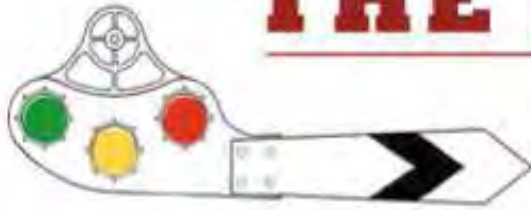


THE SEMAPHORE



MARCH 2015

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



HIGH WHEELER 2015 PREVIEW

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pages 1,2 [Highwheeler 2015 Preview](#)

Page 3-5 [Layout of Month](#)

Page 5 [January's Contest and Clinic](#)

Page 6 [Member News & April Elections](#)

Page 6 [Meeting Schedule](#)

Page 7 [Basic FVD info](#)

Page 7 [FVD Board](#)

Note: "Fun Stuff", "Mike's Minute" and "Modeling Tip" return next month!

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March is "High Wheeler Train Show Month" in the Fox Valley Division. As a result, there is **NO** regular monthly meeting in March. See you in April!

You are encouraged to work and/or attend High Wheeler 2015 February 28 and March 1 at Harper College in Palatine. Contact Jeff Jarr if you'd like to volunteer to work. His contact info is on page 7. We look forward to seeing you at High Wheeler 2015 for this year's great train show!

The Fox Valley Division's annual High Wheeler Train Show is almost here! On February 28th and March 1st, Harper College in Palatine will once again open its doors to High Wheeler, one of Chicagoland's largest, finest and longest running train shows. This year's event promises to be even bigger and better with 24 model train layouts, dozens of vendors, and numerous activities for kids and families. Members of our Fox Valley Division of the NMRA have been working diligently since the last High Wheeler in 2014 to prepare for this year's show. Join us now for a small preview of what is to come in about two weeks. All of the High Wheeler crew look forward to welcoming you to High Wheeler 2015. So, come on out and bring some of your friends and neighbors too!

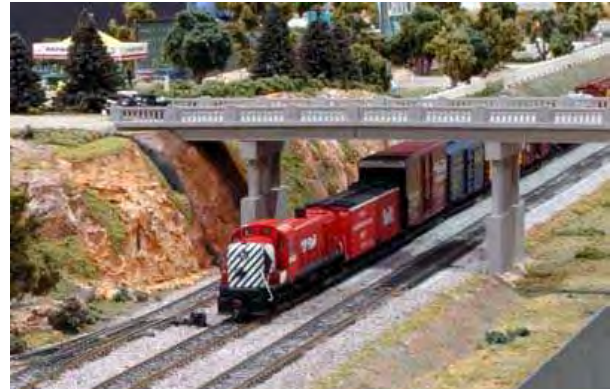
WH

High Wheeler crews are doing final layout and display tune-ups before the doors open (top photo) and the public begins to fill the aisles (center photo) at past High Wheeler shows. Great modular layouts are a big part of every High Wheeler. (bottom photo). Preview photos on pages 1, 2 by Jim Osborn, Jeff Jarr, and Walt Herrick.



HIGH WHEELER 2015 PREVIEW

Great Layouts in All Scales!



Fun for Kids & Families!



Brought to You by Our Outstanding FVD Crew!



Layout of the Month: Midwest Rails Modular Group

The Midwest Rails Modular Group was founded in 1994 by Bob Hanselman. Bob saw a G scale modular layout while in Florida and got hooked on the large scale. He came back to Illinois and began an exploratory effort to see if there might be interest in forming a G scale modular group by building a G scale module for display and taking it to area trains shows like High Wheeler. Bob's efforts paid off with the result being the formation of the G scale Midwest Rails Modular Group. Bob now lives in California but is an honorary member of the Midwest Rails club he began. Currently there are 16 members and a whopping 80 modules in Midwest Rails. 73 of the modules are club owned, stored and transported by the club. Seven modules are owned by individual members and are stored (Con't on p. 4)

To the right, Midwest Rails President, Chuck Martschinke's 4-6-0 chuffs by the club's Southwest Scene built by Rolfe Sick. The scene sits on three large radius corner modules forming a 90 degree turn.



George Holtz's colorful circus module (upper left) is always a hit at shows as is Rolfe Sick's turn table and roundhouse module (upper right). Clear Creek station (left) is Piko product. A long six track staging yard (right) helps greatly during shows by providing a place for Midwest Rails members to set up their trains and then hold them while they wait for running time on the main lines.



Layout of the Month: Midwest Rails Modular Group



Midwest Rails layouts feature modules with scratch built structures such as Bill Hartwig's unique "bridge over bridge" double module in the top left photo, and Chuck Martschinke's grain elevator in the lower photo.

(con't from p. 3)

and transported by them. Trailers are used to store and transport the modules. Maintenance of the modules, locos, rolling stock, structures and scenery is handled individually by the members. Midwest Rails is an active modular group. It goes to 5 or 6 shows per year, has an annual meeting and also meets once or twice a year to work on the modules. It's all taken in stride by the members of the Midwest Rails Modular Group who have been going strong for more than 20 years with an appealing modular concept in one of the largest of scales. WH Layout photos by Walt Herrick.



Matt Fierer's beautiful D&RGW K-28 exits the long covered bridge.

Basic Layout Information

Layout name:	Midwest Rails Modular Group
Layout builders:	Members of the MW Rails group
Layout location:	Various mid-western train shows
Layout scale:	G
Layout size:	Varies as to train show requirements
Layout style:	Modular
Layout theme:	Numerous individual module themes
Layout era:	Multi era
Construction started:	1994
Bench work:	1x3 grid with 1/2 inch plywood top; standard module size is 30 x 48 inches; banquet table legs are used for legs
Sub road bed/roadbed:	1/2 inch plywood base with track laid directly on the plywood and ballasted
Track and turnouts:	LGB and Aristocraft code 332
Scenery:	Varies according to member modules
Structures:	Kits, kit-bashed, scratch built
Locomotives:	Wide variety owned by members
Rolling stock:	Freight and passenger rolling stock from various manufacturers all owned by members
Control:	Crest Electronics Revolution System
Other:	For membership information go to: http://www.midwestrails.org/

Layout of the Month: Midwest Rails Modular Group



Midwest Rails big G scale locomotives and rolling stock attract the kids at train shows like a magnet so Thomas and the “Red Ball Express” (left) are often seen on the layout. The first of Bill Hartwig’s Union Pacific ABBA F units (right) pauses for a photo on the right main of the Midwest Rails’ Trainfest 2014 layout.



February’s Contest Winners

Photos by Jim Osborn

February’s contest was “Double or Triple Headed Steam” and three great entries were received. The top vote getter (right) was Jim Allen’s big, unique New South Wales, Australian AD60 class steamers. Coming in second (below left) were Mike Hirvela’s CNW double headed Atlantics passenger power. George Trandel’s Clinchfield coal country helper locos took third (below right). WH



February’s Clinic: Track Weathering and Ballasting

Fox Valley Division Super, Jeff Jarr, presented February’s clinic on “Track Weathering and Ballasting” and it was an excellent one. Jeff covered all the basics of turning raw flex track on cork roadbed into a realistic model of ballasted prototype track. Particularly good were Jeff’s tips on track weathering. See his comprehensive clinic notes with many helpful photos posted on our web site, www.foxvalleydivision.org. Great job Jeff! WH



Garfield-Clarendon & Elmhurst Model RR Clubs’ Updates

Last month’s Semaphore’s “Layout of the Month”, the Garfield-Clarendon MRR Club in Chicago, is featured in a really well done, new YouTube video. Go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHgw_L0ohHA to see it. The Elmhurst Model RR Club which was on our FVD Railfun Regional Convention’s layout tours last May, is featured in the March *Model Railroader* magazine. On page 44 is Lou Santello’s excellent article on their state of the art, touch screen layout control system which will control both DCC and DC locos and do a whole lot more. The Crestron control system is installed on the club’s large new N scale layout. Lou’s HO home layout in Kildeer has the same Crestron system, and was also on Railfun layout tours. WH

Member News

Membership Services Trainmaster, Bert Lattan reports January's FVD membership standing at 219 up three from December....Congratulations to Jim Osborn and Mike Hirvela for earning their Operations AP certificates. Great job, guys! Leif Hansen and Jim Landwehr installed an FVD/NMRA display at the Arlington Heights Public Library early in February to promote High Wheeler. WH

April Elections

April's FVD monthly meeting is April 13 and is our Annual Meeting. There we will elect an **Assistant Superintendent and Paymaster** to two year terms. **Contact our Chief Clerk, Leif Hansen, should you wish to run** for either of these two positions. His contact information is on page 7 of this Semaphore. Incumbents Bob Shleman (Assistant Super) and Tim Kleimeyer (Paymaster) will be running for re-election. **Note that April's meeting starts at 1:30 pm.** All FVD members are urged to attend this important meeting. WH



Leif Hansen and Jim Landwehr installed this great FVD/NMRA display at the Arlington Heights Public Library for February viewing. Nice work, gentlemen! Jim Landwehr photo.

2014-2015 Meeting Schedule

The remaining FVD/NMRA meeting schedule is given below and on the FVD's web site:
www.foxvalleydivision.org.

Schedule changes or additions are posted on the FVD web site as soon as they are known. Our meeting place is the Gary Morova Recreation Center, 110 Camp McDonald Road in Prospect Heights, 60070. Our meeting time is 1:30 pm except as noted below.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Other</u>
Feb. 28 & March 1, 2015	High Wheeler 2015 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.		
<u>Note: there is no March FVD monthly meeting due to High Wheeler 2015.</u>			
April 13, 2015	A primer on a DCC layout with JMRI logic by George K.	Open load spanning 2-3 cars	1:30 pm start; Officer elections
April 17 - 19, 2015	Midwest Region Spring Convention hosted by the Winnebago Land Division at the Holiday Inn, 4601 Calumet Ave. in Manitowoc, WI		
May 17, 2015	<u>TBD check web site</u>	Unfinished project of your choice	Last meeting until September

Note: there are no FVD monthly meetings in June, July or August

August 23 - 29, 2015 **NMRA National Convention in Portland, OR.** Check the convention's web site: www.nmra2015portland.org for complete information.

NMRA Web Sites

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



About the Fox Valley Division

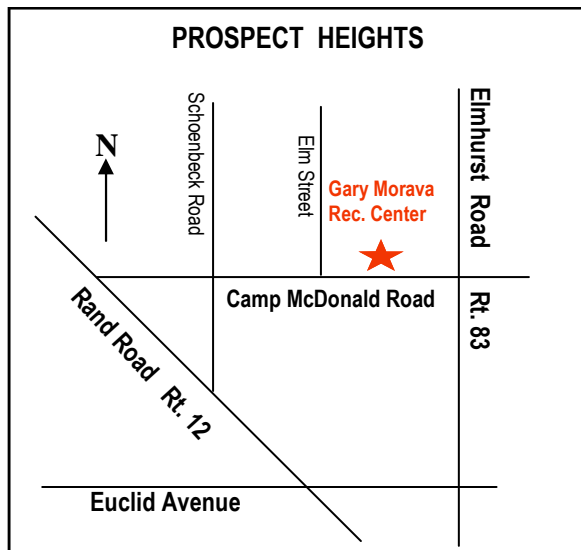
If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region and Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association or NMRA. The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes all of McHenry and parts of Cook, Kane, and Lake Counties in northeast Illinois. About 220 members of varied ages and modeling 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 monthly 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 monthly meetings. To promote the hobby of model railroading, the FVD sponsors and runs the large train show called "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 and bring a friend. We'd love to see you. Also visit us on the web at:

www.foxvalleydivision.org

Questions? Contact FVD Superintendent, Jeff Jarr, or any FVD Board member listed below. We are here to help!



- The FVD's monthly meeting is at the :
Gary Morava Recreation Center
110 Camp McDonald Road
Prospect Heights, IL. 60070
- Our regular meeting time is:
1:30 to about 4:00 p.m.
- 2014 – 2015 meeting dates, contest and clinic info are on page 6 of this newsletter.

FVD web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org

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

Fox Valley Division Board Contact Information

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Paymaster, **Tim Kleimeyer**
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