

Volume 36, No. 7

The Semaphore

MARCH 2010



It's Show Time!

The High Wheeler 2010 Train Show is set to roll out of the Harper College “station” in Palatine in less than two weeks! On Saturday and Sunday March 6th and 7th, Harper will open its doors to...

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- more than 20 model rail road layouts
- more than a dozen vendors and displays
- more than 15 different railroad groups
- railroad movies, food, games, and door prizes galore
- 4 train sets to be given away
- a Radio Disney Show for kids Sunday from 1 – 2 p.m.

We invite you to join us for this year's wonderful show. Bring yourself on Saturday and bring your kids or grand kids on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. for the Radio Disney show. All in all, this will be one big weekend of trains and fun for hobbyists and families throughout Chicago-land and northern Illinois. Go to www.foxvalleydivision.org. and click on “High Wheeler 2010 Train Show” on the left side bar for complete information. Then *come on out!*

2010 Fox Valley Division Meetings & Events

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—2 clinics this month! Rich Mahoney will discuss iron ore and ferry operations in western Minnesota; Dave Crement, MMR will discuss various aspects of passenger car construction.

Contest—Passenger cars

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 Magazine's DCC Editor, Mike Palsgrove, on "DCC for Your 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

May 16 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!

July 11—18, 2010 NMRA's 75th Anniversary Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This promises to be one of the NMRA's finest conventions ever as we commemorate Association's founding in Milwaukee 75 year's ago. The large National Train Show will also be held July 16-18.



We want you!

...to Join and Use Our Yahoo Discussion Group

Now is the perfect time to join our FVD Yahoo Discussion Group! Why? One reason is we're entering a short meeting "lull" period with no general meeting on our "home turf" at the Gary Morava Center in Prospect Heights until April. What better way to stay in touch now, than our discussion group? Another reason is there will be a lot going on this summer with the NMRA National in nearby Milwaukee. Travel plans, layout tour plans, clinic attending plans, and plans to meet your Fox Valley friends can easily be arranged on line on our Fox Valley Division Yahoo group. So, don't wait; join and start using our discussion group today. You'll be glad you did!

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" ..

Note to our readers: Due to High Wheeler scheduling, this month's Semaphore is coming to you about a week early. Also, the January and February issues of the Semaphore were both mislabeled as Volume 36, No. 4. They should have been Volume 36, Nos. 5 and 6 respectively.

Still Time to Volunteer!

There's still time to volunteer to work High Wheeler and qualify for the excellent Volunteer's Dinner at Mill Rose in Barrington March 21. Call Show Director, Walter Radke, today at 847-255-2977 to lend a hand. Email him at: wagx2@email.com.

February General Meeting in Glenview

Because the Semaphore is going out early this month, we can give you another reminder that, our February 28th General Meeting will be held in Glenview at the Glenview Public Library, 1939 Glenview Rd. with the North Shore Division. Meeting time is 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. See you there!

February Scale Rails

Complete NMRA 75th Anniversary Convention information including clinic descriptions and schedules, layout descriptions and tour schedules are in the February Scale Rails. This issue was late, but it was worth it!



IRM Makes Major Electric Acquisitions

by John Cloos and Walt Herrick

In October 2009 The Illinois Railway Museum successfully bid on and became the new home for six electric cars of the ex-Lake Shore Electric Railway Museum's outstanding collection. The collection, known as the "Trolleyville Collection" of over 30 electric cars, was originally assembled by the late real estate developer Gerry Brookins in Ohio. It was decided to disband and dispose of the collection in 2009. Among the cars in the collection were several beautiful and rare Chicago, Aurora and Elgin cars. IRM bid on nine cars and ended up acquiring six of them thanks to the generous help of Julia Johnson who individually underwrote the purchase of four of the cars. Total bid price for the cars and additional parts for other projects was just slightly over \$150,000. Four of the six cars are operational and the other two nearly so. The cars are:

- CA&E wood bodied electrics #36 and #319. #36 was an original car to the railroad when it began operations in 1912.
- CA&E steel cars #409, #451, and #460. The 409 is the only remaining Pullman built car, while the 451 and 460 are from the St. Louis Car. Co.
- Vera Cruz #19, a single truck, open air car built by Brill which worked in Vera Cruz Mexico. This open air car should be a huge hit operating at IRM.
- A separate purchase from the LSE collection and not part of the original bid, was an ex-Twin Cities, Minnesota PCC street car.

Most of the work done by both museums was done at the last minute with the bidding, financing, and relocation completed over a four month period. This was a considerable and well executed effort by IRM to add some superb pieces.

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About the Fox Valley Division

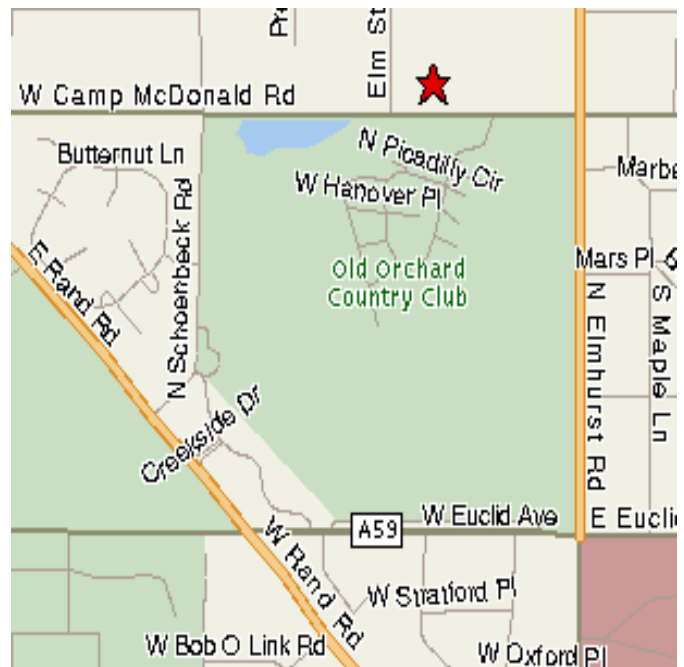
If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region and Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association or NMRA. The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes McHenry and parts of Cook, Kane, and Lake Counties in northeast Illinois. About 150 members of varied ages and modeling ability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