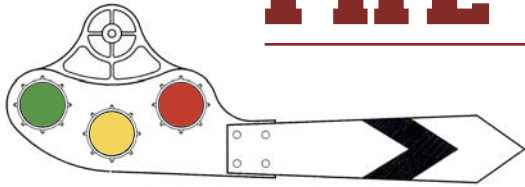


THE SEMAPHORE

May 2011

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



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Fun Stuff



Alco RS1.25 Leftover

Fox Valley Division – Election Results

Election of club officers was held at the April meeting. Two positions were up for the election. The position of Assistant Superintendent was won by Jeff Jarr. The position of Paymaster was

won by Tim Kleimeyer. Both candidates were unopposed. Thanks to all who made it to the meeting so we had a quorum for the vote.

Fox Valley Division – Constitution and Bylaws

Also at the April meeting, the revised Constitution and Bylaws governing the Division were approved by the

assembled members. The new constitution and bylaws are available for review on the Division website.

Division Status

The Fox Valley Division is designated as an Illinois 501-C7 non profit. This category is reserved for social clubs. This means donations to the Division

are not tax deductible. You will have to leave your expensive handcrafted trains to junior after all.

National and Region News – Just In!

- Plans for The Gallery Exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum are moving into high gear. To date, organizing and fund raising actions have raised two pledges of matching funds from anonymous NMRA member donors. One donation is for \$50,000 and the other is for \$250,000. Current plans call for the exhibit to be opened by the end of 2012. You'll find out all the details of the exhibit in the May issue of NMRA Magazine.
- A special "Carpet Cutting Ceremony" (the indoor equivalent of a Ground Breaking Ceremony) for the Gallery Exhibit will be held on Thursday evening during the x2011 Convention. All are invited.
- Speaking of x2011, if you haven't yet registered for the x2011 West NMRA Convention to be held in Sacramento in July, you should register now! If you have already registered, it is time to sign up for tours and operating sessions before they fill up! For more

information and/or to register or sign up for tours, go to www.x2011west.org

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in NMRA Magazine.

And if you're changing email addresses, please let me know at this email address: NMRA-infonet@earthlink.net

-Gerry Leone, MMR
NMRA Communications Director

- The "Members-Only" area of www.nmra.org is currently open to all members. Although content is still being added, right now the area houses copies of all Region
- continue on page 2*

National and Region News – Just In! *continued from page 1*

and Division newsletter articles cited within the last year by Jim Zinser in his bi-monthly "Division Business Car / NMRA@Home" column in NMRA Magazine. In addition the "NMRA magazine classics" section of the Members-Only area will contain classic articles from past issues of Scale Rails magazine and The Bulletin. We'll be adding new material all the time so check back often.

- The NMRA remains active with the two model railroad podcasts mentioned in a previous edition of the InfoNet News. The NMRA is now sponsoring "The Model Railway Show" podcast, produced by well known modelers Trevor Marshall and Jim Martin. Their website is www.themodelrailwayshow.com. And Board Member Clark Kooning, along with other NMRA members, continues to appear as a regular guest on the "Model Rail Radio" podcast. Their website is at www.modelrailradio. Both of these podcasts can be downloaded directly from their websites, or via iTunes.
- We're still looking for stories of what your Division or Region does for National Model Railroad Month. Write a 200-word summary and send it to me at this email address. Thanks.
- Notice of 2012 elections. The following NMRA Officers and Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2012: President, Vice President-Administration, Vice President-Special Projects,

Eastern District Director, Pacific District Director, and At-Large North America Director. Please check the NMRA Executive Handbook located at http://www.nmra.org/national/organization/nmra_organization.html for the extent of the districts affected and qualifications. All candidate names for consideration by the Nominations Committee shall be submitted to Didrik Voss, davoss@pvmtengr.com, no later than June 15, 2011.

- An error crept into last month's InfoNet News: The Summer Board meeting will be held prior to the Sacramento x2011 Convention on Friday, July 1, 2011 (not Thursday, June 30 as previously reported). The meeting is usually held at the Convention hotel, but the exact start time and room number will be announced when available. Remember, it's the responsibility of Region and Division officials to pass along this information to members.
- The NMRA is looking to identify and recognize any model railroad clubs that were formed in 1935 or earlier that are still in existence. We would like the name of the club and when it was founded. A picture from the early years would be appreciated. Send the information to Dave Thornton - NMRA Vice President of Administration, Email DThorn5552@aol.com or mail to 2027 Jeffrey Drive, Troy, MI 48085-3816.

Trainmaster Changes

David Leider is acting as temporary Editor of the Semaphore with the publication of the May 2011 issue. We are in need of a replacement editor-contact Walter Radtke if you are interested. Jim Allen will continue in his role of Layout and Publications.

Steam Again at IRM

The Frisco 1630 passed it's hydro tests in early April, as preparations continue for the final FRA inspections (Some weeks in the future) As of yesterday (Saturday 4/9), IRM volunteers were loading the Frisco1630 with coal and water,,,, have to feed the beast to test it.



Walter's Radtke's RR history memorabilia (April contest entry)

Fox Valley Division News

The April meeting section on elections and constitution and bylaws are reported on page one. The April meeting also featured a terrific presentation by Cody Grivino on the Wisconsin Southern Railroad. Cody covered the history of the Wisconsin Southern, the project layout featured in Model Railroader and the history of many engines, including the railroads they were acquired from, the shopping and painting required to transform rusty but serviceable hulks into the pristine, beautifully painted and refurbished engines of the Wisconsin Southern. Of note, Cody related that the Wisconsin Southern is known for clean motive power and frequently washes and cleans locomotives to keep up the reputation. This was evident in the sparkling

photos Cody took of nearly every piece of motive power in the inventory. The Wisconsin Southern paint shops are well known and have painted many commemorative cars for Wisconsin Southern and for other railroads. Recent cars included a boxcar that was painted to match the Athearn Anniversary HO model which came out first.. The first load for the Athearn Car? Christmas trees!! Also, a 70th anniversary of Model Railroader boxcar, a Breast Cancer recognition car, and a Sargento Cheese boxcar that had to be modified because it violated the prohibition on billboard boxcars. Cody also had pictures of steam engine 1003 which ran in revenue service on WSOR until 2010. Quite a legacy. You can find out more by getting the book titled "The WSOR Story". Thank you Cody.

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.

A special calendar card will be sent to all members prior to the September meeting and will contain the Division Events Calendar for the 2011-2012 Year, including meeting presentation topics, clinics, contests and special events. Our final Division Meeting for the 2010-2011 season is:

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.

Schedule for FVD 2011-2012 monthly meetings.

2011- Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18

2012- Jan. 15, Feb. 19, Apr. 15, May 20

Contests for 2011-2012

| | |
|-----------|---|
| September | Small structure no larger than, a scale, 200 sq. ft. |
| October | Passenger cars |
| November | Detailed industrial roof. Roof only, no building. |
| December | Build anything any scale from wooden coffee stirrers. Stirrers will be provided by FVD at Sept. meeting. |
| January | Detailed interior of a structure. |
| February | On line structure. |
| March | There will be no contest because of the High Wheeler show. |
| April | Vehicles |

Dick Koch's L-Subway Destination sign (April contest entry)





Jim Allen



Robert Landwehr



Mike Pavlina

Golden Spike Awards were given by Jim Landwehr to Jim Allen, Mike Pavlina and Robert Landwehr.

APRIL CONTEST

The April Contest was to bring “Anything Railroad Related”
The intent was to get a variety of railroad items. The winners were:

First Place – Will Westfall – for his scale replica of the Prairie Depot. Beautifully done.



Second Place – Bob Landwehr – for his railroad oil can



Third Place – Frank Cole - for his steam whistle obtained at a swap meet. Frank used it to resume the meeting after the break.



The Cook Modeling Legacy

Don Cook has been modeling longer than many people in the division. What is more important, is he has provided modeling assistance and expertise to many people in the division. It seems appropriate to showcase for our newer members the modeling accomplishments of Don Cook. With a nod to Jim Osborn who wrote the original article on Don's layout for the September 2007 edition of the Semaphore, here is Don's legacy: Notice the first point. Don understands that buildings have interiors and are lit.



Don Cook's Great Northern Railway, Spokane Division layout began 21 years ago.

Don was on a commute to Chicago and saw a copy MR on a news stand. He bought it. During his Amtrak ride home, he paged through the magazine; it re-energized his latent teenage interest in the hobby.

Don followed up on an ad from a local club, joined, and then saw an operating brass 2-8-0 in GN colors. As is often said, the rest is history. At that time, he did not have space for a sizable layout in his residence, so he spent his time researching the GN, collecting GN brass steam engines, building structures, painting diesels, electrics and rolling stock – and, of course, planning the dream layout for the house he did not yet own.

As most of us do, he eventually got a house that would accommodate a layout, and began building. In 2007, Don completed a very well thought out plan and brought it to reality.

His HO scale, 17 x 28 foot, freelanced GN pike is a scenic benchmark for all in the hobby. He used Atlas code 100 flex, #6 & # 8 switches, has a 30" minimum radius and .7 to 1.2% grades on the track work. DCC power, cab control with walk-around capability provide control of the layout.

His pike displays over 100 scratch & stock structures built by Don. With the buildings of the Spokane Division being somewhat time generic, he is able to change eras from 1949 to the 1960's by rotating locomotives, automobiles, trucks and cabooses every couple of years. He realistically operates his well-thought-out track plan with car cards and a train sequence card deck system he designed himself.

Don is a charter member of the GN historical society and a distinguished award winning NMRA modeler – winning best in show and 1st place awards at national NMRA conventions plus numerous merit awards at regional conventions. He has received 5 NMRA Achievement Certificates and more are in the pipeline. Clearly he's on his way to becoming a MMR.

In addition to modeling, Don is an amateur photographer. His layout features a unique and well-executed photographic back drop for the GN Apple Yard from the real life town of Wenatchee, WA.



To see more pictures and a detailed track plan of Don's GN, Spokane Division, go to the Fox Valley Division web site at <http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/>. If you would like to visit Don's empire to see his work for yourself, you may contact him at dcook@att.net for an appointment. For more information on the GN railroad, visit <http://www.gnrhs.org/>



The Mystery Picture from April

Semaphore

And the envelope please The answer is.... The control computer for Leif Hansen's railroad. (also a former training ground for master electricians.)

National Train Day was May 7th

What did you do on National Train Day? Tells us at the next meeting.

<http://www.nationaltrainday.com/events/chi/>
Leif Hansen

NMRA Fox Valley Division Board Contacts

| | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------|
| Superintendent, Walter Radtke | wagx2@email.com | 847-255-2977 |
| Chief Clerk, Leif Hansen | mudhen454@att.net | 847-437-7124 |
| Publications Editor, Art Paton | apaton7@netzero.net | 847-891-4596 |
| Circulation Editor, Jim Allen | jallenad60@comcast.net | 847-356-2061 |
| 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



1914 Railroad map of Wisconsin
April contest entry by Mike Hirvela
(April contest entry)



Art Paton's B&M
brakeman Lantern
(April contest entry)

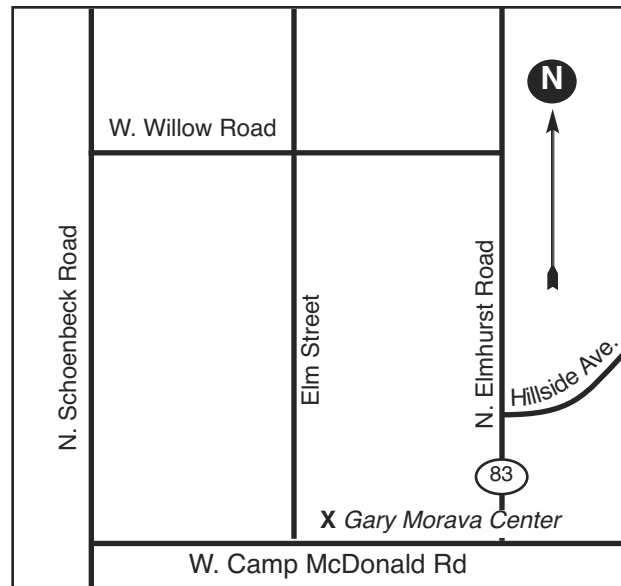
About the Fox Valley Division

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 six of this newsletter. We are here to help you!



Next Meeting

The Fox Valley Division will hold their **next meeting on May 15, 2011** -- Note: 1:30 pm start time 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