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Fox Valley Division
Midwest Region - NMRA
P.O. Box 1535
Arlington Heights, IL 60005-1535

The Semaphore

Fox Valley Division • MWR • NMRA

December Meeting

The December meeting will be held on the 16th, at the Gary Morava Center in Prospect Heights. There will be multiple clinics: First will be Mark Llanuza. He'll talk about Railfanning, Then and Now, along with his original clinic on Winter Railroading, David Leider will talk about the Railroads of Eastern Europe, David Crement will give a mini-clinic, and, like last year, we will invite all of you to come up and tell us some of the tricks you've learned over the years. In addition, we will hold a Swap Meet, so bring your projects that no longer fit in your layout and pick up some new inspirations. And did I mention we're having food? The start time is 1:00pm. See you there!

Railroad Oddities

Due to a last-minute change, Jim Singer was not able to attend the November meeting to give his clinic on Railroad Oddities. He has rescheduled for the February meeting. So, those of you who couldn't make it to November's meeting have a second chance in February. Unfortunately, those of you who were looking forward to hear Walter Radke talk about how he built his Garden Railroad are going to have to talk to him personally; he was kind enough to fill in the clinic gap at the last minute!

Tapes Available From Our Library

Did you know that we had tapes available in our Library? Did you know that we had a library? Well, we have a rather extensive collection of VHS tapes

available for loan (sorry to all you Beta-Max owners). They are usually prominently displayed in two suitcases on the floor by the front table of our meeting room. There is a sign-out sheet, and we only ask you to "be kind, rewind."

For those of you who embrace newer technology, let us know if you want us to carry "those new-fangled DVD thingies."

This Month's Contest

For December, the contest will be based on the Model Kit that we handed out at the September meeting, the Mt. Vernon Manufacturing Company, a Life-Like[®] model kit. The only catch to the December contest is that it should not be easily recognized as one if the four versions illustrated on the box.

Last Month's Contest

The November contest was a roof made from the parts in the Mt. Vernon Manufacturing Company, the Life-Like[®] model kit that was passed out at the September meeting.

First place went to Leif Hansen's HO Scale "Garden Roof." Second Place honors went to Walter Radtke for his HO Scale "Faulty Tower Roof," and third Place went to Tim Kleimeyer's HO Scale "Industrial Roof." Photos are shown below. You can see larger photos of all the winning contest entries by going to our website:

<http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/>

Here are photos of the "money"

This Year's Remaining Events

December 16, 2007
1:00pm, Gary Morava Center
General Meeting

Clinic – Mark Llanuza,
Railfanning, Then and Now
Winter Railroading
- David Leider,
Railroads of Eastern
Europe
– Swap Meet
Contest– kit-bashed structure kit
from Sept. Meeting

January 20, 2008
1:00pm, Operating session at Ted
Schnepf's "Fox Valley O Scale"

No Clinic
No Contest

February 17, 2008
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center

Clinic – Jim Singer, Railroad
Oddities
Contest - Finished Project – your
choice

March 15-16, 2008
9:00am-5:00pm, High Wheeler
No Clinic, No Contest

April 20, 2008
1:00pm, Gary Morava Center
Annual Business Meeting

Clinic – Boy, is my thumb green
Contest - Unfinished Project – your
choice

May 18, 2008
1:30pm

Layout tours
(Details TBD)
No Clinic
No Contest

Summer, 2008
Possible Field Trip
– Details to be announced

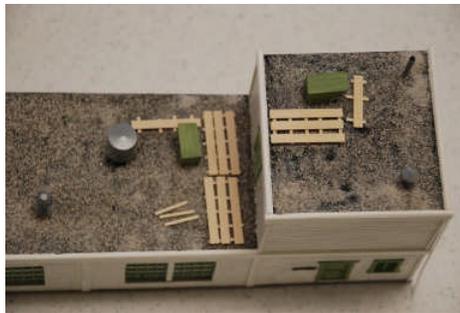
entries:



Leif Hanson's Winning Entry



Walter Radtke's Entry



Tim Kleimeyer's Entry

Track Treks

Jim Osborn
Public Relations Trainmaster /
Webmaster

Scratch-building, With a Capital "S"

Yes Sir, Mr. Contractor, that's correct. An 800 square foot basement with 9 foot ceilings and a center entrance - and whatever you want to put on top is okay with me. Typical new home specification for the avid model railroader --

especially if you want to house a 14 by 36 foot multi-layer On3 layout, a 12' long work-bench, a 6" metal lathe - and a 30" milling machine. Such was the case for David Crement when he built his new home in Carpentersville over a dozen years ago.

David had been a long-time HO scale modeler of the Great Northern. Then, while on a trip to south central Pennsylvania, he visited the East Broad Top Railroad. "When I saw that 2-8-2 Mikado rocking from side to side as it meandered down the mainline toward me -- that was it -- the hook was set!" After that day David set out to research and model a piece of history. The switch to the larger O scale made sense to him at the time because it allowed him to do more with the models.

David's EBT recreation traverses between Saltillo and Woodvale, PA on 450 feet of mainline that wraps over itself several times in sort of a folded dog-bone configuration with several reversing loops. All track work is hand-laid, code 100 rail, resting on 11,000 hand made ties set in actual EBT mine tailing ballast. Every turnout is scratch-built and powered by a unique, under track switch motor developed by David. About 50% of his town and scenic work is complete. Construction techniques are typically foam over a paper and a plaster hard-shell supported by chicken wire. The framework is L girder construction that cantilevers out from a central support creating multiple scenic layers. The layout is powered by a Digitrax DCC system.

The EBT is a platform to show off David's outstanding scratch-building and model-making skills. Armed with a home-made resistance soldering tool, he built all his locomotives to EBT prototype configurations. Consider that at the time, there was only one On3 craftsman metal Mikado kit available. Adaptation & improvisation are his bywords. The many freight

cars and passenger coaches of the EBT are scratch-built or kit-bashed. Some buildings and cars are actually kits he created himself. As a skilled mold maker for resin castings, David scratch-builds a pattern, makes a mold and casts the rest. For example, when making a building for his pike, he scratch-builds master window frames, walls and other accessories from prototype photographs, makes rubber molds off the masters and casts what is needed. Simply put, "Why make it twice when you can make it once?" All of David's scratch-built work is supported by numerous prototype plans and photographs.

David is currently in hot pursuit of Master Model Railroader recognition. He has already received the Golden Spike award and submitted Achievement Program (AP) applications for, Masters of Scenery, Cars & Prototype models. AP applications for Masters of Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering

and Motive Power are only one model each from completion. In his spare time when he is not modeling, he is an active participant with the Boy Scouts of America as well. He is associated with numerous hobby groups, the Shortflaggers Model RR Club, the GN Historical Society and is a charter member of the Friends of the East Broad Top.

To see more pictures of David's EBT RR, go to the Fox Valley Division web site at <http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/> . Also check out the map of the EBT route that David models. Better yet, if you would like to visit the EBT in Carpentersville to see David's exacting work for yourself, you may contact him at mmr4trains@comcast.net or 1-847-551-9656 for an appointment. For more information on the real EBT railroad, visit <http://www.ebtrr.com/>



Old #16 waits in front of the company store at the Robertsdale station for train orders and a meet with an oncoming coal drag. Robertsdale is the company town developed near the Rockhill #1 mine



A revenue fare waits patiently on the Kimmel platform wondering if the mixed freight will be on time today. Meanwhile #18 continues the climb into a bore. Coal rules on this railroad.

Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

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Find the Secret Word Contest

For those of you who delight in pointing out Typo's in the Semaphore, and in a shameless attempt to increase attendance, we've got a challenge: I am going to place a "Secret Word" in every issue of the Semaphore. Be one of the first to bring in your mailed-out copy of the Semaphore, with the secret word circled, and you will receive a prize. Words inside this text box are excluded.

Our first "word" is a toughie: Find the email address that changed from last month!

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).

Why Do You Get This Newsletter?

You are a member of the National Model Railroad Association, or one of our "courtesy" recipients of the *Semaphore*. Thank you for joining a group of people interested in and enjoying the Model Railroading hobby. The NMRA is divided into Regions and Divisions. You live in the Midwest Region and the Fox Valley Division.

The Fox Valley Division has around two hundred members and you are one of them. Membership in the Fox Valley Division costs you NOTHING beyond your national membership. As a matter of fact, most times we give you things. How can we do that? In March each year, we hold a train show at Harper College in Palatine. The proceeds from the show support our activities throughout the year.

If you are interested in learning more about model railroading you can come to our meetings and sign up for our events. There you will meet and hear from people who want to share their knowledge of the hobby. We meet once a month at the Gary Morava Fieldhouse in Prospect Heights. Each year (our year runs from September through May) the *Semaphore* is mailed to the entire membership.

Welcome to the Fox Valley Division!



Next Meeting: December 16, 2007
1:0pm , Gary Morava Center
 Clinic – Mark Llanuza - Railfanning, Then and Now, Winter Railroading
 David Leider- Railroads of Eastern Europe
 David Crement - mini-clinic
 Contest– Finished model from "the kit"



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED