

The Semaphore

Fox Valley Division • MWR • NMRA

February's Meeting

This Month's meeting will be February 20 at the Gary Morava Recreation Center in Prospect Heights. We will have a clinic from our own Clinics & Programs Trainmaster Steve Martinak on using computers in model railroading. Rather than tell you what he'll talk about, I'll tell you what it won't be on. It won't have anything to do with DCC, and it won't be on computer-aided layout design. In fact, this clinic will deal with some ways you may not have thought of for combining computers and layouts. Join us at 1:30pm at the Gary Morava Center and learn more.

Donn's clarification, I invite you to bring in train stations, roadside sheds, or just about any type of building, with these two caveats:

- No people allowed
- No adjacent shrubbery, sidewalks, or the like

In essence, nothing that would transform your structure into a diorama. The rationale being that the structure is to be judged on its own merits, not within the context of its setting (as an example, entering a grocery store is OK, but not the whole block with the traffic accident where the car crashed into the poultry truck, and the geese are waddling all over the intersection. Ivy on a building is OK, just not the garden the ivy is rooted in.

That said, I'm looking forward to seeing all your entries in February!

Volunteers needed for High Wheeler!

There. I said it. The "V" word.

On March 5-6, the Fox Valley Division will be hosting HighWheeler '05 at the Wellness and Sports Center at Harper College in Palatine, Just North of Algonquin Road and just East of Roselle Road.

This show does not run by itself. It is the result of weeks of planning, several hours of setup the afternoon and night before,

- 1** February's meeting
- 1** Volunteers Needed for High Wheeler!
- 2** Run for Office - FVD Board of Directors
- 2** Call for Layouts!
- 3** Hints, Tips, and Innovations – A Small Obsession
- 3** FVD Board of Directors
- 4** Location for General Meetings

Just what is a structure, anyway?

As stated in the events column for the last few months, the February contest will be on bridges and structures. Last year, the February contest was also on structures, and I wrote " , so bring your favorite bridge and try to win a prize." Well, as of a few weeks ago, I still didn't know exactly what a structure was, so I asked our Achievements and Contests Trainmaster, Donn Branstrator for clarification. And it was a good thing I did, too. You see, I never considered buildings to be structures, just bridges, retaining walls, water towers, and the like. Well, thanks to

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ticket takers and doormen throughout the two days, and a few hours after the show for teardown. This is the show that generates the income for the FVD that goes to pay for the dinners and field trips we sponsor (your NMRA dues does not include any funds for the FVD, and we don't charge separate dues). We need quite a few volunteers to make High Wheeler run smoothly, so we hope you sign up at the February meeting, or contact our Ways and Means Trainmaster Walter Radtke at 847-255-2977 or email: wagx2@email.com.

Keep in mind that we have a special appreciation dinner for all the volunteers!

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

Run For Office - FVD Board Of Directors

When you look at the names in the box showing the FVD Board of Directors, do you ever wonder, "Hey, who put them in charge?" Well, it was you! Your vote in last year's April meeting (or your lack of vote if you

weren't there) elected the people who ran for office. You can help keep the Fox Valley Division moving in the right direction. Elections will be held at the April 17 meeting in the Gary Morava Center.

But, how do you get on the ballot, you may ask? Start by contacting our Events Trainmaster, Steve Martinak (mart832@attglobal.net or call him at 847-854-7545). He can put you on the ballot. Send a short Bio, we'll put it in the April Semaphore, and before you know it, you may be a part of the group that plans next year's

activities for the Fox Valley Division!

Hints, Tips, and Innovations

Share your expertise with other members - Rick Saviano- Publications Trainmaster

There are a lot of railroad and model railroad references in movies and TV shows. I know that when I was younger, I enjoyed watching *The Addams' Family* just to see Gomez create the head-on train crash on the bridge. *Beetlejuice* had a whole town in miniature, and even a recent episode of *Cold Case* showed a prison Warden working on the same section of his layout as he did twenty years earlier.

I saw a made-for-TV movie a few years ago where a murdered man's layout played a pivotal part in the movie's plot. Naturally, I couldn't remember the name of the movie, so when I went to my regular movie rental store, I tried explaining the plot to one of the movie mavens, unfortunately with no luck. Another video store employee suggested the Internet Movie Database (www.imdb.com), a resource I never new existed. This website is so detailed, if you were looking for all the movies that

Model Railroad Show . . . March 5 & 6!



presented by the
FOX VALLEY DIVISION
of the
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
MARCH 5 & 6
9 A.M - 5 P.M.

HARPER COLLEGE
WELLNESS AND SPORTS CENTER
Algonquin & Roselle Roads
Palatine, Illinois

Plenty of Free Parking

Not A Swap Meet or Flea Market



Modular Railroads
Private Layouts
Club Layouts
Hobby Shops
Distributors
Manufacturers
Videos - Clinics
Clubs - Museums
Historical Societies
Technical Groups
Door Prizes
Snack Bar

Donation
Adults: \$7.00
Children: 5 thru 12 \$4.00
Under 5: Free

starred Mel Gibson, you would have to choose the SECOND Mel Gibson. The first one in the database is a lighting director. At first, I again ran out of luck, since train sets as actors didn't work in the search. So I posted a request to the users of this database to help me. Eventually I found out that the name of the movie is *Dangerous Heart*, starring Tim Daly. This movie will most likely NOT be going to video or DVD, but, as luck would have it, it is being shown on the Lifetime Movie Network this weekend. So, I called my local cable company and added LMN to my already filled cable options (but only until I record the movie).

There's about 15-20 minutes that may be interesting to FVD members, and, if there's time at the February meeting, I may show it.

Do you have any tips, hints, suggestions, or train-related quests that you'd like to share with your fellow NMRA members? 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. I get a few hundred emails a day, and it makes the important ones easier to find.

This Year's Remaining Events

February 20, 2004

**1:30pm, Morava Center
General Meeting**

Clinic - Computers and Model Trains
Contest- Bridge or structure (any scale) - without background flat

March 5-6, 2004

**9:00am-5:00pm, Harper College
High Wheeler**

No contest

April 17, 2004

**1:00pm, Morava Center
Annual Business Meeting**

Election of Board of Directors
Clinic - Scratchbuilding with Extruded Vinyl

Contest- Detailed Engines
(steam, diesel, or traction)

May 16, 2004

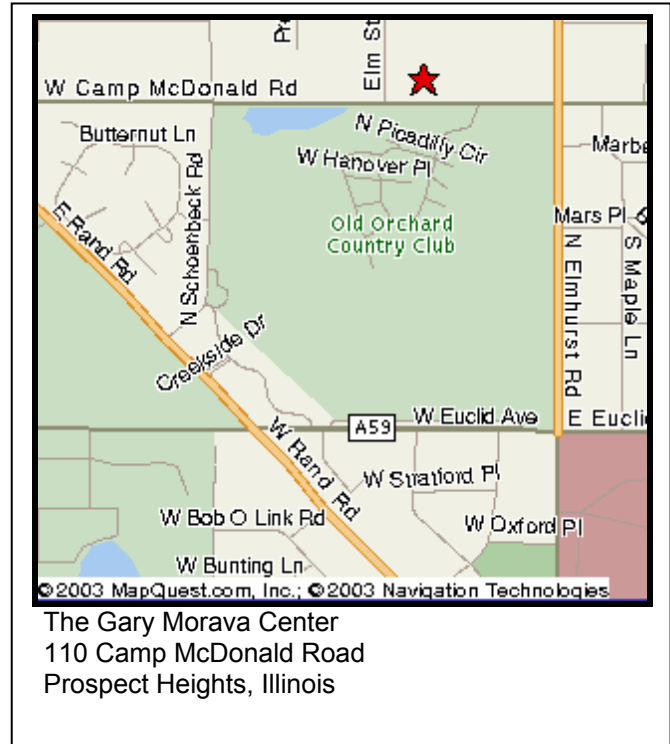
**10:00am, Regency Shopping Plaza
Field Trip- to be announced**

Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

Superintendent	847-550-1399
Richard Sweet	
Rsweet@pactiv.com	
Assistant Superintendent	847-259-2906
Harry Sorenson	
hrcsconsults@juno.com	
Chief Clerk	847-437-7124
Leif Hansen	
lhansen@l211.org	
Paymaster	847-426-4732
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kleimeyert@comcasat.net	
Public Relations Trainmaster	847-742-4147
Paul Kimball	
Membership and Publications Trainmaster	847-429-0804
Rick Saviano	
Saviano@att.net	
Achievements and Contests Trainmaster	847-381-6183
Donn Branstrator	
donnandanneb@aol.com	
Clinics & Programs Trainmaster	847-854-7545
Steve Martinak	
Mart832@attglobal.net	
Ways and Means Trainmaster	847-255-2977
Walter Radtke	
wagx2@email.com	

Location for General Meetings

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



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED