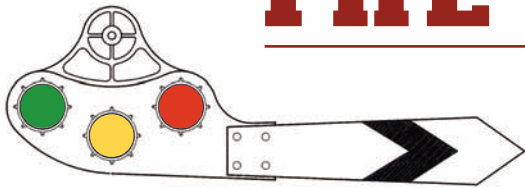


# THE SEMAPHORE

May 2012

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



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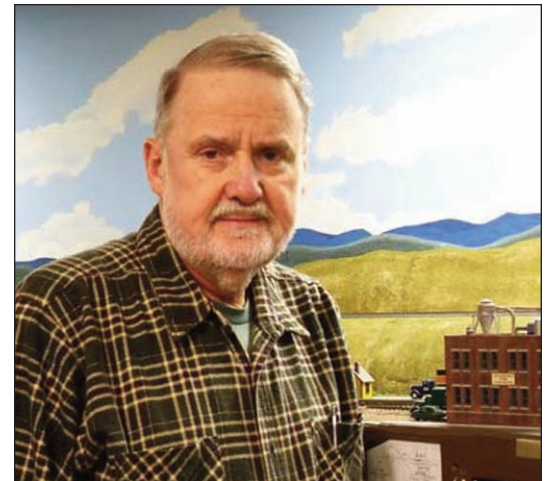
## FUN STUFF

Unusal handcars seen recently on a layout tour in Dixon, IL.



## Don Cook Earns MMR

The Fox Valley Division's Don Cook is the NMRA's Master Model Railroader #479. Don's MMR article and photo were featured in the June issue of NMRA Magazine. Don's required seven AP certificates came in Scenery, Structures, Cars, Electrical, Chief Dispatcher, Civil Engineering, and Association Volunteer. Anyone who has seen Don's beautiful Great Northern, Spokane Division layout (see the Train Photos section of the FVD's website) or operated on it knows why this outstanding modeler is well deserving of his MMR. Don has won "Best in Show" and First place awards for his modeling at the national NMRA level. The detailed structures and beautiful scenery on his layout are just superb. He has a well executed DCC control system, and a custom card forwarding system that keeps up to seven operators quite happy during regular operating sessions. Don has also contributed a great deal to the betterment of the NMRA and hobby through his extensive work for the association. Asked which AP certificate was the easiest for



him to achieve, Don replied, "electrical". The hardest was "cars". Asked if the AP program improved his modeling, Don agreed that it had. What advice does he give for those contemplating going for an MMR? "Just go for it, and learn from your mistakes. Former regional AP Chairman, Bill Meyers, encouraged me to go for it. I thought I could do it." The FVD gave Don a gift for completing his MMR—a 550 piece jig saw puzzle of a scene from his beloved GN, "Power Swap at Sky". "I really thank the division for this gift. It's not often you get a gift you've already been thinking of buying for yourself!"

## Hesston Steam Museum Trip September 2nd!

On Sunday, September 2nd the FVD will travel to Hesston, Indiana to see the 56th Annual Hesston Steam and Power Show. Sign up for this trip started at the May monthly meeting and at this writing, the bus is almost full! This is the biggest event of the year for the Hesston Steam Museum. During the event the museum "pulls out all the stops" and has almost all of its extensive collection of steam engines and steam equipment operating. This includes its seven ton narrow gauge Shay locomotive, a quarter scale steam railroad, an 1/8 scale steam railroad, steam tractors, a steam driven saw mill, a steam driven electrical plant, many stationary steam engines, and steam crane. In addition, there will be "county fair style" food stands, a steam parade, and other attractions including the museum's 1900's railroad depot. *FVD members and up to three of their guests receive their bus trip tickets, museum admission, and four ride tickets, free of charge.* The only thing you need to pay for is food and maybe an extra ride or two! What a deal! Our luxury bus will leave the Old

Regency Square Shopping Center in Palatine at 7:30 a.m. and make a pick up at the Old Orchard Shopping Center at 8:00 a.m. We expect to arrive at Hesston around 10:00 a.m. and leave for home about 3:30 p.m. Contact David Leider at [sooauthor@netzero.net](mailto:sooauthor@netzero.net) to sign up for this trip. **Please also contact David ASAP if for any reason you have to cancel your reservation.** Thanks! Finally, please check the FVD web site this summer for further information or any changes that might occur with this trip.



Hesston's seven ton Shay is readied for a run.



Hesston's steam crane in operation.

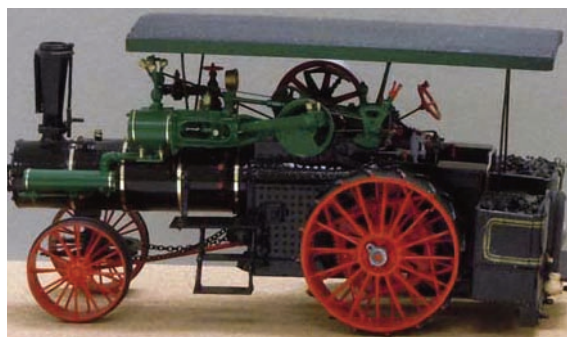


This diminutive Hesston steamer came from Czechoslovakia.

## May Meeting

New FVD Superintendent, Jeff Jarr, started the meeting by re-instituting a tradition from monthly meetings of the past—telling a joke to lead things off. While the joke got some good laughs, we are probably not in danger of losing our new Super to Second City or the Tonight Show! Highlights from the meeting included an excellent weathering clinic by Paul Gehrett. Paul's techniques included using chinks, colored pencils, water color pencils, oil paints, washes and dry brushing to achieve the desired results. He recommended working from photos, and using the right tools and best materials to get the best results. He noted, for example, that "ordinary chinks will 'disappear' when a flat coat is applied" after weathering. He recommends using Unison brand chinks that have much more pigment. "These chinks do not wash away after a spray of flat coat." Check the FVD web site for his list of materials and information on where to get the supplies he uses. Also, Paul's complete presentation and clinic notes are now on the FVD web site ....MMR, David Leider, gave May's second clinic on achieving your AP certificate in scenery. Said David, "The scenery AP certificate is one of the easier certificates to achieve. You basically need to model a realistic scene. If you follow the guidelines given for this certificate, you should be able produce good results." Go to the NMRA national web site to get the AP scenery guidelines David is talking about... May's modeling contest was "Best of the Best". Any entry that placed first, second or third in this modeling year's contests was eligible. Tying for third were Jim Osborn and Jim Landwehr. Jim Osborn nicely scratch built and detailed an G scale outhouse, and Jim Landwehr scratch built from brass, a lighted HO signal tower. Will Westfall's realistically finished and weathered brass Soo Line 2-8-0 steam locomotive took second. And, Jim Allen's beautiful black 1920's Case steam tractor took first. See Jim Osborn's photos of these and all of the models entered in May's contest on the FVD web site.

### Contest winners



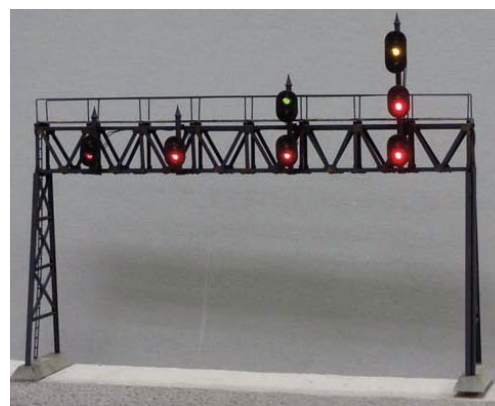
1st Place Jim Allen's O scale Case Steam Tractor



2nd Place Will Westfall's HO Scale Soo Line 2-8-0 Steam Engine



3rd Place Tie  
Jim Osborn's G Scale  
Out House made from  
Coffee Stir Sticks



3rd Place Tie Jim Landwehr's HO Scale Signal Bridge

## “Railroad Related Events” a New FVD Web Page

Superintendent Jeff Jarr and Webmaster Jim Osborn, have developed a new, informative and useful FVD web page: Railroad Related Events. The new web page has a listing of upcoming fun train and railroad events. There is a mix of railroad and railroad modeling events. Most of the events are held within 250 miles of the FVD. FVD members should note that the events listed on the RRE web page do not include FVD events. FVD events are

presented on the FVD web site Home Page and elsewhere on the web site, and in the Semaphore. We encourage you to take a look at the new Railroad Related Events page on our web site. Currently there are fourteen great summer time events listed. By the way, if you know of an event that is not listed on the RRE page, send that information to Jim Osborn so he can add it to the web page.

## Member News

You saw a photo of Will Westfall's HO Soo Line Consolidation 2426 in this Semaphore as the Second Place finisher in our May contest. You can also see that same photo on the FVD web site. If you want to see the 2426 in action on Will's layout, check out page 78 of the June 2012 Model Railroader! Will got a great shot of 2426 slowly rolling through the town of Echo Lake on his beautiful late 40's-early 50's layout. The photo appeared as one of MR's Trackside Photos....FYI,

Jim Osborn is one AP certificate away from achieving his MMR. Go Jim, go!....Jim Allen is looking forward to attending the 32nd Annual Narrow Gauge Convention in Bellevue, Washington, September 12 – 15.... Membership Records Trainmaster, Bert Lattan, reports FVD membership holding steady at 241 members in May. We also had 22 renewals and added two new members.

## 2012 -2013 FVD Meeting Dates & Contests

You can start preparing for the next modeling season's contests now! Here's our meeting dates and contests for 2012 - 2013:

September 23, 2012	Local Work Train—Loco, maximum of four cars, and a caboose
October 21, 2012	Covered or Closed Load—maximum three cars of the same type
November 18, 2012	Large Structure—5,000 scale square feet or more
December 16, 2012	Open Load—maximum three cars of the same type
January 20, 2013	Favorite Train Picture
February 17, 2013	Single Open Load—two or three cars needed to transport
March 9 & 10, 2013	High Wheeler 2013 Train Show (no meeting or contest)
April 21, 2013	Open Heavy Load on a Depressed Flat Car
May 19, 2013	Whimsical/Humorous Open Load

## 2012 NMRA National Convention

This year's NMRA National Convention is practically "in our own back yard" in Grand Rapids, Michigan. (You may have gotten a letter from Grand Rails saying the same thing!) The convention will be held July 29 through August 4 and it promises to be a good one. 70 great layouts, 200 excellent clinics with noted clinicians, Modeling with the Masters, model contests, photography contests, prototype tours, general interest activities, and the National Train Show will all be featured. Plus, the Layout Design and Operations SIGs will have special displays and layout tours. If you haven't already, make plans to attend Grand Rails 2012. You'll be glad you did!

### Modeling Tip of the Month

May clinician Paul Gehrett provides this month's tip. Paul recommends spraying models with a light coat of flat or semi-gloss clear coat before weathering them with chinks, pencils, or oils. The spray gives the model some 'tooth' which the weathering can stick to better. "Trying to weather models without a light coat of flat or semi-gloss clear coat is like trying to write on glass with a pencil!" says Paul.

## 2012 Calendar

Future issues of the Semaphore will be on the internet at 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

Date	Time	Clinic	AP Clinic	Contest
Sept. 2	TBA	Save the date for a bus trip to the Hesston Steam Museum's annual "Steam and Power" show.		
Sept. 23	1:30	TBA	Local work train.	One loco, 4 cars (max), and caboose.
Oct. 21	1:30	TBA	Covered or closed load	3 cars of the same type max.

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

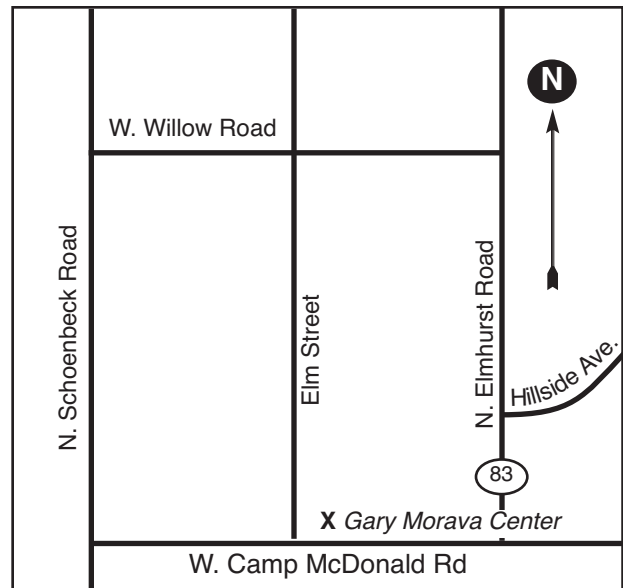
## About the Fox Valley Division

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 240 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, Jeff Jarr or any board member listed on page seven of this newsletter. We are here to help you!**



## Next Meeting

The Fox Valley Division will hold their **meeting on September 23, 2012.**

Note: 1:30 pm start time to 4:30 pm, at the Gary Morava Center, 110 W. Camp MacDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL  
Lunch and refreshments served.



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