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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

Trainfest®! November's Meeting Field Trip

Our annual trip to Trainfest® in Milwaukee will be on Sunday the 11th at 10:00am. As usual, we will meet at the Regency Shopping Plaza, where our bus will be waiting for us. We will return between 5:00pm and 6:00pm.

We always have fun at Trainfest®, and this year promises to be just as much fun as in the past.

There may still be time to hop on the bus! Register with our Clinics & Programs Trainmaster, David Leider at 847-253-7484, or sooauthor@aol.com
See you there!

November Meeting

Yes, for the first time in I don't know how many years, there will be a November meeting! It will be held on the 18th, at the Gary Morava Center in Prospect Heights. The clinic will be given by Jim Singer, and the topic will be Railroad Oddities. No, that doesn't mean the cat that jumps on your layout and thinks he's Godzilla. Come see how to model some of railroading's oddities at the November meeting!

This Month's Contest

The November contest will be a roof made from the parts in the Mt Vernon Manufacturing Company, the Life-Like® model kit that was passed out at the September

meeting.

The way I figure it, you'll have just under a week to fit the cool stuff you bought at Trainfest® into this month's contest entry. Not a whole lot of time to get those creative juices flowing, and just barely enough time to properly weather a rooftop air conditioning unit. Get out your Tenex and start gluing! The more entries we get, the more we get to see the handiwork of our fellow FVD members. Come on, don't let this contest be a walk in the park for the "regulars." Like they say about the Lottery, "You can't win if you haven't answered.?"

Last Month's Contest

The September contest was the wall from the model that was handed out at the September meeting.

First place went to Jim Osborn for his Spice's Speed Shop. Second Place went to Leif Hansen for his Mt Vernon Manufacturing, and third Place went to Jim Landwehr for his unnamed building Jim gave this additional information for his entry:

The front wall of a 1960's era custom auto parts store and a 3rd floor flat. The model will be located in Welsburg, Iowa. Currently unpainted (work-in-progress).

Photos are located on the following page. You can see larger photos of all the winning contest entries by going to our website:

<http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/>

This Year's Remaining Events

November 11, 2007

10:00am – 5:00pm

Trip to Trainfest®

– 10:00am

Regency Shopping Plaza

No Contest

November 18, 2007

1:30pm, Gary Morava Center

General Meeting

Clinic – Walter Radtke – How I built

My Garden Railroad

Contest– roof from “the kit”

December 16, 2007

1:30pm, Gary Morava Center

General Meeting

Clinic – Mark Llanuza,

Winter Railroading

- David Leider,

Railroads of Lithuanian

– Swap Meet

Contest– kit-bashed structure kit

from Sept. Meeting

January 20, 2008

1:00pm, Operating session at Ted

Schnepf's “Fox Valley O Scale”

No Clinic

No Contest

Here are photos of the “money” entries:



Jim Osborn's Spice's Speed Shop



Leif Hanson's Mt Vernon Mfg.



Jim Landwehr's unnamed building

December Contest

For December, the contest will be based on the Model Kit that we handed out at the September meeting, the Mt. Vernon Manufacturing Company, a Life-Like® 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 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>

Hints, Tips, and Innovations

Rick Saviano

*Publications Trainmaster /
Membership Trainmaster*

This month, I'd like to reflect on how being a model railroarer slips into our everyday lives. I'm pretty sure I'm not eh only one who has people asking for favors, because “you're a crafty guy.” Well, I've never considered myself “crafty,” but I have been known to use hobby techniques to solve real-world problems. Take for example, a recent painting job I did in the house: I needed to make a straight line where two different colored walls meet, Did I panic? Of course not (well, actually, I did a little, until I pulled out an old copy of *Model Railroader*. There was an article (part of their “tips” section) where they showed the “trick” to razor-sharp color changes. Everyone knows about using delicate surfaces painters tape, paint the taped edge with the color we just masked off before we paint the new color on? Painting that base color ensures that any bleed through will be the same color, resulting in the most beautiful

edge you've ever seen. And it doesn't hurt to have all those little brushes at your disposal, in case you need to make those inevitable touch-ups.

Then there's the case of the Garage Door Ball. You know, the ball that hits your window at the wrong place, so you park way too close or way too far from the wall. Well, being used to scaling everything up or down to accommodate the "right" scale, I knew how to properly "model" the garage door to figure out how to get the string just right. You see, following the instructions, I wound up with either the ball six inches too low, or having the string yanked out of the ball when the door closed. I drew up a diagram and realized that I would have to move the ball 8 inches away from the "correct" location in order for the ball to land at the right height. "Mere mortals," i.e. non-hobbyists, would have had to resort to trial and error, or leave the ball

in the wrong location and guess where to stop the car.

Of course, there is always that "strange" side effect, especially when you work in a scale like mine (1:220) and try to bring your solutions to the 1:1 world:

If you watch the ball as the garage door opens, you'll notice that it goes down, and then moves back up again!

How have you solved a real-world problem with a scale-world technique? Send me a line, and I'll share it with the rest of the FVD.

Saviano@att.net , and be sure to put the word "Semaphore," or "FVD" in the email subject line.

Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

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This Year's Remaining Events (continued)

February 17, 2008
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
 Clinic – Jim Singer, Railroad Oddities
 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, or one of our "courtesy" recipients of the *Semaphore*. 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 beyond your national membership. 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!



Trainfest[®]: November 11, 2007
 10:00am - Regency Shopping Plaza

Next Meeting: November 18, 2007
 1:30pm , Gary Morava Center

Clinic – Walter Radtke – How I built My Garden Railroad

Contest– roof from "the kit"



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED