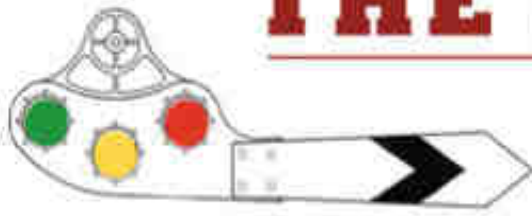


# THE SEMAPHORE

September 2015

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



## FVD Visits the Illinois Live Steamers

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### Semaphore Editor:

Walt Herrick, Jr.  
waltherrickjr@gmail.com  
815-355-2003

### Welcome Back Everyone!

2015 - 2016 is shaping up to be another great year for the FVD.

**Remember**, our first regular monthly meeting this year is **September 20th** in Huntley, IL where we'll tour the KV&EC club's four layouts and also Pete Walton's home layout. See page 2 of this newsletter for complete info.

**\*Also, the FVD is still looking for Clinics Trainmaster. Contact Jeff Jarr if interested.\***

On August 8, FVD members had a *lot* of fun visiting the Illinois Live Steamers in Joliet, Illinois. The ILS was founded in 1967 and "is dedicated to live steam model railroading". The club occupies almost 7 ½ acres of land on a former apple orchard. It is a private club and is normally not open to the public. But, on August 8th the FVD arranged for a special division outing at the ILS. Jim Allen and I drove to the event, and after getting our visitors badges from the club office, began touring the property. Right away we noticed several sizes of trains and track gauges as well as diesel and electric locos operating on ILS rails. Soon Bob and Eddy Shlemon had lunch ready and we sat down on picnic tables to enjoy delicious burgers, brats and dogs. In the afternoon we continued our tour of the ILS grounds, took photos, and talked with ILS members. We saw a large variety of motive power including steam, diesel and electric locos, had a lot of fun, and learned a lot in our conversations with ILS members. "Thanks!" to the ILS guys for a great day! Mike Hirvela



Say Cheese! Asst. Super, Bob Shlemon Jr., shoots some video from a moving Illinois Live Steamer train at the FVD's August 8th outing. Jim Osborn photo.



ILS crew members prep a big 4-8-4 steam engine for running. It took a good hour to fire this locomotive! Jim Osborn photo.

## Fun Stuff by Jim Allen

The mother of invention. Here's a dump car on the cheap! A used dump body off of a dump truck is attached to a freight car truck and, "wala!", a unique piece of mow equipment is created. This little gem would make a neat one evening kit bashing project.



## September 20th Monthly Meeting in Huntley

This month the FVD travels to Huntley, Illinois to tour the four KV&EC club layouts in Del Webb, and Pete Walton's beautiful Great Midwest home layout (in photo at right) which is also in Del Webb. We will meet briefly at the Millgrove Wood Shop at 1:30 pm before touring the layouts. Our group will be split for better layout viewing. Lunch and travel arrangements are on your own. This is a great opportunity to see five layouts all minutes from each other. *See you in Huntley!*



What:	Layout tours of five Huntley layouts in close proximity.
When:	<b>Sunday, September 20; 1:30 pm</b>
Where:	<b>Millgrove Wood Shop barn 13400 Sun City Boulevard Huntley, IL 60142</b>
Directions:	Go to Illinois Route 47 in Huntley. Del Webb is about 3 miles south of Huntley and 1 mile north of I-90 on Rt. 47. Take Rt. 47 to Del Webb's entrance at Del Webb Blvd. Take Del Webb Blvd. a half mile to Sun City Blvd. Turn left. The Millgrove Wood Shop barn and KV&EC club are a half mile on the right. Park in either the lower parking lot by the Eakin Creek Soft ball Field, or upper Wood Shop parking lot just past the barn.
Meeting:	We will meet briefly at 1:30 pm on barn's upper viewing deck before our tours start. Note there is a club Open House that day.



## Layout of the Month: KV&EC Club's N Gauge Layout Article and Photos by Walt Herrick

The Kishwaukee Valley and Eakin Creek model railroad club is unique having four model railroads in four different scales--HO, N, hi-rail O, and outdoor G. The club's N gauge layout was started in 2002, and added on to in 2007 with an addition that doubled its size. Though the entire KV&EC club has about 50 members at any given time, its N gauge crew is much smaller with anywhere from 4 to 6 members. Never-the-less, the N gaugers have done a good job of building a nice looking, interesting, and fun to run layout in the small scale.

Three trains operate on three separate lines and there is also a point to point trolley line which runs through the center of the layout. Mountain scenery covers the original section of the layout, while in the "new" section, flat lands and a town site cover most of the railroad. A large mountain with waterfall are at the far left side of the new section.

Through the years the N gaugers have included atypical scenery features on their layout including a large reservoir lake at the top of a mountain, a huge concrete dam, a couple of "highways to no where", and a mountain scene with lightning flashing from behind the mountain, loud thunder, and the wail of a



The Jackson Local pauses in front of the Jackson depot before beginning its switching assignments in town today on the KV&EC club's N scale layout in Huntley.

a steam locomotive whistle through it all. They enjoy adding details to the layout which are a little ( a lot?) on the crazy side including shark (con't on next page.)



## Layout of the Month: KV&EC Club's N Gauge Layout

(con't from p. 2) fins in the bay, striped smoke stacks on the candy factory, and two cows making love behind a barn. (It's true. I am *not* making this up!)

N gauge layout Superintendent John Hybl, Don Heuer, and Bill Leppin are the current N gauge crew with help from Walt Herrick and Pete Walton. They've done a great job of bringing the layout to its current state of completion, but know a lot more work needs to be done. "We're working on a couple of new scenes and the mountains need lots more trees. We also need to upgrade the layout's wiring," says Walt Herrick. "But, with us its all about having fun with the layout," says Superintendent Hybl. And that's really what the hobby is all about.



A CNW freight rumbles by John Hybl's scratch built fish shanty and dock scene. Did you catch the "Do Not Feed the Sharks" sign on the side of the shanty?



CNW and UP six axle power cross the bridge over the large waterfall cascading down Thunder Mountain. This scene is animated featuring lightning from behind the mountain, loud thunder and a steam train whistle all at the push of a button.

### Basic Layout Information

Layout name:	KV&EC N Gauge Layout
Layout builder:	N gauge KV&EC members
Layout location:	Basement of the Millgrove Wood Shop in Huntley
Layout scale:	N
Layout size:	21' x 20'
Layout style:	Irregular shaped island with one section along the wall
Layout theme:	Western mountain Class I with a trolley line
Layout era:	Mixed eras
Construction started:	2002; new addition in 2007
Bench work:	1x4 Grid
Sub road bed/roadbed:	Half inch plywood; cork
Track and turnouts:	Atlas flex track and Peco turnouts on original section; Kato Unitrak on the "new" section
Scenery:	Plaster, light weight spackle or Moolca over shaped foam board. Ground foam; commercial trees. Real Water brand epoxy water
Structures:	Kits, kit bashed, with some scratch built
Locomotives:	Mostly Kato and Atlas
Rolling stock:	Various manufacturers
Control:	DC. Power packs control three separate loops and a point to point trolley line
Operations:	Train running for members and display running for open houses



## Layout of the Month: KV&EC Club's N Gauge Layout



CNW Extra 4629 pulls by mow buildings and JJ Tower into the yard at Jackson, CO (above left). Later that day the Jackson Local led by Santa Fe geep 3563, drops off a flat car of plywood to the Walton Lumber Co. before departing west (above right). To the immediate right, another CNW freight passes behind a nicely done farm scene modeled by Don Heuer. The red covered hoppers on the stone bridge are Don's, and church was kit-bashed by Walt Herrick. Below on the left, a sleek Burlington Zephyr exits a tunnel on the original section of the KV&EC N scale layout. In the right hand photo below, a short steam era freight slowly makes its way across a wooden scratch built trestle which is also on the original section of the layout. Those are fully strung high power lines running across the front of the scene.



## A note about our 2015 - 2016 contests

Our 2015 – 2016 monthly contests are listed on page 6 of this Semaphore. These contests were requested by FVD members last year to our Achievement & Contest Trainmaster, Jim Landwehr. One general request Jim received were contests featuring dioramas and/or some type of scenery component. As a result, Jim has specified “in diorama format” on most of this year’s contests. Also specified is that the diorama must have at least 144 square inches in surface size except for the April diorama which is a mini diorama and must be exactly 12” x 12” in size. We have some neat contests this year. Have fun with them and please enter one (or more) of them! We love to see your work because it helps us all become better modelers. Our first contest is in October and is “An Animated Model of Your Choice”. *Ed.*

## May’s Contest Winners

Photos by Jim Osborn



May’s contest was “An Unfinished Project of Your Choice”. It was won by Jim Allen’s (upper left photo) O scale Case skid mounted steam engine being modeled from a prototype photo. Denis Zamirowski’s unfinished O scale CTA 4000 El car (lower left photo) placed second, and Jeff Jarr’s partially completed Metra Edgebrook passenger platform took third. See all the entries on our FVD web site, [www.foxvalleydivision.org](http://www.foxvalleydivision.org). *Ed.*



## May’s Clinic

May’s clinic was “A Primer on DCC Layouts with JMRI logc” by George K. was well received by members. George brought a small layout which he ran using the JMRI system. After a thorough explanation of JMRI basics, George entertained questions and gave some members hands on experience running his layout with JMRI. Thanks George, and great job! (By the way, did you notice, George is a Blackhawks fan?!) *Ed.*



## Member News

Congratulations to Jim Allen upon his completion of the requirements for the NMRA’s Achievement Program’s AP certificate for Association Official.,,., Jim Osborn hosted KV&EC club members for a tour of his beautiful layout on July 27. Jim then had an operating session with himself, Don Cook MMR, Bert Lattan, and Dan Sylvester serving as coaches for novice operators. A good time was had by all!...Membership Services Trainmaster, Bert Lattan, reports that FVD membership stands at 210 as of July 31...**Important!** **The FDV is still looking for a Clinics & Programs Trainmaster to arrange for our monthly clinics. We are now also looking for a Ways and Means Trainmaster to manage the annual High Wheeler Show starting after the 2016 High Wheeler Show.** Contact Jeff Jarr about both openings. His contact info is on page 7.



## 2015 - 2016 Fox Valley Division Meeting Schedule

Except as noted under “Other”, all meetings are held from 1:30 to 4:00 pm at the Gary Morava Recreation Center, 110 W. Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070. Visitors are always welcome. **Important: clinics are subject to change without notice.** For the latest clinic and all FVD information, visit our web site at [www.foxvalleydivision.org](http://www.foxvalleydivision.org).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Other</u>
Sept. 20, 2015	<u>Layout tour</u> of the KV&EC club’s four layouts and Pete Walton’s home layout in Del Webb, Huntley, IL. <u>No</u> clinic or contest. 1:30 pm start time. Travel and lunch arrangements are on your own. See page 2 of this Semaphore for the address and more information.		
Oct. 18, 2015	<u>Video presentation</u> on the White Pass & Yukon RR	Animated model of your choice <u>in diorama format*</u>	
Nov. 22, 2015	<u>Clinic</u> on “What Makes a Contest Photo a Winner” by Ingrid Drozdak.	Highway or railroad bridge with men working on the bridge <u>in diorama format*</u>	
Dec. 13, 2015	<u>Two prototype slide presentations</u> , “BN Coal Train and EJ&E” by Don Cook MMR	Holiday theme—any train related model that has a holiday theme <u>in diorama format*</u>	<b>1:00 pm start.</b> Pizza lunch.
Jan. 17, 2016	TBD—check FVD web site	Favorite model or prototype photo <u>taken by the member.</u>	
Feb.21, 2016	<u>Clinic</u> on “Home built Plows and Flangers” by John Drozdak	Lighted railroad signal—signal bridge, grade crossing signal, etc. <u>in diorama format*</u>	
<b>March 5 &amp; 6 2016</b>	<b>High Wheeler 2016 Train Show</b> at Harper College in Palatine sponsored and run by the Fox Valley Division. Hours are 9 am to 5 pm each day. <u>FVD member volunteers needed.</u> Contact Jeff Jarr at 773-286-8755, or <a href="mailto:jjarr@comcast.net">jjarr@comcast.net</a> to volunteer. Thank you!		
	<b><u>Note: there is no regular March meeting, due to High Wheeler. Come to the show!</u></b>		
April 17, 2016	<u>Clinic</u> TBD by David Leider, MMR	12” x 12” mini diorama. Your choice of subject and scale.	<b>1:00 pm start.</b> Pizza lunch. FVD officer elections.
May 15, 2016	<u>Slide presentation</u> by MMR Don Cook on the prototype Milwaukee Road	Interlocking or street crossing tower <u>in diorama format*</u>	Last monthly meeting for 2015 –2016
July 3 – 10, 2016	National Convention “ <b>Highball to Indy</b> ” in Indianapolis, July 3-10. See the web site: <a href="http://www.nmra2016.org">www.nmra2016.org</a> for more information. Note there is no MWR convention this year because the CID, a Midwest Region division, is hosting the NMRA's National Convention.		

\*Contest entry must be presented on a diorama with a minimum surface size of 144 square inches. See page 5 of this Semaphore for details.



### About the Fox Valley Division

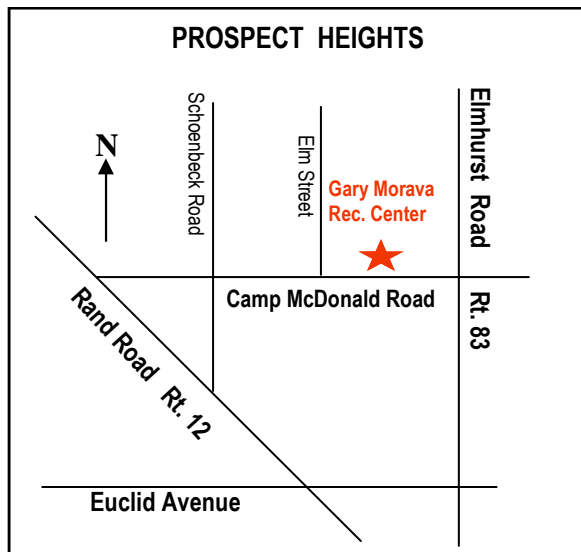
If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region and Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association or NMRA. The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes all of McHenry and parts of Cook, Kane, and Lake Counties in northeast Illinois. About 220 members of varied ages and modeling 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](http://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.
- 2015 – 2016 meeting dates, contest and clinic info are on page 6 of this newsletter.

FVD web site: [www.foxvalleydivision.org](http://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

Superintendent, **Jeff Jarr**  
[jjar@comcast.net](mailto:jjar@comcast.net) 773-286-8755

Ass't Superintendent, **Bob Shlemon, Jr.**  
[shlemonjr@gmail.com](mailto:shlemonjr@gmail.com) 773-334-4208

Chief Clerk, **Leif Hansen**  
[mudhen454@att.net](mailto:mudhen454@att.net) 847-437-7124

Paymaster, **Tim Kleimeyer**  
[kleimeyert@comcast.net](mailto:kleimeyert@comcast.net) 847-426-4732

Achievements & Contests, **Jim Landwehr**  
[Jlandwehr901@yahoo.com](mailto:Jlandwehr901@yahoo.com) 847-577-7984

Clinics & Programs—position open

Membership Promotions, **Mike Hirvela**  
[mhirvela1@gmail.com](mailto:mhirvela1@gmail.com) 847-360-9579

Membership Services, **Bert Lattan**  
[nswnmra@comcast.net](mailto:nswnmra@comcast.net) 847-295-7959

Public Relations & Webmaster, **Jim Osborn**  
[FVDWebsite@comcast.net](mailto:FVDWebsite@comcast.net) 815-578-8315

Publications—Semaphore Editor, **Walt Herrick**  
[waltherrickjr@gmail.com](mailto:waltherrickjr@gmail.com) 815-355-2003

Ways & Means—High Wheeler, **Jeff Jarr**  
[jjar@comcast.net](mailto:jjar@comcast.net) 773-286-8755