

# THE SEMAPHORE

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



Welcome to Modeling  
Year 2013 -2014!

## The FVD Visits Rochelle

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Page 1 Rochelle Outing  
2, 3
- Page 1 Fun Stuff
- Page 3 Mike's Minute
- Pages 4 Layout of the  
5, 6 Month
- Pages 7 Member Summer  
& 8 Doings
- Page 9 May Contest
- Page 9 News
- Page 9 Thank you Allens
- Page 10 Meeting Schedule
- Page 11 Board Contact  
Information
- Page 12 About the FVD

#### Semaphore Editor:

Walt Herrick, Jr.  
waltherrickjr@gmail.com  
815-355-2003

The Fox Valley Division kicked off the new modeling year with a great outing to Rochelle, Illinois' Railroad Park on Saturday, August 24th. More than 25 FVD members journeyed from as far away as Waukegan (!) to watch and photograph trains, partake of the good food and drink provided by the division, and socialize with old and new friends. Big "Thank yous!" go to Superintendent, Jeff Jarr, for organizing the event, and Assistant Super Bob Shlemon, Jr. and Eddy Shlemon for cooking the delicious burgers, dogs, and brats, as well as providing all the drinks, cookies and extras to go with them.



Picture perfect photo conditions prevailed at the FVD's recent Rochelle R.R. Park outing. Rochelle photos by Walt Herrick.

Mother Nature contributed some excellent sunny weather, and the UP and BNSF chipped in with great trains to watch and photograph. It was a fun time as the photos on the next few pages will testify. WH

## Fun Stuff

Let's start out the new modeling year with some "fun" train names for this edition of "Fun Stuff". How about these from TrainOrders.com: The Milwaukee Road's "**Stone Train**" ran as a turn between Davenport and Washington, Iowa and turned at a quarry....the "**Rock Job**" starts in Granite Rock, Texas and goes to San Jose and other places....CSX's "**Kenova Dog**" ran out of Kenova, West Virginia....BNSF's "**Spud Cutter**" runs from Wanatchee to Quincy and serves—you guessed it, a potato warehouse or two....the NYC ran the "**Beaner**" between Weehawken and Selkirk....BNSF's "**BarGal**" runs between Barstow and Galveston....a local freight ran out of Oakland was called the "**Jack Rabbit**" because of the many jack rabbits it sent running along its route....The UP runs the "**Jelly Fish**" in near by West Chicago which serves the Jel-Serts (Wylers' drink mixes, Flav-r-ice, Popsicles, etc.) plant in that city....The "**Rocket**" works out of Jacksonville and is so named not because it is fast, but just the opposite—it's really slow....the same can be said for the "**Blitz Local**" working between Mojave and Palmdale....and last, but not least, the Rock Island ran a nightly freight between Silvis and Peoria called the "**Pi-- Cutter**" which was the worst job on the division for a brakeman. WH

## FVD Rochelle Outing con't.



FVD members and their guests start to gather in the Rochelle Railroad Park pavilion for a day of train watching, good food and camaraderie.



It's lunch time as people mingle around the food tables provided by the FVD. Division Super, Jeff Jarr, came prepared for the bright sun with a big, colorful umbrella which he is sharing here with his son John.



Bob Jr. and Eddy Shlemon, Jr. made sure no one went away hungry from the FVD's Rochelle Outing. The father-son team served up hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, and brats with all the trimmings, as well as chips, potato salad, drinks, and Eddy's delicious home made cookies.



Train time! Photographers fire away at a hot east bound Union Pacific container train crossing Rochelle's famed double diamonds.

## FVD Rochelle Outing con't.



“Better get it before it’s gone!” said MMR and Midwest *Waybill* Editor, David Leider, just before he snapped a shot of this endangered BNSF signal.



Rochelle Railroad Park’s small gazebo turned out to be a perfect spot for an old fashioned bull session or two.

## Mike’s Minute by Mike Hirvela

### Summer Research With Unexpected Results

I wait for summer so I can sit outside on my bench swing and enjoy the sunshine. I usually take a magazine or a book with me so I can feel somewhat productive while really doing nothing. One day this summer, I was on my bench swing with a new acquisition, “Windy City Steam” from Merrill Publishing Associates. This picture book, 12th in a series, has photos from the Roy Campbell Collection of photos of railroads serving Chicago. I love these old photos because there is so much to see in them besides just the trains. To assist me in viewing the details in the photos, I use a 3.5 inch magnifying glass. While looking at a photo without my magnifying glass, I felt a stinging sensation on my left arm. “Darn biting flies,” I thought. Swatting at the unseen foes, I thought I had chased them off. But then, “Ouch!” another sting! “Darn, they are bad today,” I thought for the second time, before doing some more swatting. “If this keeps up, I’ll have to retreat into the house which is *not* what I wanted to do today because I wanted to enjoy the sun shine.” I kept reading, and then, “Darn! another sting!” But, when I looked for my attacker, he was no where to be seen or even heard. So I went on reading. A little while later I noticed a small whiff of smoke and a small dot on one of the pages of my new book.

Then it dawned on me. The magnifying glass I had set aside, was concentrating the sun’s rays on me and my book at just the right distance. It burned my book! And, also caused the “stings” on my arm! The moral of this story? When using a magnifying glass on a sunny day, be prepared to relocate yourself or your magnifying glass to eliminate the chance of “smoking” yourself or your new prized railroad book. Hope you had a productive (and not an almost *destructive!*) summer like me!

## Layout of the Month: KV&EC's G Gauge Layout

Thanks in large part to the Fox Valley Division's, Harry Sorenson, the KV&EC Model Railroad Club in Sun City Huntley has one of the largest, most complete, club garden railroads in the mid-west. Harry, who lives in Sun City and belongs to its KV&EC club, procured funding to purchase much of the layout's track, power and control systems, and superintended the planning and building of most of the extensive railroad that exists today. Currently the Kishwaukee Valley and Eakin Creek's G gauge layout (the club also has indoor N, HO, and hi-rail O layouts) has 1,800 feet of track stretching across 30 x 225 feet of the beautiful back yard of the Millgrove Barn facility on Sun City Boulevard. 90% of the track work and 50% of the scenery and structures are complete estimates layout Superintendent, Bob Webb. KV&EC layout builders give a lot of credit for the scenery to Sun City's Sunflower Garden Club who each year devote many hours to building and maintaining the live landscape. But the brunt of the layout building has been done by the KV&EC G Gauge crew spanning just over six years. They've created one big, beautiful layout in a relatively short time. We are pleased to share it with you in this month's Semaphore. WH



A pair of Southern Pacific FA's cross a tall stone arch bridge, while a 2-4-4 Forney steams across the G gauge Kishwaukee Valley and Eakin Creek's long deck and girder bridge. This large garden model railroad is located in Sun City-Huntley and is among the KV&EC Model Railroad Club's four layouts. The club's N, HO, and hi-rail O layouts are located indoors. The KV&EC may be the only club in the U.S. having four separate layouts in four different gauges according to club president, Don Espeseth. KV&EC photos by Walt Herrick.

## KV&EC Layout of the Month con't.



Forney #12 holds on the KV&EC G gauge's West End siding while a freight led by a yellow and blue Alaska Railroad GP40 hustles by. A trolley makes its way up the elevated track in the background, while to the far left is the locomotive servicing facility.



This lumber camp scene sits in the far east loop of the KV&EC's garden railroad some 220 feet from the west end of the layout. Unique use of large slices of tree bark hide the equally unique PVC and plastic sub road-bed below.



The SP FA's are just nosing their way into the triple span girder bridges which cross low ground. This photo shows only part of the 170 foot scratch built wooden trestle which graces the back side of the layout.



Forney #12 heads up a coal train today that is passing through town just as a trolley makes a station stop.



An EMD switcher with a local freight in tow, slowly rolls by the largest of the three town sites on the layout.

## KV&EC Layout of the Month con't



G gauger, and club vice president, Dick Rasmussen, is at the layout's portable control consol. The entire consol is on wheels and rolled out to the layout for operations.



#12 leads its passenger consist over the high deck bridge near the west end of the KV&EC club's G gauge layout.

### Basic Layout Information

<b>Layout Name:</b>	Kishwaukee Valley & Eakin Creek Model Railroad Club G Gauge Layout
<b>Layout Owner:</b>	KV&EC Model Railroad Club in Sun City Huntley, Illinois
<b>Layout Builder:</b>	KV&EC G Gauge club members and the Sunflower Garden Club
<b>Layout Location:</b>	Outdoors behind the Millgrove Barn Woodshop on Sun City Boulevard
<b>Layout Scale:</b>	G scale
<b>Layout Size:</b>	30 x 225 feet
<b>Layout Theme:</b>	Large Garden Railroad
<b>Construction started:</b>	July 2006
<b>Track Base:</b>	Solid level ground; and, to deal with changes in ground elevation, PVC pipe is driven 6 to 18 inches into the ground and spaced 18 to 24 inches apart. The pipe is cut to correct height and a composite plastic rail "ribbon" track base is built between the PVC pipes.
<b>Track/turnouts:</b>	Commercial G gauge track and turnouts, mostly from Aristo-craft
<b>Layout Design:</b>	Three long continuous loops; one branch line route; one logging loop; one long point-to-point trolley line
<b>Control:</b>	DC with basic block wiring operated from a large portable control consol
<b>Scenery:</b>	Natural grass, shrubs, trees; Sunflower Garden Club plantings; extensive use of large pieces of natural bark form a sloped right of way
<b>Scenes:</b>	Town scenes, log camp scene, old west town scene, loco servicing scene; bridge scenes
<b>Structures:</b>	Many built up structures with some scratch built and kit built structures
<b>Bridges/trestles:</b>	Scratch built 15 foot stone arch bridge, 20 foot scratch built steel trestle; miscellaneous scratch built other bridges; scratch built 170 foot long wood trestle
<b>Locomotives:</b>	A few club owned locos and trolleys; many member locomotives and trolleys
<b>Rolling stock:</b>	Some club owned rolling stock; many member owned pieces of rolling stock
<b>Operations:</b>	Display and member running over several possible routes
<b>Other:</b>	The layout is open for public viewing Sundays 1 to 4 pm during the summer months weather permitting, and during its Spring and Fall Open Houses. Park in the lower parking lot near the ball field. A video of the KV&EC club layouts prominently featuring the outdoor G layout was produced by Marshall Publishing. Copies are available from the club. The KV&EC club runs a large holiday display layout November 29 to December 26 in Sun City's Prairie View Lodge.

## What I Did On My Summer 2013 Vacation

What *railroading type things* I did on my summer vacation to be more specific. And from a recent brief survey, Fox Valley members certainly did not take this summer off from trains! *A lot* of railroading in both model and prototype forms was done. Here's some of what our members did:

Jim Landwehr: "I did a lot on the layout. We put in block detection circuits and worked on the signaling system. Wiring turnouts to operate through the computer was another project. Trains are now running. I also decided to run for Midwest Region At-large Director!"

Tim Kleimeyer: "What's a vacation? Among other projects, I am building a road so trucks can get in and out of my layout's ethanol plant."

Leif Hanson: "I built a silver mine for my layout."

Mike Hirvela: "I didn't have a summer vacation! I went to at least one op session almost every week. I've been working on a new 2x2 foot module with an asphalt batch plant for the Bluff City modular layout. I had several locomotives converted to DCC with sound. But, my favorite thing was taking my grandson to see several layouts."

Walt Herrick: "I joined the Illinois Railway Museum, worked on securing a couple Rail Fun prototype tours, did a bunch of layout planning (My wife says I'm not a model railroader, I am a model railroad *planner*.), and worked on several projects for our HO scale KV&EC club layout here in Del Webb."

Bert Lattan: "I participated in my usual monthly op sessions, participated in Kenosha's Train Extravaganza in June with the Midwest Rail modular group, and did FVD, Midwest Region, and Rail Fun Convention planning and projects."

David Johnson: "I visited the Royal Gorge, Pike's Peak, and Colorado Railroad Museum in Colorado."

*David has provided us with the perfect lead-in for the story of two guys who did more rail fanning this summer than many of us do all year: Jeff Jarr and Mike Bychowski.*

Jeff Jarr: This summer fellow FVD member Mike Bychowski and I did some rail fanning in Colorado, and we brought a few photos back to share with everybody. Mike and I started our trip by driving to North Platte, Nebraska and stopped to visit the Union Pacific's Bailey Yard. From the 8 story tall, 360 degree viewing deck of the Golden Spike Tower Visitor Center, you get a panoramic view of the activities taking place at the world's largest train yard. Here's the view from one side of the tower.



Jeff Jarr and Mike Bychowski photos on pages 7 & 8.

## What I Did on My Summer Vacation con't



Jarr & Bychowski con't From North Platte we drove to Colorado where we rode the Georgetown Loop Railroad. The narrow gauge track connects the once-thriving mining towns of Georgetown and Silver Plume, which lie two miles apart in a steep, narrow mountain canyon. The railroad's builders designed a "corkscrew" route that traveled twice the distance, slowly gaining 640 feet in elevation. The route includes horse-shoe curves, 4% grades and four bridges including the massive Devil's Gate High Bridge.



We then journeyed further south to ride behind the steam-powered locomotives of the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. The D&SNGRR travels 45.4 miles each way along the Animas River from Durango to Silverton. The route located high in the San Juan Mountains boasts some of Colorado's most striking canyon scenery.



Our next trip was aboard the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, another narrow gauge, coal-fired, steam powered mountain railroad. We traveled 64 miles from Antonito to Chama through the Rocky Mountains and over Cumbres Pass.



The next day we drove to Canon City to ride the spectacular Royal Gorge Route Railroad. Here we followed the winding, tumbling Arkansas River deep within the soaring, 1,000-foot granite cliffs of Colorado's Royal Gorge.



On our way home we made a quick stop at Kenefick Park in Omaha to visit two of the greatest locomotives ever to power the Union Pacific Railroad. Just off interstate 80 sits Big Boy No. 4023 and DDA40X Centennial No. 6900. It was a great trip and I'm glad I got to share it with my rail fan buddy Mike, and now with Semaphore readers! We took lots of photos, had a great time, and got some really good ideas from the prototype we plan to incorporate into our layouts. Jeff Jarr.

## May's Contest Winners

Some how we missed getting May's Contest Winners into May's Semaphore last spring. Here they are now "better late than never" with our congratulations (and apologies) to the winners! The contest was "Whimsical Car Loads". See all the entries on the FVD web site.



Jim Allen placed first with his "Super Size Me Breakfast" in HO scale.



Ingrid Drozdak was second with her Z scale "Painless Dental Loads".



Third Place went to Bob DiDomenico for his "Please Let Me Out!" load in O scale.

## Member News

Membership Records Trainmaster, Bert Lattan, reports that the FVD's membership has dropped slightly over the summer months and is down to 233 members from the 240s we are used to seeing....Contests and Achievements Trainmaster, Jim Landwehr, has tossed his hat into the ring and is running for Mid-west Region "At Large Director"....National reports that this year's NMRA National Convention in Atlanta was a rousing success and earned a profit for the second year in a row....National is also reporting that construction will soon be starting on "Magic of Model Railroading" exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. \$560,000 has been raised to start the project. \$210,000 will be needed to finish it. The exhibit could see upwards of 600,000 visitors per year.

## Thank You Jim & Ann Allen

For the past two years the FVD's Jim Allen has served as the Semaphore's Circulation Editor, and his wife Ann has done all of the Semaphore's layout and design work. They stepped in and did a big job for the division when their help was most needed. The FVD's Board and my thanks go to both Jim and Ann (especially Ann who did several hours of layout and set up work for each Semaphore) for their great contributions. Starting this month Jim and Ann are retiring from their Semaphore duties to free up some time to do other projects. Their jobs will now be handled by me. Thanks guys! Walt Herrick

## 2013-2014 Meeting Schedule

2013-2014 orange Meeting Schedule cards were mailed to members the last week in August. Contact the Semaphore Editor if you did not receive yours. The complete schedule is also given below and on the FVD web site: [www.foxvalleydivision.org](http://www.foxvalleydivision.org). *Any schedule changes or additions are posted on the FVD web site as soon as they are known.*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Other</u>
Sept. 15, 2013	Realistic Weathering by David Schroedel	Model locomotive Limit 3 units.	
Oct. 20, 2013	Open Loads by David Sima	Caboose Train Limit 6 cars.	
Nov. 17, 2013	Painting People by David Crement, MMR	Passenger Car(s) Limit 4 cars.	
Dec. 15, 2013	Module Scenery, Part 2 by Mike Wood	Tank Cars Limit 6 cars.	<b>1:00 pm start.</b> Lunch provided.
Jan. 19, 2014	Building Benchwork by Bill Kirchmeyer	“Rescue the Rolling Stock” Re-purposed rolling stock.	
Feb. 16, 2014	TBA	Hopper Train Limit 6 cars.	
<b>March 1, 2, 2014</b>	<b>High Wheeler 2014</b> Train Show at Harper College in Palatine Sponsored by the FVD. 9 am to 5 pm each day. <u>FVD volunteers needed</u> . Contact Jeff Jarr at <a href="mailto:jjarr@comcast.net">jjarr@comcast.net</a> or 773-286-8755.		
April 13, 2014	TBA	Diorama	<b>1:00 pm start.</b> Lunch provided. FVD officer elections.
<b>May 16, 17, 18, 2014</b>	<b>Rail Fun 2014</b> Mid West Region Convention hosted by the FVD In Schaumburg, IL. <u>FVD volunteers needed</u> . Contact Jeff Jarr at <a href="mailto:jjarr@comcast.net">jjarr@comcast.net</a> or 773-286-8755.		

**Note:** there will be no May FVD monthly meeting in lieu of the Rail Fun convention hosted by the FVD.

## Fox Valley Division Board Contact Information

Superintendent, **Jeff Jarr**  
[jjar@comcast.net](mailto:jjar@comcast.net) 773-286-8755

Ass't Superintendent, **Bob Shlemon, Jr.**  
[shlemonjr@gmail.com](mailto:shlemonjr@gmail.com) 773-334-4208

Chief Clerk, **Leif Hansen**  
[mudhen454@att.net](mailto:mudhen454@att.net) 847-437-7124

Paymaster, **Tim Kleimeyer**  
[kleimeyert@comcast.net](mailto:kleimeyert@comcast.net) 847-426-4732

Achievements & Contests, **Jim Landwehr**  
[Jlandwehr901@yahoo.com](mailto:Jlandwehr901@yahoo.com) 847-577-7984

Clinics, **David Leider**, MMR  
[sooauthor@netzero.net](mailto:sooauthor@netzero.net) 847-253-7484

Membership Promotions, **Mike Hirvela**  
[mhirvela1@gmail.com](mailto:mhirvela1@gmail.com) 847-360-9579

Membership Records, **Bert Lattan**  
[blattan@comcast.net](mailto:blattan@comcast.net) 847-295-7959

Public Relations & Webmaster, **Jim Osborn**  
[FVDWebsite@comcast.net](mailto:FVDWebsite@comcast.net) 815-578-8315

Semaphore Editor, **Walt Herrick, Jr.**  
[waltherrickjr@gmail.com](mailto:waltherrickjr@gmail.com) 815-355-2003

Ways & Means—High Wheeler, **Jeff Jarr**  
[jjar@comcast.net](mailto:jjar@comcast.net) 773-286-8755

*Do you have a question or two? Visit our website at: [www.foxvalleydivision.org](http://www.foxvalleydivision.org). Or, call or email one of us. We're here to help!*

## NMRA Web Sites

<b>Fox Valley Division</b>	<a href="http://www.foxvalleydivision.org">www.foxvalleydivision.org</a>
<b>Midwest Region</b>	<a href="http://www.mwr-nmra.org">www.mwr-nmra.org</a>
<b>National</b>	<a href="http://www..nmra.org">www..nmra.org</a>

### 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 all of McHenry and parts of Cook, Kane, and Lake Counties in northeast Illinois. About 240 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.

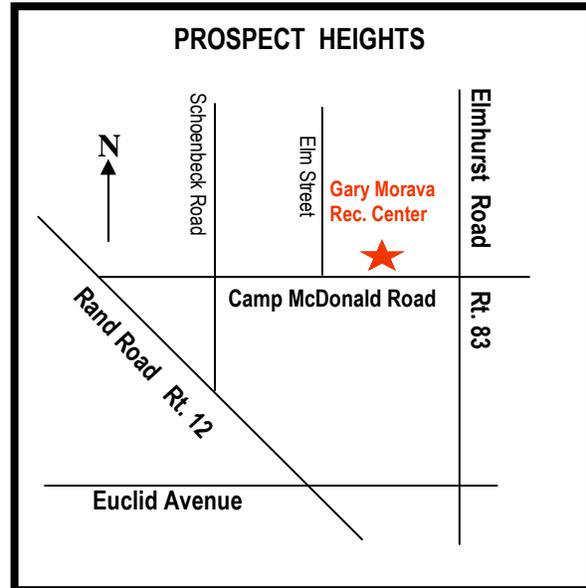
FVD general meetings are held September through May at the Gary Morava Center in Prospect Heights from 1:30 to about 4:00 pm. Each meeting features a clinic, model contest, information of interest to the membership, and a time for socializing. Outings, layout tours, and operating sessions are also held periodically in addition to, or instead of, the general meetings. To promote the hobby of model railroading, the FVD sponsors and runs the 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 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.

Visit us on the web at:

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

**Questions? Contact FVD Superintendent, Jeff Jarr, or any FVD Board member listed on the previous page of this newsletter. We are here to help you!**



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

**Regular Meeting Time: 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. See page 10 for this year's meeting schedule.**



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