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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

From the Desk of the Superintendent

- *Richard Sweet Superintendent FVD*

As I sit here writing this article, the thing farthest from my mind is model railroading. And yet, it is time to start thinking about it. Thinking about it means the end of summer, as model railroading is more or less a winter hobby. How many of you have thought about your model railroad, worked on it or built a model during the summer? It is hard to be confined to the basement when the weather is nice and the days are long. There are always lots of things to do outside. My wife and I like to go to art fairs. Of course, at an art fair you can find photographers and artists. And what do some of those photographers like to photograph; trains on tracks, tracks without trains, railroad stations and the Chicago EL. There was even an artist who did pen and ink drawings of trains and stations in early 1900s England. These were all pictures I found at the art fairs we attended.

So, while I wasn't in the basement playing with trains or modeling trains, I still could enjoy trains, to some extent, while being outside and not near any tracks. Of course, there are always the real trains, too. Those we are all familiar with as we have watched and photographed them countless times. If you have any really good pictures of trains, you might think about bringing them to one of our meetings and presenting a mini-clinic. You know the 10 to 15

minute clinic we introduced last season.

This leads me to our September meeting: Enjoying trains while being outside. In this case, model trains. Our September meeting will take place at Jim Otis' house in Arlington Heights. Jim has a garden railroad as well as his HO layout in the basement. This meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. as lunch will be served. Check the Web site for the address and a map to Jim's house.

In future meetings, we will have a clinic on layout design in October, go to Trainfest in November, tentatively, a clinic on winter railroading in December, an operating session in January, a trip to the Mad City show in February, a clinic on Sears' houses in April, and possibly a trip to East Troy in May. The dates are listed in this Semaphore and on the Web site. Mark your calendars and plan to attend many, if not all, of our meetings this season.

I will see you all very soon.

September Meeting at Jim Otis' House

- *Jim Osborn*
Public Relations Trainmaster /
Webmaster

September 17th marks the beginning of the Fox Valley Division's 2006/2007 modeling year. For our first meeting, we are kicking off the season with a visit to Jim Otis' "Fall River and Stony Creek RR." The meeting will start at 1:00 in the back yard

This Year's Events

September 17, 2006
1:00pm, Jim Otis' House
1014 E. Jules, Arlington Heights
No Contest

October 15, 2006
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
General Meeting
Clinic – David Popp, Senior Editor of Model Railroader Magazine
Contest– Detailed Industrial Roof

November 12, 2006
10:00am – 5:00pm
Trip to Train Fest
– Details to be announced
No Contest

December 17, 2006
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
General Meeting
Clinic:
– videos from past High Wheeler shows
– Open Mike Night
5 minute mini clinics
– Swap Meet
Contest– track work

January 21 2007
1:00pm, Operating session at Ted Schnepf's "Fox Valley O Scale"
No Clinic
No Contest

of the Otis residence. The division will provide lunch and refreshments to all attendees. Jim's address is 1014 E. Jules, Arlington Heights, telephone: 847-255-5160.

Jim began modeling in the 1960's and started the FR & SC RR in 1978. Jim believes that his G scale garden railroad may be one of the oldest in the country - using one of the first LGB locos imported into the Chicago area. The garden RR is DCC controlled, features layout sounds and includes beautiful gardens through his wife Judy's efforts.

Jim also has an HO scale version of the FR & SC RR in his basement. This layout is centered around Milwaukee Road colors and equipment. At the start of the visit, Jim will acquaint us with both the story behind the FR & SC RR and how it came into existence:

"It is the result of two failing silver mines - one at Fall River and the other at Stony Creek. For business reasons, a merger was proposed, but success required connecting trackage rights from the nearby Milwaukee Road. Deals were cut, and the merger created the FR & SC RR. As the mines became once again profitable with the discovery of gold, rail

traffic blossomed, towns grew, and the rest is history....."

Regular layout activity includes a 6 car, all brass, *Hiawatha* train set. In addition to the *Hiawatha*, and manifest trains, there are several other passenger sets running between Fall River and Stony Creek. The layout is DCC equipped and can be automatically controlled by a computerized route control system if so desired. The layout planning for this route started in the 1970's and is currently the last of 4 configurations. Jim also displays a great deal of RR memorabilia - including exquisite sets of china from the *Hiawatha* trains. Jim chose the indoor/outdoor combination for good reason - one for winter and one for summer. Makes sense to me!

Check out a few recent photos of both scales of the FR & SC RR on the FVD web site, <http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/> A map link and directions to the Otis residence are also available on the web site. See you there!



"Dart on Over" to Jim Otis' House

Hints, Tips, and Innovations

Share your expertise with other members

Rick Saviano- Publications / Membership Trainmaster

This sounds like it might be fun, and Oak Lawn isn't THAT far away - I received the following email from Linda Olsen, Public Relations Officer of the Oak Lawn Public Library, 9427 S. Raymond Ave., Oak Lawn, IL 60453 (Phone: 708-422-4990):

Hi --- The Oak Lawn Public Library (SW suburb of Chicago) will offer three train-themed programs during October 2006. We would be delighted if you would share this information with your membership. Please also refer to the attached flyer. Free admission. No registration required. Feel free to call or type

back if you have any questions or concerns.

Model Train Day

Saturday, October 7 at 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - The Midwest Division of the Train Collector's Association will display running train layouts, collections and memorabilia. There will also be kid-friendly trains for children to operate and special train storytimes at 11:00-11:30 a.m. and 2:00-2:30p.m. Drop in anytime to chat with fellow railroad enthusiasts.

The History of Chicago Passenger Trains

Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m. - Local historian Greg Stout's slide lecture will take you on a journey back in time, when train travel was in its heyday. Find out what it was like to sleep in a berth and enjoy a meal in the dining car.

Sunday With Friends Concert: Train Celebration

Sunday, October 15 at 2:00 p.m. - Folk singer Mark Dvorak will

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Ways and Means Trainmaster Walter Radtke wagx2@email.com	847-255-2977

This Year's Events (continued)

February 18, 2007

9:00am – 5:00pm

**Trip to Mad City Train Show
(Details TBD)**

No Clinic

No Contest

March 3-4, 2007

9:00am-5:00pm, High Wheeler

No Clinic

No Contest

April 15, 2007

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

Clinic – Modeling Sears' Homes

Contest– realistically aged equipment
- not just weathered

May 20, 2007

10:00am, - 5:00pm

**Field trip
(Details TBD)**

No Clinic

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).

perform a train-themed concert on guitar and banjo, with loads of railroad lore and fun-filled sing-alongs that are sure to delight.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Oak Lawn Library

Next Month, I'll talk about Waybills, the concept and the computer program

-Rick Saviano

Semaphore Online

This issue of the *Semaphore* will also be available online as a downloadable PDF file from the FVD website, which leads me to a couple of questions for all of you with email addresses:

1. Would you like to be notified when the *Semaphore* is available online?
2. Would you prefer NOT receiving the *Semaphore* through "snail mail" if it is available online?

(No email address, no worries - You'll still get the *Semaphore* through the mail.)

Send me an email (saviano@att.net) and let me know your preference. Put the words "Semaphore email" in the title, so I can track the responses. Thanks.

-Rick Saviano



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

