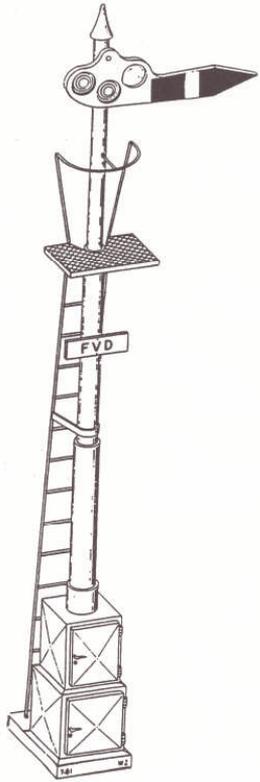


The Semaphore

Fox Valley Division • MWR • NMRA



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Change for May's Meeting - Trip to the East Troy Canceled!

The May meeting of the Fox Valley Division will be at the Gary Morava Center. Due to an unexpected transportation problem, the trip to the East Troy Railroad Museum in East Troy, Wisconsin has been cancelled. We will meet at **1:30pm on May 20**, and Dave Leider will be giving a clinic on the Soo Line's Chicago Freight house. Jim Landwehr, Our new Achievements/Contest Trainmaster will be there to provide us with a preview of coming contests and to get a consensus of where the membership stands on Achievement Awards.

Superintendent's Report

By Richard Sweet

As most of you know, typically in May, the division has a planned trip. This year there will not be a trip. The reason for this is that there was not enough interest to justify the cost of the bus, tickets and lunch. We will be meeting at the Gary Morava Recreation Center where we will have a clinic on a Soo Line freight house and a contest on weathered locomotives. Be sure to check the schedule in this Semaphore or the Web site for additional information and the rules of the contest.

For our October 21 meeting, our division will be hosting the MWR Board of Directors meeting. This

meeting will start at 10:30 a.m. and will end at noon. The members of the MWR board will then attend our meeting. Our board decided that the division would provide lunch for the MWR board members and our division members.

Our division now has two more positions on the MWR board in addition to my position as a Division Director. Jim Osborn is a member of the Nominating Committee and I will serve as the chair of the Audit Committee. Speaking of the Nominating Committee, the MWR will be electing four Directors-at-Large. If you would like to serve as one of these directors, contact Jim or check our Web site for instructions. The Fox Valley could use a little more representation on the MWR board.

Just to let you know that a tentative schedule for division meeting next year has been posted on the Web site. We will be meeting six times at the Gary Morava Recreation Center, take one trip, have one operating session and have one meeting that is a layout tour. Nothing has been planned but there may be another trip during the summer.

So, remember the meeting on May 20, have a great summer and I will see you all at our September 16 meeting.

Track Treks (a tour of local layouts)

*-Jim Osborn
Public Relations Trainmaster /
Webmaster*

There May Be Hope For Us Yet!!

"When do you think you will be done with your layout?"
"Gee, what are your plans to make all this plywood look realistic?"

This Year's Remaining Events

May 20, 2007

1:30pm, Gary Morava Center

Clinic – Soo Line's Chicago Freight house

Contest– weathered and detailed locomotives

Open House!

Walter Radke will have his Garden Railroad (The Dry Bone Creek RR) open for visitors on **July 15th** from 1pm to 5pm. rain or shine. Directions using Golf Road and Highway 83 in Mt. Prospect as a starting point, go north on 83 to second traffic light [council trail] turn right until you reach the school parking lot [second street after the stop sign] turn left into the parking lot and his house is at the end of the lot. The Address is:

205 E. Moehling Dr.
Mt. Prospect, IL

Many of us in the hobby have heard this kind of question more than once. We end up asking ourselves, "Will I ever get this layout done? Why did I make it so big? Is this a never ending project?" A recent visit to Don Cook's Great Northern Railway, Spokane Division layout has given me solace... It can be done... It is at Don's, and it is the result of good, carefully thought out and well-executed plan.

17 years before he cut one piece of plywood, Don was on a commute to Chicago and saw a copy MR on a news stand. He bought it. During his Amtrak ride home, he paged through the magazine; it re-energized his latent teenage interest in the hobby. Don followed up on an ad from a local club, joined, and then saw an operating brass 2-8-0 in GN colors. As is often said, the rest is history. At that time, he did not have space for a sizable layout in his residence, so he spent his time researching the GN, collecting GN brass steam engines, building structures, painting diesels, electrics and rolling stock - and, of course, planning the dream layout for the house he did not yet own.

Recently Don has declared his layout finished - yes finished! And I could not agree more. His HO scale, 17 x 28 foot, freelanced GN pike is a scenic benchmark for all in the hobby. He used Atlas code 100 flex, #6 & # 8 switches, has a 30" minimum radius and .7 to 1.2% grades on the track work. DC

power, cab control and 4 homemade throttles with walk-around memory provide control of the layout. His pike displays over 100 scratch & stock structures built by Don. With the buildings of the Spokane Division being somewhat time generic, he is able to change eras from 1949 to the 1960's by rotating locomotives, automobiles, trucks and cabooses every couple of years. He realistically operates his well-thought-out track plan with car cards and a train sequence card deck system he designed himself.

Don's the Assistant Super and Contest Chairman of the North Shore & Western Division as well as the election chairman for the Midwest Region of the NMRA. He is also a charter member of the GN historical society and a distinguished award winning NMRA modeler - winning best in show and 1st place awards at national NMRA conventions plus numerous merit awards at regional conventions. He has received 3 NMRA Achievement Certificates and more are in the pipeline. Clearly he's on his way to becoming a MMR.

In addition to modeling, Don is an amateur photographer. His layout features a unique and well-executed photographic back drop for the GN Apple Yard from the real life town of Wenatchee, WA.

To see more pictures and a detailed track plan of Don's GN, Spokane

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.



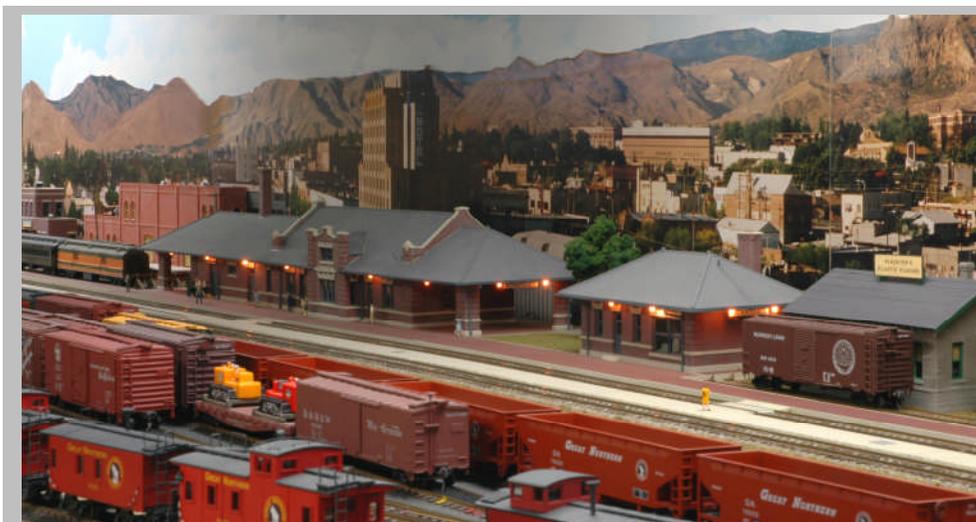
GN2581 gets the all clear from the Adrian tower, master at the Northern Pacific interchange

Division, go to the Fox Valley Division web site at <http://www.foxvalleydivision.org>. If you would like to visit Don's empire to see his work for yourself, you may contact him at dcook@att.net for an appointment. For more information on the GN railroad, visit <http://www.gnrhs.org/>

Last Month's Contest

April's contest was Weathered Rolling Stock.

First Place went to John Hetreed's O scale hopper cars



Don's award winning Wanatchee depot behind the Apple Yard complex. Note the photographic back ground of a sequence of pictures taken by Don of the actual town of Wanatchee, WA



Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

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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



Second went to Leif Hansen for his triple dome tank car



Third went to Joel Lebovitz for his modern tank cars. This month we're looking for weathered and detailed locomotives.

The Midwest Region Needs You!!

Nominations are open for the early 2008 Midwest Region Election of four Directors at Large. If you are interested in running for a position, please contact Jim Osborn at 815-578-8315, or visit the FVD web page director nominating information to view a letter from Jim Spice, Chairman of the nominating committee, detailing the nominating process. Nominations are required by Sept. 6, 2007.

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!



Next Meeting: May 20, 2007
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
Clinic – Soo Line's Chicago Freight house
Contest– weathered and detailed locomotives



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED