

# the SEMAPHORE

VOLUME 16

NO. 4

## DECEMBER MEETING

December 11, 1988, 1:30 p.m.  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Arlington Heights, Illinois

**W**E WILL BEGIN OUR program with a presentation on Bachmann's new "SPECTRUM" line of locomotives by Dick Averill, the local Bachmann representative. He will explain the rationale for developing this new modelers line which is quite different from their standard toy line. Dick will also inform us of what other developments are in the works and will have some of the **SPECTRUM** locomotives on display.

This will be followed by our annual **AUCTION**. Therefore bring your excess model railroad inventory and help yourself to some extra cash and at the same time help the Division. The Division realizes a 10% profit on each sale at the auction. This will also be a chance for you to buy yourself a bargain Christmas present.

Finally, after the auction, we will have a 45 minute **FUN MODEL RAILROAD TOUR** of the "Unlikely & Improbable Railroad" through the use of an NMRA Tape/Slide program. This period model railroad, built by Fred "Phread" Henderson has lots of tongue-in-cheek humor.



### Holiday Greetings to All

The officers and directors of the Fox Valley Division wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your participation in the meetings and events of our division. We take this opportunity to wish you and yours a happy holiday and a prosperous and healthy new year.

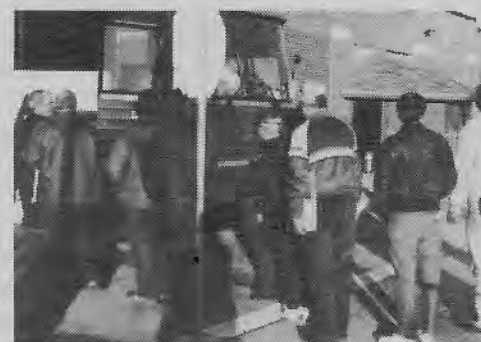
## THE FOX GOES TO WISCONSIN

It was a beautiful morning, Sunday, November 13th. A group of 35 members of the Division met at Arlington Park. They were headed to the Wisconsin State Fair Park for Trainfest '88. We all got comfortable in a very nice bus and at 8:30 we were off.

There was much to see. The layout displays were impressive. There were numerous hobby shops and manufacturers and other displays of rail-roadania. The departure time of 3:30 came rather fast. We boarded the bus and left on time. We arrived at 5:10 in the evening.



One of the many Layouts on display.



Heading Home . . .

Photos courtesy Harold Dody



## SHARE YOUR HOBBY WITH OTHERS . . .



The following proposed standards have been developed by the modular railroad committee members and are presented to the Fox Valley Division in an effort to reestablish the Fox Valley Railroad as a modular railroad for display and educational purposes as well as for the enjoyment of the participating members. These standards for the most part comply with proposed standards presented in the February 1988 NMRA Bulletin. Minor deviations \* from the standards have been made in several instances in order to clarify them for our specific requirements.

The proposed standards are to be published in the the December 1988 Semaphore for review and comment by the Division membership. Following review of the comments by the committee and Board of Directors the resulting standards will put up for adoption at the general membership meeting in January 1988.

#### FOX VALLEY RAILROAD STANDARDS (Proposed)

SCALE HO (TWO MAINLINES REQUIRED)  
HEIGHT FROM FLOOR TO RAILHEAD - 40"  
HAND LAID OR COMMERCIAL RAIL CODE - 100  
TRACK CLEARANCES (Horizontal -  $1 \frac{1}{32}$ " ) (Vertical 3")  
INTERFACE TRACK CENTERLINES FROM MODULE FRONT (Track 1. 5". Track 2. 7")  
TRACK SETBACK FROM END OF MODULE -  $4 \frac{1}{2}$ "  
CENTERLINE ON CURVE -  $2 \frac{1}{2}$ "  
TRACK CENTERLINES FOR PARALLEL TRACKS - 2"  
MINIMUM PARALLEL TANGENT TRACK LENGTH - 3"  
MAXIMUM MAINLINE GRADE - 3% (Must return to 40" at module/modules end) \*  
MINIMUM MAINLINE TURNOUT - #6  
MINIMUM MAINLINE RADIUS - 32"

#### RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

1. Modular width 24" min., 36" max.
2. All trackage behind mainlines should be insulated from mainlines.
3. All trackage behind mainlines shall have it own separate power source \* or a DPDT switch to isolate it from mains.
4. Maximum mainline grade shall be 3% but, it must return to 0 elevation at both ends of module/modules. It should be noted that a grade may restrict train length and require multiple unit operation.
5. If uncoupler magnets are used on mainline they \* shall be the electro-magnet type. Permanent magnets shall NOT be used on mainlines.
6. All trackage behind mainlines are not covered by these standards and are left to the discretion of the individual modeler or group, with the exception S-7 Standards pertaining to mainline clearances.
7. If skyboards are used, recommended range is 8" to 18" high; scenery dividers are optional.
8. Recommended roadbed may be cork, wood, or homosote.
9. Legs shall be a minimum of 2" x 2" wood construction with either 1/4 or 5/16" bolts for adjustment of 1" plus or minus: Legs can be attached by way of slip in boxes, bolts, hinges, or cleated. Commercial steel legs may also be used.
10. Construction of module should be 1" x 4" frames with either 1/2" plywood or L - girder top.
11. Forward extension modules, i.e., those protruding toward the public viewing area rather than inward will mark a front edge of module reference point at the point at which the front edge would be located if it were not extended outward. This is the reference for the center of the mainlines \* at either end of the module/modules.

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10. Construction of module should be 1" x 4" frames with either 1/2" plywood or L - girder top.
11. Forward extension modules, i.e., those protruding toward the public viewing area rather than inward will mark a front edge of module reference point at the point at which the front edge would be located if it were not extended outward. This is the reference for the center of the mainlines \* at either end of the module/modules.

#### ELECTRICAL STANDARDS

- A. Track power is carried under the modules using 18 ga Radio Shack Zip Cord.
- B. Track feedlines shall be firmly attached to each module and shall terminate at each end in a terminal block. Interconnect lines to track

shall be 20 ga. Terminal blocks will have a connection to rail and connection to adjacent modules \* using Radio Shack #274-201 and #274-202 two pin clinch - Jones plugs. These connectors will have the wide pin (pin one) connected to the outside rail terminal and the narrow pin (pin two) connected to the inside rail terminal.

- C. Track power connected shall be located as follows: The female connector shall be located at the left interface (from public viewing side) the male connector is at the right interface. The connectors are wired to terminal strips using a 18" length of 18 ga. two conductor stranded wire. Color coding is as follows outside mainline (red), inside mainline (yellow). Mainlines are counted from outside viewing edge. All electrical connections shall be soldered and taped or otherwise insulated. No sections of mainlines or mainline passing track shall depend on power fed through a bridge track.
- D. Track Gaps Insulating material shall be used to fill rail gaps. No air gaps are allowed. Crossovers between mainlines and tracks leading from mainlines to other trackage on module shall have both rails gapped (insulated). All tracks gapped for block control shall have both rails gapped (insulated).
- E. Power Electrical standards S-9 shall be observed.  
NOTE: The use of 110 volt power is not recommended as this could bring us into local electrical code violations and result in shutdown of entire display.
- F. Powering of local tracks, switch machines, building lights, etc. is the responsibility of the individual module builder and should be separate from circuits which interface with other modules in a layout.
- G. Modular layouts may be easily divided into control blocks for multitrain operation. Blocks will normally be used to control trains on your own module or group of modules. To insert a block break, place insulated rail joiners at one end of each bridge track and unplug the connectors at each end of the break.

Block control of mainlines must be approved by all module participants.

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FIRST CLASS POSTAGE PAID  
TIMED DELIVERY



Holiday Greetings to All

SEMAPHORE  
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### SCHEDULE

#### December 11

**Bachmann's SPECTRUM Locomotives**  
by Dick Averill  
of the Bachmann Company

#### AUCTION

**FUN MODEL RAILROAD TOUR**  
from NMRA Tape/Slide Program

#### January 15

#### TROLLEYS

by Don MacCorquodale  
of the Fox Valley Trolley Museum

#### SCENERY CLINIC

from NMRA Tape/Slide Program  
**MODULAR RAILROAD REPORT**

by The Committee

#### February 19

Glenview Layout Tour  
**"HO TWICE & HALF"**  
at Stan Roy and Jim Goettsche Layouts

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