



the Semaphore

May 1994

Volume 21, Number 8

MAY 15th PROGRAM 1:00 P.M.

On Sunday, May 15, we will meet at Palatine Hobby for a trip to The Lake County Model Railroad Club in Wauconda, Illinois. The bus will leave at 1:00 p.m. See Palatine Hobby map below.

This layout is a multi-operational design with approximately six scale miles of mainline trackage. New features are a redesigned Narrow Gauge branchline, a Steam Facility, redesigned Main Yard and Hidden Storage/Interchange Yard. The layout is fully scenicked with some areas undergoing re-scenicking.

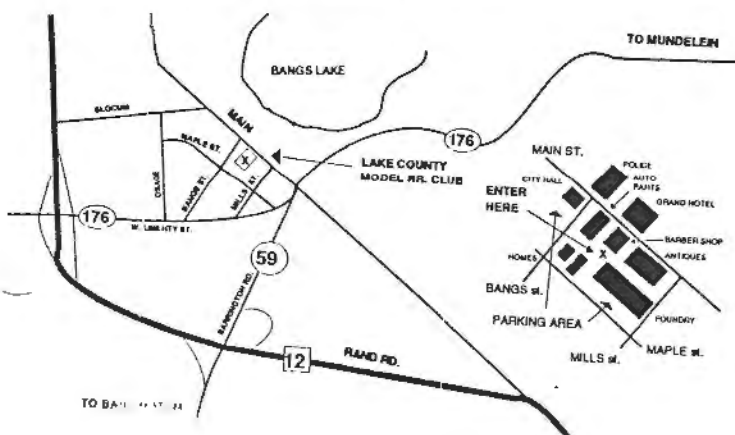
Following the presentation we will stop for food on the return trip.

For those meeting the bus in Wauconda the address is 107 S. Main, the entrance and parking is in the rear. See the map below for specifics.

PALATINE HOBBY MAP



LAKE COUNTY RAILROAD CLUB MAP



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Well it's finally come, The moment I've been both dreading and looking forward to for four years. Tonight I will officially hand over the reigns of the Fox Valley Division to Ray Pettersen and his excellent team. My team will step aside and allow others to direct the fortunes of the NMRA in Northern Illinois.

We have accomplished a great deal in the past four years. We had our first convention in many years and while it was not the success we had hoped it would be it was a creditable job and most of the people who attended it went home satisfied. We continued the tradition of High Wheeler and have developed it into a first class show with more exhibitors than we have room for and a consistent improvement in our financial fortunes. We offered the our members many programs including the tours of the Wisconsin and Calumet at Janesville, the Christmas El Ride, the trip to the Illinois Live Steamers and many other events at our monthly meetings.

I'm sorry to say that as I leave many of those who started the trip with us did not make it to the finish. I will always cherish the friendships I had with Bert Ahrensfield, Bob Moskal, and others who have left us. I miss the comadare of Dave Hamilton and others who have moved out of the division. On the other hand I am glad that my position allowed me to meet and enjoy the friendship of so many members who make up our hobby. I have always said that model railroaders were the greatest people in the world and I see nothing to change that evaluation.

As I leave I cannot allow my fellow officers to go without a very special word of thanks. Dave Flebbe has been a valued friend and a trusted advisor throughout the past four years. Irv Lange has quietly held the division together with his advice and willingness to take on tough jobs. Thanks to Rich Sweet who stepped into Dave Hamilton's shoes and now deservedly will assume the position of treasurer after election in his own right. Thank you to Frank Oldfield for so many great contests and his humor and for making sure that I never had to finish up any leftover munchkins after the board meetings, to Rich Boettcher for all his work on High Wheeler, to Art Roth for all his help and for a terrific program this year. Thanks to Scott Hicks for a great job with membership promotion and to Erich Russ for his coordinating our relationships with the hobby industry and keeping the roster, and Bob Carney help with the Fox Valley Railroad making it a going

Chore

Chore: An odd job; A boring or tiresome job. That's the dictionary definition.

My thesaurus suggested the words: assignment, errand, job, responsibility, and task. Those didn't sound too bad, but it went on to burden, inconvenience, nuisance, strain, and trouble.

Then I looked up the word enjoyment: To take pleasure or delight in, be pleased by; the pleasure or satisfaction given by what is enjoyed.

We as leaders of this organization must work very hard toward knowing the difference between chore and enjoyment. When the meetings and the programs become a responsibility, or just another task we are doing something wrong. If the High Wheeler program becomes a chore, it's time to shut the doors and go home. If we're doing it to make money it's time to let the people in free.

At the ticket table an elderly couple stepped up to pay to get in the train show. "Two seniors please." said the man.

"I believe you're old enough, but I'm not sure of your lady friend." said the ticket agent. "She may have to show us some I.D." She blushed a little, and he put on a big grin.

A man asked who he was supposed to give his money to. Dan Horn put on a big Cheshire Cat ear to ear grin and said "I'll be glad to take your money. I like taking money." The man smiled back. "The show is worth every cent. Trust me."

At the loading dock Steve Martinak and his crew were loading and unloading cars, trucks and vans. As the guys were unloading a vehicle an exhibitor would say thanks for the help." The reply was usually the same. "No problem. That's what we're here for."

There's nothing wrong with working hard toward a goal, but if it becomes a chore and we don't enjoy putting on the show or other programs the organization will suffer.

I enjoy the High Wheeler train show. I can't wait to start working on High Wheeler 1995. What about you.

I want to thank everyone involved in the High Wheeler program. There were too many people to thank everyone by name, but I would like to thank Steve Martinak for the improvements at the loading dock, and the people with the smiling faces at the ticket tables.

Thank you.

Richard the Lion Hearted

NMRA. By the time I leave the office of Publications Trainmaster I hope to be giving you a newsletter that will present works of your fellow modelers. Send your articles, modeling hints, drawings or black and white photographs to me.

Jerry Hoffman
Semaphore Editor
4848 W. Strong St.
Chicago, IL 60630

LIBRARY DISPLAYS

Art Roth has received letters of thanks from the Public Libraries of Arlington Heights and Palatine for the Model Railroading Window Displays he helped create. Thanks to Art and all those who supplied the articles for display. You are to be commended for your advancement of the hobby

Historical Societies Part of a Continuing Listing

Chesapeake & Ohio

Annual Dues: \$19.00 / \$38.00 sust.
C&O Historical Society
PO Box 79
Clifton Forge, VA 24422
1-800-453-COHS

Chicago Burlington & Quincy

Annual Dues: \$17.50 / \$35.00 sust.
Burlington Route Historical Society
PO Box 456
LaGrange, IL 60525

Chicago & Eastern Illinois

Annual Dues: \$15.00 / \$25.00 sust.
C&EIR Historical Society
PO Box 606
Crestwood, IL 60445-0606

Chicago & North Western

Annual Dues: \$15.50 / \$27.50 overseas
C&NW Historical Society
Lou Hamilton
PO Box 1436
Elmhurst, IL 60126-9998

Colorado Midland

Subscription: \$15.00
Colorado Midland Quarterly
1731 N. Cooper
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Conrail

Annual Dues \$20.00
Matt McGill
Rt. 1
5111 Grant
Riverdale, MI 48877-9705

FROM THE EDITOR...

Thanks to all who supplied the articles for the *Semaphore*. This newsletter is not reserved for the officers and directors of the Fox Valley Division. It is also open to contributions from all the members of the

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Jerry HoffmanPublications
312-725-9159

Contest Winners

The winners of the April Contest for Weathered Freight Cars are as follows:

First Place
Gerry Souter

Second Place
Frank Cole

Third Place
Roger Jones

Congratulations gentlemen! Thanks to all who participated in the contest. Join us for the next contest which will be announced in *the Semaphore*.

the Semaphore is published monthly by and for the members of the Fox Valley Division, Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association. The September and April issues are mailed to all members. There are no issues for June, July and August. All other issues are mailed to members who attended at least one meeting the previous year or requested copies by mail. Articles pertaining to the model railroading hobby are solicited subject to editorial review. Address all inquiries and manuscripts to: Fox Valley Division, Publications Trainmaster, P.O. Box 1535, Arlington Heights, IL 60006-1535.