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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

April's Meeting - A Chance to vote for Board Members in the FVD

Take time out from the last minute Tax preparations! This Month's meeting will be April 15 at the Gary Morava Recreation Center in Prospect Heights. This is our Annual Business Meeting, so plan to get there at 1:00pm. We'll start off with pizza, have our meeting, and vote for Paymaster and Assistant Superintendent.

Biography of Candidate for Assistant Superintendent, Harry Sorenson

Member NMRA & Fox Valley Division for 10 Years. Completing 4 Years as Chief Clerk(Secretary) and 3 years in his current role as our Assistant Superintendent. Volunteer at Highwheeler for last 9 years. Modeling in H.O. since 1960 (more or less) and still do not have a working layout. Current one is under construction. Other modeling - Active member of CAGRS (Chicago Area Garden Railway Society) for 6 Years. Had an operational outdoor layout in "G" gauge (4 years old), until I moved. - Charter member and officer Midwest Rails Modular Railroad. I have been taking the

modular layout to shows for 9 years.

Professional - Since 1959 Industrial / Manufacturing Engineer, Production Manager, Factory Manager, Engineering Manager. Since 1980 President of engineering consulting firm. Retired 2002. to play with trains, and other stuff.

I will appreciate your support to again serve as your Asst. Superintendent.

Biography of Candidate for Paymaster, Tim Kleimeyer

Tim has been our Paymaster for the last 2 years and was Assistant Superintendent for the previous 4 years. He was our auctioneer for the last few years at the December meetings and has worked at High Wheeler for the last 12 years. You'll usually find him at the FVD tables by the door when he is not helping someone pick out a door prize. Tim models in HO and recently added a room over the garage for a new layout, the Sleepy Creek Railway. He has been collecting kits for the 100 plus buildings he estimates are needed for the new layout. It will actually be 3 railroads in one with Metra and UP mainline action and the (fictitious) Sleepy Creek Railway which was a CNW branch that UP did not want. The layout will be about 24' x

This Year's Remaining Events

April 15, 2007
1:00pm, Gary Morava Center
Annual Business Meeting

Clinic – Modeling Sears' Homes
Contest– Rolling Stock
Food!

May 20, 2007
9:00am, - 5:00pm
Field trip to the East Troy Electric
Railway Museum
No Contest

25' walk around with both point to point operations and the option for continuous running. Tim enjoys rail fanning and industrial sightseeing as well as helping his wife with her gardens. (He keeps the lawn mowed, anyway.) He lives in Sleepy Hollow and is retired from Siemens Energy & Automation in Batavia.

May's Meeting

For the May meeting of the Fox Valley Division, we will go on a field trip to the East Troy RailRoad Museum in East Troy, Wisconsin. We will leave at **9:00am** on May 20 from the Regency Plaza Shopping Center parking lot located at the northeast corner of Quentin and Euclid roads, in Arlington Heights. There will be free bus transportation for all who wish to attend, and free admission to all members. Mark the date and be sure to sign up at the April meeting!

Last Month's Contest

There was no contest Last month, due to High Wheeler. Hope you had plenty of time to fine-tune your rolling stock for this month's competition.

News from your Clinic Trainmaster

It is not too soon for me to start planning activities for next year. Something we have not done for some time is a Layout Tour I have tentatively chosen the third Sunday of October 2007. Members will come to the Morova Center for a short meeting; afterward they can form groups and get maps to the various open houses. Several people

have already said they would be willing to open their basements (or whatever) to us. I need several more. If you are willing to display your handiwork and talent, please contact me. Your masterpiece does not have to be running or even completed, this is not an operating session. If I get enough response, we may do it again later so everyone gets a chance. Please contact me: David Leider
sooauthor@netzero.net 847-253-7484

Musings for the Semaphore, or Why I Want to be an MMR

With the untimely death of Donn Brandsteiner, I agreed to take over the Contests and Achievement Program (AP). I had a selfish reason for doing this. A number of years ago, I had tried to get my Certificate for Author and still had not gotten anywhere. I thought if I were in charge, I could see where the holdup was. About the same time, a change occurred at the regional level. Marv Preussler, who I have known for several years, had just taken over that position. Talking to Marv, he explained where the bottleneck was and how he would eliminate it.

Marv came to see me at the Soo Line booth at the Madison Show in February. Because all my paperwork had been lost over the years (I had applied twice), he took it upon himself to fill out the required forms and make copies of enough articles I had written to qualify. I was pleasantly surprised last night to be notified of my first award! That's what I call bending over backwards to help someone and a big "Hats Off" to Marv.

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.

At the Madison Show, I told Marv of my desire to get the Golden Spike Award, which I also qualified for and will receive shortly. I had looked at the Master Model Railroader (MMR) about 8 years ago when I first applied for the Author's Certificate, and decided it would be too hard. When I got back home, I went to the NMRA website and looked at the MMR program again. I soon realized that it had been rewritten and much easier to understand. I decided to take the plunge and identified the six additional categories to try for. (Seven are needed out of 11). Let me admit that all this is new to me; I am not an expert at this and will need a lot of assistance.

However, this hobby is a learning experience and would not be any fun without challenges. I brought all this up at the Fox Valley Division's monthly board meeting and was given a lot of

encouragement and support from my fellow members. We discussed ways we can help other members who are trying for awards. Leif Hansen will dust off a clinic he had given several years ago on the topic and together we will present it. If any of the members who have won awards would like to give a clinic or at least pointers, let me know. To sum it up, if anyone else out there has ever thought about the MMR or the Golden Spike and thought it too intimidating, maybe its time you went to the NMRA website and took a fresh look. As I said, I am in no way an expert in this, but now I know where to look (or direct you) for answers. Give it a thought.
- David Leider

[Editor's Note: on April 4, Jim Landwehr was appointed the new Contests and Achievement Program Trainmaster. Good Luck, Jim!]

Hints, Tips, and Innovations

*Rick Saviano
Publications Trainmaster / Membership Trainmaster*

It seems that there are a lot of instances of "Life imitates Art" these days, and a lot of weird observations come out around April first.

A few years ago, Model Railroader had an article on placing HO scale bees in a layout. To those of you with access to the web, check out <http://www.miba.de/miba/07/04/39.htm>, and you will see that technology has finally caught up with what we all thought was a funny joke.

In like manner, I used to be bothered by comments that some of my previous layouts looked phony because of all the bridges and tunnels I had. They also made fun of all the steep elevations the buildings were at. Then, I visited Pittsburgh, the Land of Three Rivers. To paraphrase the movie *The Wizard of Oz*, "Bridges and Tunnels, and Hills, Oh My!" After that, I went back home and spent some time walking through the "seedier" areas of Chicago and Elgin. I saw buildings under bridges, multiple levels of trackwork in very small areas, and real-life examples of things a model railroader would get criticized for not being "realistic."

Someone put it quite nicely: "Make something up for a model Railroad, and you're sure to come across a photo of the prototype you thought never existed!"

Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Superintendent Rich Sweet Rsweet@pactiv.com | 847-550-1399 |
| Assistant Superintendent Harry Sorenson hsrconsult@juno.com | 847-669-8936 |
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| Achievements and Contests Trainmaster Jim Landwehr | 847-577-7984 |
| Clinics & Programs Trainmaster David Leider sooauthor@netzero.com | 847-253-7484 |
| Ways and Means Trainmaster Walter Radtke wagx2@email.com | 847-255-2977 |

Location for General Meetings

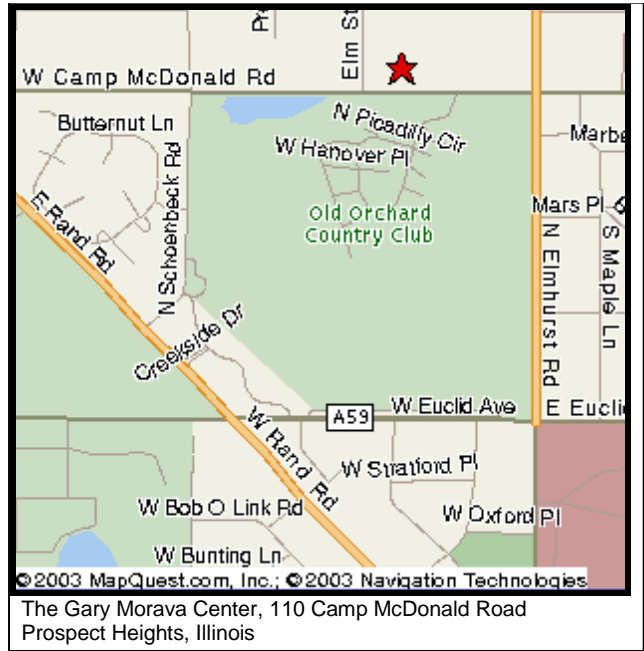
General meetings of the Fox Valley Division are held at the Gary Morava Center in Prospect Heights (See map at right).

Why Do You Get This Newsletter?

You are a member of the National Model Railroad Association. Thank you for joining a group of people interested in and enjoying the Model Railroading hobby. The NMRA is divided into Regions and Divisions. You live in the Midwest Region and the Fox Valley Division.

The Fox Valley Division has around two hundred members and you are one of them. Membership in the Fox Valley Division costs you NOTHING. As a matter of fact, most times we give you things. How can we do that? In March each year, we hold a train show at Harper College in Palatine. The proceeds from the show support our activities throughout the year.

If you are interested in learning more about model railroading you can come to our meetings and sign up for our events. There you will meet and hear from people who want to share their knowledge of the hobby. We meet once a month at the Gary Morava Fieldhouse in Prospect Heights. Each year (our year runs from September through May) the Semaphore is mailed to the entire membership.



Welcome to the Fox Valley Division!



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED