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Fox Valley Division
Midwest Region - NMRA
P.O. Box 1535
Arlington Heights, IL 60005-1535

The Semaphore

Fox Valley Division • MWR • NMRA

October's Clinic

At the October meeting we will have a presentation titled "Traffic Flow Analysis" which reviews some problems common to running trains on our layouts. Several concepts will be discussed and some guidelines for managing the number and movement of cars will be presented. This presentation was given by the original presenter at the PSX 2004 National Convention this summer in Seattle and is being presented to our division, with the author's permission, by our Paymaster, Tim Kleimeyer.

National Convention Report

-Tim Kleimeyer
Paymaster

[Editor's Note: Due to a publishing problem, the following part of last month's article "disappeared"]

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday saw layout tours for me. I visited about 20 model railroads in basements, backyards, spare rooms, and dedicated buildings. Some were complete with lots of scenery while others ranged from bare plywood to anywhere in between. Even the bare plywood layouts had their learning points as the construction methods and wiring was more visible than if it had been covered with scenery. One of the layouts featured a method of raising a magnet up under the tracks when you needed to uncouple and then the magnet drops back down to prevent unwanted uncoupling when trains were passing slowly over the uncoupler spot. I have pictures of the device and want to build and test it

before saying any more.

When I was not touring layouts, I attended clinics. The clinics ranged from basic skills like bench work and wiring, to more esoteric topics like "Traffic Flow Analysis" which was presented by a government scientist from the Hanford research center in Washington. Steve Prevette is also an accomplished modeler, based on the pictures of his layout in the presentation. Some clinics are presented by manufacturers like Badger and Bragdon but who else is better suited to explain how their products work than the guys who make them.

Scratch building and kit bashing were the topics of several different clinics. Another government scientist, this one from NASA, gave a clinic on tools and techniques used in modeling and recommends Sally's Beauty Supply as a must for modeling supplies. I've been using regular nail files for minor sanding for a couple of years but she showed some larger nail files that look to me like "must haves" to use in building train cars and buildings.

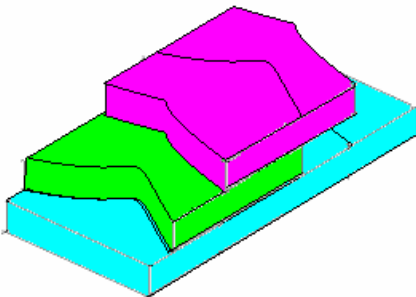
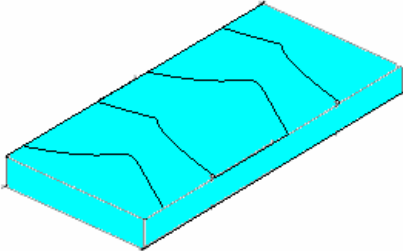
Tickets?! You won't need no Stinkin' Tickets!

At least after December

Still got those tickets from last year? You know, the ones I hand out as you sign in at every meeting? Starting with the October meeting, you won't need tickets for the May meeting's drawing. That's because we'll have the sign-up sheet do double duty: every meeting after the first you attend will count towards the May meeting's drawing. Think of it! No

Call for Clinics!

Tim Kleimeyer's clinic is based on a clinic he attended while at the National Convention. Have you been dying to share a special technique with other NMRA members? Contact our Events Trainmaster, Steve Martinak at 847-854-7545 or email him at mart832@attglobal.net. We may devote a meeting for your clinic!



This saves on Styrofoam, is lighter in weight, and makes it easier to push wiring through the landscaping.

Was this a helpful tip? It's hard to tell whether an innovation you've got is obvious to others, or what you may think is obvious is something no one else would have thought of. That's why I'm still shamelessly soliciting for your hints and tips. Feel free to email me at saviano@att.net and I'll include them in future issues. Please include "FVD Semaphore" in the title of your email.

Dust off your layouts!

The DuPage Division and the Fox Valley Division will be hosting the 2006 Spring Convention, and we'll be looking for layout tours and (shudder) the "V" word - Volunteers. Details in a future Semaphore.

Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

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Ways and Means Trainmaster Walter Radtke wax2@email.com	847-255-2977

This Year's Events (continued)

February 20, 2005

1:30pm, Morava Center

Clinic - Details to be announced
Contest - bridge (any scale)

March 5-6, 2005

9:00am-5:00pm, Harper College

High Wheeler

No Contest

April 17, 2004

1:00pm, Morava Center

Annual Business Meeting

Contest - background flat
(any scale 100 ft. Or more)

May 15, 2004

10:00am, Regency Shopping
Plaza

Field Trip - To be Announced

No Contest

Location for General Meetings

General meetings of the Fox Valley Division are held at the Gary Morava Center in Prospect Heights (See map at right).

Why Are You Receiving this Newsletter?

You are a member of the National Model Railroad Association. Part of your National dues includes membership in the Fox Valley Division. The Semaphore is your guide to the monthly meetings, clinics, field trips, and layout tours of the Fox Valley Division



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