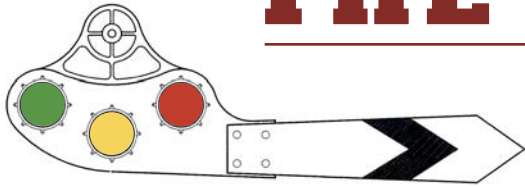


# THE SEMAPHORE

October 2011

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



## Inside This Issue

- John Cloos Tribute
- Sept. Meeting
- Don Cook Project
- September contest results
- Classifieds
- I-Hobby Expo
- 2011-2012 Calendar

## A Tribute to Our Friend

**John Cloos**  
1964-2011

It's the phone call we all dread. Jim Osborn had left a message on my phone. John Cloos had passed away from a heart attack. Shocked, I hit the repeat button to be sure what I heard was correct. After a few minutes it sunk in.

I could not believe it. I had just seen him at a division Trainmasters meeting where John had joked that if we could keep members from dying, we could maintain our membership numbers. But that was John, always joking. His wry sense of humor coupled with the mischievous look in his eye always made me laugh. You might remember him from the meeting where Walter told us all to wear railroad themed hats. John went to the extreme and glued a pantagraph to his. Or maybe his G scale Eggliner painted to look like a Electroliner.

I remember him saying there must be a better way as we crawled around on hands and knees at High-Wheeler taping down cord covers. Or his great traction display that he brought to Trainfest as well as HighWheeler. Or the irreverant building signs on the display layout, poking fun at me, Walter and even his wife, with Debbie's Bakery and Coffee Shop. That was John, always joking, but he also had a serious side,



John always felt it was important to keep things in perspective. It's a hobby have fun.

passionate side. Especially when it came to trying to get more people involved in the NMRA and hobby. John started the Fox Valley DivisionYahoo group. He got a table at Dupage every month to advertise the NMRA. He questioned and cajoled and prodded. But he tried. He will be missed

David Leider

Fun stuff will be back next month.

View some of John's outstanding work on the following pages.



Second place December 2010 division meet.



Awards received for work displayed at High Wheeler shows. Plaques made courtesy of John.



First place at Sept. 2010 Division meet



John's Trolley display



FVD member industries are well represented on this layout.



Eggliner



John receiving another High Wheeler Award



The End Building is Debbie's Diner on the division layout at High Wheeler 2010 honoring his wife.

More on next page.





John Cloos, on left, discussing his trolley models and memorabilia at IRM, July 4, 2010.



Third place May 2010 division meet.

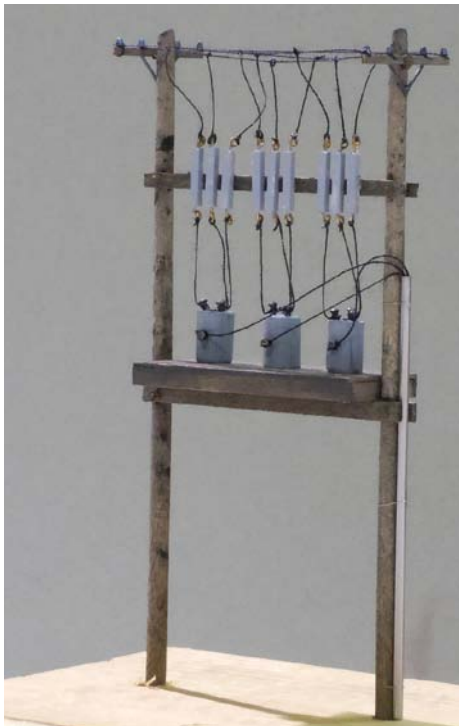
## September Meeting

For those of you who missed the September meeting, we had two excellent clinics. Unfortunately we got shuffled to the gym as our regular room was booked for the day.

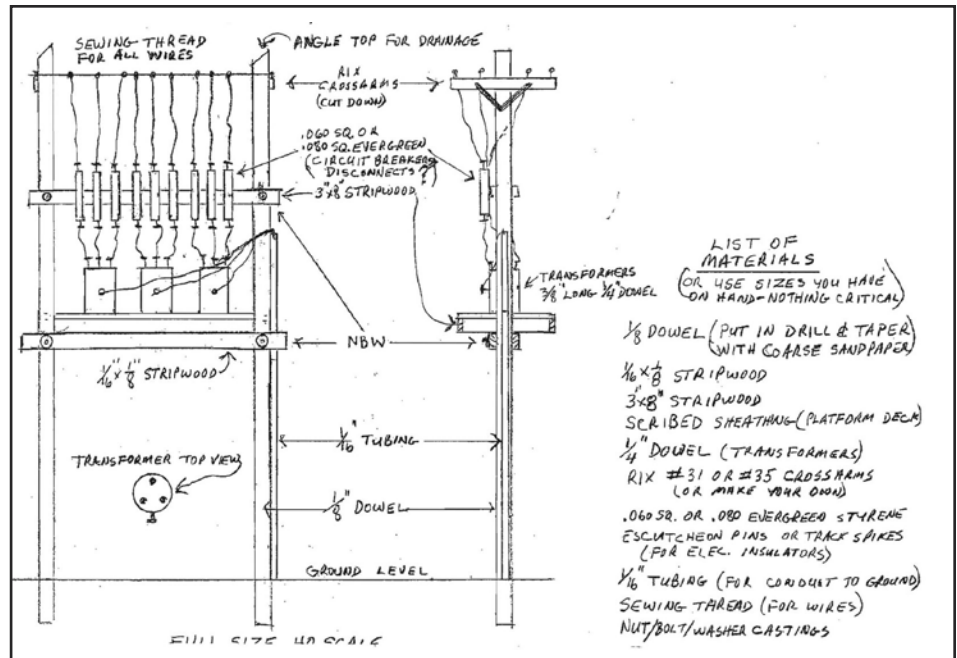
In spite of the bad acoustics, Alan Houtz started out with a clinic on weathering. He is the representative for Iwata airbrushes and showed those assembled how to use thinned water based weathering colors to create some excellent effects. The beauty of it is if you do not

like it, simply spray it with windex and start over. Sealing is done the usual way with a spray of DullCoat. In case you missed him, he will be at Trainfest and is at the Wheaton show every month.

Next up was Jeff Jarr. He gave a short clinic, one of a series, on how to get an AP award, but in this case it was the easiest to get, the Golden Spike. He explained that even a module is sufficient to get the award, you do not need a layout.



Don Cook  
Power Line Distribution Pole Set  
First Place



Don Cook was kind enough to provide his plans for his scratch built power line distribution pole set. In a couple of hours and you too can make an interesting addition to your layout. Since our country's aerial electrical supply infrastructure has been around for almost a hundred years this model is more or less timeless and would work on most model railroads.



Mike Hirvela  
Sanding Tower  
Third Place



Jim Allen  
Ice Cream Stand  
Second Place

## October Meeting

This month we will have an outing to the Illinois Railroad Museum in Union. We will meet at the front gate at 10:30 on Sunday, October 16 for a tour of the museum and a behind the scenes look at what it takes to keep the museum functioning.

After the tour, there will be numerous occasions to ride behind the electric cars. Diesels are not scheduled to run this day. Stay as long as you like, but the grounds close at 5:00.

The FVD will pay the entrance fee for every member plus non-members get a special reduced rate of \$9.00 for adults, \$8.00 for seniors (62 and over) and \$6.00

for children. Each member will also get a voucher good for food at the concession stand. Members must arrange their own transportation to and from the museum.

There will be no contest, clinic or business meeting this month. Bring your camera and enjoy a day out in the country. To get the reduced tickets we need to know how many will attend. If you plan on going, and did not sign up at the September meeting, contact me, David Leider, [sooauthor@netzero.com](mailto:sooauthor@netzero.com) or 847-253-7484. If you are a IRM member, let me know so we are not buying extra tickets.

### Classifieds:

Kurt Youngman is disposing of his entire collection of HO models. He has over 500 freight cars, 25 steam locomotives (all with DCC, some sound) and other items. Prices are reasonable.

Please contact him directly at: [tgobbi@comcast.net](mailto:tgobbi@comcast.net) or 8478-509-9161

## I-HOBBY EXPO

If you have never attended I HOBBY EXPO, this may be your last chance. According to the promoters, it will move to Cleveland in 2012. It is billed as the world's largest model hobby show, with over 500 booths and attractions. This is not just a train show, but also RC cars, planes, boats and more. The dates are October 22 and 23 from 10am-5pm at the Donald E Stephens Convention Center at 5555 N. River Road in Rosemont. Admission is \$12.00, children under 10 free. Seniors 65 and over are \$10.00. For more information, go to their website at [www.GiantShow.com](http://www.GiantShow.com)

## NMRA National News

Important Information from NMRA Headquarters: Registration for Grand Rails 2012 in Grand Rapids Michigan is well underway. Members can visit the website at [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org) and either register online or download a form. Non-members can also sign up at this time. Currently the registration only covers the costs of attending the convention. Furniture City Flyers Club members will receive the full list of tours, activities, and merchandise in December, followed by advance registrants, then all members.

### NMRA Fox Valley Division Board Contacts

|                                                 |                                                                          |              |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Superintendent, <b>Walter Radtke</b>            | <a href="mailto:wagx2@email.com">wagx2@email.com</a>                     | 847-255-2977 |
| Assistant Superintendent, <b>Jeff Jarr</b>      | <a href="mailto:jjarr@comcast.net">jjarr@comcast.net</a>                 | 773-286-8755 |
| Chief Clerk, <b>Leif Hansen</b>                 | <a href="mailto:mudhen454@att.net">mudhen454@att.net</a>                 | 847-437-7124 |
| Publications Editor, <b>David Leider</b>        | <a href="mailto:MMR_sooauthor@netzero.net">MMR_sooauthor@netzero.net</a> | 847-253-7484 |
| Circulation Editor, <b>Jim Allen</b>            | <a href="mailto:jallenad60@comcast.net">jallenad60@comcast.net</a>       | 847-356-2061 |
| Clinics, <b>David Leider</b>                    | <a href="mailto:MMR_sooauthor@netzero.net">MMR_sooauthor@netzero.net</a> | 847-253-7484 |
| Public Relations & Webmaster, <b>Jim Osborn</b> | <a href="mailto:FVDWebsite@comcast.net">FVDWebsite@comcast.net</a>       | 847-587-5654 |
| Achievements & Contests, <b>Jim Landwehr</b>    | <a href="mailto:JLandwehr901@yahoo.co">JLandwehr901@yahoo.co</a>         | 847-577-7984 |
| Membership Promotions, <b>Mike Hirvela</b>      | <a href="mailto:mhirvela1@gmail.com">mhirvela1@gmail.com</a>             | 847-360-9579 |
| Membership Records                              | <a href="mailto:blattan@comcast.net">blattan@comcast.net</a>             | 847-295-7959 |

Look for all FVD Board members contact information  
on line at the division's website  
[www.foxvalleydivision.org](http://www.foxvalleydivision.org)

## 2011-2012 Calendar

For October we have planned a field trip to the Illinois Railroad Museum in Union. The FVD will pay the entrance fee for all members and provide a meal voucher for lunch. Feel free to bring spouses, family and friends, but they will have to pay their own way in, but at a reduced price. (Adults \$9.00, children 3-11, 6.00 and seniors \$8.00). A sign up sheet will be at the September meeting, or contact David Leider [sooauthor@netzero.net](mailto:sooauthor@netzero.net) 847-253-7484. Members will be responsible for their own transportation, but we encourage people to car pool. Remember, this is the only notice you will get through the mail, future issues of the Semaphore will be on the internet at [foxvalleydivision.org](http://foxvalleydivision.org). If you do not have access to a computer, you can purchase a subscription for only \$8.00 a year. Contact Jim Allen for details at [jallenad60@comcast.net](mailto:jallenad60@comcast.net)

| Date      | Time  | Clinic                                     | AP Clinic                  | Contest                                                          |
|-----------|-------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 16   | 10:30 | Day at IRM                                 |                            | No Contest                                                       |
| Nov. 20   | 1:30  | A Railroad Runs Through It by Bruce Moffat | Author by David Leider     | Detailed Industrial Roof only                                    |
| Dec. 18   | 1:00  | Slides of Severe Weather by Mark Llaunaza  | Scenery by David Leider    | Build anything, any scale from wooden coffee stirrers            |
| Jan. 15   | 1:30  | Proper Car Placement by Fred Henize        | Structures by Dave Crement | Detailed structure interior                                      |
| Feb. 19   | 1:30  |                                            | Motive Power               | On line structure                                                |
| March 3&4 |       | High Wheeler No members meeting            |                            | No Contest                                                       |
| Apr. 15   | 1:00  | Zephyr Route tours by Mike Abernethy       | Cars                       | Vehicles                                                         |
| May 20    | 1:30  |                                            | Prototype Models           | Best of the Best for the year<br>1st, 2nd, 3rd and place winners |

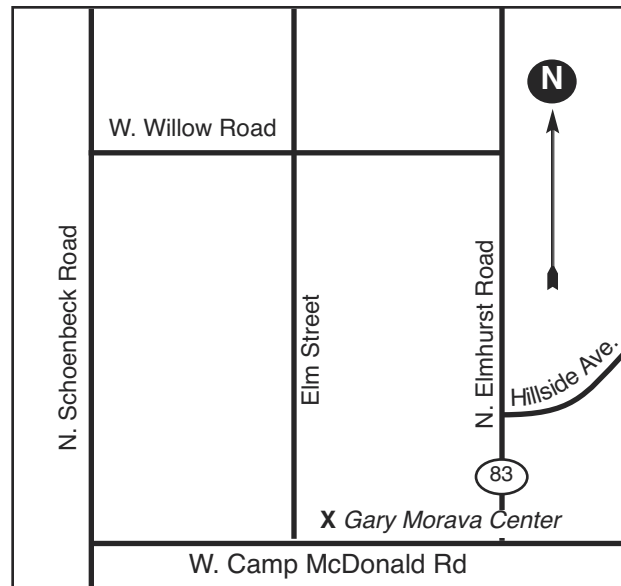
## About the Fox Valley Division

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](http://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 **November meeting on the 20th, 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