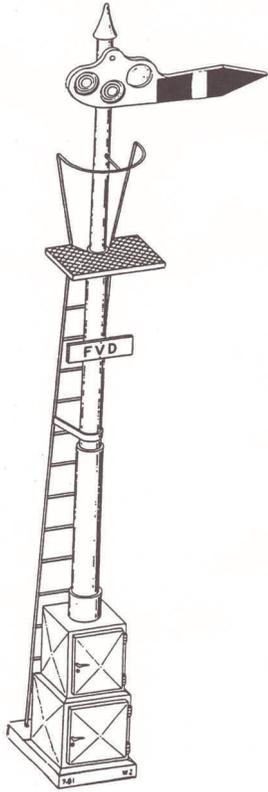


The Semaphore

November 2009



Volume 36, No. 3

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November's Clinic: Operation Lifesaver and Much More!

Heads up everybody: November's clinic promises to be a really good one. Why? Dave Phillips, that's why. Don't know Dave? Then come Sunday, November 22 to hear this professional railroader, excellent modeler, and NMRA member talk about Operation Lifesaver, and much more. After his updated Operation Lifesaver presentation featuring a slide show and two videos, Dave has agreed to answer any of our questions about railroading, prototype or model.

Dave is Manager of Traffic for U.S. Rail Partners and is well qualified to talk about prototype railroading. USRP owns and operates the Blackwell Northern Gateway Railroad in Oklahoma, and the Eastern Washington Gateway Railroad in Washington state. You may have seen the Eastern Washington featured in the April 2009 Trains. Like the employees of many small railroads, Dave has done many more jobs than just managing the railroad's traffic. He's also done his fair share of repairing track, equipment, and rolling stock, as well as serv



ing as a train conductor. He's also a fine modeler who's done several well received modeling clinics for NMRA division and regional meetings.

But, a real passion of Dave's is Operation Lifesaver and promoting railroad safety. Come hear why Illinois ranks third in the U.S. in railroad crossing fatalities, the fine you could be assessed for crossing railroad tracks in your car or truck, on your bicycle, or on foot, and why there is on average, one grade crossing incident *every two hours* in the U.S. Finally come hear how we as railroad hobbyists can help promote railroad safety and cut down on the needless loss of life and limb on our nation's railroads.

November's Contest

November's Contest is "Interior Detailing". Bring a structure with interior detail, or a piece of rolling stock with interior detail to enter this month's unique and interesting contest. We're expecting to get models in scales from "Z to G" so besides the fun of entering, just seeing the models brought in by our division's talented modelers should be great. Editor's note: I don't know about you, but I can't wait to see if our division's resident Z scaler, Rick Saviano, is going to enter this contest. He does do interior detailing in Z scale and has, in fact, been working on a "Night Hawks" interior detail scene for some time. Night Hawks is Edward Hopper's famous night diner scene painting that John Armstrong modeled on his Canandaigua Southern. It was featured in Model Railroader sometime, I believe, the 1980's. Modeling Night Hawks in O scale is one thing, but in Z scale? Will Rick get his Night Hawks scene done? Come

FVD 2009-2010 Meetings & Events

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

Clinic—Dave Phillips 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—Cabooses 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.

March 7 & 8, 2010

SPECIAL EVENT!

HIGH WHEELER Train Show sponsored and run by the FVD at Harper College in Palatine. Call Walter Radke 847-255-2977 to volunteer to work the show., or email him at: wag>2@email.com.

No contest or clinic this month. The volunteer's appreciation dinner date TBA.

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

This is the last FVD meeting until September 2010.

July 11 –18, 2010

SPECIAL EVENT!

NMRA 75th Anniversary National Convention in Milwaukee, WI. The National Train Show also meets July 16-18 in Milwaukee.

New FVD Trainmaster

John Cloos of Elgin is the FVD's newest Trainmaster. John is in charge of membership and in his short time on the board, has already come up with several good ideas for increasing and retaining members. John is the son of NMRA Life Member John Cloos, Sr. and is a traction lover (see his article on the FRTM on page 3). He does beautiful modeling primarily in O, half inch and larger scales. John points out, “I'm a modeler not a layout builder.” He also enjoys modeling in “mediums” other than railroading saying, “There's nothing I won't model!” Welcome aboard John!

Email Addresses Needed

One of new Membership Trainmaster, John Cloos's, first projects is to obtain the email addresses of all our FVD members who have email. Why? First, to stay in touch with our members better. Second, to enable the FVD to email the Semaphore to its members as was mentioned in last month's Semaphore.

The FVD will NOT be sending you a bunch of junk emails, John promises. But, there are times we do want to send you information that will be of interest to you, or maybe a personal note.

So, please send your email address to John Cloos, Jr. at:

foxvalley2001@yahoo.com

Thanks, everybody.

December Contest & Clinic

December's contest will be “Cabooses Trains”. Bring three or more of your best cabooses to enter this interesting contest. Art Jones will give a clinic “Steel Stud Construction” including using steel studs in building your benchwork.

Herb Renwick

We regret to inform you of the passing of Sun City, Huntley FVD member Herb Renwick in October. Our sincere condolences go to Herb's family.

Radio Disney at High Wheeler 2010

We are pleased to announce that High Wheeler 2010 has contracted with Radio Disney to perform early Sunday afternoon at the show. The idea to bring in Radio Disney was Mercury Communication's account executive, Jody Delie's. She says, “Involving Disney with your show gives it instant credibility with families. It is a big attraction for families.” Radio Disney is radio network based in Burbank, Cali-

fornia. It broadcasts music and other content targeted at children and young teens, and is a subsidiary of the Walt Disney company. As part of its marketing effort, Radio Disney does Road Shows. High Wheeler will be featuring a Radio Disney Road Show 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Sunday in the far left corner of the gym. If you have kids or grand kids, plan to bring them to Sunday's Radio Disney Show. They will love it!

Fox River Trolley Museum Past and Present

By John Cloos

Living in the Fox Valley Division has many distinct advantages, one of them being that we have not one, but two railroad museums within our area. This month we'll feature the Fox Valley Trolley Museum.

The Fox River Trolley Museum in South Elgin(www.foxtrolley.org) began in 1959 as the Railway Investment Club, then in 1961 as RELIC, the Railway Equipment Leasing and Investment Company, opening it's doors with ex-Chicago Aurora & Elgin Railroad interurbans operating over the right-of-way of the Aurora Elgin & Fox River Electric, an early off-shoot of the Aurora Elgin & Chicago (later CA&E). The first public rides of the RELIC Trolley Museum occurred on July 4th, 1966 and have continued ever since, although there have been a few changes over the years resulting in renaming as the Fox River Trolley Museum. FRTM is the quintessential local railroad museum, owning approximately 25 pieces of equipment, a small dedicated group of volunteers operating over a nearly 2 mile long mainline.

Some key events occurred at the museum last summer. FRTM offered 17 special event days in 2009 season, including the July 3rd CA&E Commemoration Day event, commemorating the end of CA&E passenger services on 7/3/1957. This event included the rare operation of CA&E #316 which has seen extensive rebuilding and restoration over the last several years, including the complete rebuilding of the north end of the car (as seen below) Undoubtedly one of the most special and memorable operations at FRTM was on June 24th, when the Leviathan steam locomotive made it's inaugural operating test runs at the museum. The Leviathan, a 4-4-0 steam locomotive built full scale and brand new by local resident David Kloke to plans from the Central Pacific's Jupiter, steamed and tested for 2 days. This is the only time a steam locomotive has operated on this right of way since the initial building of the line over 100 years ago, other than switching by the Illinois Central many years ago. As exciting as the running of #316 and Leviathan were, they are only a taste of what is to come at the FRTM in 2010. Be prepared for more really special events next year!



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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 4:30 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 4:30 p.m. See page 2 for the dates of this year's meetings.



Fox Valley Division

Midwest Region - NMRA

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