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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

## October Meeting

The October meeting will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Gary Morava Center in Prospect Heights. The clinic will be given by Jim Spice, the Superintendent of the North Shore Division. The clinic, titled Building Bridges 12" to the Foot, is sure to be entertaining and informative. There will be a layout tour following the meeting

Prior to our October meeting, we will host the Midwest Region board meeting. This meeting will start at 10:30 a.m. and end at noon. If you would like to attend, you are welcome to do so. At noon, the FVD will be providing lunch for the board members and any FVD members that are present. Even if you don't attend the board meeting, be sure to come at noon for lunch. Our meeting will start as usual at 1:30 p.m., and the MWR board members will attend our meeting.

## Last Month's Contest

The September contest was line-side track. There were only three entries, but they were all beautifully detailed. Leif Hansen took First Place with his "Dark Signals" while David Crement took second and third place honors with his grade crossing, "Stop, Look, an Listen" and his "Water Stop," respectively.

## This Month's Contest

The October contest will be a wall made from the parts in the Mt

Vernon Manufacturing Company, the Life-Like<sup>®</sup> model kit that was passed out at the September meeting.

Time is again tight - it's amazing how quickly the monthly meetings roll around. I know I haven't taken a saw blade to my kit yet; I'm still designing the finished product in my head.

## November and December Contests

For November and December, the contests will be based on the Model Kit that we handed out at the September meeting, the Mt. Vernon Manufacturing Company, a Life-Like<sup>®</sup> model kit (pictured below). In November, you can bring in a part of a roof, and in December, you can bring in the "finished" model. The only catch to the December contest is that it should not be easily recognized as one if the four versions illustrated on the box.

If you did not get your kit at the September meeting, You may still be able to pick up a kit for the November and December meetings.

## Take a Model Train to Work Day 2007

Friday, November 16, 2007, is the seventh annual Take a Model Train to Work Day. There's plenty of time to dust off some prized engines or cars, or I my case, prepare a circle of track to, as *Model Railroader* Editor Terry Thompson put it, "voice their

## This Year's Remaining Events

**October 21, 2007**

**12:01pm, Gary Morava Center  
General Meeting**

Clinic – Jim Spice, Bridge Building  
12" to the Foot Scale

Contest– wall from "the kit"  
– Lunch for members and MR BoD  
– Layout tour after the meeting

**November 11, 2007**

**10:00am – 5:00pm**

**Trip to Train Fest**

– Details to be announced  
No Contest

**November 18, 2007**

**1:30pm, Gary Morava Center  
General Meeting**

Clinic – Jim Singer, Railroad  
Oddities

Contest– roof from "the kit"

**December 16, 2007**

**1:30pm, Gary Morava Center  
General Meeting**

Clinic – Mark Llanuza,  
Winter Railroad  
- David Leider,  
Railroads of Lithuanian  
– Swap Meet

Contest– kit-bashed structure kit  
from Sept. Meeting

passion for model trains and spark conversations with their colleagues and friends about ways they can get involved." That quote was courtesy of "World's Greatest Hobby. To find out more about it, go to their website at:

<http://www.greatesthobby.com/wgh/default.aspx?c=a&id=88>

## Track Treks

*A tour of local layouts*

*Jim Osborn - Public Relations  
Trainmaster*

**The Way It Was . . .**

. . . and there I was, in the blink of an eye, standing among the citizens of Waupaca, WI during the summer of 1947. As I gaze to the right past Oborn & Ware Streets I see all the way down the Green Bay & Western branch line. There is the Central Seed Company, Northwestern Produce Company, the Potato Warehouse and the Fisher & Fallgatter mill. Turning around I see the Johnson Oil Company, the Standard Oil distributor, the Waupaca freight house and local boarding house. Perched up high on the Soo Line embankment stands the Oak Street Bridge next to the Waupaca station. All as it was in the summer 1947 according to the exhaustive research of craftsman David Leider.

David's plan was to replicate a small Soo Line town that was within a 3 hour drive of home, had two railroads in it

with one on an embankment. Once David learned Waupaca fit the plan, the summer of 47 was dictated by the fact that the freight warehouse burned to the ground in the summer and the GB & W abandoned the branch in August of that year. So David froze the way it was just before those events.

Years of on-site research led up to David starting construction of his 20' x 10' "L-shaped" layout about 11 years ago. His basic goal was to make his layout as true a replica as could be done. "Wherever I had accurate information about a structure, I did it correctly, just as it was," says David. His priorities were structures, rolling stock and operation in that order. He modeled off a Sanborn Map grid (only eliminating empty spaces for physical compression) and replicated every structure in the town down to the exact location of utility poles and the side their cross bars are on!

His construction technique is open frame with foam board and plywood. He uses styrene almost exclusively for his structures, "...because it does not warp." All structures have interiors and lighting details. His DC powered, HO scale, main line track is code 70 and the branch is code 55 - all hand laid of course. (Hmmm. I wonder if the spikes are....)

As an aside, his hobby actually earned David the title "Author." Since he had compiled so much historical information about Waupaca, one of the city's fathers asked him to write and publish a book about the town - and he did it. David also gives 3 excellent



Potato Warehouse on David Leider's "Waupaca 1947" layout

clinics on the phases of this modeling project. Try to catch them if you haven't yet. After a lot of conversation, David did confess that there are two buildings on the layout that are not wholly replicas. Send David an email at [sooauthor@netzero.net](mailto:sooauthor@netzero.net) to arrange a personal tour of Waupaca, '47, and see if you can find them - I couldn't.

David holds 4 NMRA AP certificates and is well on the way to becoming an MMR. He serves on the board of the Fox Valley Division and Secretary of the Soo Line Historical & Technical Society. Check out the FVD website <http://www.foxvalleydivision.org> for more photos of David's pike. For further background information see: <http://www.sooline.org/> or <http://www.greenbayroute.com/gbw/hs.htm> or <http://www.waupacahistory.org/>

## 2006-2007 Financial Report

*Tim Kleimeyer - Paymaster*

Fox Valley Division Financial summary for Fiscal 2006-2007

Fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30.

### Income

High Wheeler 2006 Region Convention	\$17,653.00 438.20
Other	81.08
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$18,172.28</b>

### Expenses

High Wheeler	\$13,196.99
FVD Meetings and trips	4,088.12
Semaphore	1,526.42
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$18,811.53</b>

### Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

Superintendent Rich Sweet <a href="mailto:Rsweet@pactiv.com">Rsweet@pactiv.com</a>	847-550-1399
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Chief Clerk Leif Hansen <a href="mailto:lhansen@d211.org">lhansen@d211.org</a>	847-437-7124
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Membership and Publications Trainmaster Rick Saviano <a href="mailto:saviano@att.net">saviano@att.net</a>	847-429-0804
Achievements and Contests Trainmaster Jim Landwehr <a href="mailto:JLandwehr901@yahoo.com">JLandwehr901@yahoo.com</a>	847-577-7984
Clinics & Programs Trainmaster David Leider <a href="mailto:sooauthor@netzero.com">sooauthor@netzero.com</a>	847-253-7484
Ways and Means Trainmaster Walter Radtke <a href="mailto:wagx2@email.com">wagx2@email.com</a>	847-255-2977

## This Year's Remaining Events (continued)

### January 20, 2008

**1:00pm, Operating session at Ted Schnepf's "Fox Valley O Scale"**

No Clinic  
No Contest

### February 17, 2008

**1:30pm, Gary Morava Center**

Clinic – Walter Radtke – How I built  
My Gardem Railroad  
Contest - TBD

### March 15-16, 2008

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

No Clinic  
No Contest

### April 20, 2008

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

Clinic – Boy, is my thumb green  
Contest– TBD

### May 18, 2008

**1:30pm  
Layout tours  
(Details TBD)**

No Clinic  
No Contest

### Summer, 2008

**Possible Field Trip**

– Details to be announced

**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: October 21, 2007**  
**12:00pm (Lunch!), Gary Morava Center**  
Clinic – Jim Spice, Bridge Building 12” to the  
Foot Scale  
Contest– wall from “the kit”



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

