

Volume 36, No. 4

The Semaphore

January 2010

Happy New Year and Happy Model Railroading in 2010!

To all of our Fox Valley Division members from your Board of Directors, we wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. *Rich Sweet, Harry Sorenson, Lief Hansen, Tim Kleimeyer, Jim Landwehr, David Leider, John Cloos, Walter Radke, Jim Osborn, and Walt Herrick.*

The FVD Meets in Elgin January 24th

By Jim Osborn

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 on January 24th. 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 Scalpers*. 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 capacities ranging from 7 to 27 cars. 5200 total feet of ballasted flex and hand-laid track exist on the railroad—yes, that is very close to an actual *mile* of track! The mainline itself is 650 feet long. The layout has three staging yards with a total car capacity of 1800, 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 of train! Ted uses an NCE walk-around DCC cab system for locomotive control.

Ted has added a 1400 square foot addition to his home and has extended 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 anticipates it will take 6 - 8 years to complete the new addition.

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. Reservations are required for the January meeting. Please contact David Leider for an operating spot and logistical information. David's contact information can be found in any issue of the Semaphore. For more information and photos of Ted's railroad, please go to his web page at: <http://railsunlimited.ribbonrail.com/FoxValley/>. Ted's layout will be featured on the Milwaukee 2010 National NMRA convention tours and in a multi-page article in the March 2010 issue of *Scale Rails*.

Model Railroading is a lot of fun on this big layout! See you there!

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February's Meeting is in Glenview February 28th

Don't forget our February meeting is in Glenview with the North Shore Division!

2010 FVD Meetings & Events

January 24, 2010 *Note date change!*

SPECIAL EVENT!

An afternoon FVD Operating session on Ted Schnepf's O scale Milwaukee Road—Dubuque Division—full basement model railroad. Reservations are required. Call David Leider at 847-253-7484, or email him at:

sooauthor@netzero.com

to reserve a spot.

February 28, 2010 General Meeting
1:30—4:30 p.m.

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

Clinic—To be announced

Contest—Steam Locomotives

March 6 & 7, 2010

SPECIAL EVENT!

HIGH WHEELER Train Show sponsored and run by the FVD at Harper College in Palatine. Call Walter Radtke 847-255-2977 to volunteer to work the show., or email him at: wagx2@email.com.

No contest or clinic this month.

April 18, 2010 Annual Business Meeting 1:30—4:30 p.m. Gary Morava Center, Prospect Heights

Clinic—Model Railroader's DCC Editor, Mike Palsgrove on "DCC for our Model Railroad".

Contest—Structures

May 16, 2010 General Meeting 1:30—4:30 p.m. Gary Morava Center, Prospect Heights

Clinic—TBA

Contest—Unit Train of 5-8 cars

This is the last FVD meeting until September. Have a great summer, and see you in Milwaukee July 11—18 for the NMRA's National Convention!



Special FVD Op Session This Month Our January 24 FVD meeting is at Ted Schnepf's in Elgin, Illinois. There we will have a special FVD Op Session on Ted's huge O scale Dubuque Division. In Jim Osborn's photo above, a full shift of work awaits the yard job at West Marquette on Ted's layout. Want to come? Call Dave Leider!

High Wheeler Updates

High Wheeler Director, Walter Radtke, reports that as of December 27th, High Wheeler participation is almost complete. A few tables are still available and more volunteers from the FVD membership are needed, but basically we are real close to being "ready to roll" with the 2010 High Wheeler. This year's High Wheeler will feature a new FVD 4 x 6 foot HO "How To" display layout to show novice modelers how a starter layout is built.. Volunteers will be needed to man the layout and answer basic modeling questions. To volunteer, contact Walter at: wagx2@email.com, or call him at 847-255-2977.

New FVD Discussion Group

Have you joined our new FVD Yahoo Discussion Group yet? To do so, go to page 1 of the FVD web site for the link to the application to join. Stay in touch with FVD members on our new FVD Yahoo group!

Email Addresses & Emailed Semaphores

Membership Trainmaster, John Cloos's, remains hard at work compiling a list of FVD's members email addresses. If you haven't done so already, please send your email address to John at:

foxvalley2001@yahoo.com

Remember, the FVD will NOT be sending you a bunch of junk emails. We do want to send you the Semaphore and other important information, or maybe a personal note, as well. Semaphore Editor, Walt Herrick reports that a modest number of members are having their Semaphores "emailed only". He also would like to have more members on the Semaphore "email only" list. Email him at: wherricks@yahoo.com to join the Semaphore' "email only list"..

NMRA Celebrates 75 Years in Milwaukee July 11—18

Make plans now to attend this year's NMRA National Convention July 11—18 in nearby Milwaukee. You won't be sorry. This is going to be one great convention as the NMRA celebrates its 75th birthday!

Walter (Still) Needs Your Help!

High Wheeler help, that is. High Wheeler Director, Walter Radtke still has opportunities for FVD members to help work the 2010 High Wheeler. Set up, take down, ticket taking, display layout, and other High Wheeler crews all need more workers. For more info and to sign up, call Walter at 847-255-2977, or email him at:

wagx2@email.com

Thanks Harry!

FVD "thanks" go to Assistant FVD Superintendent, Harry Sorenson, for providing the December meeting's holiday lunch. FYI, Harry also provides our general meeting snacks throughout the year.

MWR Elections

The Midwest Region of the NMRA in which we reside is holding elections for four "Directors at Large". See the latest issue of the Midwest Waybill for complete candidate bios and your ballot. Ballots must be received by February 27th! (And note two FVD candidates are running!)

December's Contest Another Winner!

Coming on the heels of our super "Interior Detailing" contest in November was December's great contest featuring "Caboose Trains". Ten excellent caboose train entries were received from modelers Jim Allen (HO, mixed roads), Edward As-trauka (Hi-rail O, IC), Dave Crement (On3, EBT), Paul Kimball (HO, mixed roads), Dick Koch (N, mixed roads), Jim Landwehr (HO, UP), Dave Leider (HO, SOO), Jim Osborn (HO, CNW), Walter Radke (HO, UP), and Don Robinson (O, mixed roads). **Dave Crement (First Place), Dave Leider (Second Place), and Don Robinson (Third Place) took home the winning checks.** Take a look at all of the December entries on the FVD website. Another great job, everyone!



MMR David Crement's EBT caboose train scratch built from prototype drawings and photos.



MMR Dave Leider's HO scale caboose train of kit and scratch built models of SOO prototypes..



Don Robinson's O scale kit and scratch built mixed road cabooses

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About the Fox Valley Division

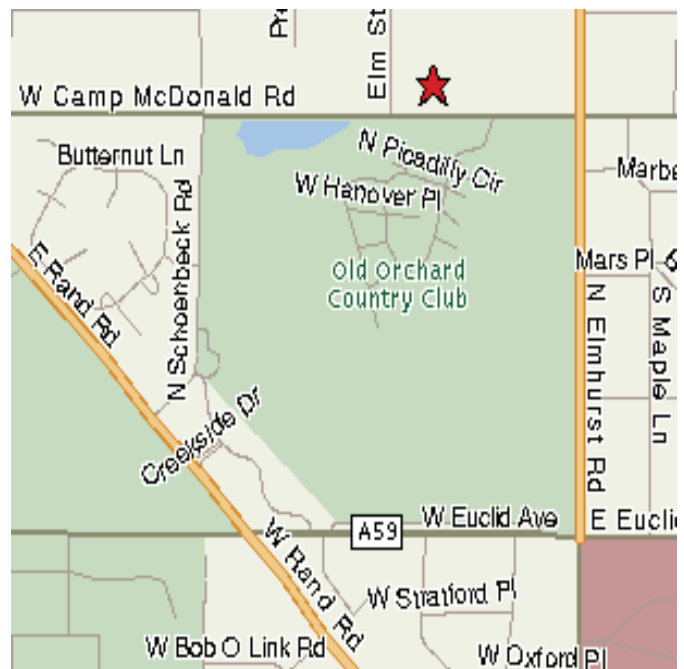
If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region and Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association or NMRA. The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes McHenry and parts of Cook, Kane, and Lake Counties in northeast Illinois. About 150 members of varied ages and modeling ability 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 and exact times of this year's meetings.