

- 1 Name That Scale!
The New FVD By-Laws
- 1 From the Desk of the
Superintendent
- 2 This Year's Events
- 2 *The New FVD By-Laws*
The Regional Convention
- 3 Hints, Tricks, and Innovations
- 3 FVD Board of Directors
- 4 Location for General Meetings

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

The Semaphore

Fox Valley Division • MWR • NMRA

Name That Scale!



This year's first meeting will NOT be at the Gary Morava Center! We will start this year with a special "Layout Tour" in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. The buss will leave the Regency Plaza parking lot at 10:00am and will return around 5:00pm. The photo above is one of the boxcars, to kind of give you a hint as to the scale of this "layout." What do you think the scale is? G? S? Z? Full size? You'll have to join us to find out, or read Richard Sweet's welcome letter. We will also use this meeting as the first vote for ratifying the new By-Laws for the FVD. as usual for our long-distance field trips, transportation will be by motorcoach. Space is limited, so call or email David Leider to reserve your seats (847-253-7484 or soauthor@aol.com)

The New FVD By-Laws

Inserted in this month's Semaphore is a reduced copy of the proposed By-Laws. The current By-Laws call for votes

on two consecutive Business meetings. September's meeting/field trip will account for the first vote, and October's meeting will be the second. Get out your magnifying glasses, read through the By-Laws and be ready to vote at September's and October's meetings.

From the Desk of the Superintendent

- *Richard Sweet*
Superintendent FVD

Welcome back to the Fox Valley Division 2005-2006 season. Our first meeting of the year will break from tradition. Usually, the September meeting is at the Gary Morava Recreation Center. However, as luck would have it, we have a chance for a road trip. We will be going to the Milwaukee Light Engineering Society's (MLES) Railroad Park in Cedarburg, Wisconsin (just outside of Milwaukee). They have a 1-1/2" scale, 7-1/2" gauge railroad with a 1-mile loop. Jim Osborn, Steve Martinak and I were up there this summer and we thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Besides having a railroad that you can ride, they have some nicely built cars that you can scrutinize. On September 18, the WISE division will have a

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This Year's Events

September 18, 2005

10:00am, Regency Shopping Plaza

Field Trip – MLES Railroad Park

First Vote for FVD By-Laws
No Contest

October 16, 2005

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

Clinic – Hide that Helix
Contest– Cabooses

November 13, 2005

Trip to Train Fest

– Details to be announced
No Contest

December 18, 2005

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

Clinic – 5 minute clinics – Open
Mike Night
Contest– Train-related photography

January 15, 2006

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

Clinic – Researching the Prototype
Contest– Passenger Cars

regularly scheduled meeting at the park. We inquired if we could also attend and were given the green signal. We have invited the NSW division to ride the bus with us. So, you will get to meet people from two other divisions - sort of a mini-meet. The park will be closed to all but the three divisions. Lunch will be included in your trip. In order to go, you must sign up for the trip with our Clinics and Programs Trainmaster, Dave Leider.

The BOD has finally completed our new organizational document. This document will become the division's Bylaws. A copy of the document can be found in this issue of the Semaphore. Please review it and be prepared to vote your approval or disapproval. The current Bylaws state that to amend the current Bylaws, there must be a vote of the members at two consecutive business meetings. A two-thirds majority is required to pass the vote. Those two meetings will be our September and October meetings. This will necessitate having a short meeting while we are at the MLES Railroad Park.

This coming year will see a new look to our Web site thanks to

our energetic Public Relations Trainmaster, Jim Osborn. We hope to have more than just the meeting schedule posted there. When you get a chance, stop by and take a look. If there is something you would like to see on the Web site that isn't already there, please let Jim know. You will also find a link to the MLES Web site for more information about that group.

I look forward to "riding the rails" with you this coming year.

-Richard

The Regional Convention Is Coming!!!!

April 28-30 is the Midwest Regional Convention. It will be held at the Woodfield Hyatt in Schaumburg. DuPage and Fox Valley Divisions will be hosting, so, in addition to all the fun of a convention, there will be plenty of opportunities for volunteering. Or maybe you could host a layout tour (see below). We'll give you more details in the months to come.

Call for Layouts!

Layouts needed for 2006 NMRA MWR convention

One of the important parts of any convention is the layout tours. They provide inspiration for others' layouts, and give you the perfect opportunity to share your layout. Add your layout to the tour!

Contact our Events Trainmaster, David Leider at 847-253-7484 or email him at sooauthor@aol.com



PONTIAC JUNCTION

The North Central Region of the National Model Railroad Association will be hosting PONTIAC JUNCTION, their 2005 Annual Convention on October 20 - 23, 2005 at the Marriott Centerpoint Hotel, Pontiac, Michigan For Operations Schedule and on line form visit their website :

<http://ncr2005.ncr-nmra.org>

E-Mail: ncr2005@ncr-nmra.org

Hints, Tips, and Innovations

Share your expertise with other members

Rick Saviano- Publications / Membership Trainmaster

The advice I've got for this month is some I've not yet been able to follow: At some point, you should stop planning and start building! This time I've got a decent excuse, though. Just before I started laying more track, I found out about a new reference due out in late August. So, come September, I should be ready to lay track again!

Send me your hints and tips, or save them for our 5-minute clinics in December. Email me at saviano@att.net. Please include "FVD Semaphore" in the title of your email.

Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

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This Year's Events (continued)

February 19, 2006

1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
Clinic – Details to be announced
Contest– Structures

March 4-5, 2006

9:00am-5:00pm, Harper College
High Wheeler
No Contest

April 23, 2006

1:00pm, Gary Morava Center
Annual Business Meeting
Contest– to be announced
Contest– Maintenance-of-way cars

April 28-30, 2006

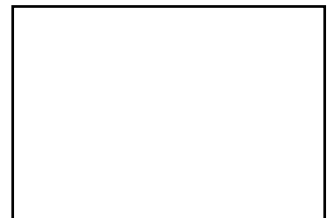
Midwest Region Convention
Woodfield Hyatt
Details– to be announced

May 21, 2006

10:00am, Regency Shopping Plaza
Field Trip – Operating session at
Ted Schepf's "Fox Valley O Scale"
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).



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED