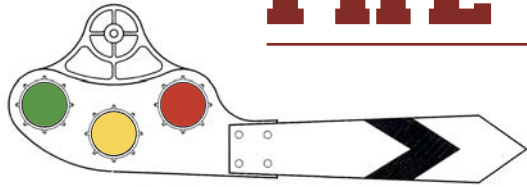


THE SEMAPHORE



FEBRUARY 2011

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



Inside This Issue

- Fox Valley Division News
- January Meeting Notes
- Midwest Region News
- High Wheeler 2011 Update
- Fox Valley 2010-2011 Events Calendar
- January Clinic
- January Contest Results
- Semaphore Reminder
- Featured Layout – Steven Hayworth's Rio Grande Southern

Fun Stuff



Conrail Storage Battery Locomotive made from a Blomberg Diesel Truck at Enola Yard.

Fox Valley Division News – Constitution and Bylaws Revisions

The division constitution and bylaws have been rewritten. The new constitution and bylaws were approved by the Fox Valley Division Board at their meeting on January 5th. The new Constitution of the Fox Valley Division will be voted on by members of record attending the April 2011 division

meeting. The new constitution and bylaws are on the division website and should be reviewed by all members before the April meeting. The Bylaws will become effective with the adoption of the new Constitution in April.

January Meeting Notes

High Wheeler 2011 is on track with all vendor booths and layout positions filled. The volunteer schedule is complete and flyers with information on the event have been widely distributed throughout Chicagoland. Even if you are not directly involved, you are encouraged to attend High Wheeler and support the division's mission to promote the hobby. Even a casual conversation with a stranger has led to new model railroaders and NMRA members.

Jim Landwehr awarded AP Certificates to the following members:
Leif Hansen – Volunteer
Tim Kleimeyer – Volunteer
Jim Osborn – Volunteer and Author

Jim Osborn recognized member Dan Sylvester for the article on Dan's layout that will be in the March 2011 issue of Model Railroader. For those of you who have not met Dan, his layout is a narrow gauge mining railroad that is almost entirely scratch built, including all structures and most of the rolling stock.

David Leider's Green Bay & Western scratch built Engine House is the cover story in the February issue of Model Railroad Craftsman.

Midwest Region News

The Badgerland Express convention in Madison, Wisconsin on April 15-17, 2011 will be coming up right after High Wheeler. Be sure to check out opportunities there. Details are available at <http://www.NMRA-SCWD.org/> In addition, the Thousand Lakes Region convention is set for May 20-22 in Dubuque, IA. Details can be found here: <http://www.thousandlakesregion.org/>

Elections!!

At the April 2011 meeting of the Fox Valley Division, members will elect a new division Assistant Superintendent and a new Paymaster. Nominations for these positions can be sent to chief clerk Leif Hansen. Remember to nominate early and often!

Fox Valley Division Events Calendar for the remaining 2010-2011 Year

Regular meetings are held from 1:30 PM thru 4:30 PM, at the Gary Morava Recreation Center, 110 W. Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are free and guests are always welcome. Contest events include awarding of certificates. Refreshments are provided by the Division.

February 20, 2011

Clinic: Chicago O scale modeler Ed Halstead and noted Chicago HO scale modeler Carl Lantz will present an overview of trolley modeling in general, then speak to specifics of both HO and O scale. John Cloos will present his "Interurbans of the Fox Valley" display.
Contest "Wooden Structures".

March 5 & 6th, 2011 - The 33rd Annual High Wheeler Train Show

There will be no regular meeting this month.

March 20, 2011 - The High Wheeler Train Show Recognition Banquet

Sign up to volunteer and help with High Wheeler get a seat at the banquet for food, fun and recognition.

April 10, 2011 -- Note: 1:00 PM start time.

This is our annual business and election of officers meeting. This year we will elect the Assistant Superintendent and Treasurer positions and approve a new division Constitution.

Program: Cody Grivino, Associate

Editor of Model Railroader Magazine will present a discussion on the Wisconsin Southern Railroad.

Contest: "Bring Anything" that is related to trains. This is a real opportunity to be creative.

May 15, 2011

This is the final meet for the 2010-2011 modeling year.

Clinic: Dan Goins, from the Central Indiana Division, "How to easily make beautiful rock cliffs from ceiling tile."

Contest: "Old" loco or piece of rolling stock.

February is the month of love and romance. Time to wear your "I Love Trains" T-shirt and invite some adults and children over to see your layout in operation or your display of model trains. Be sure to invite them to High Wheeler and let them know train sets are given away along with friendly help to anyone getting started or with any questions.

The February Semaphore is on the division website. If you cannot access the Semaphore on the website, you can contact John Cloos at foxvalley2001@yahoo.com or Jim Allen at jallenad60@comcast.net.

High Wheeler 2011

Many thanks to the team that planned High Wheeler this year – we have a full show as usual. Communication went out early and across the land and division members handed out stacks of flyers at the Wheaton Train Show from September to January. And finally, many thanks to the show volunteers. Your time and energy

are deeply appreciated as we bring this annual message of the joy of model railroading to new eager faces, young and old alike. Watch and listen for our ads in Chicago Parent Magazine and on WXLC 102.3 radio.

NMRA Fox Valley Division Board Contacts

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Clinics, David Leider	sooauthor@netzero.net	847-253-7484
Public Relations & Webmaster Jim Osborn	FVDWebsite@comcast.net	847-587-5654

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

January Meeting Clinic – Surface Mount LED's

Frank Schneider presented a practical and technically rich clinic on how to use light emitting diodes or LEDs to light various items of rolling stock and structures and other details. Frank models in N-scale and has limited vision himself, so he encourage those of you with relatively normal eyesight to try working with surface mount LED's. He is certain you will enjoy the results.



Frank also strongly recommended purchase of a variable temperature soldering station as variable temperatures are needed and most easily done with this type of soldering station. Frank also tints the lens of some LED's to get the proper color temperature. Jim Osborn recommends Tamiya transparent orange paint on a white LED to give a nice incandescent glow.

Frank shared the calculations needed to select the correct current limiting resistor for any type of circuit or LED combination. He uses surface mount thin film resistors. As you might expect, Frank also recommends borrowing or buying one of those lighted magnifiers so you can actually see the parts you work with on these projects. Frank's notes, handout and slides are all available on the division website. Further information can be obtained from Richmond Controls. Jim Richmond gave a clinic on these techniques at the NMRA convention and inspired Frank to try it out. <http://richmondcontrols.com>



Mini surface mount light emitting diodes come from the manufacturer in little pockets on a plastic strip. Here are a couple of examples of how the diodes will be shipped to you.

Among examples shown in his presentation were marker lights on N scale diesels, a brakeman's lantern in HO scale and structure lighting. Some details he shared included how to order the LED's and wire used to connect them, from Mouser Electronics. The secrets he shared included using tiny 36 gauge magnet wire for connecting the LED's. The magnet wire has a polyurethane coating that burns off at soldering temperatures.



The marker lights on this N scale RDC are bi-color surface mount mini LEDs. They will show red or green markers depending on the direction of the unit.

Frank made this N scale flagman with an illuminated lantern using a mini-LED. The flagman fits between the rails and picks up power for the LED directly from the track. This is an interesting dimension to add to an operating session on a layout during switching movements.

January Contest

The Category for January was "Styrene". A variety of types were entered.

The First Place Winner was Jim Osborn for his "My Home" entry representing the home he grew up in. Jim told the group "the project brought back a lot of childhood memories."



Second Place went to Don Cook for his kit bashed "Merchant's Row". Don provided many details on the interiors and external surfaces that are not included in the Walthers kits. He also modified the shapes of the buildings to accommodate the available space on his layout.



Frank Cole received the Third Place award for "The Big Wall Flat". This structure was a scale factory assembled from Walters kits and heavily weathered and detailed to fit in a specific location requiring the wall flats. This required modification of the kit parts.

New Contest Format for 2011:

Beginning with the February meeting, the contest format will be split into two contest classes for each category -- General and Advanced. Contest entries will be submitted into the General category unless you have won 2 first place awards in the last two years or you are an MMR or have an AP certificate in the contest category. Then your entry will go into the advanced class. Good luck in the contest!

Semaphore Reminder:

The printed version of the Semaphore will only be sent to members requesting a print subscription. An email reminder was sent in December 2010 to every member that has an email address on file with the Membership Trainmaster, John Cloos. Contact John or Jim Allen with your email address or if you desire a print subscription for \$8/ year. Every member will receive a printed and snail mailed version of the September issue

which will outline the coming years schedule, notice of the annual meeting and any other important division information. This new policy adopted by the board of directors will allow for color and expanded content to be included regularly in the Semaphore while saving the division a substantial amount of cash spent on printing and mailing the periodical.

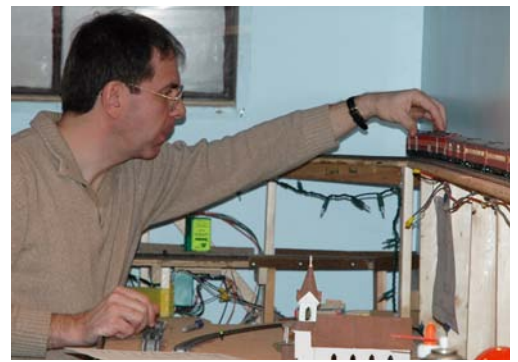
Featured Layout – Steven Hayworth’s Rio Grande Southern (by Jim Osborn)

Several FVD members attended Steven Haworth’s inaugural operating run of his standard gauge Rio Grande Southern Railroad layout on a Saturday morning. Steven is very knowledgeable of the history of the railroad and has reflected this knowledge in his track plan. He has towns in appropriate places on the line with prototypical approaching grades on this sizable basement pike. While Steven is not quite finished with his track work, he felt it best to give the RGS a trial run with other operators to help discover any bugs he has missed.

Over all, the session went well (albeit with a few bugs) but that was to be expected for a first run. The pike has a long single track mainline with multiple branch lines and features point-to-point operations. He also has a sneak path connecting the ends of the layout to facilitate continuous running for demos and - of course - the kids. Trains operate on code 70 main line track

work and he uses code 55 for secondary locations. His electrical wiring is first class – he uses block detection for hidden sections of track (of which there is a fair amount), and his information placards are professionally done. He has yet to settle on a car forwarding system, but in the bull session that typically follows operations, we had a fair discussion on the pros and cons of the various systems used on model railroads. He plans to replace his Keller Onboard loco control system with a contemporary DCC system as soon as the RR budget allows for that. Then he will be able to get his new sound equipped steam locos moving. Keep your eye on this layout as it progresses.

You can find a track plan and plenty of details on this pike and the history of the RGS on Steven’s informative web site:
<http://haworthsplace.home.comcast.net/~haworthsplace/rgs/index.htm>.



Fred Klinger Passes Away

The Fox Valley Division membership mourns the untimely death of Fred Klinger. He served in numerous positions for the division and was very active with the Chicago & North Western Historical Society.



Published in Chicago Suburban Daily Herald from January 5 to January 6, 2011

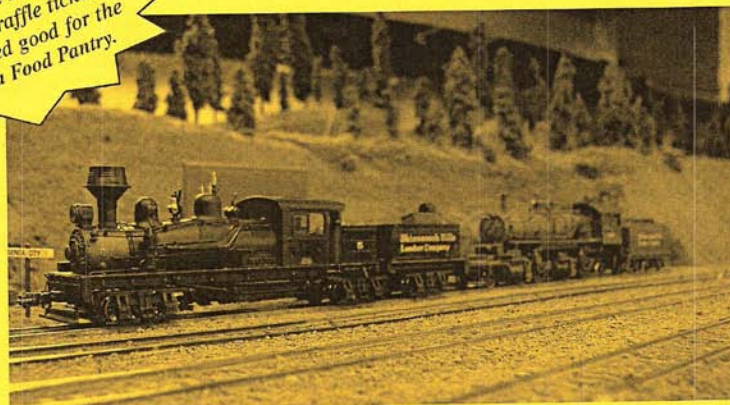
FRED H. KLINGER

Fred H. Klinger passed away Monday, Jan. 3, 2011. Fred was born Sept. 29, 1943 in Chicago. He was a proud Vietnam veteran, serving in the Army SP5, 442 Sig. Bn., 1st Sig. Bde. from 1968 to 1970 (S. E. Asia from 1968 to 1969). He retired from Lucent Technologies after 39 years. Fred enjoyed working with C&NW Historical Society. He loved traveling with his wife and bragging about his granddaughters. Fred is survived by his beloved wife, Gloria Jean (nee Sippel); son, Gill; daughter, Stacie (nee Klinger) Frye; granddaughters, Ashley, Breanna and Rebbecca; and great granddaughter, Addison. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Fisher House Foundation, Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20850 or Chicago Northwestern Historical Society, P.O. Box 1068, North Riverside, IL 60546. For information, call 847-253-0244.

The Lake County Model Railroad Club in Wauconda is holding it's Spring Open house on February 26 & 27. All members of the fox Valley division are welcome to attend.

Lake County Model Railroad Club Open House

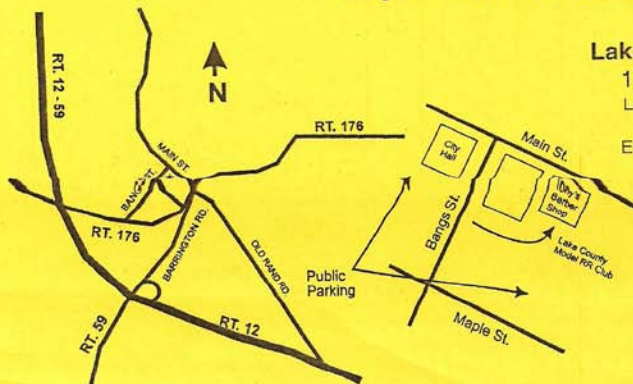
Receive a FREE door prize raffle ticket with a canned good for the Wauconda Food Pantry.



February 26th & 27th - 11 am to 4 pm
Free Admission - Raffle Prizes

Featuring the #0 scale
Wauconda Central Railroad

Visit us on the web:
<http://www.lcmrr.org>



Lake County Model Railroad Club
107 S. Main St., Wauconda, IL
Located beneath Tony's Barber Shop &
Honey Hill Coffee
Entrance in rear of building off Bangs St.

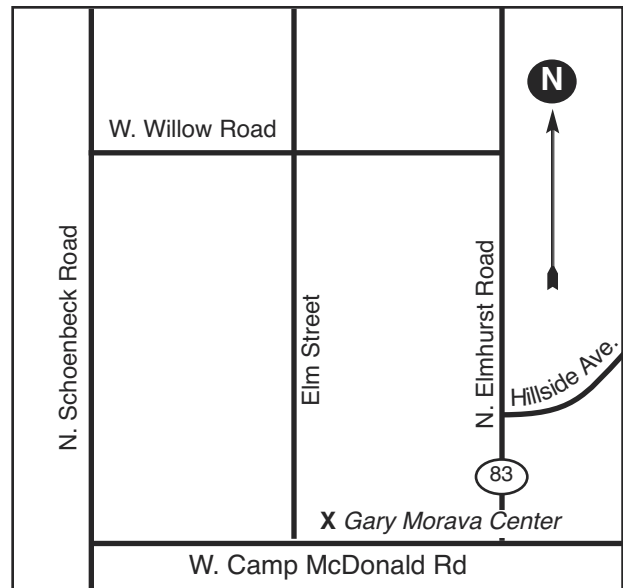
About the Fox Valley Division

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, Walter Radtke or any board member listed on page two of this newsletter. We are here to help you!



Next Meeting

The Fox Valley Division will hold their next meeting on February 20, 2011, from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, at the Gary Morava Center, 110 W. Camp MacDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL



Fox Valley Division
Midwest Region-NMRA
P.O. Box 1535
Arlington Heights, IL 60005-1535