

Volume 36, No. 9

The Semaphore

May 2010

FVD's 2010 Annual Meeting

Walter Radtke Elected New Superintendent



Incoming Fox Valley Division Superintendent, Walter Radtke (left) and outgoing Superintendent, Rich Sweet, hand out a raffle prize to a happy young man at a recent year's High Wheeler Train Show .

Walter Radtke was elected Superintendent and Leif Hansen re-elected Chief Clerk of the Fox Valley Division of the NMRA at its April 18th Annual Business Meeting. Radtke succeeds Rich Sweet who served as the division's Superintendent for the past ten years. Other meeting highlights are:

- Paymaster, Tim Kleimeyer, gave the annual financial report saying the division was in good shape financially.
- Walter Radtke reported that the 2010 High Wheeler Train Show was a success. A committee will soon be formed to run 2011 High Wheeler operations. Walter noted that planning and preparing for High Wheeler has become a year round process and asked members for their help.
- Membership Trainmaster, John Cloos, reported that there are currently 149 FVD members and 18 participants on the new FVD Yahoo Group.
- Superintendent Rich Sweet announced a new Youth Fund Reimbursement Policy has been enacted by the Board. The complete policy will be posted on the division's web site.
- Achievements & Contests Trainmaster, Jim Landwehr, gave a preview of next year's contests. He also said three Achievement Awards are currently pending approval.
- On behalf of the FVD Board, John Cloos presented Rich Sweet with a Certificate of Appreciation for serving 19 years on the FVD BOD.

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2010 Fox Valley Division Meetings & Events

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

Clinic—Z&N Building Kits Company's Greg Zurek will present a clinic on building a Z&N pre-printed building kit.

Contest—Unit Train of 5-8 cars

May 16 is the last FVD meeting until September 19. Have a great summer!

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

We look forward to seeing you in Milwaukee July 11—18 for the NMRA's National Convention!

Email Addresses & Emailed Semaphores

Membership Trainmaster, John Cloos 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

Corrections The April Semaphore reported Rich Sweet served 18 years on the FVD Board. He actually served 19 years on the BOD. Walter Zinke's name was also misspelled. The Semaphore regrets these errors.

Thanks Mike Polsgrove

Model Railroader Magazine's DCC columnist, Mike Polsgrove, presented an excellent clinic on "DCC for Your Model Railroad" at our April General Meeting. He also stayed to answer a lot of member's questions about DCC. Thanks, Mike!

May 16th General Meeting

Our May General Meeting will be held 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 16th at our regular meeting place, the Prospect Heights Park District's Gary Morava Center on Camp MacDonald Road in Prospect Heights. May's contest will be "Unit Trains". Bring in 5 to 8 cars to make up your train for the contest. Greg Zurek of Z&N Building Kits will present a clinic on building one of their pre-printed building kits. He will also have on display several of their kits. *This is the last general meeting of the Fox Valley Division until September 19, which is the date of our next general meeting.*

New High Wheeler Committee

High Wheeler Train Show Director, Walter Radtke, is forming a committee to plan, prepare for, and run next year's High Wheeler. He invites all FVD members to join the committee at the May General Meeting, or by calling him at 847-255-2977.

Semaphore Shorts

Look for a nice photo of Harold Helland's NKP layout in May's Model Railroader Trackside Photos..... Sun City Huntley's KV&EC Model Railroad Club will host an Open House Sunday, May 16th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Four layouts in G (outdoors), O, HO and N scales will be operating that day..... Walter Radtke is hosting an Open House of his outdoor garden railroad from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 27th. Walter lives in Mt. Prospect. Call him for directions at 847-255-2977.....John Cloos's interurban display will be set up at the Illinois Railway Museum July 4th and the Fox River Trolley Museum August 21 and 22.....Look for Jim Osborn's by-line in the July and August issues of Scale Rails. MMR David Crement's prototypically inspired On30 East Broad Top layout is featured in July and Jim Spice's beautiful HO layout is featured in August.....FVD MMR's David C. and David L. plus a number of other FVD members will have their layouts on NMRA Milwaukee National Convention layout tours this July.

2010—2011 Contests Heads Up

At the April General Meeting, Achievements and Contests Trainmaster, Jim Landwehr gave FVD us a preview of next year's contest schedule. For those of you who want to get a head start on your modeling for next year's contests, here is a tentative contest schedule: September—"New" (a model depicting a brand new or freshly painted loco, structure, piece of rolling stock, etc.), October—"Oddball" (give us your weird, crazy, "oddball" models!), November—"Lighted" (only lighted models here), December—"Diorama" (a small or large diorama), April 2011—"Railroad Related" (railroadiana, railroad antiques, collectables etc.), May 2011—"Styrene" (any model made of styrene). Note that his schedule may change as several outings and our meeting with the North Shore Division have not been set yet. An additional contest or two may also be added if needed.

April 's Contest Winners



1st Place Jim Allen's HO scale model based on the real "Bomber Gas" in Oregon. The prototype had a B-17 and still exists but not as a gas station.

Also entered were two nicely modeled HO scale warehouse flats by Jim Lanwehr, and a nicely built and finished O scale field stone company store kit by Bob Demenico.

A Pink Foam Stream

I tried a new (for me) scenery technique building the FVD's small "demo" layout's Rocky Creek for the 2010 High Wheeler—using 2 inch thick pink foam for a scenery base. This is nice material to work with. I glued it to the plywood base and stacked it as needed. It was easily cut with an old serrated steak knife. After shaping the basic contours I lightly sanded them with 100 grit sandpaper and applied a thin coat of plaster. Once dry, the plaster was painted with tan latex paint. Real small rocks were glued to the stream bed, and ground cover and foliage added to the sides of the stream. Woodland Scenics Realistic Water came last. I enjoyed doing this project! See photos at right. *Walt Herrick*



2nd Place MMR David Leider's Waupaca, Wisconsin Soo Line engine house modeled in styrene. The realistic weathered painted wood finish came from techniques Dave learned in an RMC article.



3rd Place John Cloos's giant half inch scale North Shore Line's South Upton tower. At least \$35.00 worth of plastic was used in this model!

Who says 75-year olds forget names?

Jack Burgess, Bruce Chubb, Bill Darnaby, Chuck Hitchcock, Tony Koester, Sam Swanson, Bill Schaumburg,

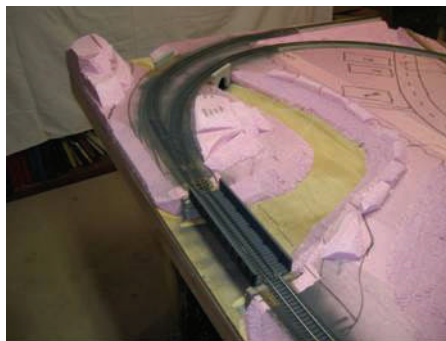


Andy Sperandio, Tony Thompson, Wayne Wesolowski. Names we'll never forget presenting clinics you'll never forget. All at one unforgettable convention. Learn more at ...

www.nmra75.org

Contests— why enter?

Besides the obvious answer "to win", how about these reasons: 1) to share your modeling with others (yes, we'd love to see your models!), 2) to improve your modeling (you will when you compete against top modelers), and, 3) to promote the hobby (guess what, your model just may inspire others—really!) *WH*



NMRA Fox Valley Division Board Contacts

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Look for all FVD Board members contact information on line at the division's web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org.



Fox Valley Division

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About the Fox Valley Division

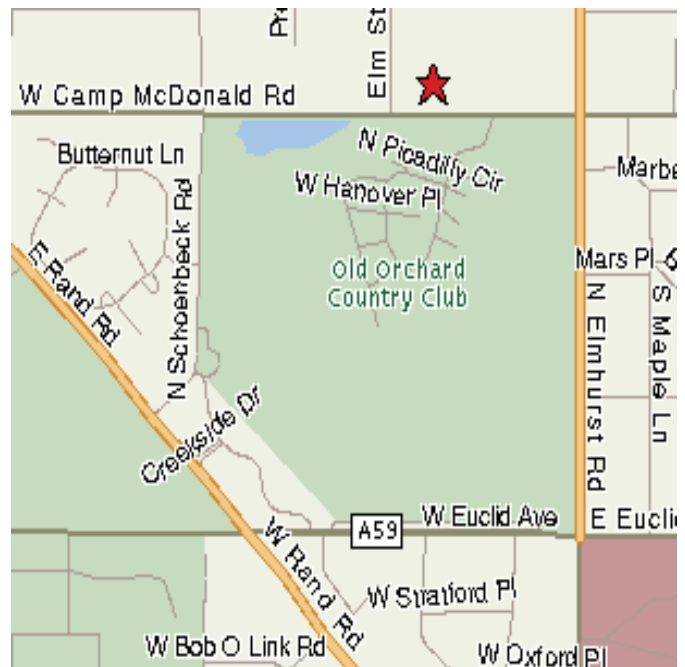
If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region and Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association or NMRA. The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes McHenry and parts of Cook, Kane, and Lake Counties in northeast Illinois. About 150 members of varied ages and modeling ability 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 at 847-550-1399 or any board member listed on the division's web site. We are here to help!



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.