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

Fox Valley Division • MWR • NMRA

October's Meeting

On October 19, we will hold a joint meeting with the North Shore & Western Division. The NS&W will be joining us at the Gary Morava Recreation Center. The clinic will be "Contest Judging" by Sean Lamb from the South Central Wisconsin Division (SCWD). We look forward to seeing you all there.

Trip to Trainfest®

Our trip to Trainfest® will be on November 9. The trip will be in addition to our regular November meeting on November 16th. Don't forget to sign up for the trip at this month's meeting!

Last Month's Contest

The September contest was "my favorite box car," and we just barely had enough contestants to give away first, second, and third place prizes

David Crement won first place with his East Broad Top car



Walt Herrick took second with his Western Maryland



And Joel Lebovitz secured third with his RailBox.



Each entry had beautiful detailing all the way around. Congratulations Dave, Walt, and Joel!

This Month's Contest

The October contest will be structures. We want to be very clear that we are looking at the structure, the whole structure, and nothing but the structure. Last year we had some potential issues

This Year's Remaining Events

October 19, 2008
12:01pm, Gary Morava Center
General Meeting

Clinic – contest modeling and judging.
Contest– favorite scale model structure
– Combined meet with the North Shore and Western Division

November 9, 2008
10:00am – 5:00pm
Trip to Train Fest
Regency Plaza Shopping Center parking lot
No Contest

November 16, 2008
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
General Meeting
Clinic – Jim Spice - The Joy of Backdrop Painting
Contest– Locomotives

December 14, 2008
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
General Meeting
Clinic – Ed DeRouin, North Shore Line - Interurban Freight
Contest– dioramas

January 18, 2009
1:00pm, Operating session at Ted Schnepf's "Fox Valley O Scale"
No Clinic
No Contest

with one of the structures because it came close to being a diorama. Luckily, the building stood on its own merits (no pun intended), so there was really no problem. Save your dioramas for the December contest.

Next Month's Contest

The subject for our November contest will be locomotives. Steam, diesel, or electric, chug, clank, rumble, or whirl into the Morava Center with your entry and try your hand at winning the prizes, or at least the adulation of your fellow NMRA members.

Not One, but Two Daves Become MMRs

At the September meeting, Jim Landwehr presented Dave Crement and David Leider with plaques in honor of their achievement of becoming Master Model Railroaders (MMR). It is a singular achievement to have two MMRs in one year



If David Leider's face looks familiar, it might be because of his article in June's Model Railroader, where he and his Waupaca layout were featured. David Crement was rather busy this month - in addition to his MMR, he gave the clinic for the September meeting, on resistance soldering.



Scale Rails Going Up In Price

I received the following email from NMRA National in August:

"Hi, Editors -

"The 2008 National convention is over, and several important decisions came out of the Board meeting there. You'll be hearing about most of those decisions in *Scale Rails*.

"However, one decision that may directly impact you is the new decision to raise the annual subscription rate of *Scale Rails*. If you're currently running an NMRA subscription or renewal form in your newsletter, as of October 1, 2008 you'll have to adjust the rates for memberships that include the magazine.

"Here's the official word from the Board:

"In order to keep up with rapidly escalating costs for printing and distribution, the Board approved a new rate of \$19 (US members) per annual subscription of *Scale Rails*."

"Remember, this is still quite a value, considering *Scale Rails* is typically 72 pages and full-color. In fact, a subscription comes to less than \$2 per month.

"So, bottom line: after October 1, the new annual NMRA dues rate with a *Scale Rails* subscription will be \$55. Please adjust your subscription or renewal form!

"Thanks,

- Gerry Leone, MMR
Deputy Chair

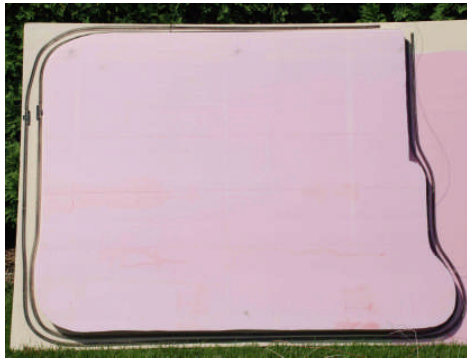
- Jan Wescott
Department Manager
Membership Services &
Promotion Department"

[Editor's comment]: Seems the only thing certain in this hobby is rising prices. At least *Scale Rails* is worth it.

Hints, Tips, and Innovations

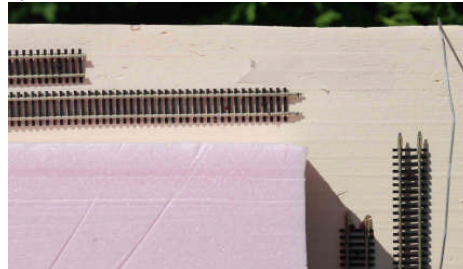
- Rick Saviano
Publications Trainmaster /
Membership Trainmaster

I was a little surprised at the level of expertise exhibited by the entries in the May 2008 meeting. The category was "unfinished project," and I had a hard time figuring out what was unfinished about them. Allow me to share with you my favorite unfinished project:



This was my first attempt at building a subway for my layout. Another layer of Styrofoam was intended to

go on top, complete with buildings and streets. The curves along the right were to follow the path of the Chicago River, and the wide space between the tracks on the left was for a platform with stairs and escalators and stairs going up and down to other levels. I have since abandoned it in favor of a different design, but I thought you might appreciate the "innovation" part. As you can see in this close-up, I thought that running trains in a circle was not prototypical, so I decided to run a point-to-point system:



(Actually, that is where I was going to have a 90° crossing, but I'm going to have to hone my hand-laying skills before I try a 4-track crossing)

I'll keep you posted on how the revised plan develops.

Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

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This Year's Remaining Events (continued)

February 22, 2009

1:30pm, Glenview Public Library at 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, Illinois

Clinic - TBA
No Contest

February 28 -March 1, 2009

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

No Clinic
No Contest

April 26, 2009

1:00pm, Gary Morava Center Annual Business Meeting

Clinic - TBA
Contest- train related photographic prints

May 17, 2009

1:30pm, Gary Morava Center General Meeting

Clinic - Ed Rosengren, history of the Illinois Railroad Museum
Contest- TBA

Sunshine Models 15th annual Prototype Modelers Seminar

Oct. 30 - November 2, 2008

Holiday Inn, 1801 Naperville Rd.
Naperville, IL - (630) 445-6314

Seminar Registration: \$100
Sunshine models
Box 4997
Springfield MO 65808-4997

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 19, 2008
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
 Clinic – Sean Lamb (SCWD), Contest Judging
 Contest– Structures



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