

# The Semaphore

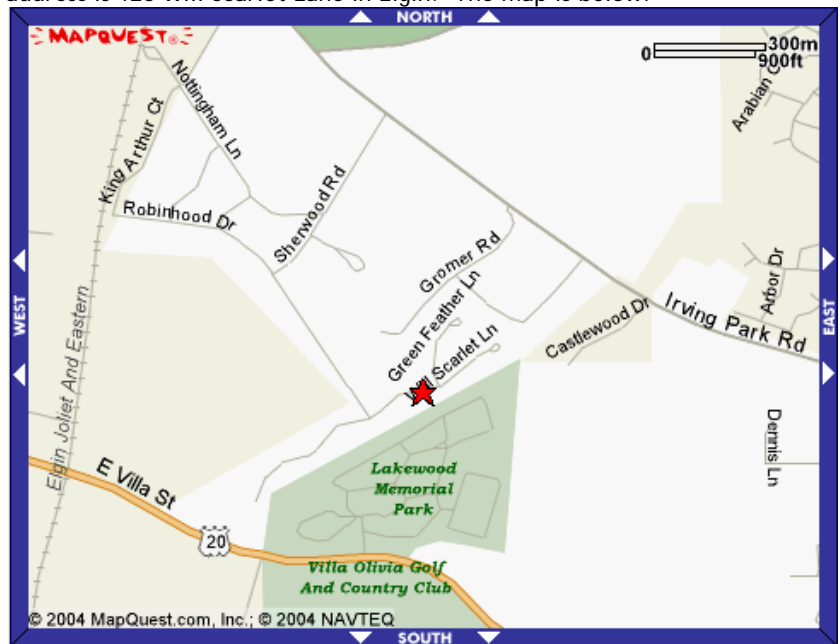
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## January's Meeting

### *An Operating Session!*

January's meeting will be an abbreviated one, with an operating session immediately following. Ted Schepf is again opening his basement to us for an operating session on his railroad. As those of you who attended last year know, even the term "basement" is understating Ted's railroad empire. Anyone so dedicated to operations that his 9-1/2' high basement only has 7-1/2' head clearance in order to hold over-the-head staging track and thorough enough to make sure that the session is not too hard and not too easy. Last year was amazing, and this year promises to be just as enjoyable.

The address is 126 Will Scarlet Lane in Elgin. The map is below:



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

Ted's place isn't cramped, but he still needs to know how many are coming and where their coming from. Most have signed up already, but if you missed the chance to sign up and still want to attend contact our Events Trainmaster, Steve Martinak (call him at 847-854-7545 or send him an email at [mart832@attglobal.net](mailto:mart832@attglobal.net)) and let him know if you are going to make it to Ted's house. Hope to see you there!

## Our Winter dinner

Our Winter dinner is set for Saturday, January 15, 2005. It will be at Flatlanders located at 200 Village Green in Lincolnshire. We've got reservations at 7:00pm, with an open bar for beer and wine. There will be a choice of three entrees, and plenty of good conversation. If you want to come, you'll need to get in touch

# This Year's Remaining Events

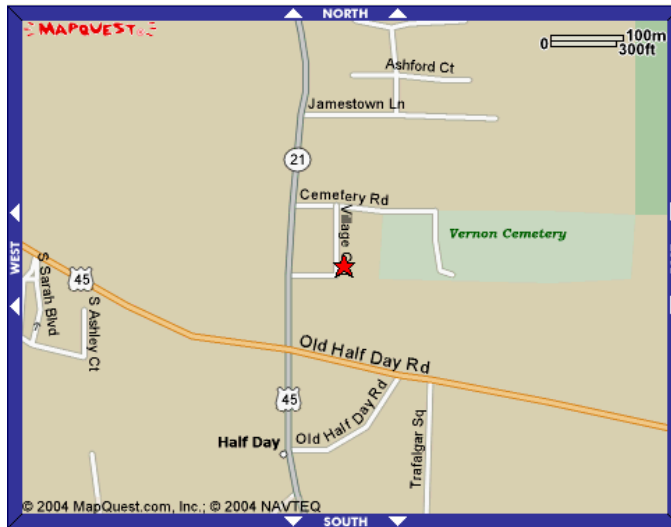
**January 16, 2005**  
**1:30pm, Ted Schneff**  
**General Meeting, Layout visit, and Operating Session**  
 No Contest

**February 20, 2005**  
**1:30pm, Morava Center**  
 Clinic – Details to be announced  
 Contest– bridge or structure (any scale – With or without background flat)

**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 – detailed engines (steam, diesel, or traction)

**May 15, 2004**  
**10:00am, Regency Shopping Plaza**  
**Field Trip - To be Announced**  
 No Contest



with Richard Sweet (847-550-1399) to confirm your reservations. A map to Flatlanders is shown above. Hope to see you there!

1. The single loop
2. Adding one or two sidings
3. Scenery and buildings
4. One or more of the following:
  - a. super-detailing
  - b. operations
  - c. boredom

## Hints, Tips, and Innovations

*Share your expertise with other members*

*Rick Saviano- Publications / Membership Trainmaster*

In honor of this month's field trip to Ted Schepf's, I'm encouraging you to consider attending an operating session, then designing your layout with operations in mind. I'm not an expert at either, so maybe Ted will be kind enough to write an article for a future issue of the Semaphore about how he prepares for an operating session.

From my perspective, the progression of a layout usually follows the sequence listed below:

The trick is to avoid 4c. If you "plan" several sidings in order to produce industry-to business interest, you're halfway there. If you can think of a place to supply raw materials, a place that manufactures a product from those raw materials, and a place that uses or sells that finished product, you've got yourself a "circle of commerce."

The next step? Waybills. Waybills establish a route and purpose for each piece of your rolling stock. For example, empty coal cars are needed at the coal mine so they can be filled up. Full cars are needed at the power plant and the steel mill.

### Call for Layouts!

#### Share Your Layout with Others

Did you enjoy the layouts we've visited last year? Have they provided inspiration for your own layout? Here's the perfect opportunity to share your layout with the rest of the Fox Valley Division.

Contact our Events Trainmaster, Steve Martinak at 847-854-7545 or email him at [mart832@attglobal.net](mailto:mart832@attglobal.net)

## Call for Clinics!

Have you enjoyed the Badger airbrush clinics? 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](mailto:mart832@attglobal.net). We may devote a meeting for your clinic!

## Follow up: Why aren't you at the meetings?

I asked, you answered. I didn't receive a large amount of emails or calls, but the ones I got were polite and informative, and I started applying some of the suggestions at our December meeting. I noticed more conversation than usual. It's amazing how much you can learn by talking to others that share your interest in model railroading. And it's amazing how much a little thing like a name tag encourages conversation!

Have you got a? Either mail to  
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Midwest Region - NMRA  
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Or email me ([Saviano@att.net](mailto:Saviano@att.net))

## Model Railroad Puzzler

Did you get a chance to think about the model railroad puzzle I printed in November? (For those of you who might not remember: *Let's say I bought enough track to go around the equator two times (don't tell my wife, she says my layout's too big already). My intent is to run two trains side by side. If I buy another three feet of track (any more would be just way too much track) and decide to run one on top of the other instead (an "L" track over a grade-level line), what is the largest scale train I can run, using standard NMRA clearances?)*

Here's the answer:  
The circumference of any circle is Pi

times twice the radius. In rough terms, adding 3 feet to any circle increases the radius by six inches! Using the NMRA Standards (<http://www.nmra.org/standards/gauge.html>): "For example H is height. In HO, H equals 3 inches from rail head to the top of the structure clearance dimension or about 22 HO feet." This would make 6 inches roughly the correct clearance for O (<http://www.nmra.org/standards/pdf/s-7.pdf> lists H as 5-1/2" for O).

Next month, I'll see if I can come up with a puzzler based on operating sessions.

Have you got a puzzler you'd like to share? Drop me a line (Either mail to  
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P.O. Box 1535  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005-1535  
Or email me at [Saviano@att.net](mailto:Saviano@att.net)) and I'll publish it and give you the credit.  
Happy Puzzling!

## Dust off your layouts!

Another reminder - 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.

## Check the WWWeb

Last month I listed the following web sites:

The NMRA website: [www.nmra.org/](http://www.nmra.org/)  
The Midwest Region's site: [www.mwr-nmra.org/](http://www.mwr-nmra.org/)  
The Fox Valley Division's site: [www.mwr-nmra.org/fvd/](http://www.mwr-nmra.org/fvd/)

If you're modeling a company that is still in business, try perusing their website for image files that you can use for your layout. Have they changed their logo from the time you want to model? Check to see if they have a "historic" link.

What are your favorite websites? Let me know ([Saviano@att.net](mailto:Saviano@att.net)), and I'll share them with others!

## Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

Superintendent Richard Sweet <a href="mailto:Rsweet@pactiv.com">Rsweet@pactiv.com</a>	847-550-1399
Assistant Superintendent Harry Sorenson <a href="mailto:hrcsconsults@juno.com">hrcsconsults@juno.com</a>	847-259-2906
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Paymaster Tim Kliemeyer <a href="mailto:kliemeyert@comcasat.net">kliemeyert@comcasat.net</a>	847-426-4732
Public Relations Trainmaster Paul Kimball	847-742-4147
Membership and Publications Trainmaster Rick Saviano <a href="mailto:Saviano@att.net">Saviano@att.net</a>	847-429-0804
Achievements and Contests Trainmaster Donn Branstrator <a href="mailto:donnandanneb@aol.com">donnandanneb@aol.com</a>	847-381-6183
Clinics & Programs Trainmaster Steve Martinak <a href="mailto:Mart832@attglobal.net">Mart832@attglobal.net</a>	847-854-7545
Ways and Means Trainmaster Walter Radtke <a href="mailto:wax2@email.com">wax2@email.com</a>	847-255-2977



**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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