

THE SEMAPHORE

May 2020

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



SCFFSM's Sn3 Silverton Central RR Layout of the Month article & photos by Walt Herrick

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Next FVD Meeting:

Sunday, September 20*

1:00 pm ** at the

Morava Rec Center in
Prospect Heights

Contest: Passenger Cars—3 max

Clinic: TBD

***No FVD events until September 20 meet. This date is subject to change due to Covid-19.**

****FVD annual elections & sub lunch at this meet.**

According to *Model Railroader Magazine's* April 2007 article on **Jon Addison's Silverton Central**, Jon had barely a year's modeling experience when he started building his exquisite Sn3 Silverton Central in 1996. Thanks to several key friendships Jon made early on in the hobby, Jon was able to build an outstanding model railroad "right out of the gate". Carl Tuozzo and Rick Guzzy helped with bench work, and master scratch builder Dan Bolda, and master scenery maker Richard Ranger guided Jon with his structure and scenery efforts. **Above**, a Silverton Central Mikado pulls a mixed freight across the high steel trestle over Gunnison River during my visit to the **Suncoast Center for Fine Scale Modeling** in February of 2019. Though once a touring layout, the SCFFSM is now the Silverton Central's permanent home. *Con't on page 2*

Fun Stuff by Jim Allen

Pictured to the right is a style of tank car that doesn't seem to have caught on. I can only guess that the design had something to do with this. The rapid discharge of material ("cement" is labeled on the car) just did not flow easily.



Reminder All Fox Valley Division meets and activities are cancelled until our September 20, 2020 meet due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Until then, be safe!

SCFFSM's Sn3 Silverton Central Layout of the Month con't

The 6 x 24 foot Silverton Central is an island style layout originally built in sections so Jon could take it to train shows. The track plan is a large loop with just two turnouts. It was designed for display running, going by terrific scratch built structures and through gorgeous mountain scenery. Because the track plan is so simple, the layout is controlled by analog DC. Locomotives are equipped for sound with Soundtrax sound decoders set to run on DC. All the layout's locos are steam befitting the 1928-1935 era modeled, and the prototype which is Colorado 3 foot gauge railroads.

Jon Addison was inspired by several Colorado 3 foot railroads, in his interpretation of narrow gauge railroading in the Centennial State. The layout is set in the rugged Rocky Mountains. Lots of scratch built and upgraded commercial trees are seen everywhere. The structures on the layout are scratch built or highly modified and detailed kits which are "aged to perfection" with heavy weathering and distressing. Two long, high trestles—one wooden and one steel—are placed on each of the long sides of the layout. Also included on the layout, is a beautifully modeled small "cove" scene which occupies one end of the layout.

Like all of the layouts at the Suncoast Center, there are a variety of interesting mini-scenes placed all over the layout. One unique feature of the layout is appropriate sound effects which are only heard when a viewer comes near a particular scene. **Greg Bedleck** whose large, beautiful HO scale Great Northern Pacific layout was featured in several *Semaphore* Layout of the Month articles in recent years, devised a sensor system to activate the sound effects when a viewer comes near. Greg lived near Tampa prior to moving to Chicago's northwest suburbs ten years ago. *Con't on page 3*



Ahhh, Colorado 3 foot, narrow gauge steam! Who doesn't like that especially in the slightly larger Sn3 scale? Pictured on this page is Silverton Central's 2-8-2 #461 pulling a mixed freight past a stone engine house (above), and over the long, tall wood trestle spanning the Animus River (right). The SC's track is commercial code 70 flex track by Micro Engineering that has been painted, weathered, and buried in cinder ballast. The trestle, trees, wood retaining wall and low lying hunting and fishing lodge at right were all scratch built by layout builder Jon Addison.



SCFFM's Sn3 Silverton Central con't



Basic Layout Information

Layout Name:	Silverton Central
Layout Builders:	Jon Addison with other helpers
Layout Location:	Suncoast Center for Fine Scale Modeling in Odessa, FL. See www.finescalemodeling.org
Scale:	Sn3
Layout Size:	6 x 24 feet
Layout Style:	Island style display layout
Layout Concept/ Locale:	Freelanced Colorado, 3 foot narrow gauge
Layout Era:	1928—1935
Construction begun:	1996
Bench Work:	Sectional L-girder
Sub Roadbed:	Plywood
Roadbed:	Foam board
Track:	Code 70 commercial flex track
Track specs:	Min. 31 inch radius; Min. #6 t/o
Scenery:	Sawdust & glue mix plus ground foam and real dirt on shaped foam board; scratch built trees
Structures:	All beautifully scratch built and super detailed
Locomotives:	P-B-L, Overland and scratch built with Soundtrax decoders
Rolling Stock:	Detailed kit and scratch built
Control:	DC
Operations:	Display operations
Other:	Layout originally built for display at train shows and is now permanently housed at SCFFM.
More:	The Silverton Central was featured in the April 2007 MR.

In 2008 the Silverton Central joined three other fine scale model railroads at the newly established Suncoast Center for Fine Scale Modeling in Odessa, FL just north of Tampa. The Suncoast Center is a 2,800 square foot museum celebrating fine scale modeling not only with model railroads, but with more than a dozen large scale military dioramas. See the Center's web site at: www.finescalemodeling.org.

Above is a scenic view looking down a small creek on the SC. To the right is the bustling Dillon Cove scene with a half dozen scratch built structures and several small, scratch built boats.



SCFFSM's Sn3 Silverton Central Layout of the Month con't



Snow is a fact of life in the Rockies and the Silverton Central fights it with a permanently attached plow on one of its 2-8-0s (above left). We just barely see the caboose of a train rounding the bend at the town of Ouray (above right).

At right is a shot of the Silverton side of the layout. Note the shadow box effect created by the black valence and black curtains hanging from the black fascia. Just to the left of the viewer is the tall wood trestle over the Animus River. The bench work here drops down 18 inches below the height of the main line. Below is the Palmer Building Supplies building with a busy rooftop bar and grill, and a second floor room to rent. Mr. Palmer knows how to maximize revenue with his building!



"Model Railroad Projects I Did While 'Sheltered in Place'"

...is the name of an article or articles to run in the *Semaphore* next fall. Please send photos, brief descriptions, articles, etc. of what you did—big or small—while shut in during the "shelter in place" order. Send to: waltherrickjr@gmail.com.

Don't make this hard! Phone photos are fine as well as brief descriptions of what you did. Fun and "crazy" stuff is fine, too. Thank you! WH

Mike's Minute by FVD Superintendent Mike Hirvela

I hope this Mike's Minute message finds you taking care of yourself and your loved ones and in light of the COVID-19 virus, happily finding yourself with more time at your hobby bench. I know I have. (Side note: I didn't think I had that many projects awaiting my attention, but I did. Freight cars, passenger cars and buildings, oh my!)

With continued influence of the virus, there have been mass cancellations of various gatherings of people since our last newsletter, now including the NMRA National Convention and the National Train Show in St. Louis. The FVD Board decided to cancel all remaining meetings this spring and our summer outing. We postponed the Annual Meeting of the members and election of officers until the start of our next season scheduled for September 20. This date, of course, is pending the resolution of the limitations and precautions imposed by authorities due to the virus. We hope by then it will be substantially over, and our activities can get back to normal. We anticipate the Annual meeting at 1:00 pm on September 20 would be preceded by a sub lunch; then the Annual Meeting and elections, followed by the regular meeting with news, upcoming events, a contest, a clinic, and show and tells.

Regarding elections, this year we hold elections for Superintendent and Chief Clerk. Here is your opportunity to give back to the division and this wonderful hobby of ours. At this writing, we have one candidate for each position, and it would be great if we had others step forward. Please contact me or our Chief Clerk, Carl Wagus, to get your name on the ballot. Also, Gary Saxton, our Clinics and Programs Trainmaster, continues looking for some new, interesting and informative clinics and clinicians to present them. If you have an idea for a presentation, let him know as he is in the process of setting up presentations for next season. Even if you only have an idea, Gary and other members are happy to assist you in putting a presentation together. Finally, please contribute to our *Semaphore* editor's timely idea for photos and/or article(s) on "Model RR Projects I Did While Sheltered in Place".

This Spring, we had to take the side track on our schedule of activities (pun intended). My hope is we'll be seeing the worst of the COVID-19 health issues soon, and can get back on the main line and "high ball" our way into 2021!

Email Addresses Needed!

At present we still don't have email addresses for some FVD members. If you are one of these members, the instructions below will enable you to easily send your email address to us. In these uncertain times we want to be able to reach you with important NMRA information. We appreciate your help in providing us your email address. Thank You!

How to send us your email address:

1. Go to <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/mwr2016/mwr.waybill.html>. This is a Midwest Region web page.
2. At the top of the page, click on the link "To change your subscription email address, CLICK HERE".
3. Fill out the form and send it in. You are done!

Important. Your email address will be added to the NMRA, Midwest Region and Fox Valley Division web base and used ONLY for association related communications. Thank you!

Show & Tell story and photo by Walt Herrick

I cut my model railroading teeth on American Flyer trains back in the 1950s. So when I came across this old Flyer caboose at a train show a few years ago, I *had* to have it. It is not the AF S scale most everyone is familiar with, but an honest to goodness *tin plate, O scale*, caboose. **It was made in Chicago by the American Flyer Manufacturing Co.** in its seven story plant on Halstead Street in about 1930. The company was bought by A.C. Gilbert in 1938 and moved to New Haven, Connecticut. Gilbert dropped O scale trains in 1941 in favor of S and HO. Cost for this little gem? A mere \$5.00!



Member News

As we hope everyone out there knows by now, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our FVD Board of Directors **has suspended all division meets and activities until our regular meet on September 20**Also, as most of you already know, **this year's NMRA National Convention and the National Train Show to be held in St. Louis in July has been cancelled** due to the Covid-19 pandemic. (FYI, this is the *only* time the NMRA's national convention has been cancelled in its history, and this includes the WWII years.)...Because the State of Tennessee has a "Shelter in Place" order currently in effect, the NMRA Headquarters office in Chattanooga is closed. However, they are still responding to emails sent to: hq@nmra.com. Please be patient, as they have a lot of correspondence to deal with. Thank you!...
FVD Semaphore editor Walt Herrick is starting a new series of articles this fall entitled "**Model Railroading Projects I Did While Sheltered in Place**". Send photos with descriptions, short articles, etc. of your projects—big or small—to Walt's email address: waltherrickjr@gmail.com....Until September's *Semaphore*, Stay Safe Everybody! WH

FVD Annual Elections. Our annual elections have been rescheduled to our regular September 20 meet. At that meet, we will be electing a Superintendent and Chief Clerk. Please contact Mike Hirvela or Carl Wagus (contact info p.7) if you would like to run or nominate someone. Note, the deadline for nominations is extended to September 1.

2019 - 2020 Fox Valley Division Meetings Schedule

Meetings are usually held from 1:30 to about 4:00 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.

—All Fox Valley Division meets and events including its June 7 meet and summer outing are cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our next scheduled event is September 20.—

May 14—17 Midwest Region Spring Convention "The Peoria Rocket" in Peoria, IL
The MWR "Peoria Rocket" Convention has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
Those who registered for the convention are being refunded.

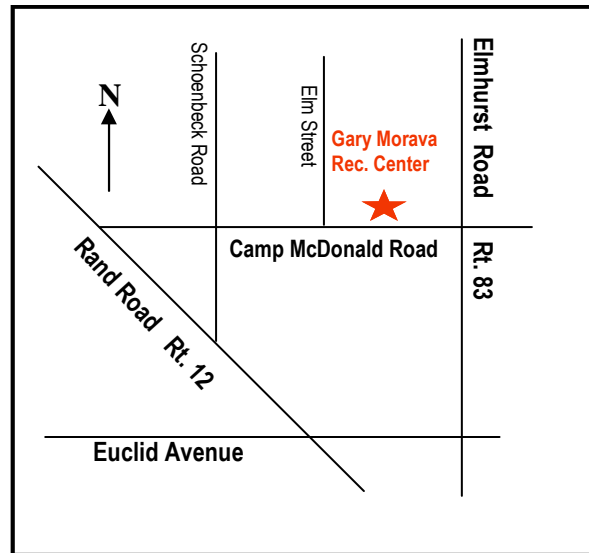
July 12—18 NMRA National Convention "Gateway 2020" in St. Louis, MO
The Gateway 2020 National Convention HAS BEEN CANCELLED due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
For refund information, go to the convention's web site: www.gateway2020.org. The NMRA is now seeking donations to help offset the large expenses incurred thus far for the convention. If you would like to help, go to NMRA.org and click on the "DONATE" button on the home page. Thank you! Also, Gateway 2020 merchandise including the convention car and pin will be available from the NMRA's Company Store on line and from the Gateway 2020 web site. These are sure to be collectors items!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Other</u>
September 20	TBD	Passenger Cars—limit 3	1:00 pm start with sub lunch and rescheduled annual elections.
October 18	LCC by Paul Wussow	TBA	1:30 start.
November 22	TBA	TBA	1:30 start.

Reminder #2 This is the last issue of the *Semaphore* for the 2019-2020 modeling season. Look for the September 2020 *Semaphore* in late August-early September. Until then, happy modeling everyone! WH



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 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.
- 2019 – 2020 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
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