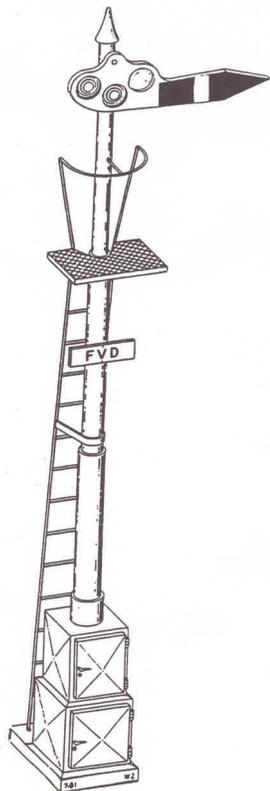


The Semaphore

October 2009



Volume 36, No. 2

October's Meeting: Pullman, Illinois here we come!

Everyone, please remember that our October regular meeting will be held at a different time and place! This is the month we travel to historic Pullman, Illinois on Sunday, October 11th to tour the famous town developed by Pullman Palace Car Company mogul George M. Pullman for his workers. Our schedule for October 11th is:

9:00 a.m. Depart by bus from Regency Plaza Shopping Center in Palatine at Euclid Avenue and Quentin Road.

9:30 a.m. Pick up NSD members and others at Old Orchard Shopping Center in Skokie at Skokie Blvd. and Old Orchard Road.

10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Take part in the annual Historic House Tour of Pullman homes ranging from small worker's cottages to executive mansions. View a short history of the town at the Visitor's Center as well as see exhibits of original artifacts, Pullman railroad memorabilia, and items from the Pullman family. Visit several major buildings in various stages of restoration. Lunch is on your own at several local eateries. The tour is on foot and self guided.

4:30 to 5:00 p.m. Return to Old Orchard and Regency Plaza Shopping Centers.

It is not too late to sign up for this event, but you must act quickly! Call Dave Leider at 847-253-7484 on or before October 9th to make your reservation. Or, you can email Dave at sooauthor@netzero.com. This trip is free to FVD members and one guest. Extra guests pay \$17.00 per guest. We'll see you on the bus October 11th!



Pullman's elegant Hotel Florence

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November's Clinic & Contest

Did you know that in 2007 in the U.S. 355 people were killed in grade crossing accidents and another 485 were killed while trespassing on railroad property? On November 22nd Dave Phillips from Operation Lifesaver will be at our regular meeting with an informative and important presentation on safety in and around railroad grade crossings and property. This is a must presentation for any of us who rail fan or just cross railroad tracks while driving, biking or walking. Please plan to be with us!

November's Contest is "Interior Detailing". Bring an interior detailed structure or piece of rolling stock to share with the group and perhaps win modeling fame and fortune! (Well, maybe not fortune, but certainly fame within the Fox Valley Division!)

FVD 2009-2010 Meetings & Events

October 11, 2009 *Special Event* March 7 & 8, 2010

Bus trip to historic Pullman, Illinois with the North Shore Division. Bus leaves Regency Shopping Center in Palatine at 9:00 a.m. and Old Orchard Shopping Center in Skokie at 9:30 a.m. Return by 5:00 p.m. No clinic or contest.

November 22, 2009 *General Meeting* 1:30—3:30 p.m. Gary Morava Center, Prospect Heights

Clinic—Dave Phillips of Operation Lifesaver Safety Presentation.

Contest—Interior detailing of a structure or piece of rolling stock

December 13, 2009 *General*

Meeting 1:30—3:30 p.m. Gary Morava Center, Prospect Heights

Clinic—Art Jones on “Steel Stud Construction”.

Contest—Caboose Train with three or more cabooses

January 17, 2010

Special Event

An afternoon FVD Operating session on Ted Schnepf's O scale Milwaukee Road—Dubuque Division—full basement model railroad. Reservations required. Call David Leider at 847-253-7484, or email at: sooauthor@netzero.com to reserve your spot.

February 28, 2010 *General Meeting* 1:30—3:30 p.m.

Joint meeting with the North Shore Division at the Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, IL. Clinic and Contest TBA.

Special Event

HIGH WHEELER Train Show sponsored and run by the FVD at Harper College, Palatine. Call Walter Radke 847-255-2977 to volunteer to help work the show. Walter's email: wagx2@email.com.

April 18, 2010 *Annual Business Meeting* 1:30—3:30 p.m. Gary Morava Center, Prospect Heights

Clinic—Model Railroader's DCC Editor, Mike Palsgrove on “DCC for Your Model Railroad”.

Contest—Structures

May 16, 2010 *General Meeting* 1:30 —3:30 p.m. Gary Morava Center, Prospect Heights

Clinic—TBA

Contest—Unit Train of 5-8 cars

Last FVD meeting until September 2010.

July 11 –18, 2010 *NMRA 75th Anniversary National Convention in Milwaukee, WI*—National Train Show July 16 –18 also in Milwaukee.

Semaphore Online?

Want to save the FVD \$150 to \$180 per month? Let us send it to you via email and not “snail mail” (U.S. Postal Service)! It's such an easy thing to do, but very cost effective for the division. We realize that not all FVD members have email, but the large majority of those who do can really help the division save significant dollars. We are gearing up to send the Semaphore to members via both email and U.S. Postal Service in December. Then we'd like to convert as many members as possible to just email service in early 2010. If you can, won't you help us by having your Semaphore emailed?

September's Clinic

Thanks to David Crement, MMR for a great September Clinic on scratch building prototype structures. The “Cliff Notes” version of Dave's clinic are: 1) Do research on your prototype—the more the better, 2) Make scale drawings of the structure, 3) Use templates for accurate cutting and fitting of walls, roofs, floors, window and door openings, etc. FYI, Dave's EBT, On3 layout will be on the NMRA Milwaukee National Convention's 2010 schedule of layout tours.

High Wheeler 2010 Update

Last month we talked about the FVD Board's desire to boost attendance to this year's High Wheeler Train Show in March. So just how do we do that? “Attract more families and kids, that's how,” says Mercury Communications Account Executive, Jody Delie. “Families and kids are a natural market for a train show and the NMRA,” she says.

“Kids love trains and getting them to a train show is helping to develop the next generation of model railroaders.” So the division is now actively pursuing ways to bring more families and kids to High Wheeler 2010. We're not forgetting our great base of modelers and rail fans who attend the show, but we do want to see more families and kids at High Wheeler 2010. More next month.

September Contest Winners—Locomotive Lash-ups

First Place

MMR David Crement's Great Northern electric-diesel lash-up in O scale was our top vote getter this month. Dave did some nice mechanical work on these big, heavy brass models to make them run more smoothly and track better.



Second Place

Jim Landwehr's monster UP lash-up in HO placed second. Jim beautifully custom painted and decaled all of these Overland brass models of UP prototypes about ten years ago.



Third Place

Harold Helland's classy black and gold SD/GP Nickle Plate lash-up in HO placed third.



Also entered: Jim Allen (HO industrial switchers), Bob DiDomenico (O scale, high rail CNW F units), Walt Herrick (HO WM F units), Rick Saviano (Z scale Chicago 1940's Street Cars) and Jerry Vojtko (HO UP FMs & Turbine). Very nice models everyone & thanks for sharing them!

Thanks Guys

- Thanks to Jim Landwehr for putting together this year's slate of fun and interesting contests.
- Thanks to Dave Leider, MMR for putting together this year's great clinics and programs schedule.
- Thanks to Jim Osborn for his expert work keeping the FVD web site current and interesting.
- And, last but not least, thanks to Superintendent Rich Sweet for all the extra meetings he attends, calls he makes, etc. for the FVD.

High Wheeler Appreciation Dinner Opps!

Last month we mistakenly said that High Wheeler volunteers could bring themselves and a guest to the excellent Workers Appreciation Dinner two weeks after the show. High Wheeler Show Director, Walter Radke, wants everyone to know that those volunteers who work one show shift may come to the dinner alone. If you want to bring a guest, great, but you must work two or more show shifts to do so!

High Wheeler 2010 Special Need

High Wheeler 2010 especially needs an experienced tractor-trailer driver this year to help with moving vehicles with trailers to and from Harper College's loading dock during the show's take down early Sunday evening. If you or someone you know is an experienced driver and can help us, please contact Show Director, Walter Radke at the FVD's Board contact information below.

NMRA Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

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About the Fox Valley Division

If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region and Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association or NMRA. The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes McHenry and parts of Cook, Kane, and Lake Counties in northeast Illinois. About 150 members of varied ages and modeling ability levels belong to the FVD. Almost all modeling scales are represented in our division. Membership in the division is free as are the Semaphore newsletters.

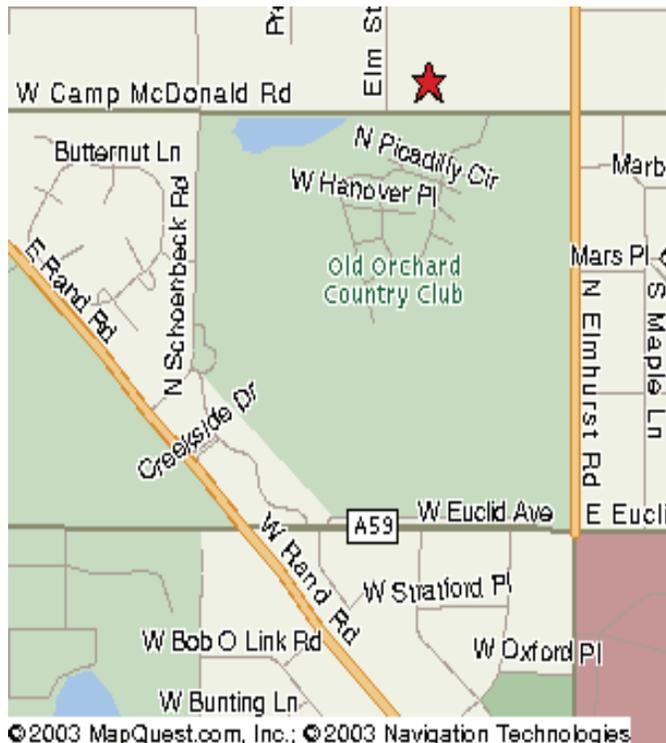
FVD general meetings are held September through May at the Gary Morava Center in Prospect Heights from 1:30 to about 3:30 pm. Each meeting features a clinic, model contest, information of interest to the membership, and a time for socializing. Outings, layout tours, and operating sessions are also held periodically in addition to, or instead of, the general meetings. To promote the hobby of model railroading, the FVD sponsors and runs a large train show, High Wheeler, in early March each year at Harper College in Palatine, Illinois.

We encourage you to take advantage of all the FVD has to offer. We are here to help answer your questions, help improve your modeling, and help you better enjoy the great hobby of model railroading. Join us at a FVD meeting or outing. We'd love to see you. Or, visit us on the web at:

www.foxvalleydivision.org

Questions?

Contact FVD Superintendent, Rich Sweet or any board member listed on page 3 of this newsletter. We are here to help you!



General Meeting Location: Gary Morava Center, 110 Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL

General Meeting Time: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. See page 2 for the dates of this year's meetings.



Fox Valley Division

Midwest Region - NMRA

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