

Volume 36, No. 8

The Semaphore

APRIL 2010



High Wheeler 2010 Draws Record Attendance

This year's aggressive advertising and promotional efforts plus perfect weather rewarded the Fox Valley Division with unprecedented attendance at the 2010 train show. Over 3200 adults and 1200 children ages 5-12 enjoyed the layouts, models and exhibits on display and learned more about the hobby of model railroading. This year's attendance was over 25% greater than in any, prior year since the show was founded. Since children under age 5 were not counted in the numbers, we planted the train bug with even more future hobbyists. This year stronger efforts were made to truly promote the hobby as a family affair. These efforts paid off.

The show management team, under Walter Radtke's leadership, extends its thanks to all the volunteers and participants who helped with the advance and on-site execution of *High Wheeler 2010*. We could not have done it without your help! Now, let's take a quick breath and start planning next year's show. It is never too early to sign up to help. There's plenty to-do both before and during the show. We sure can use your assistance to make High Wheeler 2011 even better. Contact Walter at (847) 255-2977 or me at (815) 578-8315 to join the team. Remember, proceeds from the show are our major source of funding for the Division's activities. More importantly, High Wheeler is growing the hobby of model railroading in a big way by introducing trains and model railroading to kids and their parents. *Jim Osborn, FVD Public Relations Trainmaster.*

Inside This Issue

High Wheeler Breaks Records	1
Meetings & Events Schedule	2
Rich Sweet Retires from BOD	2
Thanks to our Volunteers!	3
Election candidate bios	3
FVD Board Contacts	3
About the FVD	4

Reminder! The April 18 General Meeting starts a 1:00 p.m.! Pizza will be served! FVD elections for Superintendent and Chief Clerk will be held at this meeting. Please wear a RR hat to the meeting in a show of support for our railroads!

2010 Fox Valley Division Meetings & Events

April 18, 2010 Annual Business Meeting 1:00—4:30 p.m. Gary Morava Center, Prospect Heights.

Elections—We elect a new Superintendent and Clerk this month

Clinic—Model Railroader Magazine's DCC Editor, Mike Palsgrove, on "DCC for Your Model Railroad"

Contest—Structures

May 16, 2010 General Meeting 1:30 —4:30 p.m. Gary Morava Center, Prospect Heights.

Clinic—TBA

Contest—Unit Train of 5-8 cars

May 16 is the last FVD meeting until September. Have a great summer, and see you in Milwaukee July 11—18 for the NMRA's National Convention!

July 11—18, 2010 NMRA's 75th Anniversary Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This promises to be one of the NMRA's finest conventions ever as we commemorate Association's founding in Milwaukee 75 year's ago. And, it's in our own back yard! The large National Train Show will also be held July 16-18 in Milwaukee.

Email Addresses & Emailed Semaphores

Membership Trainmaster, John Cloos remains hard at work compiling a list of FVD's members email addresses. If you haven't done so already, please send your email address to John at:

foxvalley2001@yahoo.com

Semaphore Editor, Walt Herrick reports that a more members are having their Semaphores "emailed only". He also would like to have more members on the Semaphore "email only" list. Email him at: wherricks@yahoo.com to join the Semaphore' "email only list". Remember, the FVD will NOT be sending you a bunch of junk emails—just good FVD stuff!

Elections, Pizza and a Great Clinic on tap for April's General Meeting

Elections for Superintendent and Chief Clerk will be the first order of business at our April 18 General Meeting at the Gary Morava Center in Prospect Heights. **NOTE THIS MEETING STARTS AT 1:00 P.M.** Look for candidate bios elsewhere in this newsletter. Pizza will be served at this meeting which will also feature a great clinic by Mike Palsgrove on "DCC for Your Railroad". Mike is the DCC Editor of Model Railroader Magazine and the author of a new Kalmbach book on DCC. Our contest this month is "structures". **Finally, please wear a RR hat to this meeting to show your solidarity and support for our railroads and railroading.**

Rich Sweet Retires

After 18 years of active and dedicated service on the FVD Board of Directors and NMRA, Rich Sweet is retiring. Rich announced his retirement at the March FVD Board meeting saying, "After 18 years it's time to step down and give others the opportunity to serve on the board." For the past nine years Rich has served in the FVD's highest post as its Superintendent. Prior to that he did stints as the division's Chief Clerk, Paymaster, Publications, and Ways and Means Trainmasters. As Ways and Means Trainmaster for four years, Rich headed up the High Wheeler Train show. Rich began attending FVD general monthly meetings in 1979 and was elected to the Board in 1992. "It doesn't seem that long ago to me that I started serving on the Board. I don't know what I'll do with all my free time!" How about starting that On30 pike you've been thinking about building, Rich? A grateful division wishes you all the best, and we look forward to seeing the new layout!

HO Collection for Sale

A modest HO scale collection is for sale as part of the disposal of an estate. Among the items in the collection are some vintage HO equipment. Anyone interested in this collection should call Tim Kleimeyer at 847-426-4732 for more info.

What are your top 5 model railroads?

This was a question posed by the Semaphore's Editor recently to the FVD's Yahoo Discussion Group. If you are part of the FVD Discussion Group and have not answered the question, we'd love to hear what yours are. Of course, there are no wrong or right, politically correct or incorrect answers here—just what are *your* favorites? If you are not part of our discussion group, we invite you join. Email the moderator at: foxvalley2001@yahoo.com. He looks forward to hearing from you, and the group looks forward to your vote!

Thanks Volunteers!

"We thank you all for everything you did this year. We can't do this show without you," said High Wheeler 2010 Show Director, Walter Radtke, at the March 21 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held at the Mill Rose Restaurant in South Barrington. Just prior to dining on delicious steaks or chicken, Walter gave an extemporaneous speech citing key workers in this year's show preparations and operations. He noted that after several years of decreasing attendance, the decision was made to "try something new" and asked FVD Public Relations Trainmaster, Jim Osborn to come up with a plan after the 2009 show. The rest, they say, is history as this year's show drew more people than ever before. For his efforts this year, Jim presented Walter with an oil can, symbolic of the many show calls Walter made to Jim while sitting on his favorite squeaky desk chair. In presenting the oil can to Walter, Jim said, "Thank you, Walter for everything you've done this year and for past years' High Wheelers. We can't do this show without you as well."

Candidate Bio: Walter Radtke for Superintendent

I have been in the railroad hobby for over 60 years starting with an O27 tin plate railroad in my mother's kitchen. In December of 1949 I acquired my first HO locomotive and went on to develop two empires by the time I graduated high school. After college I discovered railroad clubs. I became President of the Des Plaines Railroad Club and designed and helped build both of their club layouts, one of which was open for the 1976 NMRA Convention. I also took leadership in the creation of the Lions Den Railroad Club and served as their President and later Treasurer as well as designing and building both of their layouts. I performed a similar role with the Northbrook Railroad Group. Fifty years ago I joined the NMRA and became a member of the FVD. I've served as the division's Treasurer and two terms as Ways and Means Trainmaster drawing floor plans for High Wheeler for the past ten years and Show Manager for the past five years. I look forward to continuing my service to the Fox Valley Division as its Superintendent.

Candidate Bio: Leif Hansen for Chief Clerk

I have been a member of the NMRA since 1985 and would like to continue contributing my services to the Fox Valley Division to keep it running in an efficient and productive manner. I have a lot of computer experience and know how to type which are two key qualifications for the Chief Clerk's position. I have also served in this capacity for the past four years and have enjoyed the work which are also key qualifications to holding this position. I am now retired from my work with the school district and will continue to be able to commit the time to attend the various meetings and functions as required. I look forward to another term as Chief Clerk of the Fox Valley Division of the NMRA and would appreciate your vote on April 18th.

Walter Zenke

Long time FVD member Walter Zenke passed on in March. Among other things, Walter was responsible for creating the semaphore logo you see on page one of the FVD newsletter each month. Our sincere condolences go to Walter's family.

NMRA Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

Superintendent, RICH SWEET	Superintendent@Foxvalleydivision.org	847-550-1399
Assistant Superintendent, HARRY SORENSON	hrsconsult@juno.com	847-669-8936
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Membership Trainmaster, JOHN CLOOS, JR.	foxvalley2001@yahoo.com	847-366-4898
Ways and Means Trainmaster, WALTER RADTKE	wagx2@email.com	847-255-2977
Public Relations Trainmaster, JIM OSBORN	josborn@comcast.net	815-578-8315
Publications Trainmaster, WALT HERRICK	wherricks@yahoo.com	815-459-1334



Fox Valley Division

Midwest Region - NMRA

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About the Fox Valley Division

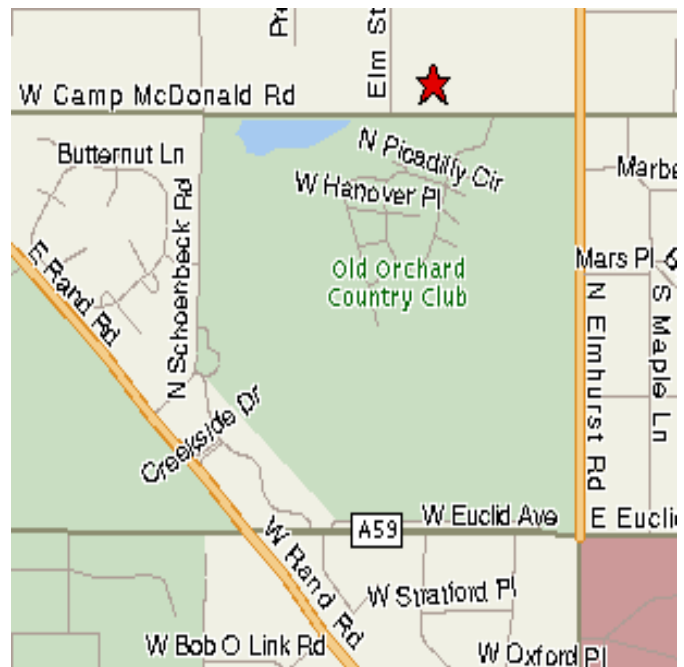
If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region and Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association or NMRA. The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes McHenry and parts of Cook, Kane, and Lake Counties in northeast Illinois. About 150 members of varied ages and modeling ability levels belong to the FVD. Almost all modeling scales are represented in our division. Membership in the division is free as are the Semaphore newsletters.

FVD general meetings are held September through May at the Gary Morava Center in Prospect Heights from 1:30 to about 4:30 pm. Each meeting features a clinic, model contest, information of interest to the membership, and a time for socializing. Outings, layout tours, and operating sessions are also held periodically in addition to, or instead of, the general meetings. To promote the hobby of model railroading, the FVD sponsors and runs a large train show, High Wheeler, in early March each year at Harper College in Palatine, Illinois.

We encourage you to take advantage of all the FVD has to offer. We are here to help answer your questions, help improve your modeling, and help you better enjoy the great hobby of model railroading. Join us at a FVD meeting or outing. We'd love to see you. Or, visit us on the web at: www.foxvalleydivision.org.

Questions?

Contact FVD Superintendent, Rich Sweet or any board member listed on page 3 of this newsletter. We are here to help you!



General Meeting Location: Gary Morava Center, 110 Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL

General Meeting Time: 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. See page 2 for the dates and exact times of this year's meetings.