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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

High Wheeler March 15-16!

There will be no March meeting due to High Wheeler, which will be held at Harper College in Palatine. Can you believe we've been doing this for 30 years? Hours for Saturday and Sunday are 9:00am - 5:00pm. Admission is \$7.00 for adults and teens, \$6.00 for Seniors 65 and older, \$2.00 for ages 5 thru 12, and free for the under 5 set. There will be 33 vendors, 22 layouts, and over a million attendees (at least it will seem like a million!).

Hope to see you there!

Superintendent's Report

*by Richard Sweet
Superintendent*

High Wheeler '08 is just a few days away and this will be a special one. What makes it special? This will be the 30th anniversary of the show. Your Board of Directors spent some time deliberating about how best to commemorate the 30th anniversary. We wanted something to hand out to our guests that 1) would let them know that it was our 30th anniversary and 2) was reasonably priced. What we came up with were hats, hats for the kids. We have purchased 1000 paper engineer hats which we will be handing to the first 1000 kids. The hats have the High Wheeler logo on the front and a statement that says this is the 30th anniversary of the show. Be sure to attend the 30th anniversary show -- High Wheeler '08.

At our April meeting we will hold our annual business meeting. At this meeting it is customary that each Trainmaster give a report of their

accomplishments of their committee for the year. Also, we will be voting for a Superintendent and a Chief Clerk for two year terms. If you are interested in running for either of these positions, please contact our Assistant Superintendent Harry Sorenson.

In addition to the business meeting, we will be having a clinic by Ingrid Drozdak entitled, "Boy, is My Thumb Green." This is one clinic you won't want to miss. If you haven't attended a meeting in a while, this would be one to attend.

If you didn't get the word, the May meeting layout tour has been cancelled. There was a scheduling issue with the layouts and the board decided that it just wasn't feasible to hold given the number of layouts that could participate. Instead, we are looking at a bus trip to Rochelle, IL to visit Railroad Park. This will be on our regular meeting date and will depend on the number of participants and the cost of the bus. If you are would like to go, contact our Clinics and Programs Trainmaster David Leider to sign up. Watch the Semaphore or check the Web site for further details.

The spring issue of the Waybill is now on the Midwest Regions Web site. Be sure to take a look at it. And, don't forget about the spring convention, Waupaca Rails 2008. I hope to see a lot of Fox Valley Division members there.

Next Month's Contest

There will be no March Contest. The April contest theme will be "Builder's Choice - Unfinished Project." and we're leaving it wide open, just like February's contest. Got a project that you just can't seem to complete? Has it been bugging you? Well, you're in luck! That Pain-in-the-Layout just might translate into prize money in this month's contest. Of course, judging

This Year's Remaining Events

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 - Unfinished Project – your choice

May 18, 2008
9:00am – 5:00pm
Trip to Rochelle Railroad Park
Meet at Regency Shopping Center
No Clinic
No Contest

Jim Osborn is the FVD Public Relations Train Master and our Webmaster. He has been authoring *Track Treks* as a continuing column featuring local layouts. Contact Jim if you would like your layout profiled in the Track Treks. His contact information is listed on page 3.

FREE!!! – Last Chance!!!!
3 Fluorescent light fixtures 8' long with 2 bulbs each. Bulbs (6) included. You provide the transportation. Contact Tim Kleimeyer at 847-426-4732 if interested.

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.

for this one will be even more difficult than the February contest. I can't wait to see what everyone's got cooking! Hope to see you and your project there!

Midwest Region Spring convention

Remember, the Midwest Region Spring convention will be held in Waupaca, Wisconsin on May 9 - 11. With operating sessions on Friday night, clinics on Friday night and Saturday morning, a tour of the Waupaca Foundry Friday afternoon. There will be additional layout tours Saturday and Sunday afternoon, and the banquet will be on Saturday night.

For more information, refer to The Superintendent's Report in the January *Semaphore*, or go to the convention Website, www.mwr-nmra.org/WaupacaRails2008/Home.htm. For hotel information, go to www.bestwesternwaupaca.com.

Hope you can attend!

Last Month's Contest

Picking a winner for the February contest was as simple as A-B-C, or should I say, C-B-A, because that was the order the votes came in as: Leif Hansen has led the way with his first-place diorama (the second photo is highlights the sign detail and lighting), Jim Osborn came in second with his Boone Freight Terminal, and Jim Landwehr came in third with his freight house. All seven entries showed exceptional care and detail. Great work, everyone!



Leif Hansen's diorama



Detail of diorama



Jim Osborn's Boone Freight Terminal



Jim Landwehr's Freight house

Estate Sale

John Hetreed is sponsoring an estate sale of the HO scale model railroad items of the late Bill Fisher who was a NMRA member of the Fox Valley Division. The sale will be held on April 5, 2008 at The Holiday Inn Express, 2120 South Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005, from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Over 1,500 items are available; many are new and in the original packaging. Contact johnhetreed@wowway.com

Tapes Available From Our Library

Just a reminder that we have VHS tapes available for loan. Look for them by the front table of our meeting room.

It's Election Time!

April's just around the corner, and along with the Income Tax Deadline and Spring Break comes Election Day for Fox Valley Division's officers. Last year we voted for Paymaster and Assistant Superintendent. This year the offices for Superintendent and Chief Clerk are up for election. Have you got what it takes to run for office? Think you've got what it takes to step into these shoes? We're always looking for new blood (or is that fresh meat?) and there's still time to have your name added to the ballot! Call our Assistant Superintendent, Harry Sorenson (hrcsconsult@juno.com).

See you at the election!

Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

Superintendent Rich Sweet Superintendent@foxvalleydivision.org	847-550-1399
Assistant Superintendent Harry Sorenson hrcsconsult@juno.com	847-669-8936
Chief Clerk Leif Hansen lhansen@d211.org	847-437-7124
Paymaster Tim Kleimeyer kleimeyert@comcast.net	847-426-4732
Public Relations Trainmaster Jim Osborn jlosborn@comcast.net	815-578-8315
Membership and Publications Trainmaster Rick Saviano saviano@att.net	847-429-0804
Achievements and Contests Trainmaster Jim Landwehr JLandwehr901@yahoo.com	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

Hints, Tips, and Innovations

Rick Saviano

Publications Trainmaster /
Membership Trainmaster

Well, you know how I'm always asking for articles? This month we have a guest author, so I'm turning the column over to David Leider:

Scratch Building with Styrene

by David Leider

I do a lot of scratch building with styrene. The main problem was what glue to use and how to apply it. Until about 10 year ago I used a brush to apply it, but that method had several disadvantages. As hard as I would try, it applied too much. This caused the styrene to deform over time. The other problem was that the bottle would be left open and I knocked it over more times than I could count.

At the 1999 NMRA convention in St Paul I found a solution that solved both problems. I visited the Hebco booth, which was selling Tenax-7R liquid cement with a Touch-N-Flow Applicator that lets you apply just the amount you need. Capillary action draws the Tenax into the glass tube, but I found that by placing the needle end into the bottle and sucking, you can fill the tube to about 1/4 of the way up quickly and safely. (Do not suck too hard or you may get it in your mouth.) Touching the micro-tip to the joint causes the liquid to flow from the tube. You can apply as little as a single drop, or run it lightly along the two halves to be joined. Application is easily controlled and precisely positioned.

Do not go backwards, or the softened styrene will plug the micro-tip. I keep a length of fine copper wire I cut from a lamp cord to use as a cleaner. Simply thread it through the hole in the micro-tip to unplug it.

Any liquid remaining in the applicator can be put back into the bottle by touching the tip of the applicator to the inside of the bottle, or small amounts will evaporate over time.

Not only do I get neater glue joints, but a bottle of liquid cement goes much farther using the applicator.

Find the Secret Word Contest

Be the first to bring in your mailed-out *Semaphore*, with the secret word circled, to the April meeting and you will receive a prize. Words inside this text box are excluded. The word may or may not have spaces between them. As an example, "Warsaw" might have shown up in "war saw" or hidden in "the wars awe"

The secret word for this month is:
"sled"

The February word was found by:
Steve Martinak

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!



**Next Event: March 15- 16, 2008
9:00am – 5:00pm, Harper College**

Come Join us at High Wheeler
We're celebrating 30 years!



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED