



the Semaphore

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MWR • N.M.R.A.

May 1995

Volume 22, Number 9

**MAY 21st PROGRAM
11:00 A.M.**

Palatine Hobby, Ltd.
Regency Plaza
Euclid & Quentin Rds.
Palatine, Illinois

End of Year Bash Fox River Trolley Museum Luncheon Trolley Rides

**Call Ken Kitzing at 708-253-3915
for reservations.**

SUPERINTENDENT'S NOTES AND QUOTES

The final meeting of the Fox Valley Division was held on Sunday, April 23 at the Morava Center. Everyone there was asked to vote for the Trainmasters because only 12 ballots were mailed back to the P.O. box.

The results are that we now have Neal Anderson, Donn Branstrator, Ken Kitzing, Irv Lange, Brian Lingner, Tim Laren, and Erich Russ as our new Trainmasters.

Also, Rich Boettcher, has asked to be a Trainmaster instead of Chief Clerk because of the pressures of his new job. If anyone wishes to be appointed Chief Clerk (Take minutes, etc.), please contact Ray Pettersen at 708-259-3040.

Scott Hicks presented the foam scenery clinic. He did an excellent job with his handy little blow torch.

The most important discussion of the afternoon was in reference to the Fox Valley Modular Railroad. The existing committee has begged off responsibility for this layout. After much discussion, the committee resumed

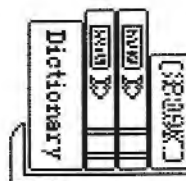
its task. And the membership voted unanimously to purchase a System One command control for the Fox Valley Railroad not to exceed \$2,000.00. The existing railroad has to be totally rewired. And, also, several decisions will have to be made pertaining to the ownership of several modules (4 corners, two straights, and the yard) which now belong to the Fox Valley Division. These discussions will take place at the Board meetings throughout the summer at Palatine Hobby Shop on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in this railroad and helping or working on it, PLEASE come out to these Board meetings.

Our final outing of the year is Sunday, May 21, 1995 at 11:00 a.m. when we will meet at the Palatine Hobby Shop to take a bus out to the Fox River Trolley Museum in South Elgin for lunch and rides. The event is open to the entire family. Members, spouses, children, grandchildren and friends. Please call Ken Kitzing, 708-253-3915. Mail Ken a \$5.00 deposit, which is totally refundable, at 415 North Elm, Mount Prospect, IL 60056. This deposit will be refunded when boarding the bus or at the Trolley Museum. If you would like to attend but want to drive yourself, PLEASE call Ken and tell him so that we can order enough food.

Come on out and be part of your Fox Valley Division model railroad club and have some fun. Next year there will again be a High Wheeler and many other events for you to enjoy.

God Bless You!

Raymond L. Pettersen, Jr.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Sun., May 21 — 11:00 a.m. — Fox River Trolley Museum
Bus Transportation from
Palatine Hobby in
Regency Plaza, Euclid and
Quentin Roads.
Luncheon provided.
\$5.00 per person
refundable deposit.

B.O.D meetings first Wednesday of each month.
Meetings are held at Palatine Hobby at 7:00 p.m.

AMTRAK CHANGES EXPLAINED

One of our members, Harold Dode, had written a letter to Representative John Edward Porter regarding the recently announced changes in Amtrak. We think you will be interested in his reply.

Dear Mr. Dode:

I received your communication regarding Amtrak's decision to alter some routes and schedules including the elimination of three lines.

At the December meeting of its Board of Directors, the Amtrak Board approved and directed a number of actions to reshape the nation's rail passenger network and to create a "new Amtrak." Included in the corporation's strategic and business plan are revenue increases, overhead elimination, productivity improvements, and route and service adjustments. The railroad has already launched one of the most extensive restructuring since its establishment in 1971.

According to Amtrak, these actions are being taken to restore Amtrak's financial position and to respond to the rapid changes taking place in the transportation marketplace. Without these changes, Amtrak will face a reported cash shortfall of almost \$200 million by June of 1995. This decline in Amtrak's financial health can be attributed to the costs of an undercapitalized system being spread too thin, trying to provide more service than the Corporation is capable of providing, and to brutal price competition from the airlines.

The Board's actions will reduce annual expenses by \$430 million, which after accounting for \$66 million in revenue loss, will improve Amtrak's bottom line by \$364 million on an annualized basis. In Fiscal Year 1995, these actions will reduce revenues by \$28 million, reduce expenses by \$201 million and will produce a balanced budget by the end of the fiscal year. To achieve the majority of these savings, the Board directed the Corporation to alter routes and schedules, including the elimination of three lines. It also directed the truncation of four lines. In addition, it directed reductions in frequency of service, in three phases, over most of the lines on the network. The net result of these actions would be to eliminate 7.2 million train line miles of service annually, or 21 percent of the service Amtrak provides nationwide. Two of the routes that will be eliminated will be the Hiawatha Service, Chicago to Milwaukee, and the Pere Marquette, Chicago to Grand Rapids.

The first phase of frequency reductions will take effect in February, 1995, and additional frequency reductions will occur in June and October. Route eliminations will take place on April 1, 1995. The Rail Passenger Service Act requires Amtrak to give affected states 90 days notice of plans to discontinue routes. During this time, Amtrak will work with affected states to discuss alternate funding that could allow the service to continue.

Amtrak believes that these actions are necessary to restore short-term stability to the Corporation and to allow the Corporation to develop a smaller system that can compete over the longer term on price, quality, and flexibility. This revised system still keeps most of

America connected by Passenger rail, but with fewer trains. This will also allow the Corporation to focus more attention on, and respond more quickly to, the needs of its customers.

In addition to the route and service changes, the business plan approved by the Board includes revenue increases through pricing adjustments, commuter and other business development, and sale or refinancing of assets. Also included will be overhead elimination and productivity improvements.

While the changes in Amtrak service will be an adjustment for all of us, Amtrak maintains that these changes are essential to ensure Amtrak's long-term viability as a commercially oriented national transportation service. I commend Amtrak for taking the steps necessary to provide a high quality, competitive rail passenger service for the U.S.

I appreciate your contacting me on this topic, and I hope you will continue to feel free to communicate with me on issues of concern to you coming before the Congress.

Sincerely,
John Edward Porter
Member of Congress



Join us for our
End of the Year Bash
as the
Fox Valley Division
sponsors an outing to the
FOX RIVER TROLLEY MUSEUM

*Transportation, Luncheon and
two rides courtesy of the Division.*

*\$5.00 per person deposit for
reservation, refundable upon
boarding bus the day of the
outing.*

*Contact Ken Kitzing at
708-253-3915 for reservations.*

10%

**That's what you can save at
Palatine Hobby, Ltd.**

Join us at the monthly meetings and
get your courtesy card for *10%
discount at Palatine Hobby.

*Not Valid On Sale Items

End of the Line

We announce with regret
the passing of

Max Popowski

*He has reached the end of his journey.
May he rest in peace.*

**OFFERED
FOR SALE**

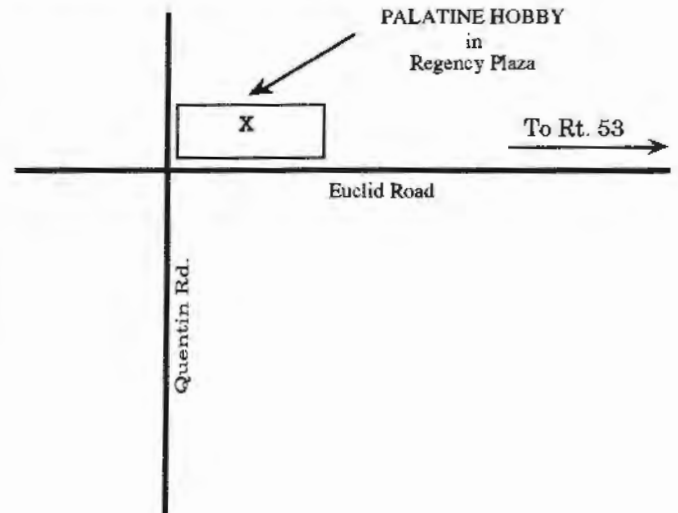
Pursuant to a vote by the Board of
Directors of the Fox Valley Division on
May 3, 1995, the following items are
offered for sale.

Two Straight Modules\$50.00 each
Two Yard Modules\$50.00 each

This action has been taken in order to
keep the Division's ownership of the
Fox Valley Railroad to a minimum.
For further information and to
purchase said items, please contact:

Ray Petterson
708-259-3040

WHERE WE MEET



**Historical Societies
Part of a Continuing Listing**

Spokane Portland & Seattle

Annual Dues: \$15 / \$25 sust. / \$25 foreign
SP&S RY Historical Society & SIG
c/o Duane Cramer
2618 N.W. 113th St.
Vancouver, WA 98685

Terminal RR of St. Louis

Annual Dues: \$15 reg.; \$100 life
TRRA H&TS, Inc.
PO Box 1688
St. Louis, MO 63188-1688

Toledo Peoria & Western

Annual Dues: \$12 / \$15 contr.
TP&W Historical Society
615 Bullock St.
Eureka, IL 61530

Union Pacific

Annual Dues: \$15 / \$30 sust.
Union Pacific Historical Society
c/o Membership Secretary
PO Box 4006
Cheyenne, WY 82003-4006

Wabash

Annual Dues: \$12 / \$15 contr.
Wabash RR Historical Society
c/o Vance C. Lischer, Jr., Secretary
535 Dielman Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63132

FOX VALLEY DIVISION
PO Box 1535
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60006-1535



Nov.
FIRST CLASS MAIL

Ray Pettersen, Jr
Superintendent
4307 Linden Ln
Rolling Meadows IL 60008-3423

1099 3100



FOX VALLEY DIVISION OFFICERS

Ray Pettersen, Jr.Superintendent
708-259-3040
Art RothAssistant Superintendent
708-577-4430
Jerry HoffmanActing Chief Clerk
312-725-9159
Rich SweetPaymaster
708-459-1037

FOX VALLEY DIVISION TRAINMASTERS

Ken KitzingMembership
708-253-3915
Donn BranstratorPrograms
708-381-6183
Rich BoettcherWays and Means
708-639-6393
Tim LarenPublic Relations
708-506-0462
Brian LingnerContests and Achievement
708-364-0153
Erich RussPublications
708-867-0223
Neal AndersonAt-Large
708-223-8408
Irvin LangeFox Valley Railroad
708-577-0015

Contest Winners

APRIL CONTEST

FIRST PLACE

John Proebsting / Frank Cole (tie)

SECOND PLACE

Frank Oldfield

THIRD PLACE

Roger Jones

FOURTH PLACE

Donn Branstrator

Our thanks to all who entered the contest. You are to be commended for your attention to detail and your devotion to the hobby.

the Semaphore is published monthly by and for the members of the Fox Valley Division, Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association. There are no issues for June, July and August. Articles and drawings pertaining to the model railroading hobby are solicited subject to editorial review. Address all inquiries and manuscripts to: Fox Valley Division, Publications Trainmaster, P.O. Box 1535, Arlington Heights, IL 60006-1535.