



# the Semaphore

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MWR • N.M.R.A.

December 1995

Volume 23, Number 4

## Happy Holidays to All!

**DECEMBER 17th Auction**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**Morava Center**  
**110 Camp McDonald Road**  
**Prospect Heights, Illinois**

### *Superintendent's Siding Remarks*

All ready the month of December is upon us and the holidays are rapidly approaching. Let me take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of our members the Merriest Christmas and the Happiest of New Years. May each of you also have a healthy and prosperous 1996. And may God bless all your endeavors.

The month of December brings to the forefront the giving of gifts. And railroading in the form of toy trains and model railroads leap to everyone's notice. All children love to watch trains run around and around. It seems that the motion intrigues not only the kids but the adults. How long does Dad or grampa play with the train before allowing the children to touch it. I know my grandson at 3 and a half comes over to grampa's house and promptly drags me down the basement, turns on the lights, plugs in the power pack, turns it on and runs the trauns. What better way to enjoy a few moments with your loved ones. Model railroading is for the family.

You, as a member of the Fox Valley Division have the opportunity to promote your hobby to all those who only have a parting interest. This is why the Fox Valley Division runs the HIGH WHEELER every year at Harper College. Once again 1996 brings this event to fruition. And we need your help to make this coming event one of our best. We have a new co-trainmaster this year in the person of Tim Laren handling the exhibitors, and once again Rich Boettcher will be handling the mechanics and operation of the main event. Shall we all join in the fun on March 2 and 3, 1996? Come on out and participate. We need you.

A special thanks goes to Donn Branstrator, program trainmaster, for his outstanding job in hosting the South Shore train ride to Michigan City, and the delicious box

lunch, and the tour of the yards and works. These events are very enlightening to model railroaders because they give a deep insight into exactly how railroads operate. Don't miss these special trips that your Division runs every year. Unfortunately the Christmas El Ride has been cancelled because of lack of participation. We needed 90 people and only came up with half that. This trip was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone two years ago.

The December 17 meeting will have our auction and slide contest. If you're looking for great buys in equipment this is the meeting to attend at the Morava Center on Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

May the rails lead you to fun and enjoyment.

*Raymond L. Pettersen, Jr.*



- Dec. 16 — 5:00 p.m. — ~~Christmas El Ride~~
- Dec. 17 — 1:30 p.m. — General Membership Meeting  
Morava Center, Prospect Heights  
Annual Auction  
*Contest: Slides*
- Jan. 3 — 7:00 p.m. — Board of Directors Meeting  
Palatine Hobby
- Jan. 21 — 1:30 p.m. — General Membership Meeting  
Morava Center, Prospect Heights  
Scenery Clinic with Dave Methlic  
*Contest: Off-Line Structures*

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## CONTEST CORNER

### DECEMBER CONTEST

### *Slides*

*Bring your 10\* favorite slides  
to the December meeting.*

*Your name could be here as a  
winner in the January Semaphore.*

*Watch this space for future contests.*

*To contact your Achievement Trainmaster  
Erich Russ, you may talk to him at the  
meetings or write him at our P.O. Box  
or his e-mail address  
ebruss@aol.com*

*\* or less*

*the Semaphore is published monthly by and for the members of the Fox Valley Division, Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association. There are no issues for June, July and August. Articles and drawings 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.*