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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

Fox Valley Division • MWR • NMRA

## December's Meeting: New Time

Our December meeting will be at 1:00pm on the 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Gary Morava Center. Ed DeRouin will give a clinic based on his book *North Shore Line - Interurban Freight*. Ed will share some of his extensive collection of photos of the Chicago North Shore & Milwaukee freight operations. Lunch will be served, so the starting time is a half hour earlier than "normal."

## Last Month's Clinic

The clinic for the November meeting was "The Joy of Backdrop Painting" presented by Jim Spice. I thought you might want to see Jim's handiwork, performed before our very eyes in a matter of less than a half hour:



This is Jim Spice's 30 minute backdrop.

Afterwards, three volunteers tried their hand at making a backdrop.



Here we see Jim Osborn adding details to the second backdrop.



And here's the resulting backdrop from our three volunteers. Not as easy as Jim Spice made it look, but very satisfying results for a first attempt after the clinic!

## Last Month's Contest

The subject of November's contest was locomotives, and we had seven entries. First place went to Jim Landwehr's UP Gas Turbine.



# This Year's Remaining Events

**December 14, 2008**  
**1:00pm, Gary Morava Center**  
**General Meeting - Lunch**

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  
Contest - Freight Cars

**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.

**April 26, 2009**  
**1:00pm, Gary Morava Center**  
**Annual Business Meeting**  
Clinic – TBA  
Contest– train related photographic  
prints

Second went to Jim Spice's detailed Colorado & Southern 2-8-0



and third went to David Crement's East Broad Top 0-6-0 Detailed Switcher kit.



## This Month's Contest

The subject for our December contest will be dioramas. Chop out the part of your layout that you're proudest of and bring it to the Morava Center!

## Track Treks

(a tour of local layouts)  
By Jim Osborn

### Big is Getting Bigger

The January Fox Valley Division meet will occur at Ted Schnepf's huge, two rail, O scale, Milwaukee Road, Dubuque

Division Railroad. Ted will graciously host an operating session as part of our regular meeting. This is an excellent opportunity for the membership to see Ted's 30 x 72 foot layout that has been constructed by a consortium of Midwestern modelers - known as the Fox Valley O Scalers. Division members Fred Klinger, Master Model Railroaders David Leider and David Crement among many others have contributed to Ted's layout.

The pike features triple layer, open grid construction with an 84 inch super elevated main line radius standard. Mainline turnouts are #8s, 10s and 12s with both manual and motorized operation. There are 8 passing sidings with capacity ranging from 7 to 27 cars in length. There are 5200 feet of ballasted flex and hand-laid track. Yes, this is not a typo; there is a real mile of track! The mainline itself is 650 feet long. There are three staging yards with a total 1800 car capacity as well as a 400 car capacity working yard. Typical trains are about 20 cars in length -- which with loco and caboose, add up to about 24 linear feet!! Ted uses an NCE walk-around DCC cab system for locomotive control on the pike.

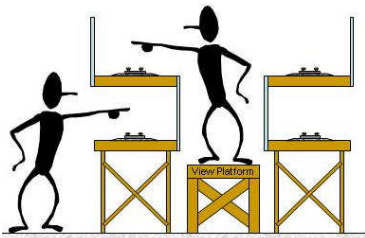
Big is getting bigger. Ted has added a 1400 square foot addition to his home



The Sewell Coke Ovens & Slack Tipple (scratch-built by Ted Schnepf).

and is currently in the process of extending each of the three layers of the layout into the 10 foot high basement of the addition. The mainline will be over 1000 feet in length when completed. He will add several new towns in a "mushroom design" structure which stacks two track layers directly above one another with each viewed from opposite sides. Ted is constructing a 120 foot long Dubuque complex with 75 additional hand-laid turnouts in this area. Ted's work plan anticipates a 6 - 8 year stretch for the completion of the new addition.

Ted's new addition will be constructed as a true mushroom design. The configuration gets its name from its shape.



If you view a cross-section of the structure cut across the track line - the resulting viewing spaces look sort of

like mushrooms. The lower layer track work is viewed from the floor level and has its own backdrop. Its scene can only be viewed from one side of the stacked arrangement.

Similarly, the upper layer scene has its own backdrop and can only be viewed from the other side of the stack. In order to accomplish this, the upper layers are viewed from a platform which raises the observer's eye level to the proper height.

This railroad must be seen to be appreciated so join in on the fun with the Fox Valley Division operating session at Ted's grand model railroad. For more detailed information, prototype depictions and pictures about Ted's railroad please go to the rails unlimited web page at: <http://railsunlimited.ribbonrail.com/FoxValley/>. Ted's layout will also be featured on the Milwaukee 2010 National NMRA convention tours. Reservations are required for the January meeting, so please contact David Leider for an operating spot and logistical information. David's contact information can be found in any issue of the Semaphore.

### Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

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## This Year's Remaining Events (continued)

May 17, 2009  
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center  
**General Meeting**

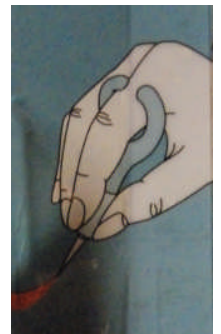
Clinic – Ed Rosengren, history of the Illinois Railroad Museum

Contest– TBA

## Hints, Tips, and Innovations

- Rick Saviano  
Publications Trainmaster /  
Membership Trainmaster

I was walking through my local crafts store when I noticed this tool in the scrapbooking aisle:



Notice the detail on how to hold this little knife, and consider its uses in model railroading. More proof that you can get inspiration from almost any source!

## FVD Website

Just a reminder of the Fox Valley Division's Web Site:

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

Visit often for the most up to date FVD information!

**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:** **Dec. 14, 2008**  
**1:00pm, Gary Morava Center**  
 Clinic - Ed DeRouin: Interurban Freight  
 Contest- Dioramas **Lunch will be served**



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

