

- 1** May Layout Visit - Ted Schnepf's
- 1** Election Results
- 1** Wanted: Layout Tours
- 3** This Month's / Last Month's Contest
- 3** Hints, Tips, and Innovations
- 3** May Layout Visit - Ted Schnepf's
- 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

May Layout Visit - Ted Schnepf's

Can you believe it's May already? It doesn't seem that long ago I was writing about the September '05 meeting, and now the upcoming meeting is the last of the season. But don't worry, there's still time to sign up for the operating session at Ted Schnepf's in May. Some of you who went on the RailFun '06 layout tours have already seen the results of his remodeling, and I for one can't wait to see his new operations. For those of you who can't wait, you can see a preview at <http://users.foxvalley.net/~railsunl/FoxValley/>. Sign-up sheets and a map to his house were provided at the April meeting. If you didn't get a chance to sign up, you can still contact the Clinics & Programs Trainmaster, David Leider (sooauthor@netzero.net , or 847-253-7484). Hope to see you there!

Election Results

The results of the April election are in! Rich Sweet and Leif Hansen were retained in their positions as Superintendent and Chief Clerk, by unanimous vote. (Good thing too, because I wasn't sure if we could handle a provisional government.) Let's all congratulate them and wish them the best for their 2-year terms!

Wanted: Layout Tours

OK, so you went on the layout tours at RailFun '06. Were you inspired, or does your layout look better? Why not share your layout with the other members of the Fox Valley Division? Jim Otis will be giving us a tour of his layout and hosting the September meeting (We'll have more about Jim and his layout in the September Semaphore), and we'd like more of you to offer tours if you can. Not enough room to have a layout tour? I understand. I once had a layout in a walk-in closet, and there was just enough room to turn around, let alone give a tour. Then why not host a virtual tour? Take some pictures and show them at a Fox Valley Division meeting. No experience creating a presentation? We can help you with that, too. Just contact our Clinics & Programs Trainmaster, David Leider (sooauthor@netzero.net , or 847-253-7484). Don't think you have enough information for a clinic? Send me your verbal virtual tour, and I'll publish it in the Semaphore.

Saviano@att.net

This Year's Remaining Events

May 28, 2006

Field Trip – Operating session at Ted Schnepf's "Fox Valley O Scale"

No Contest

September – Date TBD

Layout Tour – Details to be announced

No Contest

October – Date TBD

Clinic - TBD

Contest: Detailed Industrial Roof (Only the roof is necessary, but whole building is OK)

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

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.

This Month's / October's Month's Contest

The April contest was MOW cars. Again, we had a good turnout. We even did have a cattle car with sheep, proving again that:

- a) model railroaders have a sense of humor
- b) you actually do read the Semaphore

First Place was Dave Leidner's Flanger



Second Place was Leif Hansen's Work Car



And third Place was Herb Renwick's Rail Gang



(Herb also submitted the cattle car with the sheep)

The next contest will be in October, but we'll give you a heads up so you can spend the next few months putting on the finishing touches. And finishing touches is the key - The October contest is detailed industrial roofs. You can bring in the whole building, but only the roof will be judged. So, show that you can keep on top of things and bring in your roofs!



Hints, Tips, and Innovations

Share your expertise with others

Rick Saviano- Publications /
Membership Trainmaster

Answer to last month's Freudian slip:

"A few hundred dollars later, I had a nice little layout,"

Remember, I was trying to convince you all that this was being done for the benefit of "the kid." As the theme of last month's column indicated, sometimes we lose track of the original goal.

This month, I'm going to start with a quote from Epictetus (55-135 AD):

If you want to be a writer, write

The same applies to model railroading, although I don't always follow my own advice. I received something in the mail

this week that helped me along, though. I received the first "Dream -Plan - Build" DVD from Model Railroader. It contains fifteen video chapters and eleven PDF files, all containing inspiration and simple, step-by-step instructions. I was particularly inspired by George Sellios' interview. At one point, he states, "What's unusual about the layout is that no planning went into it . . . maybe I'll do a little sketch before I start a certain area. . ." Well, I figure if the 23 'x 42' Franklin and South Manchester Railroad could be built with as little planning as that, I definitely didn't have to spend any more time laboring over my layout. So, to paraphrase Epictetus, "If you want to build a railroad, build." I went down to the basement and put together the framework for two more sectional pieces of my layout. I then did a quick analysis of what sections I need to concentrate

on to get up and running as soon as possible. I've changed my master plan: Instead of starting with the heavily tracked downtown areas, I'm going to sketch out those areas for right now, and just build the mainline, with one or two turnouts to provide variety and access to the future, more complex yards. With the Styrofoam® I've collected every time I needed to rent a flatbed truck from my local home improvement store, along with my trusty foam cutter, I should be well on my way in relatively no time. But wait, the DVD held one more advantage: not only was my grandson enthralled by the video, my wife found herself saying "We can do that" more than several times during the video.

So now, this article comes full circle from last month's Freudian slip, because, before you know it, *We'll* have a nice little layout.

Got a modeling success story? Send it to me, and I'll publish it in the *Semaphore!*

Saviano@att.net

Have You Visited our New Website Yet?

www.Foxvalleydivision.org.

Check it out!

One of the important links you'll find at our website:

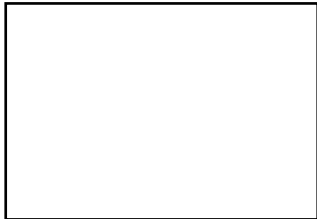
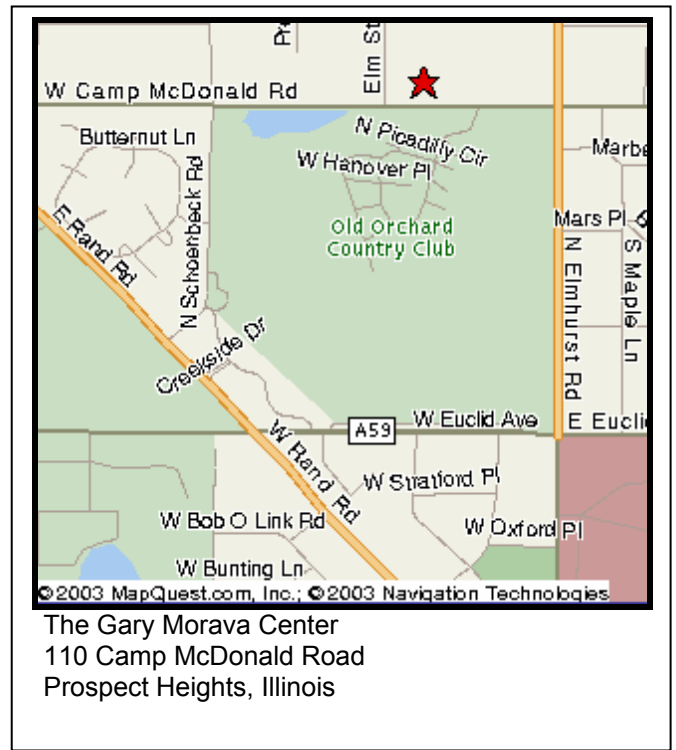
Ted Schnepf's layout

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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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