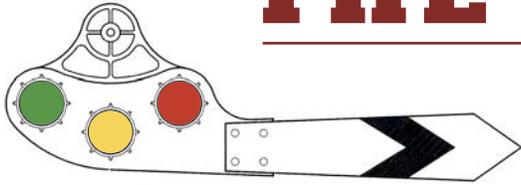


THE SEMAPHORE

February 2012

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION

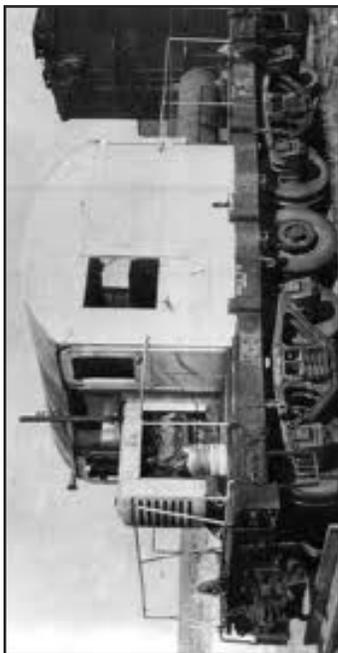


Greetings from the Semaphore's New Editor

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- NMRA National News
- January meeting
- Contest Winners
- February meeting
- Calendar
- Hi Wheeler Time
- World's Greatest Hobby Show
- Mega HO Modular Layout

FUN STUFF



Loco on freight car trucks. Power transmitted to truck tires in contact with rail.

Hi, I'm Walt Herrick. This month I take over the reins of Semaphore Editor from David Leider. I was the Semaphore's Editor in 2009-2010, but work commitments forced me to resign in June 2010. I, and I'm sure the entire FVD, thank Art Patton and David for stepping in to edit the Semaphore for the past eighteen months. Work commitments for me now have lessened. In fact, I'll be retiring from the Crystal Lake Park District's Racket Club indoor /outdoor tennis facility in June after 30 years. So it's time to get back to editing the Semaphore which I love to do.

A little bit about me: I live in Del Webb Huntley with my wonderful wife Laurie and "visiting" grown up son David. I belong to the KV&EC Railroad Club here in Del Webb. I love Appalachian coal railroading and I'll model the Western Maryland Railway in HO scale once my basement ever gets finished. Below are my thoughts on how the Semaphore gets produced every month, and what kind of things I'd like to see in the Semaphore. But, remember, the Semaphore is really your newsletter and I want to feature what you want to read. So, let me know what works for you and what doesn't. Thanks!

Semaphore Nuts and Bolts

Newspaper writers are taught to get the "how, what, when, where, and why" of each story they write. Here's how that applies to the Semaphore:

How: The editor, Walt, works with Jim

and Ann Allen in putting out each issue of the Semaphore. Walt does almost all of the writing and editing; Ann does all of the layout work, with assistance from Jim. Jim Osborn places it on the website. Jim Allen mails the printed copies.

What: I am interested in just about all things railroad and model railroad. I am also interested in most everything Fox Valley Division members have done or are doing. If you have an article or idea for an article, please send it to me. Don't worry about writing perfect prose, just send it. I'll take care of the rest...really!

When: To have everything ready to mail early in the month, all the written material needs to be sent to Jim by the 15th of every month. That means Walt needs to have written materials or photos by the 10th of each month. Send your materials to wherricks@yahoo.com.

Where: My bias is the Fox Valley Division. Of course, you will also see things in the Semaphore that aren't local such as things from NMRA national or regions, national hobby news, etc., but I'd like to keep most of the Semaphore's material from the FVD or Chicago area possible.

Why: Why do we put out the Semaphore each month? Several reasons: 1) to keep you informed, 2) to hopefully inspire you with good stories and good modeling, and 3) to help you enjoy model railroading more!

continued on page 4

NMRA National News

It's a new year and a new InfoNet News eblast!

The Kalmbach Library's immensely popular "The Postwar Freight Car Fleet" book has sold out.

The Grand Rails 2012 Convention still has some space left for modular layouts at the National Train Show so if someone in your Division or Region wants to show the world what they've done, go to www.gr2012.org and click on the "Contact us" page. Have them tell the committee what they've done and the committee will get things rolling.

More Grand Rails 2012 news: The convention has some great things planned for non-rails. There's a cooking demo that will make attendees think they're watching a stand-up comedian do a cooking show and great entertainment at the luncheon in one of the most beautiful ballrooms in the country. There's also a ride on a dune schooner to see the 1100 acre Saugatuck Dunes! Have non-rails go to www.gr2012.org for all the details.

And some of last month's important news bears repeating:

This year registration for Grand Rails 2012 will be handled in a new way. Instead of the large registration package inserted into NMRA Magazine, the full package can be downloaded from www.gr2012.org <<http://www.gr2012.org>>. Those who prefer a printed piece can send their request, along with their name and address to: GR 2012 Registrar, 4165 Costa NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525. There will also be a registration form and ad appearing in an upcoming issue of NMRA Magazine.

NMRA elections. The official ballot was prepared by the National Nominating Committee according to the procedures laid out in the Regulations and the Executive Handbook (available at www.nmra.org). It will appear as an insert in the center of the February issue of

NMRA Magazine, which will be mailed to all voting members. Ballots must be returned to NMRA headquarters, "Attention Ballot Committee," and must be postmarked by April 10, 2012 and received by April 15, 2012.

Here are the job titles and candidates as they appear on the ballot:

President:
Charles W. Getz, IV, HLM

Vice President - Administration:
Howard Goodwin
Clark Kooning, MMR
Dave Thornton

Vice President - Special Projects:
Bill Kaufman
James "Lump" Lupfer

At-Large North American Director
Mike Brestel
Miles Hale, MMR

Eastern District Director
John Roberts, MMR, HLM

Pacific District Director
Mike Bartlett
Kelly Loyd
Rob Peterson

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org <<http://www.nmra.org>> or in NMRA Magazine.

And if you're changing email addresses, please let me know at this email address: NMRA-infonet@earthlink.net <<mailto:NMRA-infonet@earthlink.net>>

-Gerry Leone, MMR
NMRA Communications Director

Greetings from the Semaphore's New Editor *continued*

Semaphore Columns

Starting next month you'll be seeing several new columns in the Semaphore. We can't promise they will appear every month, but we'll do our best. Look for "Member News" (short news bits on what members are doing or have done recently), Hobby Happenings (short news bits of national and regional NMRA and model railroading hobby news), Member Milestones (notable achievements

by members such as AP Awards won, laying a golden spike, starting a new layout, etc.), Train Tips (short "how to" items from experienced modelers in the FVD), and Member Spotlight (a short article on a FVD member). If you have anything you think would fit into one of these columns, please send it to Walt Herrick at wherricks@yahoo.com. Thank you!

January Monthly Meeting

The Fox Valley Division kicked off the new year with a great, well attended January monthly meeting. Two excellent clinics were given. Professional railroader Fred Henize's clinic on "Proper Car Placement in Trains" focused on how railroads safely place cars into trains. Cars with hazardous loads, oversized loads, potentially shifting loads (pipe, logs, pulp wood, etc.) or atypical dimensions such as small "beer bottle" tank cars must be properly placed in trains by yard crews to prevent derailments and loss of life, limb, and property. Find out how Fred has boiled down more than 800 pages of prototype rules and regulations from a half dozen rule books the prototype uses into a usable form for model railroads by checking out his Proper Car Placement clinic notes on our FVD web site. Fred is a member of the Du Page Division and is an active n-scale modeler and operator.

MMR, Dave Crement, showed us how to achieve an AP Award in Structures by explaining how he did it modeling East Broad Top prototype structures for his On30 EBT model railroad. Twelve structures must be modeled. Six structures must be scratch built. One of the structures must be a bridge. All structures have to meet Merit Standards. But as Dave said, you don't have to scratch build super difficult, super complicated buildings. Boy Scouts working on merit badges built several company houses which matched Dave's original model. Go to the

AP Program section on the NMRA national web site to see what the exact requirements are, and then have at it! You may be surprised to find you have already built several structures which qualify.

Jim Osborne's photos of the January contest entries show just how well done our FVD modeler's did with "Detailed Structure Interiors". Frank Cole's 3rd place entry was a simple Walthers HO scale laser-cut barn kit who's interior was expertly and realistically detailed. Lief Hansen went an extra mile with his second place HO scale black smith shop. Not only was the shop finely detailed, it featured a "burning" hearth and realistic sound. MMR, David Crement's beautifully done O scale general store took first place. David took full advantage of his larger scale to include numerous authentic



Tunnel portal structure on Dave's EBT model railroad.

January meeting *continued*

details in the model. See these and all the entries to January's contest on the FVD web site. Really nice job, everyone!

Finally, the biggest round of applause of the afternoon came when members were asked how they liked the meeting's cookies, cupcakes and brownies made by Eddy Shlemon and Ingrid Drozdak. Ingrid often provides us with home made cookies. Eddy was recruited by Assistant Super, Jeff Jarr, to provide additional treats for the

January meeting. Eddy didn't just go to Jewel and buy some Hostess cupcakes. He baked everything he brought in himself! His food was a wonderful and ample compliment to the home baked cookies made by Ingrid. More than one member at this meeting was seen loosening his belt a notch or two! FYI, Eddy is the son of FVD member Bob Shlemon. We gotta recruit this guy to be a FVD member whether he likes trains or not!

continued on page 5

January 2012 Model Contest Winners

Category: Detailed Interiors

Thanks to all participants.
We had 5 great contest entries.

Everybody is a winner!!

Photos by Jim Osborn



1st Place, Dave Crement's, O Scale Diner



2nd Place, Leif Hansen's, HO Blacksmith Shop



3rd Place, Frank Cole's, HO Scale Barn

January meeting *continued*



Photo by Jim Osborn

Prototype Trainmaster **Fred Henize** shared his knowledge of proper car placement in trains and how we might use that as part of our model operating systems.

Go the NMRA website to get a copy of Fred's Clinic Notes. Dave Crement also presented information on how to qualify for the Structures AP Award.

February Monthly Meeting

February will be another great FVD meeting however, there will be a change in the clinic schedule. Ed Ooms has been transferred to Iowa and thus will be unable to present his slide show on "Prototype Turnout Replacement". Our "Super Sub", David Leider, is stepping in with a great clinic on "Chicago-land Milk Traffic". It will trace the beginnings of shipping milk by rail in and around Chicago and go to its end in 1928. Our AP clinic will be on "Motive Power" presented by MMR, Dave Crement. Our contest is "On line Structures". Delicious home baked goodies will again be provided. We look forward to seeing you in Prospect Heights at 1:30 p.m. on February 19th!

2012 Calendar

Future issues of the Semaphore will be on the internet at 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

Date	Time	Clinic	AP Clinic	Contest
Feb. 19	1:30	Dave Leider clinic on Milk Traffic in Chicago	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

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Look for all FVD Board members contact information
on line at the division's website
www.foxvalleydivision.org

It's High Wheeler Time!

There is still time to sign up as a volunteer to work this year's High Wheeler Train Show March 3rd and 4th at Harper College in Palatine. Working just one shift gets you into the Volunteers Appreciation Dinner a few weeks after the show. Working two shifts gets your wife or significant other in, too! Working High Wheeler is fun and worthwhile. High Wheeler is one of the big ways we can bring

the next generation of train enthusiasts and modelers into our great hobby. More information on this year's High Wheeler follows later in this newsletter. Won't you please consider adding your name to our list of volunteers? To sign up call FVD Superintendent, Walter Radke, at 847-255-2977, or, email him at wagx2@email.com.



Fun With Trains for all Ages

March 3 & 4, 2012



Model Train Show
High Wheeler 2012
Harper College,
Palatine, IL

Model Train Layouts Galore!
Bring the whole family
Register for a Kids Free Pass



The hobby of model railroading can be a great way for families to build their imaginations together. Your family will thank you and you just might walk away with some ideas to get started in the hobby.

Operating train layouts • Vendors • Kids Crafts
Free Parking • Food • Handicap accessible

Go to www.highwheelertrainshow.com/

For ticket prices and a valuable coupon. A map and directions to the Train Show.

Get a Kids Free coupon. See a gallery of pictures of past train shows.

Learn about the Fox Valley division of the NMRA.

Contacts for additional information about the show.

WORLD'S GREATEST HOBBY SHOW REPORT

By: Mike Hirvela Fox Valley Division (FVD)
Membership Promotion Trainmaster

The 2012 edition of the World's Greatest Hobby Show made a station stop in Schaumburg, Illinois on January 14th and 15th at the Convention Center at Meacham Road and I-90. FVD members were present supporting the show in various ways and promoting our favorite hobby. Ignoring the weather in the Chicago area in January, over 30,000 enthusiastic youngsters of all ages attended the WGH show. Many multi-generational family groups were noted attending the show, participating in the activities and marveling at the artistry, creativity and craftsmanship that is model railroading.

The Convention Center hosted 97,200 sq. ft. of Trains, trains, trains. There were manufacturer displays from the big names in the hobby, including Lionel, Bachmann, MTH, Atlas, Athearn and Walthers. Show participants included over 100 vendors, several railroad historical societies and 19 portable railroads of various scales and gauges. One very large HO scale modular railroad was made from parts of four local modular clubs. FVD's own Assistant Superintendent Jeff Jarr and member Gordon Johnson had modules in the layout. Jeff said this railroad was the culmination of a four month coordination effort among the group's members. Also on the floor were the famous 3-rail O gauge Train Races Track from the Chicago-area Train Collectors Association, large 3-rail O gauge layouts, "S" Gauge railroads and "N" gauge



Jim Osborn and Mike Hirvela at our FVD membership booth with Jim Allen's Action/Reaction railroad. *Photo by Dave Leider*

railroads. There were two large Garden railroads – one including modules by Midwest Region Secretary and FVD member Bert Lattan; two European –themed layouts with overhead wire(!), the SS Badger carferry display and a Thomas-the-Tank-Engine ride-on train. There was a L O N G line of highly excited potential passengers winding around the building interior impatiently waiting for a ride on Annie and Clarabelle! There was also a busy and heart-warming children's area with lots of plastic Brio track pieces and rolling stock so the children could create their own miniature railroad world. I don't know who had more fun – the youngsters or their parents or grandparents.

Jim Allen and I set-up the FVD display on Friday. Through cooperative efforts, we "borrowed" a trade-show display from the WISE Division onto which we posted the FVD and NMRA logos and



Junior Engineers "Whose got the track plan?"
Photo by Jim Osborn



One of Bert Lattan's G Scale friends advertising our upcoming show. *Photo by Jim Osborn*

some photos of FVD member railroads and some colorful reproduction RR safety posters. Our display also included the FVD information board we use at the DuPage Swap Meet for member solicitation, and lots and lots of High Wheeler Show flyers. We also had Jim's famous Action-Reaction Railroad running steadily and flawlessly for over 15 hours – a testament to his design and craftsmanship. So much so, that we had inquiries as to where folks could buy one like it!

Jim Osborn, FVD Public Relations Trainmaster, and I manned the booth on Saturday and passed out sheaves of High Wheeler Show flyers to a goodly number of the 16,500+ show attendees. On Sunday, Gary Children, former Midwest Region President and a WISE Division member,

helped man the booth. We issued lots more High Wheeler Show flyers to an estimated Sunday crowd of over 15,000. We started to worry that we'd run out of High Wheeler flyers until Jim Osborn showed up with more flyers on his way to the FVD member meeting. Jim said he encountered a parking nightmare outside the convention center due to the size of the crowd waiting to get into the show. He had to park so far away from the convention center he took a taxi back to his car in order to make the FVD member meeting on time!

All-in-all, FVD members were evident on the show floor and contributed to the success of the show. Here's looking forward to a great High Wheeler Show in March.

Mega HO Modular Layout by Jeff Jarr

This January the World Greatest Hobby Show came to town at the Schaumburg Convention Center. If you attended you may have seen the HO scale mega modular layout on display. The huge layout was a collaborative effort between four local modular groups. Members from the Northwest Trainmasters, Will County Model Railroad Association, Bolingbrook Model Railroad Club, and the North Shore & Western Modular Club participated to arrange and assemble the 100 x 40 foot monster with over five scale miles of track. The layout included many modules from each club and featured two major staging yards, double and single track mainline running, two branchlines, and numerous industries to support operations. The idea for the mega layout was first conceived at Trainfest just last November. With only a few months to prepare before the WGH show, all four groups took up the challenge of making the dream layout a reality. Weeks of planning, coordination, and a lot of work making all the required electrical adaptations and physical transitions went into executing this huge effort. Over thirty individuals from the four groups came together, pooled their resources and made it all happen. The layout was a blast to run on and it looked fantastic. Many new friendships were made and everyone involved had a great time. I personally enjoyed talking with and answering questions



from all the people who attended the show. The sheer size of the layout drew a lot of attention and was a great opportunity to introduce others to what the hobby has to offer. Most importantly, it was a lot of fun. The WGH show demonstrated what can be accomplished when cooperation, teamwork and a group of motivated model railroaders with a common goal to make something incredible all come together. You can look for more cooperative efforts from these clubs in the future. I believe the spirit of model railroading is alive and well.

Jeff Jarr

NS&W Modular Club Coordinator

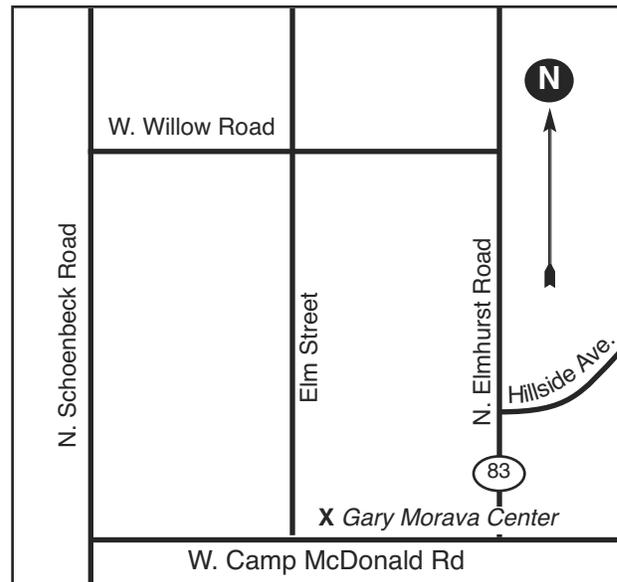
About the Fox Valley Division

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, Walter Radtke or any board member listed on page two of this newsletter. We are here to help you!



Next Meeting

The Fox Valley Division will hold their **February meeting on the 19th, 2012** -- 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
P.O. Box 1535
Arlington Heights, IL 60005-1535