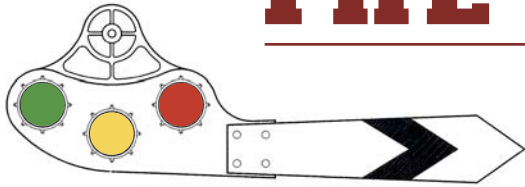


# THE SEMAPHORE

November 2011

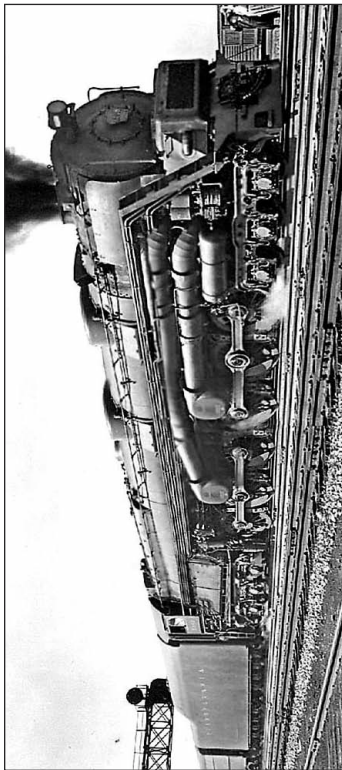
FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



## Inside This Issue

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## FUN STUFF



What if the Pennsy Steam Turbine had been a success? We might have had steam turbine super power.

## National News

The following communication was received from Gerry Leone, head of Communications for the NMRA. I am passing it along without comment:

In order to ensure the financial well-being of the NMRA into the future, there will be a **dues increase on January 1, 2012**. Regular memberships will increase by \$5 to \$44, and subscriptions to NMRA Magazine will increase by \$3 to \$22. Sustaining memberships (including the magazine) will increase by \$13 to \$110, and student memberships (including the magazine) will increase by \$4 to \$32. In addition, our highly successful RailPass trial membership program will continue at \$9.95. The current RailPass conversion rate to regular memberships is around 65%.

Di Voss, who's heading up the Cruise Convention committee, continues to receive **results from the survey published in the October issue of NMRA Magazine**. To date he's received around 200 responses, and estimates those "in favor" to be about 75%. In addition, Di would like to remind those who think there won't be enough time on a Cruise Convention for layout tours, OPSIG meets or other activities, that the ship will be in port from about 8:00 a.m. until about 10:00 p.m.

For some reason, the story that the NMRA membership has been declining over the past few years continues to persist. IT AIN'T TRUE. **NMRA membership is holding steady** at around 19,500. According to the latest "Membership Thermometer" figures compiled by Marketing, Advertising and Promotions manager Tom Draper, the NMRA lost 104 members between August 2009 and August 2011, but gained 91 members between August 2006 and August 2011. Please help us set the record straight by mentioning this to your membership!

Convention news: Even though Grand Rails 2012 will have dozens of top notch model railroads open for self-guided tours, the convention committee wanted to make sure everyone has a chance to see some of their great layouts. So there will also be **several bus tours to some of the area's best layouts**. Layouts include every scale from Z to G, and every level of completion. They're also offering a very special, exclusive seven-hour limo layout tour for groups of 6 to any of the six layouts on the self-guided list. The price for the limo is only \$120 per person. Get all the details and registration info at [www.gr2012.org](http://www.gr2012.org).

## November Meeting

The November meeting will be held at the regular place, the Gary Morava center at 1:30. Bruce Moffat will give a presentation on long-lost railroad lines. Bruce is an excellent author and wrote a book about the Chicago freight tunnel system, Forty Feet Below. If you have any of his books, bring them along for an autograph. In addition to Bruce, I will give a short presentation on how to get the Author's AP certificate.

The contest is Industrial roofs. Only the roof will be judged - no building. You may bring the whole building if the roof is permanently attached but you must cover the sides of the building so only the roof can be viewed.

## Director at Large

Hello All,

I am Ingrid Drozdak and will be running for DAL for a second term. The first term has been fun.

You may or may not know that I am a dental assistant by profession, so the gift of gab helps a lot. I find out that there are a lot of closet modelers out there that I have become acquainted with. Some adult, but mostly children. We always exchange stories and show off our stuff.

Whenever there are shows in the area, I will let them know. If anyone needs help, I will do my best with what they need. That is what I will do for you. My Best! It does not matter whether you are young, old, male or female, it is promoting the hobby.

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Look for all FVD Board members contact information  
on line at the division's website  
[www.foxvalleydivision.org](http://www.foxvalleydivision.org)

## FVD Visits IRM

Under threatening skies I, along with Ron Fedor, set out for the Fox Valley Division's day out at the Illinois Railroad Museum. We arrived a little before the 10:30 opening, but already about 20 people were milling about.

Treasurer Tim and I purchased the tickets and we entered the gate. By this time our group had swelled to about 30. Once inside we were met by Nick Kallas, an old friend of mine and executive director of the museum. We were in luck. If anyone knows the inner workings of the museum, it is Nick.

He started out by giving us a short history of the museum and its goals. As we passed by the depot, he explained that it was built in two sections. The first was built in 1851! The builder was the Galena & Chicago Union railroad, which started on their way to Galena from Chicago in 1848. It took 3 years to get from the north branch of the Chicago River to Huntley, but once there it was a tremendous boom to the town and in 1872, the depot was enlarged with a freight room. The museum has painted it in its original colors, drab with mustard trim.

Our next stop was in the car barn where we were able to inspect the private car of Henry Bradley Plant. He was a wealthy railroader who

purchased many railroads after the Civil war and built up the Atlantic Coast Line system. His car was exquisite, with all hand carved woodwork, a testament to the German artisans of the time. It had several bedrooms, not bunks and would have been great to travel around in. It was steel sheathed after the city of New York ordained that no wooden passenger cars were allowed into the depot after a disastrous fire.



The dining section of the H.B. Plant car "Ely."



Next we went through a Santa Fe lounge/sleeper and several other cars.



Nick Kallas giving a short history of the depot.

By this time the skies had cleared, revealing a picture perfect day, with temperatures in the 60's exactly what would be expected in mid-October.

Many thought that the highlight of the day was the tour through the woodworking shop. Nick explained the various machines, many obtained from the Milwaukee Electric Railway, were at least 100 years old. Glad to see that they are still being used and dedicated to restoring the equipment at the museum.



An older overhead belt driven shaper converted to electric drive and mounted on a portable platform.

After that we walked to the steam shop and had a look inside. There we saw several steam locomotives in various states of repair, but unfortunately, none looked as though they will be under steam soon.

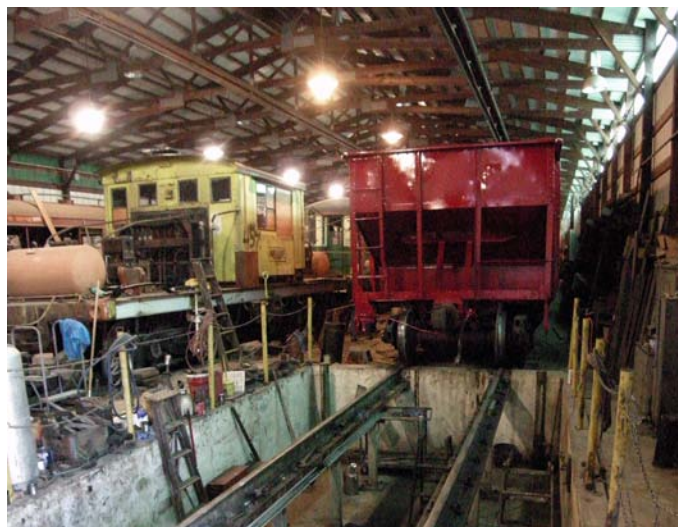
Nick explained the rigorous testing demanded by the government before a steam locomotive can be operated. Once again, the shop was filled with tools, but many were from machine shops rather than a particular railroad.



Nick Kallas describing the steam shop operations. The museum's Pacific coast three truck Pacific Coast Shay #5 is in the background.



A three drum panel sander designed to finish sand doors and windows in one pass.



The work pit in the car barn.

After that we broke for a tasty lunch at the diner, as meal tickets were included in the outing.

After lunch I explored the grounds, having several specific tasks in mind: photograph the Borden's milk car, a Pfaudler tank car and find a caboose with K-brakes. All were needed for projects I am working on. My mission accomplished, I met up with members of the group for a ride on a former North Shore car. As we disembarked, the loudspeaker announced that the last run of the day would be leaving in 10 minutes. I found Ron who was enjoying a pipeful of his favorite tobacco and we set off for home after a beautiful day,

I would like to thank Nick and everyone at the museum who went out of their way to give us not only a good time, but also a very informative one

David Leider  
Photos by Jim Allen



The beautifully restored (inside & out) North Shore #749 coach. The ride was as good as the car looked.



Two of our members discovered a B&O Wagon Top box car under restoration.

## 2011-2012 Calendar

Future issues of the Semaphore will be on the internet at [foxvalleydivision.org](http://foxvalleydivision.org). If you do not have access to a computer, you can purchase a subscription for only \$8.00 a year. Contact Jim Allen for details at [jallenad60@comcast.net](mailto:jallenad60@comcast.net)

Date	Time	Clinic	AP Clinic	Contest
Nov.20	1:30	A Railroad Runs Through It by Bruce Moffat	Author by David Leider	Detailed Industrial Roof only
Dec. 18	1:00	Slides of Severe Weather by Mark Llaunaza	Scenery by David Leider	Build anything, any scale from wooden coffee stirrers
Jan. 15	1:30	Proper Car Placement by Fred Henize	Structures by Dave Crement	Detailed structure interior
Feb. 19	1:30	Prototype turnout replacement by Ed Ooms	Motive Power	On line structure
March 3&4		High Wheeler No members meeting		No Contest
Apr. 15	1:00	Zephyr Route tours by Mike Abernethy	Cars	Vehicles
May 20	1:30	Weathering using chalks and other mediums by Paul Gehrett	Prototype Models	Best of the Best for the year 1st, 2nd, 3rd and place winners

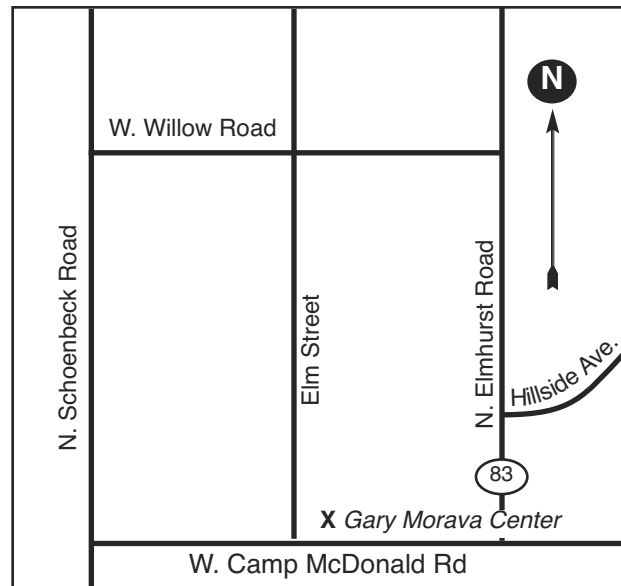
## About the Fox Valley Division

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](http://www.foxvalleydivision.org).

**Questions? Contact FVD Superintendent, Walter Radtke or any board member listed on page six of this newsletter. We are here to help you!**



## Next Meeting

The Fox Valley Division will hold their **November meeting on the 20th, 2011** --  
Note: 1:30 pm start time to 4:30 pm, at the Gary Morava Center, 110 W. Camp MacDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL



**Fox Valley Division**  
**Midwest Region-NMRA**  
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