



THE SEMAPHORE

FEBRUARY 2018

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



Layout of the Month: Harry Schildkraut's NYO&W article and photos by Walt Herrick

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Next FVD Meeting:

1:30 pm, February 18, 2018
at the Morova Rec Center
in Prospect Heights

Contest: Gondola w load—
4 cars max

Clinic: "Mid 20th Century
Box Cars by Geo. Trandel

See you there!



One of the New York, Ontario & Western's many Alco RS11s pulls a local freight across the Beaverkill River bridge on Harry Schildkraut's NYO&W layout circa modern day. Below is the lower deck of the layout.

One of the most interesting layout concepts you'll find is FVD member Harry Schildkraut's. Harry models the New York, Ontario & Western Railway in the *modern era* as if it was never liquidated in 1957 as ordered by a bankruptcy judge in March of that year. No, on Harry's layout, the "Old & *con't on p.2*

Fun Stuff by Jim Allen

The photo on the right shows what was once the largest grain elevator in the world. It is located in Hutchinson, KS and is now owned by ADM. This elevator can hold 18.3 million bushels of grain and is just under a half mile long. If you were ambitious enough, and had room enough, an HO scale model of the Hutchinson Elevator would be approximately 30 feet long!



Layout of the Month: Harry Schildkraut's NYO&W

“Weary”, as it was nicknamed by locals, somehow manages to soldier on through to the current day surprisingly using much of the same motive power it used back in 1957 as well as more modern power. Strings of modern 100 ton hoppers, 60 foot auto parts box cars, or articulated container cars pulled by 1950s NYO&W F units are not uncommon on the Schildkraut layout. It makes for interesting operations, and that is what Harry’s layout is all about: operations, especially all kinds of switching operations. “My layout is basically one big switching layout,” says Harry. “The railroad is a bridge route from New York state to the New England states. I use the same routing and town names as the prototype. Like the prototype did for decades, the railroad continues to operate on a shoe string, replacing its early diesels only when necessary.”

Construction on the layout started in 1985 using 1 x 4 inch open grid bench work with 3/4 inch plywood sub roadbed and homasote for roadbed. Track work is Atlas code 83 flex track with Atlas and Peco turnouts, and the layout is controlled by Digitrax DCC. The operating system features a dispatcher who controls mainline turnouts from a CTC computer screen, and between 8 to 15 operators. JMRI switch lists route the rolling stock. Local freights, industrial switching and lots of transfer runs to modern roads such as the NS and CSX are the order of the day. This is a “dark” railroad without signals, and an intercom system is used to maintain communications between the dispatcher and train crews.

Harry admits that scenery is not his forte in the hobby, while operations are. Still, there are some nice industrial scenes with kit bashed structures and nicely done “photos on foam core” backdrop structures, along with several other well executed scenes on the layout. All in all, the modern NYO&W is “a lot of fun” says regular operator Mike Hirvela. “There are a ton of industries and local freight crews get their money’s worth during an op session.” A unique concept has resulted in a unique and fun to operate model railroad on Harry Schildkraut’s NYO&W. And that is what the hobby is all about!



The Schildkraut NYO&W held on to its original diesels as long as possible. An F unit, still in gray and yellow paint, pops out of a concrete tunnel portal (upper right), while an RS 11 switches the Mohawk plant (center). Modern Susquehanna and Norfolk Southern power sit next to a “new” NYO&W U33C in Albany staging (above). The Middletown Yard ready tracks (right) today are full of modern, colorful foreign power.

Layout of the Month: Harry Schildkraut's NYO&W



Above, Harry Schildkraut sits at his double monitor CTC control panel. The dispatcher can control 43 main line turnouts from this panel and has direct communications with train crews via an intercom system. To the right is a monitor located in the layout room which shows train crews where their train is in a lengthy hidden helix.



Basic Layout Information

Layout Builder:	Harry Schildkraut
Layout Location:	Harry's basement
Layout scale:	HO
Layout Size:	30 x 50 feet
Layout Style:	Around the walls, double deck
Layout theme:	NYO&W in the modern era
Layout era:	Modern day
Construction started:	1985
Bench work:	1 x 4 open grid
Sub road bed/ roadbed:	Homasote over 3/4 inch plywood
Track:	Code 83 flex track; Peco & Atlas turnouts
Scenery:	About 60% complete
Structures:	Kits, kit-bashing, and photos on foam core
Locomotives:	Atlas, Proto 2K, etc. Many painted for the NYO&W
Rolling Stock:	Athearn, Walthers, etc.
Control:	Digitrax DCC
Operations:	8-15 operators; CTC w dispatcher; JMRI switch lists
Other	Hosts regular AM- RAIL op sessions

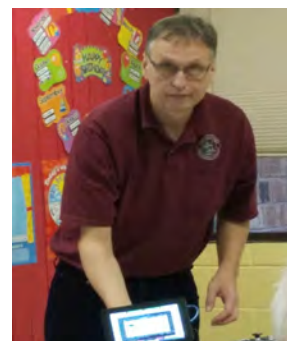
Modeling Tip: Photo Backdrop Structures

Harry Schildkraut's layout makes good use of photo backdrop structures. Photos of actual industrial buildings are mounted on foam core board and used as convincing backdrop buildings. Though the photos Harry used were from commercial sources, modelers could also use their own photos to create building backdrops. A series of realistic photo backdrop buildings is shown on Harry's layout to the right. Completed scenery will eventually be filled in over the cardboard strips above the buildings. Photo backdrop structures can be an easy and convincing way to create a backdrop for your model railroad. Give them a try! WH



January's Clinic & Contest

The Fox Valley Division's **George K.** presented January's excellent clinic "**More Electronics for Model Railroading**". In this clinic George discussed the advantages offered by DCC++ (a more advanced version of DCC), more ideas on the use of Arduinos in model railroading, inexpensive ways to "scratch build" your own DCC system, inexpensive ways to add components to a DCC system, and other great electronics ideas. George literally brought in a table full of electronic devices for us to view and TT scale trains which he operated with his DCC++ system. Thank you George for another great model railroading electronics clinic! **On February 18th**, the FVD's Chief Clerk, **George Trandel**, will present a clinic entitled, "**Mid-20th Century Box Cars**".



George K. displays a 7 inch touch screen monitor at January's FVD clinic. Walt Herrick photo.

Unfortunately there were no entries for January's "Large Structure—5000 scale square feet or larger" contest. To makeup for this, let's bring in a bunch of entries for the **February 22 contest**, "**Gondola with Load—4 cars max**"! WH

Mike's Minute by FVD Superintendent, Mike Hirvela

In the ancient Roman calendar, February was the shortest month because it was the last month of the Roman year and those ancient Romans wanted to get the old year over with. Their calendar for the new year began as spring brought forth new growth and overcame the winter weather. Such is almost the same for us as we usually burrow ourselves indoors in January. February inevitably brings a break in the really cold weather and we venture outside. This February the local model railroading hobby offers us the South-Central Wisconsin Division's **Mad City Train Show** in Madison, Wisconsin, on the 17th and 18th at the Alliant Energy Center. Then in March, the **Rock River Valley Division's Train Show** will be held at Belvidere (IL) North High School (note the change in venue for this show!), on March 24th and 25th. The highlight of all the year's first quarter shows is the **Midwest Region's Convention** also in Madison, Wisconsin, April 13 to 15. And if that's not enough for you, the **Titletown Train Show** will be at the Shopko Center in Green Bay, (opposite Lambeau Field), on April 28 and 29 for those of you who want to venture way up to "Packerland". (It should be thawed by then.)

Also, please plan to attend the FVD's April 22 member meeting. **April is elections month for the FVD** and we will be electing a Superintendent and Chief Clerk per our usual election cycle. We'll also be looking to elect an Assistant Superintendent to finish out the unexpired term of our late friend, Ingrid Drozdak. (See page 5 for more election info. WH)

Finally, I am very happy to tell you that our division's **Cook Orchards reefer** is now available for sale. This private road car is patterned after former FVD MMR, Don Cook's, cars which ran on his Great Northern, Spokane Division layout. See the info below and on the FVD web site to purchase a car(s). My special thanks to Chuck Rita, Jim Osborn and other FVD members for their great work in bringing to fruition this wonderful project which honors our late friend Don Cook.

I look forward to seeing you at a FVD meeting, and do bring a friend!

FVD's Cook Orchards Car Now Available!

The FVD is pleased to announce that our **Cook Orchards reefer car** is now available for sale. This car is a replica of the Cook Orchard cars that traveled on our late FVD member, MMR Don Cook's, Great Northern—Spokane Division layout. The car is being sold as a fundraiser for the division and was produced by **Accurail** from artwork that faithfully represents Don's original design. Each car costs \$23.00 plus shipping and handling of \$7.50 for one car, and \$14.00 for 2 to 4 cars. Members may save shipping costs by purchasing their car at a FVD monthly meeting. Otherwise, go to the FVD's web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org for complete purchase and shipping information. We encourage members to act quickly as only 100 of these cars were produced! WH



A new FVD Cooks Orchards reefer as seen on Jim Osborn's CNW layout. Jim Osborn photo.

April Elections Info

At our April 22 regular monthly meeting we will elect a division Superintendent, Chief Clerk and Assistant Superintendent to fill the unexpired term of the late Ingrid Drozdak. At this time we are also looking for a Ways and Means Trainmaster and will be in need of a new Clinics and Programs Trainmaster next year. **Job Descriptions** of all these positions are given below and are excerpted from the FVD's Bylaws. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Superintendent, Mike Hirvela or Clerk, George Trandel. Their contact information is given on page 7 of this newsletter. Members are encouraged to consult the FVD's complete Bylaws as they appear on our Fox Valley Division web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org, for complete FVD Job Descriptions information.

Superintendent. The Superintendent shall have general supervision over all of the affairs of the Division; shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board; with the approval of the other Officers shall appoint all Trainmasters provided for in Article III below; shall fulfill all of the functions of the office prescribed elsewhere in these Bylaws and with the approval of the Board shall take action on all matters not covered in the these Bylaws which will advance the purposes of the Division.

The Superintendent, or a resident member designated by the Superintendent with the approval of the Board, shall serve as the Division's representative to the Board of Directors of the Region (hereinafter the "Division Director"). If the Division Director is unable to participate in a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Region, the Superintendent may appoint a resident member as proxy for the meeting by filing the appropriate form with the Region Secretary or request an excused absence from the Region President.

Assistant Superintendent. The Assistant Superintendent shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the Superintendent and shall fulfill all of the functions of the office prescribed elsewhere in these Bylaws. The Assistant Superintendent shall assume the duties of the Superintendent in the Superintendent's absence or inability to serve.

Chief Clerk. The Chief Clerk shall prepare minutes of all business meetings of the members provided for in Article V, Section 1 below and of the Board provided for in Article V, Section 2 below; shall distribute the minutes to the members of the Board by electronic mail; shall maintain the official copies of the Division's Articles of Incorporation and the Division's Executive Handbook; shall certify by electronic mail the name, address, telephone number and electronic mail address of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Clerk and Paymaster to the Region Secretary whenever a change occurs and shall fulfill all of the functions of the office prescribed elsewhere in these Bylaws.

Trainmasters. Trainmasters shall be appointed by the Superintendent, with the approval of the other Officers. A Trainmaster may be removed, at any time, by the unanimous vote of the Officers. The Trainmasters shall consist of:

- b. The **Clinics, Conventions and Programs Trainmaster** shall arrange for clinics, trips or videos for Division meetings and shall serve as a member of the Region's Clinic Clearing House Committee and as a member of the Region's Convention Committee.
- c. The **Ways and Means Trainmaster** shall be the manager of the Division's annual model railroad show, known as the High Wheeler, and shall host the Appreciation Dinner for those members who worked at the show.

FOR SALE. *Great Model Railroads 2018 HO layout, the Great Midwestern.* See pages 88 - 95 of *GMR 2018*. Desire to sell this outstanding large layout and the beautiful northern Illinois ranch home it resides in. For information email: pblkwalton@aol.com, or call 847-271-8895.



Member News

According to Membership Services Trainmaster, Bert Lattan, the NMRA's membership report for December shows our FVD membership dropping one to 202 with no new members....FVD members will be doing a FVD/model railroading display at the Mt. Prospect Public Library in Mt. Prospect during the month of March.... We elect a Superintendent, Clerk and Assistant Superintendent at our April 22 monthly meeting. The Assistant Super position will serve out the unexpired term of the late Ingrid Drozdak. See page 5 for election info and job descriptions of the positions being elected....The division will also need a Clinics and Programs Trainmaster next year as MMR David Leider is planning to move to Florida this summer. Our Ways and Means Trainmaster continues to go unfilled. Also see page 5 for job descriptions for these positions....FVD member Pete Walton is selling his Great Midwestern layout and the house above it. (See his ad on page 5.) Pete's layout was featured in the 2018 *Great Model Railroads* by Kalmbach. WH

2017 - 2018 Fox Valley Division Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held from 1:30 to about 3:30 pm at the Gary Morava Recreation Center, 110 W. Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070. Visitors are always welcome per the NMRA's visitor policy. Note that clinics are subject to change without notice. For the latest clinic and all FVD news and information, visit our web site at www.foxvalleydivision.org.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Other</u>
Feb.18, 2018	"Mid 20th Century Box Cars by George Trandel	Gondola with load—4 cars max	
March 18, 2018	"Using Ground Goop for Scenery" by Art Jones	Diorama with On Line Structure	
April 13–15, 2018	2018 Midwest Region Convention "Capital 400" hosted by the South Central Wisconsin Division at the Radisson Hotel in Madison, WI. More information at the division's web site: nmra.scwd.org		
April 22, 2018	"Two Rivers Wisconsin 20 Years Later" by Mike Hirvela	Maintenance of Way Train	Meeting held 4th Sunday due to MWR Convention 4/13-15
May 20, 2018	"Building My Great Midwestern Layout" by Pete Walton	Illuminated Structure—any size	Last monthly meeting for 2017 – 2018
August 5–12, 2018	2018 NMRA National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. See the convention's web site for more information: www.kc2018.org		

Tony Koester at "Capital 400" MWR Convention April 13-15

Madison, Wisconsin is the site of the 2018 Midwest Region Convention on April 13-15. This convention promises to be a great one! Featured clinics include Model Railroader contributing editor **Tony Koester's** "Lessons Learned Building Two -- Now Three! – Layouts." **Tony is also our Saturday night banquet speaker, where he'll regale us with the experiences he's had in his 50+ years of model railroading. A unique opportunity not available to any model railroad group previously, will be Tom Garver's program on the photography of O. Winston Link.** Tom was one of Link's assistants on his Norfolk & Western night photography sessions. We'll also have over 20 area layouts to tour with four open for operating sessions on Friday, great non-rail activities, and of course, great model and photo contests. So please join us on April 13-15, 2018 for the **Capitol 400** in Madison! **Full information is available on the South Central Wisconsin Division website at: nmra-scwd.org. All Aboard!**



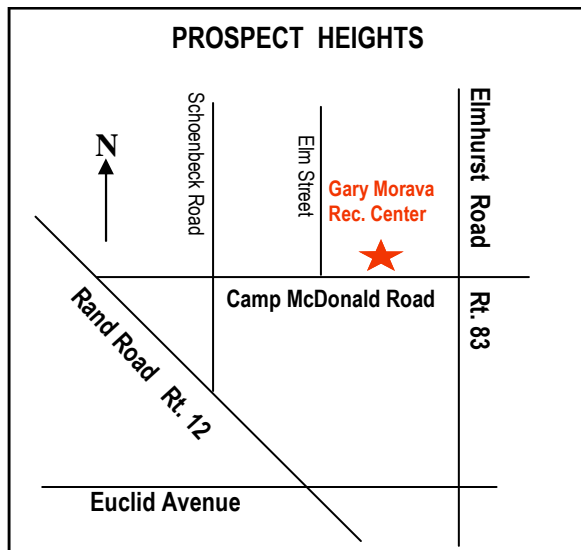
About the Fox Valley Division

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 3:30 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 monthly meetings. In past years the division has run the large "High Wheeler" Train Show in early March. However we lost the show's venue in 2015 and are now looking for a new location to run this popular event. 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 3:30 p.m.
- 2017 – 2018 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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Ways & Means TM—open

Note: TM designates "Trainmaster"