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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

Researching the Prototype

Dave Leider will be giving this month's clinic, researching the prototype. Have you noticed how some layouts look more realistic than others? How some cars just look "better?" Dave will show you how doing a little research can help you add the details to bring your layout up a few notches.

Come join us

FVD Equipment on Display

*Jim Osborn
FVD Public Relations*

Check out the display case on the Arlington Heights Library 2nd floor and Rolling Meadows Library main floor during the month of February. The displays feature several FVD members' models as well as information about the hobby. The displays are part of our promotional efforts for the annual High Wheeler '06 train show on March 4 & 5 at Harper College. Thanks to Joel Lebovitz, Leif Hansen, Kurt Youngmann, Rick Saviano and Harry Sorenson for adding their equipment to some of mine for an effective presentation of all the normal scales from Z through G.

Have You Visited our New Website Yet?

www.Foxvalleydivision.org

Check it out!

Run For Office!

Well, January's over and April seems right around the corner, And in between the dreaded Tax Day and RailFun '06 is our Annual business meeting and elections during the April 23 meeting. The offices up for election this year are Superintendent and Chief Clerk. Think you've got what it takes to step into these shoes? Start by contacting our Programs Trainmaster, David Leider (sooauthor@netzero.net or call him at 847-253-7484). He can put you on the ballot. Send a

High Wheeler's coming!

We still need volunteers for High Wheeler

Ticket sellers, floorwalkers, set up and teardown. And plenty of timeslots still exist. Sign up at the February meeting.

short Bio, we'll put it in the April Semaphore. Before you know it, you may be a part of the group that sends the Fox Valley Division down the right track next year.

This Month's Contest

The February contest is structures. So yank that bridge off your layout (hopefully you don't run your trains unattended while you're at the meeting) and bring it, along with your depots, high rises and grain elevators to our meeting. I'll have pictures of the winning entries in the March *Semaphore*.



This Year's Remaining Events

February 19, 2006

1:30pm, Gary Morava Center

Clinic – David Leider

Researching the Prototype

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

Clinic – Railroad History:

Waupaca, Wisconsin

Contest– Maintenance-of-way cars

April 28-30, 2006

Midwest Region Convention

Woodfield Hyatt

Details– to be announced

Registration:

www.FoxValleyDivision.org/RailFun

[Registration.htm](http://www.FoxValleyDivision.org/RailFun)

May 21, 2006

Field Trip – Operating session at

Ted Schepf's "Fox Valley O Scale"

No Contest

Share your Expertise!

Send me your virtual
Layout tour or tips and
tricks

Contact me, Rick Saviano at
Saviano@att.net. Be sure to
include the words "semaphore"
or FVD in the title. I'll include

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 Rich Sweet at
Rsweet@pactiv.com or (847)550-
1300

High Wheeler '06

Model Train Show

Saturday & Sunday

March 4 & 5

9:00 am 'til 5:00 pm

Harper College Sports Center

Algonquin & Roselle Roads

Palatine, Illinois



High Wheeler '06

is sponsored by the

Fox Valley Division

of the

National Model Railroad
Association

<http://www.foxvalleydivision.org>



Not a Swap Meet
or Flea Market

All Scales Represented
Operating Layouts
Hobby Shops
Distributors
Manufacturers
Technical Groups
Historical Societies
Videos
Snack Bar
Door Prizes
Free Parking
Handicap Accessible

Donation..... \$7.00
Seniors 65 & over..... \$6.00
Ages 5 thru 12..... \$2.00
Under 5 years of age... Free

Clinics Wanted!

We're always in need of
good clinics.

Contact Dave Leider and he can
set things up for your
presentations. (847)253-7484 or
sooauthor@netzero.net.

Last Month's Contest

The January contest was passenger cars. No one brought in a Zepher (maybe because it's spelled Zephyr), but participation was very good. Frank Cole garnered first place with his modified Branchline 8-1-2 Pullman Sleeper kit:



Rick Saviano came in second:



And Dave Leider rounded out the cash winners in the contest:



Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

Superintendent Richard Sweet Rsweet@pactiv.com	847-550-1399
Assistant Superintendent Harry Sorenson hsrcsconsult@juno.com	847-259-2906
Chief Clerk Leif Hansen lhansen@d211.org	847-437-7124
Paymaster Tim Kleimeyer kleimeyert@comcast.net	847-426-4732
Webmaster and Public Relations Trainmaster Jim Osborn jlosborn@comcast.net	847-397-4338
Membership and Publications Trainmaster Rick Saviano Saviano@att.net	847-429-0804
Achievements and Contests Trainmaster Donn Branstrator donnandanneb@aol.com	847-381-6183
Clinics & Programs Trainmaster David Leider sooauthor@netzero.net	847-253-7484
Ways and Means Trainmaster Walter Radtke wagx2@email.com	847-255-2977

Hints, Tips, and Innovations

Share your expertise with others

*Rick Saviano- Publications /
Membership Trainmaster*

Following up on last month's article on photography, I promised I'd touch on digital photography and scale this month. There are two tricks to using digital photography: 1) Knowing the output of the digital camera (it is usually 5x7) 2) Knowing the equivalent focal length at a particular zoom (I won't go into the boring details of focal length and the size of the CCD in a digital camera. It winds up as inconsequential to this discussion.). The best thing to do is to experiment and determine the distance from the camera and the resultant printed image. If your camera records the focal length, mark that down, too. If it doesn't, your best bet is to record the results with the lens zoomed in all the way and zoomed out all the way. Of course, if you're dealing with a digital image, you have two advantages: 1) You can rescale the image. 2) You can print on decal material. This last advantage is tremendous, especially if you like wall signs: you can shoot a wall sign and "slide" it onto a blank wall, maintaining the faded painted wall signs and the original brick detail.

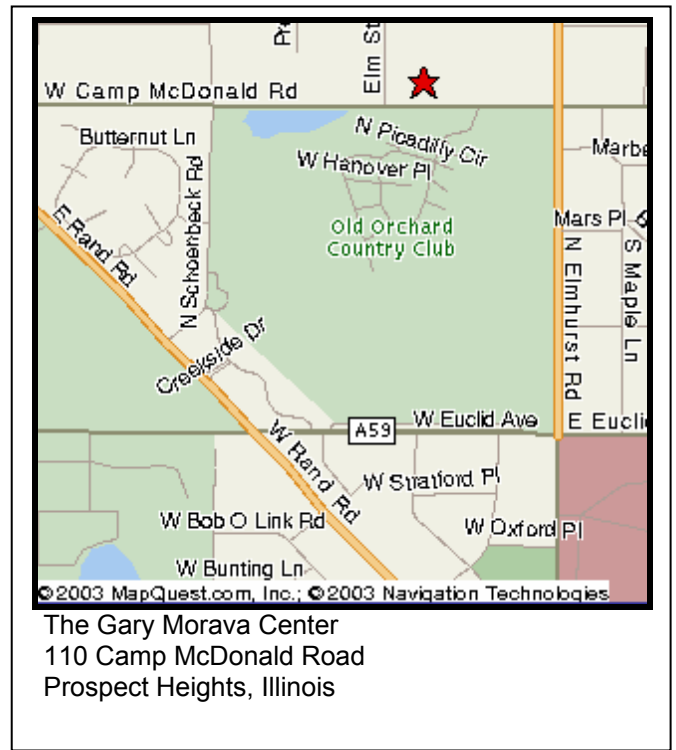
I caught a lot of grief when I wrote, "Don't kid yourself, there is no scale for G." What I meant was that there was no *single* scale for G gauge. More on that next month.

Saviano@att.net

Location for General Meetings

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

The meeting schedule is listed in this Semaphore, and will be posted on our web site, www.foxvalleydivision.org. If there are changes to the schedule, or if additional information needs to be disseminated to the membership, you will find it there.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

