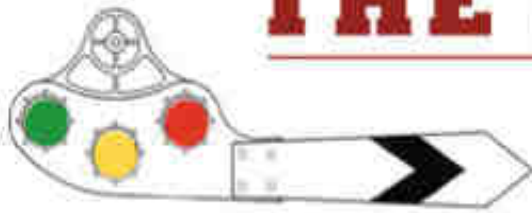


THE SEMAPHORE

November 2015

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



*Happy Thanksgiving,
everyone!*

Layout of the Month: Landwehrs' Union Pacific Midwest Article & photos by Walt Herrick

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Next FVD Meeting:
Sunday, November 22
1:30 pm at the
Morava Rec Center in
Prospect Heights

Contest: Bridge Scene
with Men Working
Clinic: "What Makes a
Photo Contest Winner"
by Ingrid Drozdak



Union Pacific E units pull a long passenger consist around the S curve near the Fusion Silicone plant on Jim and Bob Landwehr's HO scale Union Pacific Midwest layout in Arlington Heights.

November's Layout of the Month features one of the Fox Valley Division's up and coming layout "stars"—Jim and Bob Landwehr's large, double decked, HO scale, Union Pacific Midwest. The layout occupies a 25 x 60 foot basement addition Jim Landwehr built on his house nine years ago. Layout construction began in 2007. *con't on p. 2*

Fun Stuff by Jim Allen

It's "steam moving steam" in this shot of steam powered tractors moving a large steam boiler. I'm not sure if this was just a demonstration of the capabilities of the big tractors, or if they were actually moving the boiler to a repair shop. In any case, this is a cool and interesting photo of late 19th—early 20th century machinery in action today.



Layout of the Month: Landwehrs' Union Pacific Midwest con't

con't from p.1 At present the bench work and backdrops are considered "done", most of the track work is in, layout wiring is 75% complete, and the layout's signal system is about half done. Inroads have been made with structure building, and some basic scenery framing is installed around the layout. "Scenery is the next step for us," says Jim. "We've spent the past several years on bench work, laying track, and wiring," says Bob. "We're ready for scenery." Jim invites anyone desiring to earn their Scenery AP certificate to help with the Landwehr layout's scenery building. Make no mistake about it, this is one big layout, and there is plenty of opportunity to do scenery! One emphasis of the layout is running long, 35+ car, transition era trains behind big time, UP motive power on the *go to next column*

layout's long flowing main line. Most of the mainline is double tracked but there is a single track section to add operational interest and challenges. Bob looks forward to the day when operators will follow their trains around the layout observing signals as they go just like the prototype. The signals will be needed, for though the Landwehr basement is large, it has been divided up into several sections with each section isolated from the others by the bench work and ceiling high backdrops. Because of this "partitioning" there is a real sense of "going somewhere" when train running. I look forward to coming back to the Landwehr's Union Pacific Midwest in a couple of years for a follow up story. This is a very big, very nice layout in the making.



Though their layout has minimal scenery at this point, some nice model photography is still possible thanks to the Landwehr's structure backdrops, painted and commercial backdrops, lighted locomotive era head lights and operating signals. In the above left photo, a pair of RS3s pull a mixed freight through the city of Landwehr, Iowa. A little farther east, GP9 #105 switches the huge Landwehr Appliance plant in Landwehr (above right). It just wouldn't be a Union Pacific transition era layout without at least one UP Big Boy. To the right, Big Boy X4020 splits the signals at the west end of the Landwehr plant. Jim and Bob teamed up to build the many working signals on the layout with Jim building the signal masts and bridges, and Bob doing the electronics and wiring. The result is a very nice working signal system not seen on many layouts.



Layout of the Month: Landwehr's Union Pacific Midwest



In the top left photo, F7 #1471 is the first of five (yes *five*) Fs crossing 78 Bridge, so named because its deck is a full 78 inches above Jim Landwehr's basement floor! The bridge is 9 1/2 feet long and almost touches the ceiling as seen in the center photo. Below, a set of RS3s with long noses forward, are the power for this evening's "Washer Job". They are east bound, slowly making their way down to the Landwehr Appliance plant's pick up tracks to retrieve three empty box cars.



Here's the layout's largest yard generically representing Chicago. Some of the UP's biggest transition era motive power is on display including two sets of turbines and a Centennial. The big yard panel below the tracks features large, easy to read graphics, powered turnouts and route indication lighting.

Basic Layout Information

Layout name:	Union Pacific Midwest
Layout builders:	Jim and Bob Landwehr
Layout location:	Jim Landwehr's basement
Layout scale:	HO
Layout size:	25 x 60 feet irregularly shaped
Layout style:	Double deck around the walls/walk-in
Layout theme:	Freelance Class I Union Pacific in the mid-west
Layout era:	Transition era
Construction started:	2007
Bench work:	1x4 grid
Sub road bed/roadbed:	Homasote on 3/4 inch plywood
Track and turnouts:	Walthers code 83 flex track and turnouts, some Shinohara code 70 and hand laid in all totaling 1,100 feet
Radii and grades:	32" min. radius; 1.5 % max. grade
Scenery:	10% complete at present
Structures:	Kits and kit-bashing with a focus on large industrial structures
Locomotives:	Various manufacturers with some brass and several sound equipped
Rolling stock:	Various manufacturers kits and RTR
Control:	NCE DCC
Signals:	Full layout signal system 50% complete
Electronics:	Special routing, mainline turnout lockout and other special features
Hobby "Heroes":	"Our heroes are the great modelers of the FVD from which we've learned so much. You know who you are!"
Favorite Aspects of the Hobby:	Jim: running trains; Bob: electronics.

Member News

Member Services Trainmaster, Bert Lattan, is very pleased to report that four new members joined the NMRA/FVD in September and October. **September's** new members are: **Richard Buleowski from Mt. Prospect, James Germinaro of Woodstock, Raymond Golenia from Park Ridge and David Schenkel of Gurnee.** **October's** new members are: **Brendan Berry of Lake Forest, Ken Haddard from Arlington Heights, Don Pergande of Chicago, and Glenn Pergande from Palatine.** Welcome aboard, everyone! We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming monthly meetings soon. Let us know if we can help you in any way....Bert also reports that our total FVD membership stands at 209 as of October 31...Finally, see page 6 for our new FVD shirts! *WH*

Mike's Minute by Mike Hirvela

Wheaton Train Show Update

As many of our FVD members know, the Fox Valley Division has a membership promotion table at the Great Midwest Train Show (aka the "Wheaton Swap Meet" or "DuPage Show", or "Wheaton Train Show"), every other month at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton. The show runs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm one Sunday per month. (See their web site for specific dates.) Also, you may have heard rumors over the past 6-8 months that the County of DuPage wants the property for development of their county administration complex which is just to the west of the fairgrounds, and earlier this year, the City of Wheaton Code Compliance Officers visited the fairgrounds and cited over 200 code violations. (I understand most of these were electrical in nature and the majority were easy fixes.)

While rumors abound about the political ambitions of the County of DuPage, last spring the DuPage County Fair Board of Directors authorized repairs to the buildings and improvements to the overall property which is a good thing! Specifically they said they would be doing the following:

- Buildings will be getting painted, some outside, but mostly the interiors.
- The ceilings in building 2 and 3 will be removed to reveal the curved ceiling and the trusses.
- New fluorescent lighting will be installed in buildings 2 and 3.
- Buildings 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be getting new doors and hardware.
- Building 1's front lobby will be renovated, including a new entry glass.
- The sidewalk around Building 1 will be replaced and a new entry pad added in front of the entry doors.
- Some fencing and landscaping will be added.

I am pleased to tell you that most of these improvements have been accomplished making our work environment at the Great Midwest Train Show much nicer. If you would like to help at our booth on our next scheduled date, **December 13**, please let me know. We'd be glad to have you, and you'll not have to pay the \$7.00 entry fee! We'll also be working the **February 14, April 10, and June 5, 2016** shows if you'd like to help with one of these. My contact information is on page 7 of this Semaphore. I'd love to hear from you *especially* if you'd like to help promote the FVD and great hobby of model railroading! Thanks!

Modeling Tip: Teamwork

To be sure, there are and have been some great "lone wolf" modelers in our hobby including the late John Allen and John Armstrong, and today's Allen McClelland, Jack Burgess and Lou Sassi. But, it sure is helpful when you can find a good team mate or two to help build your layout—especially if you are building a large layout. The Landwehr brothers have teamed up to build a large double decked layout (see pages 1-3 this Semaphore) with each brother bringing a special skill set to the project. Good team work is a great thing in any team sport, business, orchestra, army, volunteer work etc., etc. It is a great thing in model railroading, too. *WH*



Jim (right) and Bob (left) Landwehr talk with MMR David Leider at a recent FVD meet. Besides their layout, the brothers also team up doing work for the FVD. Jim Osborn photo.

October's Clinic and Contest

October's clinic was an excellent and informative video on Alaska's White Pass and Yukon Railroad, one of the country's most popular and most traveled tourist railroads. FVD member Mike Motherway, provided personal insight from his experiences touring the railroad, and was able to comment on the road's July four car (out of 15 cars) derailment which injured 23 of the train's 360 passengers—none seriously. Mike was at the WP&Y several weeks after the derailment. Lots of interesting member discussion accompanied the WP&Y presentation and Mike's comments.

Leif Hansen won October's contest with his animated Foundry. A blue flashing LED nicely simulated an arc welder in operation in the foundry. Since Leif's was the only (!) entry to the October contest, there were no second and third places. **Onward (*Onward!*) to November where the contest is "A Bridge Scene with Men Working on the Bridge" in diorama format. Experienced NMRA photo judge, Ingrid Drozdak, will give November's clinic on "What Makes a Photo a Contest Winner".** So there's lots of good stuff happening at our November 22 regular meeting. See you there! *WH*



A video presentation on the famous White Pass and Yukon narrow gauge tourist railroad in Alaska was last month's clinic (left). Leif Hansen's animated foundry (right) was October's only contest entry. Ahhhhh! How about some more entries for November, folks?! The contest is "A Bridge Scene with Men Working on the Bridge" in diorama format.



FVD Officer Retirement Updates

Retirement Memo #2 to Fox Valley Division Members. As many of you know, next year FVD Superintendent, Jeff Jarr, is retiring from three key posts he currently holds in the division. The good news is that one of these posts—Clinics and Programs Trainmaster—has been filled for 2016-2017. Thank you David Leider, MMR, for taking this position once again! Now we are looking for a new Ways and Means Trainmaster starting March 7, 2016 right after our High Wheeler train show. (The Ways and Means Trainmaster has the big job of being in charge of planning and running the division's two day High Wheeler Train Show.) We are also looking for candidates to run for FVD Superintendent as Jeff will not be running for re-election in April 2016. **And at our October regular meeting, Chief Clerk Leif Hansen, announced he also will not be running for re-election in April 2016 after many years of service to the FVD in that capacity and others.** So, the FVD is officially looking for several individuals to fill the Ways and Means position, and run for FVD Superintendent and Chief Clerk next April. We ask you to consider bringing your abilities to any of these positions. The work is important and fulfilling. If you have questions about the positions, contact Jeff or Leif. Their contact information is on p.7 of this Semaphore. **Thank you** Jeff and Leif for your excellent service to the FVD, and for giving us advance notice of your plans to retire. *WH.*

One last note about our 2015 - 2016 monthly 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. *WH*

New FVD Polo Shirts—Order ‘em NOW!

Our maroon FVD polo shirts are available to order again! This year’s shirt design comes with a pocket and our FVD logo. This year you may also have your shirt embroidered with your name for a nominal fee. Go to the FVD web site for complete information and a printable order form. **All shirt orders must be received by November 25th along with your payment.** **Avoid the rush and order now!** Any questions, contact Jeff Jarr.



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, but per the NMRA’s new policy, must join after three visits. **Important: clinics are subject to change without notice.** For the latest clinic and all FVD information, visit our web site at www.foxvalleydivision.org.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Other</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>	1:00 pm start. 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>	
March 5 & 6 2016	High Wheeler 2016 Train Show 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 jjarr@comcast.net to volunteer. Thank you!		
<u>Note: there is no regular March meeting, due to High Wheeler. Come to the show!</u>			
April 17, 2016	<u>Clinic</u> TBD by David Leider, MMR	12” x 12” mini diorama. Your choice of subject and scale.	1:00 pm start. 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 “ Highball to Indy ” in Indianapolis, July 3-10 . See the web site: www.nmra2016.org 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

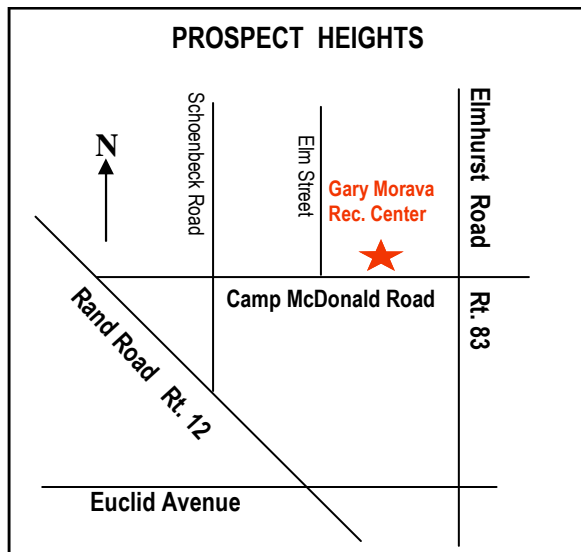
If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region and Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association or NMRA. The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes all of Lake and McHenry, and parts of Cook and Kane Counties in northeast Illinois. About 210 members of varied ages and modeling 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 Recreation 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.
- 2015 – 2016 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
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