



the SEMAPHORE

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January Meeting

The January meeting will begin with a clinic presented by Tom Hoffman. The subject will be "Operations". Tom has studied various types of operations and is conversant in many forms of operation. The contest will be Second Generation Diesel. The contest will be followed by a video.

Smilepost '93

AND NOW A WORD FROM THE LAYOUT TOUR CHAIRMAN...

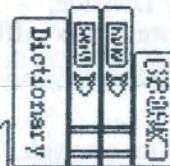
HELP!!!

Lots of you have agreed to hold an open house for SMILEPOST '93 this year. Many thanks. But several of our premier layouts cannot be open due to prior commitments! So, if you haven't been asked...would you consider holding an open house this year? We're really interested in getting some new layouts in our tour and anyone is welcome...no matter what the stage of completion your layout is in.

REASONS FOR HOLDING AN OPEN HOUSE:

- ① It's fun.
- ② It gives you the impetus to finish all those little projects (detailing scenery, setting out buildings, laying the main line, building the benchwork) that you have been putting off.
- ③ It gives one the excuses needed to work on the layout. ("I can't paint the bedroom now—I've got to get ready for the open house!")
- ④ It gets the family involved. ("Shaddup and sprinkle that ground foam!")
- ⑤ It gives one a chance to practice being modest and unassuming. ("Yup — completely scratchbuilt, except for the truck springs...")
- ⑥ See #1 above.

So if you have a layout that you'd like to show off, give me a call.. With layout tours, it's definitely the more the



For Your Information

Division Meeting
Sunday, January 17, 1993
1:30 p.m.

January Contest
2nd Generation Diesel

February Contest
Maintenance of Way Cars

December Contest Winners
1st—Don Robinson — 2nd—Dave Frost

merrier. We are planning on staggering the tours over three days, so that everyone can see some other layouts as well as being open themselves.

Chas. H. Hague
Layout Tour Chairman
(708) 297-2541

Ways And Means

This is a personal invitation to you as a Fox Valley Division member, NMRA member, and especially as a model railroad enthusiast, to participate and lend a very much needed hand in helping to make the 15th Annual High Wheeler '93 (March 6-7) the largest and best attended in our history.

We (the committee) need you at the January 16th Division meeting at the Gary Morava Center to help establish a complete advertising saturation campaign of the Fox Valley Division area. If you can't come but can help, please call Ray Petterson (High Wheeler Trainmaster) at (708) 259-3040 evenings and weekends or (708) 255-8483 weekdays at work.

Why do we need you? (1st) Harper College has doubled our rent. We can overcome this deficit by doubling our attendance from 4,000 to 8,000. (2nd) This is the best format for you to help your NMRA, Region, Division and for you to help promote your hobby to future model railroaders young and old, and to meet other model railroaders in establishing new friendships. (3rd) We need you because our Fox Valley Division officers cannot continue or survive without your help. PLEASE JOIN US IN THE FUN!

New this year at the High Wheeler will be a project railroad. A few members, Palatine Hobby, Ltd. and Walthers will build a 7 by 3 foot, N gauge railroad complete with electric, equipment, power and scenery on Sat. and Sun., March 6 and 7, 1993. This railroad will be raffled off between now and the High Wheeler show. Winner need not be present. Raffle tickets will available for a donation of \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Remember! All materials are donated by Palatine Hobby, Ltd. and Walthers Cornerstone Series. All proceeds go to the Fox Valley Division.

NOTICE: We need you to help promote this raffle by selling chances.

Also this year the Chicagoland Retail Hobby Dealers Assn. is assisting us in advertising High Wheeler '93. They will advertise on a flyer with our poster on one side. This flyer will be mailed to 60,000 homes in the northwest suburbs. They will also provide a professional video of High Wheeler '93 as a promotional tape for use by interested parties.

We will also continue our clinics and video showings and the contests. If you are interested in helping with any of the above areas or assist at the door, contact the following members.

At The Door.....Rich Boettcher 815-653-3146 home
On The Floor.....Ray Pettersen 708-259-3040 home
Sincerest thanks for your help!

Happy Railroading

Ray Pettersen

Superintendent's Report

I hope that everyone has had a very happy holiday season and that you all are ready for an exciting new year with model railroading. This year brings many challenges to the Fox Valley Division. In March we will have our "High Wheeler" show at Harper College. We will be investing much more money into advertising in hopes of overcoming the ever-increasing costs of putting on the show. Over the first weekend in May we will be having the first regional convention to be sponsored by our division since 1985. Both events are proceeding on schedule and should be successful if we get cooperation from everyone in the division.

Of equal concern to me is the upcoming trainmaster elections in April. The Trainmasters are the backbone of the division board as they are the ones responsible for coordinating the activities of the division. The affairs of even a relatively small organization such as the Fox Valley Division are far too great for a few people to handle. It is important that everyone take his or her turn in running the division. This election is of particular importance as we also must face the following year's election where the four top officers are up for election with only one eligible to return. I will be leaving office to concentrate on other parts of my

life that I have been forced to neglect in order to run the division. I would like to see a smooth transition to a team which will continue to work for the best interests of all 350 members of our division.

To affect this transition, the board has authorized a study of our division, of its needs, and the goals that should be addressed for our future. Should we continue with our current format of Sunday meetings? Other divisions meet during the week and have had some success with this structure. Should we press for more combined division meets? North Shore & Western Division faces many similar problems. Should we consider a merger? Maybe the only function of our division should be to sponsor "High Wheeler" or maybe we should meet bi-monthly. If no one steps forward to work on the board as Trainmaster it may be in the best interests of the division to dissolve until such time as we have sufficient interest to run the division. What are the answers to these questions? I honestly don't know, but I know that they must be answered if our organization is to survive in the future. I will keep you informed of the progress of the evaluation committee's work as it progresses and hopefully gives us answers to these problems.

Tom

the Semaphore
Editor: Jerry Hoffman

The Semaphore is a monthly Newsletter published by the Fox Valley Division of the Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) and is used to communicate information and activities to the members of the Division. Direct all comments and questions to: Semaphore Editor, P.O. Box 1535, Arlington Heights, IL 60006-1535.

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