



The Semaphore

SEPTEMBER 2023

A New Season

Welcome back! We hope you had a good summer. Given the heat we've recently experienced, I'm planning on spending more time under cover on my trains, not less.

It's a new season for the Fox Valley Division of the NMRA, and changes are in the air. Thanks to Jim Osborn for continuing to edit and publish the Semaphore for the last several years. He has passed the baton to me, and you will see some changes as I experiment with layout and content. I'm expecting your feedback to improve the newsletter over time.

We're also making a gradual move to the Glenview Public Library for monthly meetings. See adjoining article and Mike's comments for details.

I encourage you to send your rail-related stories, photos and



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We're Moving!

Glenview Public Library Transition Starting in September

The division is taking advantage of available space at the Glenview Public Library (GPL) for its monthly meetings. The primary benefit? It's free, compared to the \$150 per-meeting cost at the Gary Morava Recreational Center in Mount Prospect. As a bonus it's also close to the Glenview Metra station, for those of us who like to ride the rails. Mike's got more details about the move in his article below.

The first meeting at GPL will be on Sunday, September 17. During the next several months we will be juggling venues due to previous room reservations. If in doubt check the FVD website for the next meeting location.

Meetings will start at 2 PM when at the library, and will begin at 1:30 when we're at the Morava Center.

Getting There

GPL is located at [1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, IL 60025](https://www.glenview.il.gov/1330/Glenview-Public-Library).

While GPL has free parking on the parking deck and in an underground parking garage, members are encouraged to park instead in either of the two surface lots along Washington on either side of Glenview Rd. The library closes promptly at 5:00 on Sunday and they close the gates for the underground parking garage at 5 as well. The library opens at 1 pm on Sunday.

Glenview Metra station is serviced by the [Milwaukee District North \(MD-N\) line](#), running trains every two hours on Sundays. It's a ten-minute walk to the library.



Glenview Public Library

Top Photo: It's A Blast!

A Milwaukee District North commuter train charges toward the pedestrian bridge in the Lake County Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve. The wall of sound as the train passes a few feet underneath you is either exhilarating or terrifying, depending on your perspective. Photo: Chris Mattimiro

ideas for future publications. If you don't, I will threaten to use this space to wax rhapsodic over my grandchildren's encounters with everything train-related. I predict you'll rapidly get tired of seeing them.

If there is insufficient content, we may just publish every other month. Please peruse this issue and [let me know](#) what you do/don't like about the content and layout.

Chris Mattimiro



Mike's Minute

Welcome back to another Fox Valley Division season. I had a busy summer and I hope you were able to get a number of your bucket list items checked off. If you made a trip and took lots of photos, we'd love to see them. Our Clinics and Programs Trainmaster Gary Saxton can help you put together a show of Power Point slides from your trip for a future FVD meeting. Gary can always use more content.

Before I get into the 2023-2024 season stuff, I need to mention that as I noted in my May Mike's Minute column, the FVD concluded our 2022-2023 season, with specific "thanks to our webmaster, Mr. Jim Osborn, who was instrumental in figuring out an increasingly better way to conduct our meetings." So much of what Jim does behind the scenes has been crucial to the division AND the Region, he was nominated for and has been awarded a "NMRA President's Award" for outstanding service to the hobby in the Midwest Region. I'm sure you all will provide congratulations to Jim when you see him in person at a meeting. The Board is all smiles here.

We next meet on September 17, 2023, for the start of our 2023-2024 season. The Orange Card has been mailed and it may look a little strange. Things this summer were really up in the air, and it has been as challenging as during COVID to line up presentations and set the schedule. Please note that our in-person September meeting will be in the meeting room at the Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, one block west of the RR tracks, from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. The room location will be identified. We will return to the Morava Recreation Center in Prospect Heights for October and November and

will then return to the Glenview Library for the December meeting. Why? Well, the GPL is a little closer-in to where the majority of our members reside and is adjacent to the Metra Line which makes getting to the meeting convenient. We also will be using the GPL for our December meeting. We're trying this location to determine IF it will be an alternative or substitute for the Morava Center for future meetings. We still have the option of participating via the ZOOM computer system as we have obligated to continue to use that system as well.

The October and November meetings will be held at the Morava Center for a couple of reasons: 1) The clinician for October will be doing a demonstration which could not be done at the GPL. 2) The schedule dates (Oct and Nov) for the GPL are already assigned to another group. Your input and feedback on the use of these facilities will be of great help in determining where the 2024 meetings will be held. If you are aware of another suitable location, please let a member of the Board of Directors know.

It's almost modeling season again, and I am looking forward to getting

back to working on my own railroad as the project list has somehow grown over the summer. I hope you had a good summer and are looking forward to another great FVD season, commencing in September at the GPL.

Prior to our meetings, our webmaster sends out the meeting notice which includes the Zoom system log-on credentials to make it easy to use an over-the-computer system if you'd rather participate that way. Whichever method you select to participate, I appreciate you taking the time and effort to attend. Please be sure we have your current e-mail address on file and [advise of any change](#). Thanks.

Regards,

Mike Hirvela



Next Meeting

When: Sunday, September 17, 2023 2 PM

Where: [Glenview Public Library](#) and [Zoom](#)

Presentation: *Mining Coal in Land of Corn and Soybeans* by Mark Vaughan

Contest: One Diesel Locomotive

Show & Tell: Display any category or train related item

Contest rules: Photographs of contest entries will be displayed on the [contest web page](#) as they are received. Please [upload your photos](#) of your entry using the NO LATER THAN NOON on the Friday before the meet. Please include your name, category, entry title and scale. You may send up to 3 photos of each entry, but only one entry per member per monthly category. Photos will display the best if they are 1200 pixels wide at 72 px/inch minimum, but any size will work.

Contest voting will be via [on-line ballot](#). The voting window opens 2 days before the meeting and closes at NOON the day of the meeting.

SPOTLIGHT



Member's Model Railroad featured in Dispatcher's Office Magazine

FVD member, Bob Hanmer's model railroad is featured in a Timetable-and-train-order (TT & TO) dispatching article in the July 2023 edition of the Operations Special-Interest Group ([OPSIG](#)) magazine [Dispatcher's Office](#), authored by the renowned Steve King. The article covers Bob's railroad based on the Great Northern (GN) and Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range (DM&IR) railways in Minnesota.

Congratulations, Bob!

Contest Calendar

See the [FVD Contest Page](#) for up-to-date contest information and rules.

Division Meeting Date	Contest
September 17, 2023	One Diesel Locomotive
October 15	One Repurposed or Retired Rolling Stock
November 19	One Illuminated Structure
December 17	One Steam or Diesel Yard Switcher
January 21, 2024	One Caboose
February 18	One Weathered Car or Structure
March 17	One Steam Locomotive
April 21	One Refrigerated Billboard Car

Upcoming Events

• Monthly FVD Meetings

Held the third Sunday of every month at either the [Glenview Public Library](#) or the [Gary Morava Recreation Center](#), the meetings are an opportunity to share information, either in-person or on Zoom. Here is the meeting schedule through the end of the year. See the full schedule on the [FVD website](#).

When	Where
9/17/23 2:00 PM	Glenview Public Library and Zoom
10/15/23 1:30 PM	Gary Morava Recreation center and Zoom
11/19/23 1:30 PM	Gary Morava Recreation center and Zoom
12/17/23 2:00 PM	Glenview Public Library and Zoom

• Train Shows

[Great Midwest Train shows](#) are held monthly at the [DuPage Event Center and Fairgrounds](#) in Wheaton. Traveling shows will be in Illinois in Springfield on November 11 & 12, and in Collinsville (near St. Louis) on November 25-26. Information on both shows can be found [here](#).

• Railroad Prototype Modelers Conference

The [RPM Chicagoland Conference](#) returns October 27 and 28 at the NIU Conference Center in Naperville.

• Illinois Railway Museum

Museum Showcase Weekend, September 16 & 17. See and ride some of the less frequently run equipment at IRM as we honor the volunteers who make the museum work.

Steam Into Fall, October 7. This will be the final public operation of steam trains at IRM for the year.

• Fall S Fest

The Chicagoland Association of S Gaugers [holds a weekend of S gauge model railroading activities](#) at [Georgio's Banquets Quality Inn & Suites Conference Centre](#) in Orland Park November 3-4

About the Fox Valley Division

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About the Semaphore

The Semaphore is published by the Fox Valley Division of the Midwest Region of the NMRA, a registered 501(c)(7) not-for-profit Illinois corporation.

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If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region, Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes all of Lake and McHenry, as well as parts of Cook and Kane Counties in northeast Illinois. About 180 members of varied ages and modeling ability belong to the FVD. Most modeling scales are represented in our division. Subscriptions to the Semaphore newsletters are free. Membership in the division is available through the NMRA at: <https://www.nmra.org/>

Monthly FVD meetings run September through May in-person and online via [Zoom](#). Each meeting features a clinic, model contest, and information of interest to the membership. Outings,

layout tours, and operating sessions may also be held.

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. Visit us on the [web!](#)

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