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Midwest Region - NMRA
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The Semaphore

Fox Valley Division • MWR • NMRA

Hints, Tips, and Innovations

- Rick Saviano

Publications Trainmaster /
Membership Trainmaster

Wait a minute! What's this doing on the front page???? As part of the April issue, I thought I'd mix things up a bit.

Today's tip is at least 50 years old: I remembered it from the Sunday comics. The comic strip was called "Cappy Dick," and has been replaced by "Uncle Walt's." It was a collection of jokes, tips, and a coloring puzzle/contest. The tip was "A quick way to clean up your desk" and recommended that you arrange all your papers, pencils, pens, etc. either vertically or horizontally. It's amazing how much neater things look that way. As an example, look at the photo below. I took all my model railroad magazines, put them in rolling sets of drawers, and spaced the

drawers evenly beneath the layout. It's amazing what you can store behind those clean lines! (See the following page.)

April's Meeting - A Chance to vote for Board Members in the FVD

This Month's meeting will be April 26 at the Gary Morava Recreation Center in Prospect Heights. Jim Osborn will present his clinic, "*Decoder Pro: Take the Mystery & Complexity out of DCC Decoder Programming.*" Jim will show you how to get the most out of your DCC system with his discussion and hands-on demonstration of Decoder Pro open source software. If you don't know what "open source" means, don't worry - Jim

Everything looks nice and neat . . .



This Year's Remaining Events

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 – Jim Osborn,
*Decoder Pro: Take the
Mystery & Complexity out of
DCC Decoder Programming*

Contest– train related photos

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

Clinic – Ed Rosengren,
*History of the Illinois
Railroad Museum*

Contest– rolling stock

will explain all that, too. The contest for April will be train related photos.

This is our Annual Business Meeting, so plan to get there at 1:00pm. We'll start off with pizza, sub sandwiches, or other healthy food, have our meeting, vote for the contest entries, and vote for Paymaster and Assistant Superintendent.

Board Member Bios

On the off chance that April is the only meeting you'll attend this year, or in case you've never talked to any of the guys at the front table during the meetings, here are the snapshot biographies of the incumbent Board members who are up for re-election this year:

Biography of Candidate for Assistant Superintendent, Harry Sorenson

Member NMRA & Fox Valley Division for 12 Years.

Completing 4 Years as Chief Clerk(Secretary) and 5 years in his current role as our Assistant Superintendent. Volunteer at Highwheeler for last 11 years.

Modeling in H.O. since 1960 (more or less) and still do not have a working layout. Current one is under construction.

Other modeling - Active member of CAGRS (Chicago Area Garden Railway Society) for 6 Years. Had an operational outdoor layout in "G" gauge (4 years old), until I moved.

- Charter member and officer Midwest Rails Modular Railroad.

I have been taking the modular layout to shows for 11 years.

Professional - Since 1959 Industrial / Manufacturing Engineer, Production Manager, Engineering Manager, Factory Manager. Since 1980, President of engineering consulting firm.

Retired 2002. to play with trains, and other stuff.

I will appreciate your support to again serve as your Asst. Superintendent.

Biography of Candidate for Paymaster, Tim Kleimeyer

Tim has been our Paymaster for the last 4 years and was Assistant

... and provides extra storage for all your essential tools.



Congratulations Walter!

Walter Radtke received a package in February from the NMRA - a nice certificate celebrating his 50 years as a member of the NMRA. That's right, the big 5-0! I guess he must have joined shortly after his first communion.

Congratulations Walter!

Superintendent for the previous 4 years. He was our auctioneer for the last few years at the December meetings and has worked at High Wheeler for the last 14 years. You'll usually find him at the FVD tables by the door when he is not helping someone pick out a door prize. Tim models in HO and recently added a room over the garage for a new layout, the Sleepy Creek Railway. He has been collecting kits for the 100 plus buildings he estimates are needed for the new layout. It will actually be 3 railroads in one with Metra and UP mainline action and the (fictitious) Sleepy Creek Railway which was a CNW branch that UP did not want. The layout will be about 24' x25' walk around with both point to point operations and the option for continuous running. Tim enjoys rail fanning and industrial sightseeing as well as helping his wife with her gardens. (He keeps the lawn mowed, anyway.) He lives in Sleepy Hollow and is retired from Siemens Energy & Automation in Batavia.

April's Contest

April is traditionally Tax Deadline time, but the meeting is two weeks after the deadline, so we're asking you to bring in some of your own special paperwork - train-related photographic prints. But you can't tack a bunch of snapshots on a corkboard and expect to win! Here are the guidelines:

All prints must be mounted or otherwise affixed to a matte board or heavy cardstock

The mount's dimensions shall not to be less than 7" x 9 "

The minimum size for a print is 5" x 7"

Each contestant may enter a maximum of 3 prints

The entrant's name and photograph title must be affixed to the back of the mounting

Remember, this is a popular vote contest, so don't be intimidated. |

just checked our membership roster, and we still don't have anyone from the School of the Art Institute coming to the April meeting, and Skrebneski and Scavullo haven't been at the Morava Center for quite a while. Let's see how many train-related photos we can get at the April meeting!

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! It also has links to The Midwest Region and National sites of the NMRA.

Ride the Line 2009

The members of the Rock River Valley Division are proud to host the 2009 Midwest Region Spring Convention. Once again, the convention will be held at the Clock Tower Resort and Convention Center, located off Interstate 90 at Business U.S. 20 (State St.) in Rockford, IL. The convention will be April 17-19, 2009. There will be a Model/Photo Contest, five Friday Night Operating Sessions, Clinics, Layout Tours, as well as Non-Rail Activities. Check the Waybill for details.

May's Meeting

Ed Rosengren, the director of safety and training at the Illinois Railroad Museum in Union, will tell us about the history of the museum. This will be a good primer for a summer visit to the Illinois Railway Museum. The contest will be rolling stock, but not the Wall Street kind, unless you get really inventive. The meeting will be at the Morava Center, at 1:30pm on Sunday, May 17.

Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

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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: **April 26, 2009**
1:00pm, Gary Morava Center
 Clinic – Decoder Pro: Take the Mystery & Complexity out of DCC Decoder Programming
 Contest– Train related photos
 Annual Business Meeting



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