

THE SEMAPHORE



October 2018

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



LAYOUTS From the KC NMRA National Article and photos by Mike Hirvela

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Next FVD Meeting:
Sunday, October 16
1:30 pm at the
Morava Rec Center in
Prospect Heights

Contest: Favorite Photo Model
or Prototype

Clinic: Timetable for the Clinch-
field by George Trandel

Editor's note: FVD Superintendent, Mike Hirvela, took a week's vacation this summer to attend the NMRA National Convention in Kansas City. This month's "Layout of the Month" features Mike's layout photos and commentary from the four great layouts he toured at the convention. Above is action on Stephen and Cynthia Priest's, HO scale Santa Fe—St. Louis Division layout. Mike's comments follow:
"The Priest's layout was a joy to visit and it seemed that there was something to see around every corner of the layout. Above is a grab shot I took as I was leaving the layout room. Walt, maybe use this as a cover shot; whatcha think?" *(I think, YES! WH)*

Fun Stuff by Jim Allen

We've featured other home built, one truck locomotives in "Fun Stuff" before. Here's one from the Milwaukee Road. It is a railroad built, shop switcher based on a single diesel truck. It is powered by a series of diesel starting batteries. This loco was used to switch Milwaukee Road electrics for servicing.



Kansas City NMRA National Layouts, Layouts of the Month



“Above shows the double deck construction of the Priest layout near the end of a peninsula. To the right is the large, long Chesterfield Yard. Chesterfield is the first town out of west staging. Note the upper deck is set back from the lower deck about 18 inches.”



“The above photo is going around an industrial area, and the above right photo shows a layout aisle going left that just keeps going, and going and going! There are an amazing number of structures on the layout, and many really large structures.”



“The left photo show the way the Priest’s disguised a 90 degree corner on the layout— with a huge industrial structure! On the right we see a TOFC train heading up hill on a narrow 18 inch wide upper deck of this section of the layout. The bottom deck is the same width. The aisle is about three and a half feet wide.”



Kansas City NMRA National Layouts, Layouts of the Month



“Above and below are some shots of Jim Eudaly’s O scale C&O layout. The layout is large and has *four* levels. It is located in its own specially built building. The upper left photo shows only about a third of the length of the layout. The upper right photo shows the Hinton, WV depot. Note the great detail on the turnouts in the foreground. Below left is the Hinton freight yard and engine facility with a nice selection of C&O steam power. Below right a grandson switches the lowest deck of the railroad.”



“Above is Don Ball’s HO Stockton & Copperopolis RR, a late 1880’s California short line whose purpose was to haul copper out of areas around Stockton, CA. Don’s beautiful small steamers and excellent period modeling were a real treat to see.”

Kansas City NMRA National Layouts, Layouts of the Month



“A very nice layout in the middle stages of construction was Keven Leyerle’s HO scale Oklahoma, Kansas & Texas RR. It was located in a nicely finished, clean and organized basement with excellent lighting and carpet floors! The layout bench work and fascia construction are first rate. Keven excels at detailing, painting and weathering locos and rolling stock. Scenery is only about 15% complete, but the layout is fully operational with monthly op sessions.”

Mike’s Minute by FVD Superintendent, Mike Hirvela The NMRA National Convention in KC, or How Spent My Summer Vacation, Part II Photos by Mike Hirvela

Last month I told you about my first two days attending the NMRA National in Kansas City last summer. Now its on to Wednesday! This day I had a two layout bus tour visiting Don Ball’s HO Stockton and Copperopolis RR, and Jim Eudaly’s two-rail O scale C & O. Both are beautiful layouts and both featured in my article about KC layouts in this *Semaphore*. Took a ride on a KC streetcar to the Steamboat Arabia Museum which was well worth the visit, and then back to the hotel for the Operations Road Show layout in the evening. Thursday, I had another bus tour, this time to Keven Leyerle’s HO Oklahoma, Kansas & Texas RR; and Stephen and Cynthia Priest’s HO ATSF—two more great layouts also featured in my article this month. In the afternoon, I hiked up the steps (all 184 of them) to the WWI Museum and Memorial up on the bluff above the hotel. Fascinating history and displays about a world war which occurred 100 years ago. I’m glad I went. I attended two more clinics after dinner. Friday convention attendees were granted early entry at 9 am to the National Train Show over at the KC convention center about a mile away from the hotel (but a short ride via streetcar!). I saw a number of familiar faces and enjoyed the displays and the interesting and creative modular railroads, including the T-Trak and Lego-based ones. I went to another clinic on Friday evening. Saturday I spent most of the day at the Train Show seeing what I missed on Friday. I then attended the banquet dinner that evening. There Phil Walthers received a NMRA President’s Award for his service to the hobby and in recognition of his retirement from the Walthers model railroad business. Sunday I was up early and saw Missouri in the daylight on my return trip back to Chicago via Amtrak. During the trip I had the chance to sit with and talk to *Model Railroader’s* Editor, Hal Miller. I would have talked with MR’s Cody Grivno too, but he drifted in and out of slumber all the way home. He was one worn out guy! The drive home from the depot was uneventful and once there, I had to ask myself, “Was I really home now?” The convention was so packed with activities, it seemed to last a month not a week! Next year’s convention is in Salt Lake City and will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Driving of the Golden Spike. It should be fun. Thinking about going? I am.



Mike made good use of Kansas City’s street cars while at the NMRA National Convention, and got to talk with *Model Railroader Magazine’s* Editor, Hal Miller, on his return trip back to Chicago on Amtrak.

Volunteer at Trainfest 2018 !

Volunteer a few hours of work at Trainfest 2018 get in free! That's right! This year's Trainfest takes place Saturday, November 10 and Sunday November 11 once again at the Wisconsin State Fair Park in West Allis, WI. Hours are 9 am to 5 pm. To volunteer to work at Trainfest, go to www.trainfest.com, click on "Event Details, and then click on "Volunteer at Trainfest". All the information is there for you to sign up to volunteer. The Trainfest crew will teach you what you need to know, and will "pay" you to work! So, sign up today!



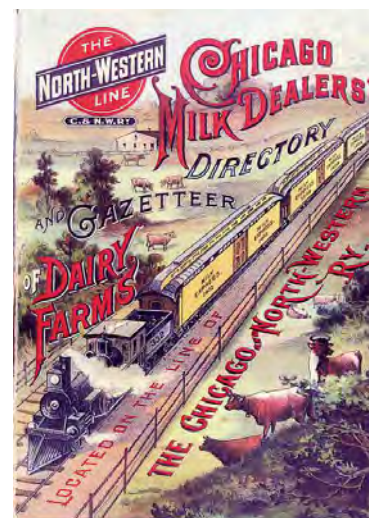
September's Clinic and Contest

Winners of our September Contest, "Favorite Locomotive Model" were:

- **Leif Hansen** for his HO scale Lehigh & Hinkley Heisler
- **Mike Santangini** for his O scale Timken Steam Locomotive
- **Don Zbylut** for his HO Santa Fe Hudson #3461

Unfortunately, the photos of these models were accidentally deleted from our photographer's camera. We apologize to our winners and Semaphore readers. **October's contest is: "Favorite Photo—model or prototype"**.

September's clinic was presented by the Fox Valley's own **MMR, David Leider**. David gave us a very informative and interesting look at "**Chicago Milk Traffic**". The clinic was filled with great photos and illustrations, as well as interesting details such as the problems caused by milk brokers not paying farmers, milk going sour on its way to market at times, and the eventual naming of "Milk Inspectors" to make sure milk quality stayed at acceptable levels and didn't create any health problems. October's clinic will be presented by the Fox Valley's own **George Trandel**. George's clinic is "**Timetable for the Clinchfield**" and promises to be another good one! WH



Cook Orchards Car Still Available!

There are still FVD special run **Cook Orchards reefer cars** available for purchase! The car is a close replica of the Cook Orchards cars that traveled on our late FVD member, MMR Don Cook's layout. 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. Go to the FVD's web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org for complete purchase and shipping information. (Cook Orchard car photo by Jim Osborn on his layout.) WH



Member News

Membership Services Trainmaster, Bert Lattan, reports that FVD membership stands at 192 at the end of August which is up 2 from July. Bert also reports that **H.P. Labude from Woodstock** is the division's newest member. Welcome aboard H.P.!...**Jeremy Dummler** is the Fox Valley Division's new FVD Facebook Page Coordinator. Thank you, Jeremy, for taking this position!...The division is still looking for a Public Relations Trainmaster, Membership Services Trainmaster, and Ways and Means Trainmaster. If you are interested or would like to serve in any of these positions, please contact FVD Super, **Mike Hirvela**, using his contact info on page 7 of this newsletter....FYI, **the FVD is co-sponsoring the Railroad Prototype Modeler's meet in Lisle October 18 to 20.** NMRA members get 10% off the entry fee to this event....Also FYI, the 2019 National N Scale Convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Rosemont June 26 to 30....The FVD is awaiting word on the availability of Harper College's renovated gymnasium to hold future High Wheeler Train Shows. It is probably too late now to prepare for and hold a show next March, but, depending on available dates and the new costs being charged, we might—and we stress the word *might*—be able to host a show in 2020. If Harper doesn't work out, we will be looking for another venue to hold High Wheeler....Trainfest is looking for volunteers to help them in running this year's event. Volunteer two hours of work for Trainfest and they pay for your admission. That's a pretty good deal!

2018 - 2019 Fox Valley Division Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held from **1:30 to about 3:30 pm** (except as noted under "Other" below) 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>
Oct. 18–20, 2018	25th Annual Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM) meet at the Sheraton Hotel in Lisle, IL. This event is co-sponsored by the FVD. For information, go to: www.rpmconference.com		
Oct. 21, 2018	Timetable for the Clinchfield by George Trandel	Favorite photo— model or prototype	
Nov. 18, 2018	Tank Cars by Steve Hile	Repurposed or Retired Rolling Stock	
Dec. 16, 2018	Junctions, Interchanges, & Diamonds for your MRR by Rick Mahaney	Super Detailed Section of Track, 12—18 inches long	
Jan 21, 2019	Train communications in the 1940s by Bob Hamner	Trackside Industry—one structure only	
Feb. 18, 2019	TBD	Kit-bashed structure or car	
Mar. 18, 2019	TBD	Over, Under, Around & Through— bridges, signals, tunnels, etc.	
Apr. 28, 2019	Keeping Your RR in Focus by Jim Osborn	Humorous Open Load	1:00 pm start for Officer Elections
May 19, 2019	Midwest/Thousand Lakes Joint Regional Meet in LaCrosse, WI. Questions, email Reid Kahrs MWR Convention Chair at: rkahrs@charter.net		
June 2, 2019	Modular Construction of User Objects in AnyRail by Carl Wagus	Vehicles—limit 3	Last monthly meeting for 2018 – 2019
July 7–13, 2019	NMRA 2019 National Convention in Salt Lake City, UT. See the convention's web site for more information: www.nmra2019slc.org		



About the Fox Valley Division

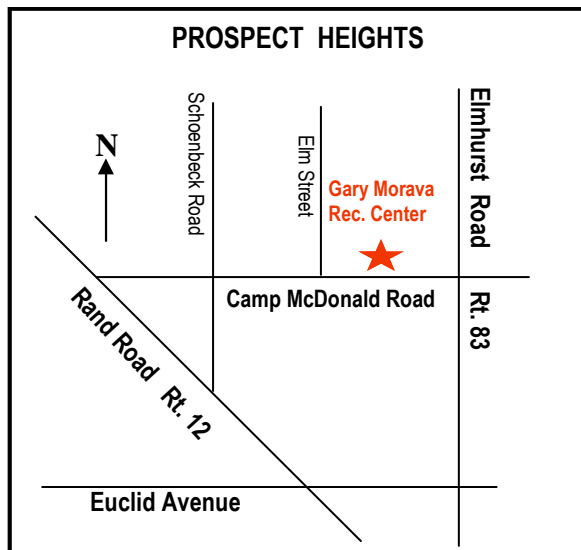
If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region and Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association or NMRA. The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes all of McHenry and parts of Cook, Kane, and Lake Counties in northeast Illinois. About 195 members of varied ages and modeling 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 normally sponsors and runs a large train show called "High Wheeler" in early March each year at Harper College in Palatine, Illinois. (Note: the 2017 and 2019 High Wheelers were cancelled due to a major renovation of the Harper gymnasium used for the show.)

We encourage you to take advantage of all the FVD has to offer. We are here to answer your questions 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, Mike Hirvela, or any FVD Board member listed below.



- 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.
- 2016 – 2017 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
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