

Working On My Railroad: Jim Osborn, con't

A kit-bashed six stall round house occupies this area of West Chicago's engine servicing facility. Note the three extensions to the back of the roundhouse, and the RIP tracks along its right side.



Ten classification tracks are put to good use every day at the east end of the West Chicago Yard. Once again photo flats are successfully used as a backdrop this time with photos of rolling stock nicely blended into the background scene.



Mike's Minute by Mike Hirvela

Dreams

During the last couple of weeks in preparation for Railfun 2014, my job has been going over the information submitted by our Fox Valley (and some DuPage) Division members who are hosting layout tours or op sessions for the convention. Each member has filled out a layout questionnaire on his or her layout which was provided by the Railfun convention committee a couple of months ago. The questionnaire asks layout owners to give us basic information about the layout such as name, scale, size, theme, geographic location, etc. This morning, as I write this "Mike's Minute", a thought came to me. Each of the members, no matter what their background, education, career field, or any other factor you can think of, have built their railroads as they have envisioned it. It is the fulfillment of a dream. It doesn't matter what railroad—prototype or freelanced—where it is located geographically, what cities or industries it serves, Class I or short line, basement sized or 4 x 8, it is the owner's attempt to accomplish the vision or dream of what his or her railroad should be. In reviewing the information of the 30 some layouts participating in Railfun 2014, I cannot escape the conclusions that 1) we model railroaders are a bunch of interesting, creative, passionate, whimsical, dedicated folks who love trains and all that goes along with them, and 2) we've taken that love and turned it into our own model railroad dream. I invite you to attend Railfun 2014 and see more than 30 of our fellow model railroader's dreams come to life.

Member News

Dave Methlie

We are sorry to report that former early Fox Valley Division member, Dave Methlie, passed on in Pennsylvania on September 8th. Dave lived in Crystal Lake until about ten years ago when he and wife Maggie retired to his beloved home state of Pennsylvania. He was well known in the hobby as the owner of Crystal Lake Hobbies in the late 1970's and early 1980's, and for his professional layout building business, Design Modelers. Though he built layouts of any scale and size, Dave's specialty was beautifully built and detailed 4x8 HO layouts starting with the Pine Valley (Jan. 1980 RMC). The Magnuson Display Layout, Maggie's Cove (Feb. 2001 MR), Deer Mountain (June 2004 MR), and his Stoney Creek series which ran from January to April, 2006 in MR, were some of his most well known 4x8s. I last saw him three or four years ago at Train Fest where his completely rebuilt Pine Valley layout won a "Best of Show" award. In late 2012 Dave was diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia (LBD) and had been in a nursing facility since July of this year. He was a great ambassador for our hobby and always willing to share his knowledge of layout and model building. Our sympathies go to Maggie, their children, grand children and the rest of Dave's family. WH

The FVD at iHobby

The FVD had a presence at the big iHobby Show in Schaumburg October 5th and 6th thanks to volunteers Mike Hirvela, Jim Allen, and Denis Zamirovski. The FVD representatives manned our division's promotional booth and brought along Jim Allen's fun Action-Reaction Railroad. Big "Thanks!" go to Mike, Jim, and Denis for the great work they did at iHobby 2013, and the work they do every other month at the Wheaton (DuPage) Train Show. By the looks of the photo to the right, their efforts are paying off nicely.

Mike Hirvela and a younger train enthusiast enjoy watching the Action-Reaction RR...in action! Denis Zamirovski photo.



Free to a Good Home

Now that Harper College offers us electrical ceiling drops, we no longer need the numerous yellow electrical cord covers we once did for our High Wheeler Train Shows. Before the convenient drops became available, electricity was routed to HW Show layouts and displays via extension cords stretched across the floor and covered by the gorgeous, bright yellow rubber covers you see to the right. Contact (contact info on page 11) FVD Clerk, Leif Hanson, if you'd like one or more of the cord covers. He's really looking forward to hearing from you as his garage is full of these things!



FVD Membership Drops

We hate to end "Member News" on a sour note, but Membership Records Trainmaster, Bert Lattan, reports that in September the Fox Valley Division's membership dropped by nine members from 233 to 224. This is the biggest divisional monthly drop Bert has seen in his long NMRA career serving the Midwest Region, former North Shore Division, and now FVD. It follows a couple years of stable membership numbers. Some of the drop may be attributed to a lag in the NMRA National's recording and reporting procedures. (National is notorious for this says Bert.) We'll keep you posted.

September's Clinic

Master weathering artist Dave Schroedel presented an excellent clinic in September. Members may recognize Dave from the weathering clinics he gives each month in Building 5 at the DuPage (Great Midwest) Train Show. He is an expert at his craft and has done extensive research (some in his basement "laboratory") into weathering methods and materials. After giving us some basic rolling stock weathering instruction, Dave opened up the clinic for any and all questions on weathering. The discussion that followed was good stuff. The many questions from FVD members made for excellent answers from Dave in which he gave us the techniques and materials he uses for modeling a number of different weathering effects. Thanks, Dave!



September clinician, Dave Schroedel, can also be seen on page 82 of the November 2013 Railroad Model Craftsman magazine sporting a longer goatee.

September's Contest Winners

With eleven entries, we had a really nice showing for our first model contest of the year, "Your Favorite Model Locomotive(s)". FVD Super Jeff Jarr took First Place with his beautifully weathered set of CNW RS-3's. Jeff tried to achieve the "grungy" look of RS's he'd seen in CNW photo books and definitely accomplished his goal. Jeff said, "I'd like to do a clinic on the methods I used, but they'd probably fumigate the room!" Will Westfall's Soo Line Mogul was one of only two steam locomotive entries, and placed Second. Will took an inexpensive Bachman loco with sound and re-detailed and nicely weathered it to replicate a Soo D class 2-6-0. Bob DiDomenico brought in two big, long O scale Indiana Railroad SD90Mac's and took Third Place for his efforts. The red and white IRR units stretched across *four feet* of one of our six foot contest tables, and, unlike the first and second place finishers, were not weathered. Said Bob, "These locomotives are kept very clean by the IRR. This is the way they look most of the time." Big FVD "Congratulations" to our winners and all who entered September's contest. View all the contest entries on the FVD's web site. Model photos by Walt Herrick.



Jeff Jarr's 1st Place HO scale CNW RS3's.



Will Westfall's 2nd Place HO scale Soo 2-6-0.



Bob Dimenico's 3rd Place O scale Indiana Railroad SD90s.

Modeling Tip

Dave Schroedel is an expert at weathering. He's done tons of research on different weathering methods, techniques, products, agents, etc. At his September FVD clinic, Dave shared much of his weathering knowledge and displayed a dozen of his beautifully (if you like grimy, dusty, rusty and dirty stuff, that is!) finished models. Members at the September meeting will remember Dave's number one weathering technique: work from photos of the prototype. His biggest piece of advice for us was, "Obtain and use prototype photos of the weathering effects you want to model. I really don't weather anything without a photo." Good advice. Time to pull out those prototype photos and go to work people! WH

2013-2014 Meeting Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Other</u>
Oct. 20, 2013	Open Loads by David Sima	Caboose Train Limit 6 cars.	
Nov. 17, 2013	Painting People by David Crement, MMR	Passenger Car(s) Limit 4 cars.	
Dec. 15, 2013	Module Scenery, Part 2 by Mike Wood	Tank Cars Limit 6 cars.	1:00 pm start. Lunch provided.
Jan. 19, 2014	Building Benchwork by Bill Kirchmeyer	“Rescue the Rolling Stock” Re-purposed rolling stock.	
Feb. 16, 2014	TBA	Hopper Train Limit 6 cars.	
March 1, 2, 2014	High Wheeler 2014 Train Show at Harper College in Palatine Sponsored by the FVD. 9 am to 5 pm each day. <u>FVD volunteers needed.</u> Contact Jeff Jarr at jjarr@comcast.net or 773-286-8755.		
April 13, 2014	TBA	Diorama	1:00 pm start. Lunch provided. FVD officer elections.
May 16, 17, 18, 2014	Rail Fun 2014 Mid West Region Convention hosted by the FVD In Schaumburg, IL. <u>FVD volunteers needed.</u> Contact Jeff Jarr at jjarr@comcast.net or 773-286-8755.		
Note: there will be no May FVD monthly meeting in lieu of the Rail Fun convention hosted by the FVD.			
July 13 - 19, 2014	NMRA National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. Check the national web site www.nmra.org and <i>NMRA Magazine</i> for further information as it becomes available.		

Fox Valley Division Board Contact Information

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All of the board members listed above want you to become a better, more knowledgeable modeler, and to have fun with the great hobby of model railroading. Contact them with your questions, concerns, or suggestions. They are here for you!

NMRA Web Sites

Fox Valley Division	www.foxvalleydivision.org
Midwest Region	www.mwr-nmra.org
National	www..nmra.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 all of 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.

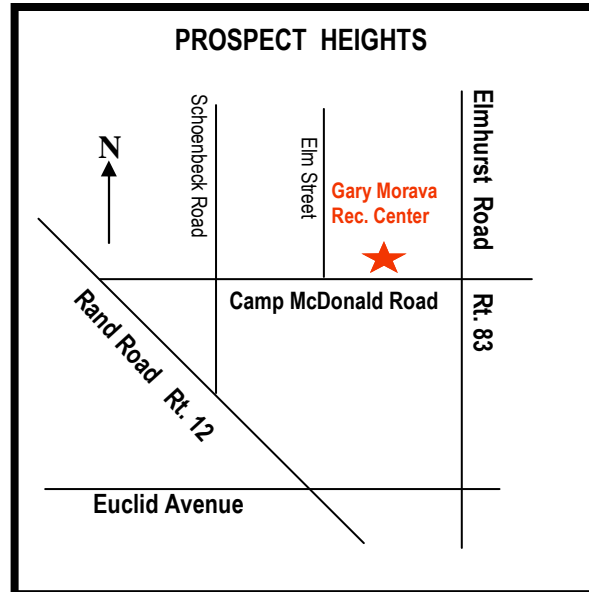
FVD general meetings are held September through May at the Gary Morava Center in Prospect Heights from 1:30 to about 4:00 pm. Each meeting features a clinic, model contest, information of interest to the membership, and a time for socializing. Outings, layout tours, and operating sessions are also held periodically in addition to, or instead of, the general meetings. To promote the hobby of model railroading, the FVD sponsors and runs the 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 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.

Visit us on the web at:

www.foxvalleydivision.org.

Questions? Contact FVD Superintendent, Jeff Jarr, or any FVD Board member listed on the previous page of this newsletter. We are here to help you!



Regular Meeting Location: Gary Morava Center, 110 Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL

Regular Meeting Time: 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. See page 10 for this year's meeting schedule.



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Midwest Region-NMRA
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