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Fox Valley Division
Midwest Region - NMRA
P.O. Box 1535
Arlington Heights, IL 60005-1535
<http://www.foxvalleydivision.org>

The Semaphore

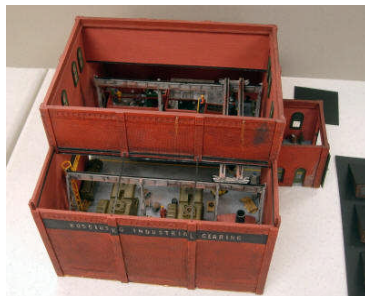
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November's Meeting

On November 16, 2008, the clinic will be "The Joy of Backdrop Painting" presented by Jim Spice. Jim will amaze us with the ease and speed he can create a scenic backdrop. He will demonstrate his techniques and then he will pick someone from the audience to create a backdrop on the spot!! Refreshments will be available, as usual. See you there!

Last Month's Contest

The October contest was structures, and we more than made up for October's paltry number of entries. With a dozen entries and one display only non-entry, we all had a difficult time determining the prize-winners. Contestants. In the end, first place went to George Milkowski and his Preservation Design Factory.



Second went to Don Cook's Feed & Grain (from a Bar Mills Laser Kit)



and third went to Don Robinson's Scratch Built Freight Station.



We also had our smallest entry to date, Ingrid Drosier's request for a "Little Privacy," which was actually a diorama showing 2 Z-scale outhouses. In all fairness to Ingrid, the entry needed the setting, so that people didn't mistake it for wood chips from Don Robinson's entry.



Ingrid, you've inspired me, and I'll enter the GC-Laser Z-scale model of pallets (yes, it is an actual model kit!) the next chance I get.

This Month's Contest

The November contest will be "My Favorite Locomotive." Anything that is powered and prototypically pulls a load will qualify

Next Month's Contest

The subject for our December contest will be dioramas. Steam, diesel, or electric, chug, clank, rumble, or whir 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.

This Year's Remaining Events

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

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 17-19, 2009 -- 2009 Spring
Convention (Not a FVD group
Outing)**

Clock Tower Resort,
Rockford, Illinois.

Track Treks (a tour of local layouts):

By Jim Osborn

Sun City Model Railroaders

With fall chilling in the air, I think it time to write about a sunnier topic - specifically the Kishwaukee Valley & Eakin Creek RR at Dell Webb's Sun City in Huntley, IL. Sun City is a retirement village for active seniors, and in this case, seniors interested in model railroading. The Sun City Model Railroad Club has about 55 active members modeling in four different scales. The special interest groups are divided into N, HO, 3 rail O and G scales. The small scale layouts are on the lower level of the Club Barn at Sun City while the garden RR operates outside.

We are fortunate to have the Fox Valley Division's Assistant Superintendent, Harry Sorenson, as a more-than-active participant. He and 4 other club members devoted to G scale, designed, developed, funded and constructed the KV & EC, G scale outdoor railroad in less than two years. Harry appreciates the help they got from the Sun City Garden and Woodchuck (wood working) clubs to get the job done. He also talked Sun

City into funding a portion of the project. Other funds came from members, donations and grants.

The outdoor railroad has two large, meandering, mainline loops and a point-to-point trolley line running over 850 feet of track. The phase III expansion planned for next year will add more than 150 feet of track to the railroad. Harry designed a simple trestle system to support the track over the undulating terrain behind the barn. He made a frame, about rail-gauge width from strips of outdoor plastic lumber which the Woodchucks cut for them. They laid out the frame on the site following the track plan and then sunk PVC pipes into the ground every 18 inches or so between the frame sides. Next, they lifted the frame to the correct track elevation at every pipe and fastened it to the pipe. Finally, they cut off the pipe level to the top of the frame. The result was a quickly-constructed track base independent from the ground elevation. While it does not look it, Harry tells me that the main line is dead level with no grades while the ground elevation changes around the track to provide a nice scenic illusion making you think the RR is loaded with up-and-down hills.

The Woodchucks built trestle fascias to surround the track base pipes where they were excessively high above the



Fun in the Sun (City)

ground and a bridge or two enhancing layout scenery. The Sun City Garden Club handled all the plantings and terrain grading. They even brought in river rocks and boulders to landscape the model river bed.

The N, HO & 3 rail O scale layouts are all found inside the club barn. The N scale layout is almost complete while the HO and O scale layouts are about 50% or so done with scenery. The N & HO pikes use DCC power control while the G scale layout uses good ol' DC to run the trains. I saw trains running on all the pikes and they look pretty, darn good. The club has established both day and night, work and play schedules as well as Saturday sessions.

While we were at the September model RR open house watching more trains than we could follow, Leif Hansen said, "Gee, this might not be a bad place to retire to." Harry chimed in recalling a good friend once saying, "You don't retire from work; you retire to do something else!" At Sun City that "something else" can be participating in a very active model railroad club. A few pictures taken at the open house are

included for your interest. To see more color photos of the Kishwaukee Valley & Eakin Creek RR, go to the Fox Valley Division web site at <http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/>. Better yet, if you would like to visit the KV & EC RR in Huntley, IL you may contact Harry Sorenson at 847-669-8936 or hsrcsconsult@juno.com to see it for yourself.

Take a Model Train to Work Day 2008

The Eighth Annual "Take a Model Train to Work Day" is Friday, November 21, 2008. Don't forget to share your passion for Ferroequinology with your co-workers! According to their website, <http://greatesthobby.com>, "Participants are encouraged to send photos and success stories from Take a Model Train to Work Day to The World's Greatest Hobby, P.O. Box 11, Elmhurst, IL 60126 or to info@GreatestHobby.com. A selection of submissions will be posted on the GreatestHobby.com web site."

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This Year's Remaining Events (continued)

- 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

2009 Spring Convention

On behalf of the Rock River Valley Division, Superintendent, Don Brindle invites everyone to attend the Region's 2009 Spring Convention at the Clock Tower Resort in Rockford, Illinois. Look for the link for updates on the Fox Valley Division's Web Site:

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

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!



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1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

