically the first Sunday afternoon of each month, September through May, in Rockford at the Midway Museum Center. The meetings start at 1:00 PM. The meetings consist of various clinics on model railroading along with various model contest as well as door prizes for those in attendance. The RRVD also hosts an annual Model Train Show & Sale usually the last weekend in March. The dates for the fall meetings are:

**September 11, 2016- October 2, 2016**

**November 6, 2016- December 4, 2016**

Visit our website at: [rrvd-nmra.com](http://rrvd-nmra.com)

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## **From the Assistant Superintendent**

**by Ken Reinert**

Since Jay Kabitzke is on an extended motoring and camping vacation to Alaska this summer, I am temporarily filling in for him.

The upcoming season is proving to be one with changes.

Ray Dyreson in addition to heading up the annual bus trip to Trainfest in Milwaukee ([see sign-up form last page](#)) has agreed to accept

the responsibility of chairman for scheduling various clinicians for our meetings. We all want to thank Jim McQueeny for a job well done these past years.

The highlight for the coming year will be the Midwest NMRA Regional Convention which will be sponsored by the RRVD held right here in Rockford April 28, 29 and 30, 2017 at the Holiday Inn 7550 East State Street. Ron Johnson has agreed to chair the event working with RRVD members Don Brindle, James Devoe, Bruce Giersch, Al Laseke, and Clarence Welte. These gentlemen need all the help they can get to assist with the various meetings and activities throughout the convention. Please see them at the September meeting to offer your help.

To date the group has set up this three-day event to start with operating sessions on Friday evening. There will be three layouts open for operation. The operating sessions will be limited to the first 39 operators who register. Registration forms for the operating sessions and for the other various activities

will be published as soon as all events are finalized.

There will be layout tours planned for Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon. Half of the layouts are fully scened with layouts in both the steam eras as well as transition and modern eras.

All attendees will receive a RRVD-Golden Rails Convention Mug celebrating the 50-year anniversary of the Division.

Non-rail activities will be available for the non-railroad fans to visit Rockford's museums and horticultural venues. More details will follow when the registration forms are published.

There will be the usual model contests for various categories and skill levels. Photo contest for both prototype and model will be held. Details again to be provided along with the registration forms.

Not to be forgotten is a lineup of skilled clinicians who will make presentations to improve your modeling skills. Clinics will be held on Saturday.

All these activities will be followed by a banquet Saturday evening where both attendees and their non-modeling guests will be able to participate.

Something new this year will be a free Hobo Grill on Friday afternoon held at Rochelle Railroad Park. The division will be offering brats, dogs, chips and soft drinks to enjoy while you watch the trains roll by.

I have heard of other interesting activities that the convention committee is working on which will be brought to light when the registration forms and brochure are published.

The RRVD holds a board meeting at the First Presbyterian Church located at the Corner of Bell School Road and Spring Creek Road the third Wednesday of every month. NMRA members are welcome to attend. We always need more help. We meet in a room at the South corner of the building at 7:00 PM.

## Upcoming Contest Schedule

The following is a list of contests for the first part of the 2016 -2017 season. Remember that a Ten Dollar Gift Certificate to a regional hobby shop will be given to the winner of each contest as voted by each meet attendees.

**September:** Enclosed freight cars of any era. These can be boxcars, covered hopper cars, cattle cars and even tank cars. No open loads. If you can see the cargo, it is not eligible.

**October:** This is a special contest to create a diorama of a railroad scene. The diorama

should not be much bigger than 12" x 12". The purpose of the contest is to build scenes which will be displayed at local public libraries during November which is National Model Railroad Month. Jay places them in various libraries and moves them to different libraries throughout the month. It would be advantageous to accompany the display with a short description explaining what is being shown and possibly how it was built. We all want to bring others into the model railroading fold and now is your chance to do so.

**November:** Industrial buildings of all types from large to small shops. They do not have to be serviced by a railroad but can be non-rail serviced industry or shop.

**December:** There will be no contest since this is the time we have our annual garage sale.

## Upcoming Clinics

by Ray Dyreson

**September:** Will be "show and tell" by various members presenting what railroad activities they did on vacation this summer. If anyone has an interesting railroad subject from their summer activities, contact Ray Dyreson at [raydyr@aol.com](mailto:raydyr@aol.com) and he will be glad to fit you in. (editor)

**October:** There will be two presentations. The first will be by Ed Rosengren of the Illinois

Railway Museum who will update the group about what is happening at the museum including recent and future restoration, long range plans for equipment procurement and general campus development. The second presentation will be by Jim McQueeny who uses paper towels and paint to make scenery landforms.

**November:** Has two presentations. The first will be by Dennis Blunt on his card operating system used to run his model railroad. The second will be by Ken Mosny. Ken states that he is deciding which one of his to present so we will await his mystery presentation. As always I am sure it will be well done.

**December:** There will be no clinics since we will hold our annual garage sale where members sell items they no longer want. Ten percent of sale's proceeds will be shared with the Division.

## Friends We Lost

Over the past few months many of our friends in the model railroading community have died.

### Dale Burge:



Dale M. Burge, 53, of Belvidere, passed away peacefully June 21, 2016, at Swedish American Hospital, after a courageous battle with leukemia. He was born December 30, 1964, in Belvidere, IL to John and Doris (LaBuy) Burge. He graduated from Belvidere High School in 1983. He enjoyed model railroading and was a member of the National Model Railroad Association. He was employed at Northern Lights in Belvidere for 35 years. Survivors include his parents; one brother, Raymond of Rock Island, IL; three nieces, Emily, Logan and Abby; one nephew, Mason.

Model railroaders in the Rock River Valley Division's area have often visited the large Clinchfield HO scale railroad that Dale and his father built. We've seen it after various monthly Meets and during Regional conventions. Some of us have had the pleasure of operating Dale and John's Clinchfield. Dale also resurrected the

Division's portable layout, The Rockford Route.

### Robert Supinger:



Robert Supinger, 88, of Rockford passed away July 31st, 2016. Bob was born in Indianapolis, IN on May 20, 1928. He is survived by the love of his life, Sandy, having married her in July, 1969. They had 47 wonderful years together. Also survived by son Michael (Chris) Supinger of Maineville, OH; step-children, J.T. (Katey) Harvey of Frisco, TX, Kevin (Becky) Harvey of Rockford, Lynne (Wes) Johnson of Belvidere; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Bob was a veteran of WWII, serving as a T4 with the U.S. ARMY signal corps in the photographic unit of General Douglas MacArthur's General Headquarters. When his military service ended, he returned to Indianapolis and shortly thereafter attended Purdue University in Lafayette, IN graduating with a degree in mechanical engineering in

1952. Most of his professional career was spent with General Electric Flight Propulsion Division at Evendale, OH.

Bob also spent several years with Sundstrand in the development of the Space Shuttle APU. He worked for the Sperry Corporation in the design and development of aircraft hydraulic systems. He retired in 1993 from Siemen's Energy Automation in Jackson, MS, where he held the position of Chief Development Engineer. Bob was a member of the U.S. Power Squadron and held the rank of Commander of the Jackson, MS Division and the grade of Advanced Pilot. He was very active in teaching boating safety classes.

His hobbies were photography and model railroading and he was an active member of the National Model Railroad Association. And, Bob never met a Studebaker he didn't like. Bob enjoyed "running trains" with other members of the Rock River Valley Division, NMRA. Bob's Monon Railroad layout was open for several layout tours after RRVD Meets as well as for regional events.

## **Fred Wilson:**



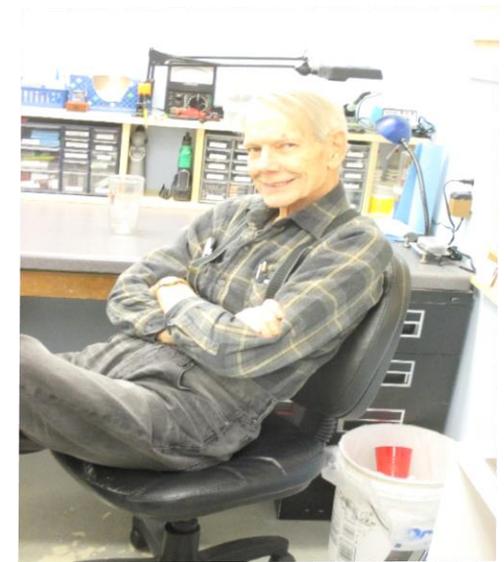
Frederick C. Wilson, 83, passed away peacefully Friday, April 8, 2016. He was born December 20, 1932, in Watseka, IL. Fred graduated from Manual High School, Peoria, IL, attended Bradley University and obtained his MBA from the University of Chicago. Fred was drafted in 1953, and served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He married M. Darlene "Susie" Mueller in 1953, in Bluffs, IL. He was a graduate of the Caterpillar machinist apprenticeship program and joined The Ingersoll Milling Machine Co. in 1960, retiring as President and CEO in 1999. He loved the big machines and chasing orders.

Fred was a live steam locomotive enthusiast, spending 22 years designing, machining and building a 7.5" gauge live steam locomotive. This is now on display at Wheels of Time Museum in Peoria, IL. Fred also had a nice layout that many of us had the pleasure of visiting. After retirement, he spent winters in Tucson, AZ, where he became active with his locomotives at Maricopa Live Steamers in Phoenix. He loved fishing in northern Wisconsin, especially trying to catch the muskie under the dock. His most favorite

times were family celebrations, when all his family was together.

Fred is survived by his wife; children, Del (Kim) Wilson of Fox Point, WI, Jill (Dale) Wilson of Pewaukee, WI, Virginia (Greg) Nordlof of Rockford, IL, and Karrie (Mark) Weinhardt of Des Moines, IA; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

## **Bill Kirchmeyer:**



Bill Kirchmeyer passed away Wednesday, July 6th. A wake was held at Fitzgerald Funeral Home in Rockford. It was attended by *about 250 people, including something like 75 model railroaders from Lacrosse, Milwaukee and Madison areas of Wisconsin as well as many Illinois locations.* A lunch at Franchesco's

Restaurante followed the wake. Afterward, we were invited to operate Bill's Chicago Champaign & Southern railroad, a fitting way to celebrate Bill's time with us.

*William Henry Kirchmeyer, Sr. was born November 8, 1941 in Waukegan, IL. He died July 6, 2016 in his home in Rockford. Bill was honorably discharged from the United States Army in 1966. Bill was a member of several Waukegan-area "garage" bands throughout the 1960's, most notably as Lead Guitar for The Outspoken Blues. His passions included guitar playing, listening to music of all kinds, LEGO construction, wood working, the raising and display of tropical fish, winning several ribbons and trophies as a member of the Northern Illinois Aquarists Association.*

Bill retired as a lieutenant of the Waukegan Fire Department in 1993, relocating to Lansing, Iowa with his wife, Barbara, where they remained until 2006, when they moved to their present home in Rockford.

Bill married Barbara Chapeta on February 10, 1973.

Later in life, Bill became an avid model railroader, constructing massive operational railroads requiring many additional "engineers" during frequent operating sessions. He also attended operating sessions

of other model railroaders across the United States... and he never met a flashlight he didn't like!

He is survived by three sons: William Henry Kirchmeyer, Jr.-Chicago, IL; Joseph Allen (Karen) Kirchmeyer-Alparetta, GA and their three children; and Allen Charles (Kassandra) Kirchmeyer-Largo, FL and Allen's six children. He is also survived by one brother and one sister

### ***Donald Eugene Bergman:***

*Don Bergman 83, of Rockford, died on February 12, 2016. Don was born July 6, 1932, in Beloit, WI. He married Liesara (Sara) Stebner on August 3, 1957, in Rockford. Don worked at Goldblatts Department Store, Barber Colman, and was a painting contractor and decorator for many years. Known for his cheerful approach to life, Don loved trains, fishing and everything Swedish and sharing these with friends and family (especially over a good cup of coffee). Many times Don opened his large layout to RRVD members. We were always greeted with a big smile and a hearty hello. Don is survived by wife, Sara; children, Steven (Jane) Bergman, Suzanne (Brad) Stoecklin, and Andrew (Vicky) Bergman; six grandchildren; and a great-grandson.*

### **Not Your Model Train Transformer**

Don Brindle sent along some pictures taken by one of his friends of a giant transformer being delivered to the nuclear power plant at Byron Illinois. Looks like they were taken on a model railroad layout

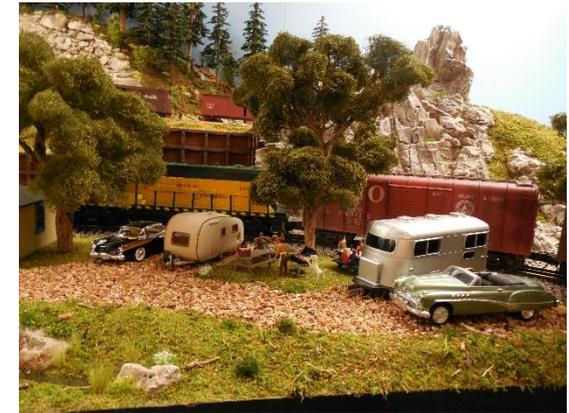




he has won at our meets. Below are pictures of the layout.



Pictured above are Al Laseke left and Bruce Giersch on the right.



Camping trailers with early 1950's Buick and Studebaker Hawk automobiles parked alongside. In the background a freight train goes by pulling a B&O wagon top boxcar.



## Layout Tour

As many of us know after each monthly meet, we usually follow up with a layout tour. One layout toured was that of Bruce Giersch. He is an O-Gauge modeler utilizing 3 rail equipment. His modeling skills are evident on his layout as well as the numerous contests



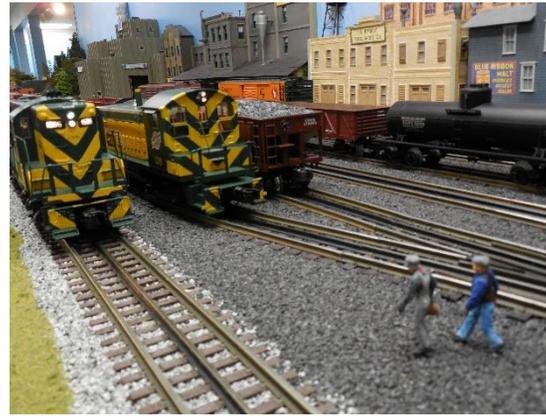
Engine house with workers and supplies.



Narrow gauge Shay on logging road.



Contest winning passenger station and adjacent town.



Railroad Yard with engineer and firemen going to work on a manifest freight idling on the mainline.



Trestle work over a busy highway.



Action on the mainline.

## Using Modeling Clay to Position Parts

By Ken Mosny

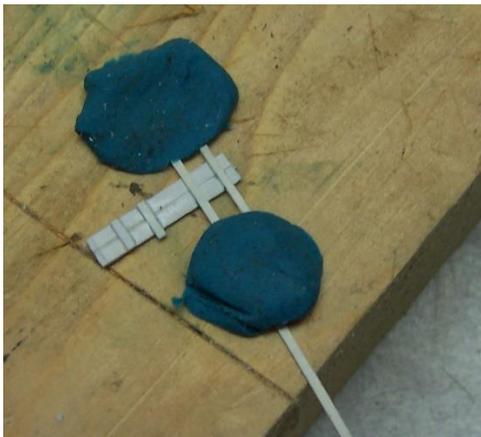
Holding odd shaped parts steady and gently while soldering, gluing or drilling can be a challenge at times. I have found ordinary modeling clay to be useful for this task. I keep a golf ball size lump of it handy on my workbench all the time.

Modeling clay has some useful properties for these tasks. It doesn't dry out, so the lump on my workbench is always ready to use. Modeling clay conforms easily to odd shapes and has essentially no "spring" so that when it is pushed into position, it stays there. It is slightly adhesive so it sticks to things holding them in position. When parts are glued with ACC they must be held absolutely still until the ACC starts to set. The water thin ACC that I usually use has no tack so it will not aid in holding the position of the parts. Any movement during the initial cure will ruin the bond. ACC is not usually instantly bonding when assembling plastic parts, so it is important to hold the parts motionless during the cure. The clay does this. Unlike clamping, it will not scratch or bend parts no matter

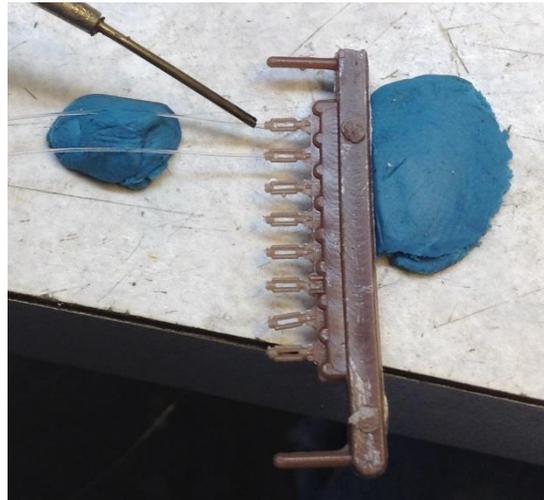
how soft they are. When soldering, it has a cooling effect so that it can be used to block heat transfer to prevent previously soldered parts from loosening while soldering new ones near them.

The main disadvantage is that the oily base of the clay will require careful cleaning so that paint will adhere. I thoroughly scrub all plastic models with hot water, Windex and a toothbrush and this seems sufficient to remove the residue for painting. Metal parts also are additionally washed in lacquer thinner. The oily base of the clay prevents it from being used on wood parts, however, since the wood absorbs the oil.

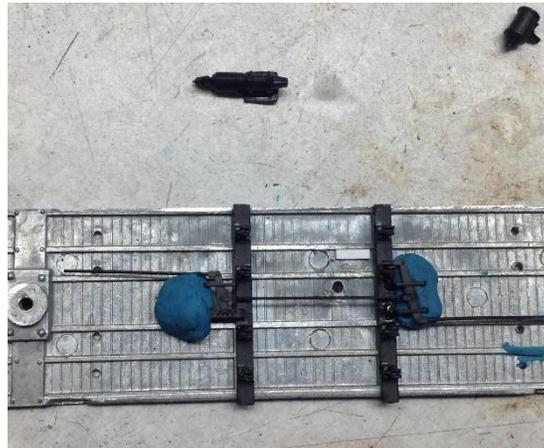
Here are some examples of how I have used clay to hold parts for difficult to hold applications.



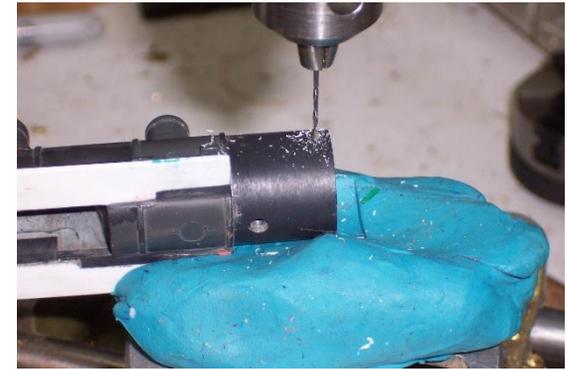
The clay is being used to position some styrene strip prior to gluing MEK.



Here, monofilament fishing line is being positioned into a turnbuckle so that water thin ACC can be applied. The clay holds the line straight in the hole of the turnbuckle so that the line isn't crooked.



The clay will hold this Delrin Accurail brake lever part in position while ACC sets.

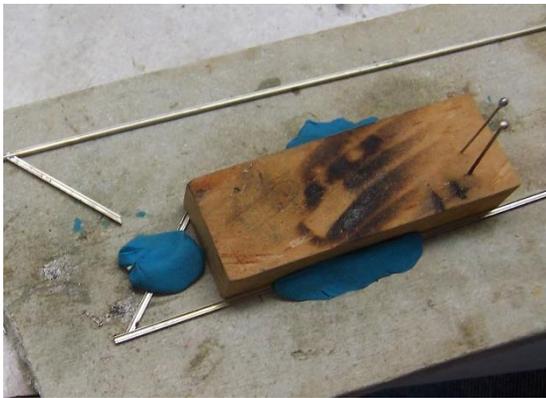


Nesting this boiler in a cradle of clay at an angle to drill hand rail stanchion holes makes holding position much easier.

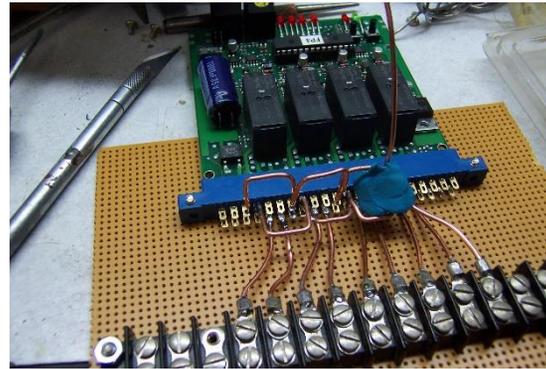


Holes are being drilled in this lost wax brass air pump casting for soldering the pipes. The clay itself is not sufficient to keep the part in position because the drilling force will push it out of alignment with the drill. By squeezing

the clay with your fingers, the part will be held steadily enough to be drilled.

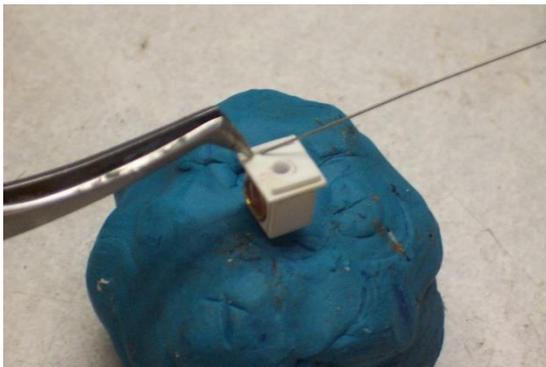


Parts can be held in place for soldering with clay. The gray soldering pad is a scrap of industrial ceramic insulation board.



Odd to hold electrical parts can be held for soldering. Here, clay is being used to hold heavy bent wires in position for soldering to the PC socket board socket board.

See attached page for Trainfest bus registration form and details.



A scratch-built oil headlight, which has a delicate peaked vented top, is being held upside down in a lump of clay to glue platform pieces underneath.

# ALL ABOARD FOR TRAINFEST 2016

## BUS TRIP SPONSORED BY THE ROCK RIVER VALLEY DIVISION - NMRA

On Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, RRVD is again chartering a bus to Trainfest in Milwaukee. Trainfest is the biggest model train show in the Midwest, if not the country. If you have never been to Trainfest and are interested in model trains, you need to go. If you went to Trainfest years ago but haven't gone in the last few years, you need to go again. Come join us on the RRVD bus. There will be fun, the trivia test, and friendship. Join us for a fascinating day of model railroading. Even though costs have gone up RRVD is holding prices at last year's rates. The bus ride and Trainfest admission is \$30 for non-NMRA members, \$25 for NMRA members and \$15 for those under 15 years of age. Our bus will depart Rockford from the Clock Tower east parking lot (off Lyford Road) promptly at 7:30 AM. Plan to be at the bus at 7:15 AM for boarding. For the early risers who want to gather for breakfast beforehand, you may join us at 6:00 AM at Denny's Restaurant on East State Street. We will be done in time to meet the bus at 7:15. For our more northerly riders we will make a pick-up stop in Beloit at 7:45 AM at the Menards south parking lot along Milwaukee Road. We should arrive at Trainfest about 9:00 AM, just as Trainfest opens. You won't have to wait in line either. You will exit the bus and walk right in through the exhibitor entrance. Look and shop until 3:00 PM when we will depart for home. Of course, reroute to Milwaukee you will have to endure the now infamous Trainfest Trivia Test but the rest of the trip will be enjoyable. With the price of gas, parking fee and admission, time waiting in line and the drudgery of driving you can't beat this deal. Only 56 seats are available so fill out the attached registration form and mail it in soon.

If you have any question about the trip, call Ray Dyreson at 815-494-0205 or [RayDyr@aol.com](mailto:RayDyr@aol.com)

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### RRVD TRAINFEST 2016 BUS TRIP REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check here  for Beloit Depart/Return

No. of non-NMRA member seats \_\_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No. of NMRA member seats \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25.00 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ NMRA # \_\_\_\_\_

No. of youth tickets (14 & under) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to  
RRVD

Mail this form with  
payment to Ray Dyreson  
PO Box 307 Winnebago IL  
61088