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Fox Valley Division
Midwest Region - NMRA
P.O. Box 1535
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The Semaphore

Fox Valley Division • MWR • NMRA

From the Desk of the Superintendent

- *Richard Sweet*
Superintendent FVD

It's that time again. Summer is just about over and fall is starting. I don't want to rush the season, but the first division meeting of the year is just three weeks away. That would be September 19. May I be the first to welcome you back.

At the last board meeting, we discussed the programs and trips for the upcoming season. The schedule, at this point, is just tentative, but this is what we are working on: a clinic by Badger Airbrush, a clinic on Operation Lifesaver, a trip to Trainfest, operating a layout, a trip to the live steamers, our annual auction and our annual holiday party. And again this year, all of our meetings will be held at the Gary Morava Recreation Center in Prospect Heights on the third Sunday of the month starting at 1:30 PM. The schedule will soon be published on the division web site.

For a number of years, the Fox Valley Division has supported a model railroad. That model railroad, the Fox Valley Railroad, has been kept in a garage in Arlington Heights and it was available to any member of the division who wanted to either work on it or run trains on it. However, not many members took advantage of that. The Board of Directors has decided, since the

participation was limited to just a few members of the division, to divest itself of that asset. So the railroad is being sold to a group of members who will form a club and own the railroad. That club is the Fox Valley Model Railroad Club. The model railroad will still be housed in a garage in Arlington Heights, although only a part of it. (The garage will soon be undergoing renovation to make it more hospitable.) Currently, the railroad club is looking for members. If you live near the Arlington Heights area and would like to join a modular model railroad club, contact me and I will give you all the information.

As some of you know, I am in the process of building a Sn3 layout. I thought I would give you an update on that venture. First, the background: The track plan based on a Milwaukee Road narrow gauge railroad that ran 36 miles from Bellevue, Iowa to Cascade, Iowa. The railroad was "Iowa's Slim Princess," and was better known as the Bellevue and Cascade RR. The railroad ceased operation in April of 1936. However, this is where I take up the story. In the summer of 1936, a group of investors purchase the railroad and go from there. It is now the summer of 1943 and America is at war. The railroad is busy hauling food and lumber to support the war effort.

At this point in time, the backdrop has already been mounted to the wall and painted. I am now working on the benchwork. Because the benchwork will be mounted to the wall, all the wood supports are

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This Year's Events

(Note: at the time of this printing, Meeting dates were finalized, but clinics and contests were not)

September 19, 2004
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
General Meeting

Clinic – TBD
No Contest

October 17, 2004
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
General Meeting

Clinic – Details to be announced
Contest– to be announced

November 14, 2004
Trip to Train Fest

– Details to be announced
No Contest

December 19, 2004
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
General Meeting

Clinic – Details to be announced
Contest– to be announced

January 16, 2005
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
General Meeting

Clinic – Details to be announced
Contest– to be announced

being stained before the whole thing gets assembled and the track gets put down. The track plan will include three of the seven towns that the railroad went through.

Like the rest of you, I ceased work during the summer. But now it is time to think about model railroading again. From time to time, I will give you an update on my progress. (If any of you are building a model railroad and would like to report your progress, I would like to hear from you.)

So, let's all get back to model railroading and have a great season.

-Richard

National Convention Report

-Tim Kleimeyer
Paymaster

Attending the National Convention is always a learning experience. From figuring out how to get from the airport to the hotel, to seeing many model railroads, to attending clinics, there is always something to learn. Seattle, Washington was the site for Puget Sound Express (PSX) 2004. My wife and I arrived in Seattle early in the evening of Saturday, July 3, 2004. While it was not raining, it

was somewhat cloudy and the mountains were not visible in the haze. There were some fireworks after dark but the big displays were on Sunday night. After a good meal and some wine, we retired for the night. When I looked out the window of our hotel room on Sunday morning, the sky was clear and there was Mt. Rainer - what a way to start July 4th.

Sunday was check in at the convention and then off to see Seattle. We checked out the salmon ladder between Puget Sound and Lake Washington. The salmon were lined up waiting for their chance to enter the ladder and they were much better behaved than some of the drivers we saw on the highways.

Later on Sunday we took the "Underground Seattle" tour and learned about Seattle's history, including some of the seamier aspects of life on a mud flat. Of course, modern Seattle has none of those problems now and is an attractive city with only the normal plumbing problems.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday saw layout tours for me. I visited about 20 model railroads in basements, backyards, spare rooms, and dedicated buildings. Some were complete with lots of

Call for Layouts!

Share Your Layout with Others

Did you enjoy the layouts we've visited last year? Have they provided inspiration for your own layout? Here's the perfect opportunity to share your layout with the rest of the Fox Valley Division.

Contact our Events Trainmaster, Steve Martinak at 847-854-7545 or email him at mart832@attglobal.net

sanding for a couple of years but she showed some larger nail files that look to me like "must haves" to use in building train cars and buildings.

While I was immersed in model railroading, my wife took several convention arranged trips to see Mt. Rainer, Mt. St. Helens, and other local Seattle tourist attractions. Thursday night, we took a ferry across Puget Sound to Bainbridge Island to visit a world famous garden center and some other tourist spots. My wife, a dedicated gardener, and her trusty helper, me, found that Seattle gardeners can grow many things which would not make it in the Chicago climate.

However, perseverance pays off in gardening as well as modeling and she found a few interesting plants and had shipped them home to remember the trip. While she was visiting some gardens, I found the local UPS store and shipped back a lot of the things we had acquired during the week that would not fit

in our suitcases. Another ferry ride and we found ourselves back at the Seattle airport for the trip home. All in all, a wonderful week in Seattle.

Hope you had a great summer!

Hints, Tips, and Innovations

Share your expertise with other members

Rick Saviano- Publications / Membership Trainmaster

I've got just enough room in this month's Semaphore to solicit your hints and tips. Feel free to email me at saviano@att.net and I'll include them in future issues. Please include "FVD Semaphore" in the title of your email. Next issue: cookie cutters, wedding cakes, topographic maps and how to use them in your layout.

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This Year's Events (continued)

February 20, 2005
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
 Clinic – Details to be announced
 Contest– to be announced

March 5-6, 2005
9:00am-5:00pm, Harper College
High Wheeler
 No Contest

April 17, 2004
1:00pm, Gary Morava Center
Annual Business Meeting
 Contest– to be announced

May 15, 2004
10:00am, Regency Shopping Plaza
Field Trip - To be Announced
 No Contest



Location for General Meetings

General meetings of the Fox Valley Division are held at the Gary Morava Center in Prospect Heights (See map at right).



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED