



# the Semaphore

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MWR • N.M.R.A.

October 1995

Volume 23, Number 2

## OCTOBER 22nd PROGRAM 1:30 P.M.

Morava Fieldhouse  
110 W. Camp McDonald Rd.  
Prospect Heights, Illinois

### Schedule

1:30 p.m. ....	Business Meeting
2:00 p.m. ....	<i>The Art of Illusion</i> <small>THE ART OF ILLUSIONS</small>

### Superintendent's Notes and Quotes

October brings model railroading into full swing, especially with the approach of the holidays. Already the mail is pouring in for the March, 1996 High Wheeler to be held at Harper College in Palatine the first weekend of March. The committee for High Wheeler (Rich Boettcher and Tim Laren) will have their hands full in accommodating all the exhibitors. The main goal of the High Wheeler committee is to increase the attendance. To accomplish this will require every interested Fox Valley Division member's help. With your help and the proper publicity this can be done easily. But, we need you to volunteer your services to promote publicity activities. Such as: library displays, store displays, distribution deliveries, contacting youth groups and schools, and a host of other functions to bring this next High Wheeler to a successful conclusion. Therefore, in the interest of promoting High Wheeler '96 let's give Tim and Rich a call to be placed on the list of helpers. In appreciation of your help the Fox Valley Division will host a dinner evening for you and your spouse or friend after the show is over next March.

Back to railroading a bit. Moving through history the railroads have been vital to the needs of this great country of ours. During the Manifest Destiny the federal government gave the railroads land to lay their rails and develop towns and businesses along the right of way. Land was cheap before the Civil War and the first cross country railroad was finished at Promontory Point in Utah with the driving of the Golden Spike. During the Civil War the railroads were vital to the transport of troops and goods throughout both the north and south. However, the North had many more miles of rails than the South. Even so, at the first battle of Bull Run when the opening battle became a resounding victory for the Confederacy in driving the yankees back to the Capitol, the

railroad was the prime factor in accomplishing this. The movement of Stonewall Jackson and his troops to effectively confront the North succeeded in giving this victory to their supreme efforts.

Further along in the war, one of the greatest adventures was the chase of the General by the Texas, two locomotives that careened down the tracks of the South. The North kidnapped the General and were pursued by the Texas and its crew. Eventually the rebels caught the yankees and prevented the loss of the General.

During World War One and especially World War Two the railroads were vital and absolutely necessary to the economy and the movement of supplies and troops everywhere in the country. Even the Chattanooga Choo Choo. And who could forget Casey Jones. Yes, without a doubt railroads have fascinated everyone in these United States. Especially children prompting their parents for trains. There are not too many activities that both parents and kids can participate in together. But model railroading is surely one of them.

Let's back our members and committee in expounding and promoting the High Wheeler show as a museum quality exhibition of railroading throughout history in this country. May the rails of life speed you to happiness.

*Raymond L. Petterson, Jr.*



Oct. 4 — 7:00 p.m. —	Board of Directors Meeting Palatine Hobby, Ltd.
Oct. 22 — 1:30 p.m. —	General Membership Meeting Morava Fieldhouse <i>Program: Art of Illusion</i>
Oct. 29 — 9:00 a.m. —	National Hobby Show
Nov. 1 — 7:00 p.m. —	Board of Directors Meeting Palatine Hobby, Ltd.
Nov. 11 & 12 —	TRAINFEST '95 State Fair Park West Allis (Milwaukee), Wisconsin
Nov. 19 — 8:45 p.m. —	General Membership Meeting Board Bus at Palatine Hobby <i>Program: CSB &amp; SS Railroad Trip</i>

## THE ART OF ILLUSION

The October meeting will be a videotape by C. J. Riley. This video clinic shows how modeling can be improved by adapting styles and techniques from many sources. These include impressionist painters, theatrical illusions, magicians' sleight-of-hand, smoke and mirrors, painted backdrops, lighting and signage, in order to help convert a model railroad layout into a believable representation of the real world.

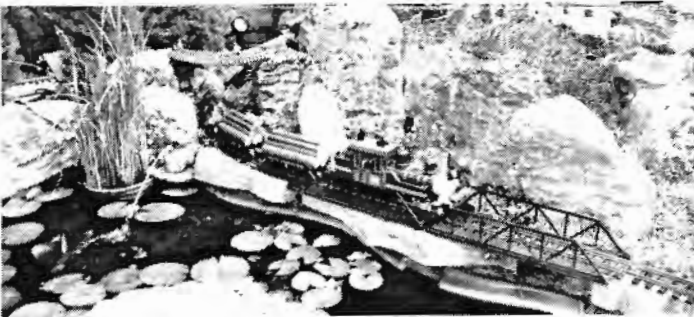
After the video there will be time to discuss Riley's clinic, with suggestions from the membership on how our members can create these illusions.



## A LOOK BACK AT GARDEN RAILROADS

With a beautiful day to travel, the Fox Valley Division left the Morava Fieldhouse to visit the Garden Railroads of Bob and Donna Hanselman and Jim and Judy Otis. These modelers have achieved layouts in the *GRAND SCALE*.

Bob and Donna Hanselman's was first on the agenda. A well-scenicked layout, the Chestnut & Vine ambled past some well-planned ponds, forests and a cacti-laden desert. Mount Rushmore was a humorous point of interest as well as the little mermaid in the mountain lake.



Bob's enthusiasm for the layout and his participation in the Modular G Gauge layout showed his love for Model Railroading. Thank you, Bob and Donna, for your hospitality.

The Milwaukee Road engines on the Jim Otis garden railroad rolled past exquisite scenery on this 24 foot by 6 foot layout. The use of the mill race to move water brought the railroad to life. Jim's design skills showed in the placement of structures, figures and plants.



Jim and Judy had a busy weekend with a wedding on Saturday, a Sunday brunch and then hosting our group. Our thanks to both of you for your extra effort.

## TRAINFEST '95 Corrected Date

Be sure to mark your calendars for the weekend of November 11th and 12th. Wisconsin Southeastern Division will present Trainfest '95, the largest NMRA Division sponsored train show in the U.S. The show is held at the State Fair Park in West Allis.



## PAT'S HOBBIES & CRAFTS

Pat's Hobbies is located a little south of the Fox Valley Division, in Oak Lawn. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Ball founded the shop in 1975. Pat's has been at the same location since it was founded. The store has two floors with more than half of the second floor devoted to model railroading. They carry mostly HO, N and O gauges with a little bit of G and S. A Märklin dealer, they can order Z for you as well.

When dealing with trains you can talk to several people. Maureen can help you with most questions. If you have something a little tougher ask for Steve or Don, the manager.

To visit Pat's take 294 south to 95th St. west. (Its only 20 minutes from 290.) Then go east to 5730 W. 95th. The shop is on the north side of the street with parking front and back. Phone (708) 424-6131. Fax (708) 424-9368. Open several days a week. Stop by some time.



## NOVEMBER TRAIN RIDE

Members and guests of the Fox Valley Division will have an opportunity to ride the Chicago, South Bend & South Shore Railroad on Sunday, November 19. The Division will pick up part of the expenses, leaving a minimal fare of \$10.00 per person. The group will meet at Palatine Hobby, Euclid and Quentin Roads, for 8:45 a.m. departure. There is a limit of 40 persons for the trip. A sign-up sheet will be available at the October meeting. Or, you may send your reservations with the proper fare, payable to the Fox Valley Division, to our Program Trainmaster, Donn Branstrator, 822 Lill Street, Barrington, IL 60010-4266. The deadline for reservations is Saturday, November 11.

### National Model & Hobby Show

October 28-29, 1995

Sat., 10 am-6 pm • Sun., 10 am-5 pm

Rosemont Convention Center

5555 North River Rd.

Rosemont, Illinois

Admission: Adults \$6.00, Children 6-12 \$3.00

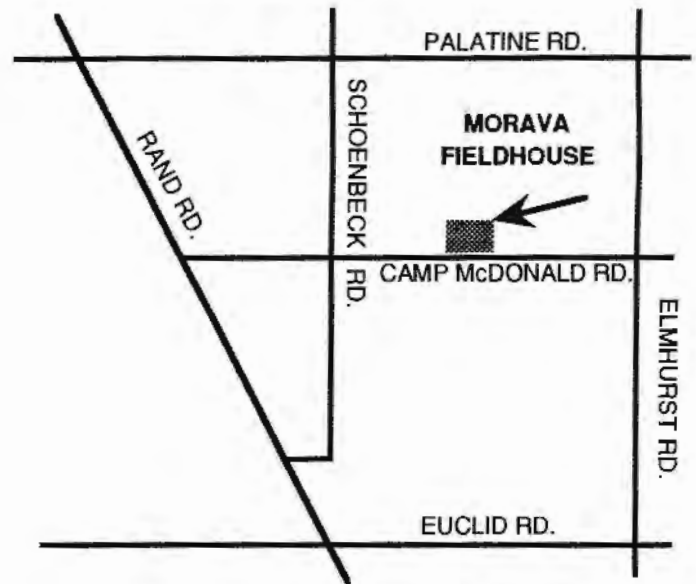
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**FOX VALLEY RAILROAD**

The Fox Valley Railroad will be up and running at the 1995 National Model and Hobby Show, October 28 and 29. Come on out and see your Divisions Modular Layout.

If you are free on the 26th and 27th contact Irv Lange at 708-577-0015 to volunteer to operate the railroad on the days the show is only open to dealers.

**WHERE WE MEET**



*The  
 Christmas El Ride*



Saturday, December 16, 1995

Depart 5:00 p.m.

Palatine Hobby, Ltd.

Euclid and Quentin Rds.

Fare: \$12.00 • Limit 90 Passengers

Send Reservations and Fare to  
 Art Roth

1556 N. Highland Ave.  
 Arlington Heights, IL 60004-3861

Make check payable to Fox Valley Division

**CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE**

The Fox Valley Division's Calendar for '95-'96 is now available. No fancy pictures, just necessary information. The Calendar of Events of the Fox Valley Division will be distributed at our meetings.

Stop in and say "Hi!" Check the Calendar of Events on page one of your *Semaphore* for last minute additions or changes.

**HIGH WHEELER '96**

Do ya wanna have a good time? Ya want some thrills? All youse got to do is join the High Wheeler Team. To do this, contact Rich Boettcher or Tim Laren. (See their numbers on page four.) People are needed for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. When you talk to Rich or Tim let them know when you are available and they will ask you some questionous to find the best place for you.

Working High Wheeler is a blast. And you get to meet some of your fellow members on one to one basis. Sign up and be a part of the High Wheeler '96 Team.

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## FIRST CLASS MAIL

Ray Pettersen, Jr  
Superintendent  
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708-577-4430  
Robert Trams .....Chief Clerk  
708-546-7303  
Rich Sweet .....Paymaster  
708-459-1037

### FOX VALLEY DIVISION TRAINMASTERS

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708-253-3915  
Donn Branstrator .....Programs  
708-381-6183  
Rich Boettcher .....Ways and Means  
815-653-2825  
Tim Laren .....Publications and Public Relations  
708-506-0462  
Erich Russ .....Contests and Achievement  
708-364-0153  
Neal Anderson .....At-Large  
708-223-8408  
Irvin Lange .....Fox Valley Railroad  
708-577-0015

## CONTEST WINNERS

Welcome to another year of model railroading. This year we will challenge you with some interesting contests. We will let you know about coming contests on page one and page two of the newsletter.



We will also continue to assist our members in their quest to obtain Golden Spike awards and certificates earned from the N.M.R.A.

Your participation in the contests in the past has been appreciated. So to, your continued support. We are open to your thoughts on themes for future contests also. If you have any suggestions pass them on to Erich Russ or any of the other officers.

If you've never entered one of our contests you should consider doing so this year. Our balloting system is set up to give everyone a chance to win. At times the Division will award gift certificates to the winners.

We also have a contest at High Wheeler. This is the place to show the general public the artistry of model railroading.

*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.