



THE SEMAPHORE

September 2019

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



Big Boy 4014 in northern Illinois* by Walt Herrick

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Next FVD Meeting:

Sunday, September 15

1:30 pm at the

**Morava Rec Center in
Prospect Heights**

Contest: Caboose-max 4

**Clinic: Railroads Around
Chicago by Mark Llanuza**

Chicago area and northern Illinois rail fans had the opportunity of a life time in late July this summer when the Union Pacific Railroad's recently restored 4014 Big Boy steam locomotive came to visit. The giant locomotive traveled across the Midwest and northern Illinois as part of the 4014's "Great Race Across the Midwest" tour. It was the 4014's first major excursion since it traveled to Ogden, Utah this past May for the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Driving of the Golden Spike. **The FVD's Dan Cahill got a superb shot of an east-bound 4014 outside of Omaha, Nebraska on July 13.** *No, we're not in northern Illinois here, but this shot is just too good to not use! *Con't on page 2*

Fun Stuff by Jim Allen

Do you know how the UP's Big Boys got their name? According to an article Steve Glishinski wrote for *Trains* magazine, in 1941 the UP was considering naming its huge new 4-8-8-4 steam locomotive "Wahsatch" for the mountain range it was built to conquer. But during construction, an Alco machinist chalked the words "Big Boy" on the smoke box of the first engine, #4000. The rest is history. The fleet of 25 4-8-8-4's became UP's Big Boy class. When restored UP 4014 was about ready to be road tested earlier this spring, the head of the UP's Heritage Steam Program, Ed Dickens, chalked the words "Big Boy" on the 4014's smoke box to commemorate that first naming. **To the right, is FVD member Bruce Reuter's close up of Ed Dicken's art work.** Walt Herrick for Jim Allen



Big Boy 4014 in northern Illinois

The Great Race Across the Midwest started on July 8 and took Big Boy 4014 and its train from its home base in Cheyenne, WY to Omaha, across Iowa and up to St. Paul, MN, then all the way north to Duluth, MN, and back south to Altoona, WI. From there it traveled diagonally down through Wisconsin east to Milwaukee and then south down to West Chicago for three days of static display July 27 –29 at the UP's Provo Training Center. It left Tuesday morning, July 30, bound for Rochelle, IL and then Des Moines, IA. Finally it was on to North Platte, NE and back home to Cheyenne August 8.

The Great Race Across the Midwest was witnessed by hundreds of thousands of rail fans and spectators. People of all ages lined the route many with cameras, video cameras and cell phone cameras. Others just stood in awe of the mighty black locomotive and its yellow train roaring by them. Everyone loved hearing the 4014's deep throated whistle. Long lines of cars followed the train on roads near the main line, and droves of people came to view the 4014 whenever it made one of its many scheduled display stops along the way. In Rochelle, IL on July 30, it was wall to wall people, two or three dozen deep, for several blocks, when the train made a 45 minute display stop at famed Railroad Park.

FVD photographers took some great shots of the 4014. **Tim Barlow** got an exciting close up, grab shot (below) and a nice trailing shot (top photo) of 4014 passing Central and East River Roads in Des Plaines.

Bob DiDomenico got a super shot of "the largest steam locomotive ever built" south of Des Plaines about to cross Mt. Prospect Road (middle photo). On July 30, **I** caught 4014 running late and hustling by the iconic CNW depot in DeKalb, IL trying to make up time (lower right). *Con't on page 3.*



Big Boy 4014 in northern Illinois

The UP estimates that 43,000 people saw the 4014 and its train over the three days it was in West Chicago on display. To the right, my brother **Skip Herrick** got a classic shot of the 4014 and its train about a half hour after it arrived in West Chicago—and he's not a rail fan! The train is still sitting on the main line and has not yet been parked for display. Note all the people behind the locomotive and on the Wilson Avenue bridge above the train.



MMR **David Leider** took the two photos above as the 4014 and its train was parked at the UP's Larry Provo Training Center in West Chicago. Later, David had to wait an hour and a half in line to view the UP's new exhibition car!



Above left is long time FVD member **Leif Hanson and his grandson** posing in front of the 4014 in West Chicago. I took the above right photo on Saturday also in West Chicago, as fans were talking with engine crew members and asking questions. There were even *more* people on the other side of the loco when my shot was taken. *Con't on page 4*

Big Boy 4014 in northern Illinois



We end our story with a trailing shot of the 4014's beautiful yellow and gray train gliding through DeKalb on a bright, sunny day with a picture perfect blue sky. You can just barely see a hint of smoke coming from the 4014 at the far end of the train. I took this shot, and **Bruce Reuter** took the shot of the drum head on the back of the observation/business car "Kenefick" named for past Union Pacific president and CEO, the late John C. Kenefick.

Mike's Minute by FVD Superintendent Mike Hirvela

Never in My Lifetime!

Did you hear a little voice in the back of your mind say the words in the title above when Big Boy 4014 went by you this summer? I did. *Never in my lifetime* did I expect to see an operational Big Boy—never. I had seen the UP's Challenger on excursion some years back and I thought that was a big locomotive. Then I saw the National Railway Museum's Big Boy up close in Green Bay and realized how massive a Big Boy really is. So, when I heard the UP had pulled 4014 from a park in Pomona, CA, I was intrigued. What could they possibly want with that loco other than for display at some big UP hub like Chicago maybe? Of course, now I know better. A truly heroic effort by the UP's Steam Department crews in Cheyenne has resulted in maybe the most seen, photographed, videoed, and sound recorded steam locomotive ever. The crowds alongside the tracks (they were *everywhere!*), the people at every grade crossing and on every bridge over the tracks, and all the folks who saw 4014 and its train on display, were given a visual, audible and yes, even *thermal* treat of a lifetime. What a huge positive, feel good publicity event for everybody! What a summer to be a rail fan, model rail-roader, and/or train nut! I hope you had the chance to



experience 4014 like I did at the Grandville Avenue crossing in Gurnee in my photo above. I hope you were able to get a photo or two and maybe some video of this historic train. And I hope you enjoy the *Semaphore's* coverage of 4014's visit to Fox Valley Division territory in Illinois. Before I go down stairs to run some trains—steam, naturally after seeing 4014 in action—I **want to welcome you to our 2019—2020 modeling year in the Fox Valley Division.** If there is anything I or our FVD board can do for you this year to help you on your modeling journey, let us know!

June's* Clinic and Contest

*Note our regular May meet was held in June last spring due to conflicting joint MWR/TLR convention dates in May.

June's Clinic: "Track Plans With AnyRail"

Jim Osborn photo

Fox Valley Division Clerk, **Carl Wagus** (right), was our featured speaker in June. There Carl showed us how easy it is to produce scale track plans with AnyRail software. Not only can you lay out your tracks to scale, you can include scale structures, bridges, signals, etc. on your plan. AnyRail has a large catalog of popular HO, N, O, S, G and more items from which to choose. So, if you're looking for accuracy in your track planning, give AnyRail a try!

Thank you, Carl for a great clinic!

SEPTEMBER'S CLINIC IS "RAILROADS AROUND CHICAGO" as presented by outstanding Chicagoland railroad photographer, **Mark Llanuza**. Be sure to be there September 21 to see Mark's great photos! WH



One Question Survey! Would eliminating judging in our FVD monthly meeting contests make you more or less likely to participate in them? Email your answer to: waltherrickjr@gmail.com. Thank you!

June's Contest: "Vehicles"

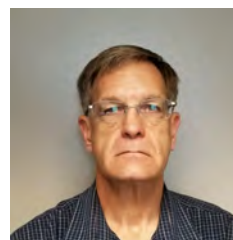
Jim Osborn photos

May's contest "Vehicles" was won by **Jim Osborn** (right photo) who brought in an a beautifully modeled, HO scale, "team track crane". Jim said building the boom and boom rigging was the toughest part of making his model which normally is in use at a team track on his Chicago & Northwestern, Western Division layout. **2nd Place went to Walt Herrick** for his S scale, tin plate, REA truck (bottom left photo). The model was given to him by a friend and was probably made in the 1940s. Our **3rd Place finisher was Denis Zamirowski** with his HO scale, North Shore bus which he decked out with a large head light and five chime diesel horn (bottom right photo). Note that both Walt's and Denis's models, though not powered, are capable of running on railroad tracks. **SEPTEMBER'S CONTEST is "CABOOSES"--max 4.** Let's see your "crummies" at our September 21 meet! WH



Member News

Welcome to the 2019-2020 FVD Modeling Season! We expect this to be a great season with excellent clinics, contests and other fun stuff lined up for our regular FVD meets. Complete meet information and board contact information should be in your hands soon on our annual “orange card” which will be “snail mailed” to you via the USPS....We are pleased to announce that two new members have joined our FVD board. They are **Gary Saxton** (top right photo) who is our new **Clinics & Programs Trainmaster**, and **Erich Abens** (bottom right photo) who is our new **Membership Services Trainmaster**. Gary takes over for **David Leider**, MMR, and Erich takes over for **Bert Lattan**. Both David and Bert retired from their positions this summer after many years of service to the FVD as Trainmasters. **Welcome aboard, Gary and Erich!.... FVD congratulations to Jim Osborn and Walt Herrick** for their contest wins at the **Spring MWR/TLR Joint Convention** in LaCrosse, WI. Jim took 2nd and 3rd Place in the **Structures** category, and also a 2nd in the **B&W Prototype** and a 3rd in the **Color Model Photography** categories. Walt took 2nd in the **12 x 12 Display Diorama** category, and 1st in the **Arts and Crafts** category. Nice job, guys!....Finally, former North Shore and Western Division superintendent, **Jim Spice**, will be attending the 2019 National Narrow Gauge Convention in Sacramento, CA September 4—7. If anybody out there is also attending the convention, Jim would love to see you and say “Hi!. WH



What's on Our Web Site

The **Fox Valley Division's web site** offers you a wealth of model railroad, prototype railroad and FVD/NMRA information. Go there to find information about FVD meeting dates, clinics, contests, news, special events, FVD board contact information, and NMRA regional and national convention dates and information. You'll also find information on local clubs, hobby shops, area model railroading, FVD member layout photos and railroading events, and more! The web site is updated regularly with new and timely information, so I invite you to take a look at it periodically. Once again the FVD web site address is: www.foxvalleydivision.org. Jim Osborn

2019 - 2020 Fox Valley Division Meeting Schedule

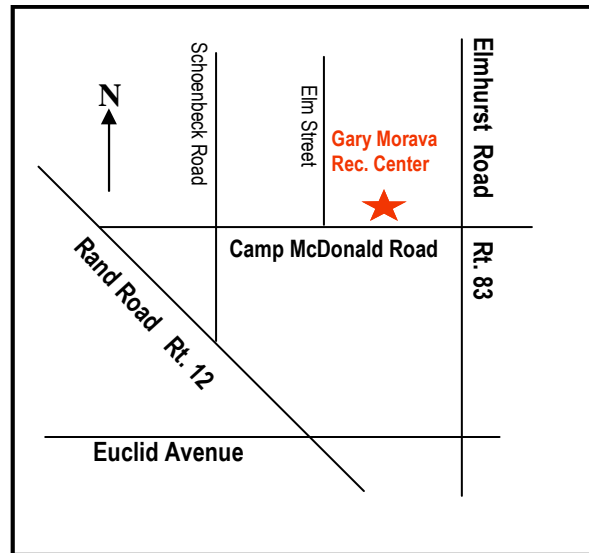
All meetings are held from **1:30 to about 3:30 pm** (except as noted under “Other” below) at the **Gary Morava Recreation Center, 110 W. Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070**. Visitors are always welcome per the NMRA's visitor policy. Note that clinics are subject to change without notice. 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>
September 15	Some Railroads Around Chicago by Mark Llunaza	Cabooses--max 4	1st meet of 2019-20
October 20	Rail Travel in Japan by Mike Wood	One Structure—any size or scale	
November 17	Electronics and Model Railroading by George K.	UP 4014 or other Steam Photo—limit 1 photo	
December 15	Great Northern's Mesabi Division by Bob Hanmer	Switching Layout Track Plan—any scale	1 pm start with a pizza lunch
January 19	\$220 Laser Cutter by Gary Saxton	Open Loads—limit 4 cars	
February 16	Take Full Advantage of Your Layout Design Software by Steve Miazga	12" x 12" Diorama—any scale	

The complete meeting schedule through May 2020 will be printed next month.



PROSPECT HEIGHTS, IL



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 190 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, Mike Hirvela, or any FVD Board member listed below. We are here to

- 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.
- 2019 – 2020 meeting dates, contest and clinic info are on page 6 of this newsletter.

FVD web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org

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Ways & Means—High Wheeler Show Manager
Vacant