

THE SEMAPHORE



May 2019

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



Last Semaphore until September!

Tim Kleimeyer's UP/Metra/SC Ry.
article and photos by Walt Herrick

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Metra /SC Ry layout
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Next FVD Meeting:
Sunday, June 2

1:30 pm Regular Start
the Morava Rec Center in
Prospect Heights

Contest: Vehicles-limit 3

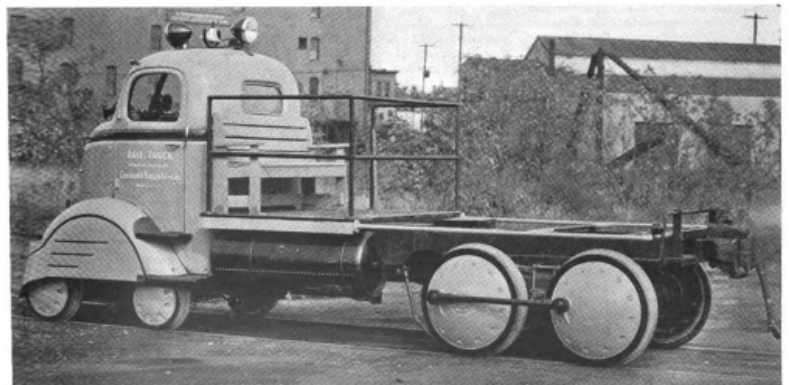
**Clinic: "Modular Con-
struction of User Objects in
Anyrail" by Carl Wagus**



UP 9374 heads up a unit coal extra on Tim Kleimeyer's HO scale Union Pacific/Metra/ Sleepy Creek Ry. layout located in a 25 x 25 foot, second floor bonus room over the garage of his home. Tim's freelanced railroad models UP freight traffic, Metra commuter traffic, and Sleepy Creek short line operations in the northwest and western suburbs of Chicago. The locomotive above is a GE C40-80W built in 1989, which would have been a likely site on the UP in the late 1990s era Tim models. The UP purchased 250 some C40-80s. The train is rolling past an ethanol plant in Elgin, IL on its way to a Chicago area coal fired power plant. Tim started his layout soon after a second floor addition to his house was completed in 2012. He laments, "Since I retired I've been so busy, I haven't had enough time to work on my layout!" See more of Tim's layout on pages 2 and 3.

Fun Stuff by Jim Allen

This is a Rail Truck, circa the late 1930s. To be exact, it is a demonstration unit of a rail-truck built by Coordinated Transportation of St. Paul, Minnesota. Here we see the Rail Truck sitting in the Great Northern Ry's Fridley Yard in Minneapolis. It was there being tested the entire month of October 1937. Interestingly, the truck had sanders in front of the front rear axle. Also note the lights and bell on the cab roof, the rear coupler, and rear wheel side rods .



Layout of the Month: Kleimeyer's UP/Metra/Sleepy Creek Ry. con't

Tim has started his modeling journey with an excellent layout plan and unique operating concept. He models a freelanced UP/Metra line running somewhere in the north and west suburbs of Chicago. Typical UP local and through freight operations and Metra commuters are the order of the day. Included in the operational scheme is an industrial short line, the Sleepy Creek Railway which services several large industries on the layout. The layout plan is a point to point, single deck, walk-in style layout with staging at the east and west ends of the layout. There are numerous small and large industries and interchanges with the CN along the double track main line. Tim's era is the late 1990s so there will be an interesting mix of first, second, and third generation diesel motive power, and older and newer rolling stock on the layout. The layout is powered and controlled by Digitrax DCC using both tethered and wireless throttles. We really hope Tim finds the time to finish more of this fascinating layout. More recent Metra and UP ops are something you don't often see on a private home model railroad, and the Sleepy Creek Railway should be a hoot to operate when that line is up and run-ning. Remember, modeling is a journey not a destination. Go Tim, go!



Leased UP GP9 # 173 is in charge of today's Sleepy Creek Railway's Elgin Local in the top right photo. The #173 is just crossing the Canadian National's main line near Elgin. The two cars in the back ground are on the CN interchange track which usually doesn't see this much business. In the center right photo, the #173 drifts past a small stable on its way to the interchange track's switch. The UP geep's days are numbered on the Sleepy Creek, as the SC has purchased and is now repainting two ex Conrail GP45s for the road. The "new" GP45s will provide the short line with the power it needs today and in the future. In the bottom right photo, covered hoppers are being stored on the storage track of a large industry which recently went out of business—a bit of realism not often seen on a model railroad.



Layout of the Month: Kleimeyer's UP/Metra/Sleepy Creek Ry. con't



FVD Paymaster, Tim Kleimeyer, stands in one of the spacious aisles of his second floor model railroad (top). The five track staging yard seen in the center photo, represents the west end of Tim's UP/Metra/Sleepy Creek layout.

Basic Layout Information

Layout Name:	UP/Metra/ Sleepy Creek Ry
Layout Builder:	Tim Kleimeyer
Layout Location:	Tim's second floor bonus room over his garage
Layout Scale:	HO
Layout Size:	25 x 25 feet
Layout Style:	Walk-in
Layout Theme/Locale:	UP, Metra and short line rail roading in Chicago's west and northwest suburbs
Layout Era:	Late 1990s
Construction begun:	2012
Bench Work:	L girder
Sub Roadbed:	Homasote and foam board on plywood
Roadbed:	Cork and Homabed
Track:	Atlas code 83 flex track, t/os
Min radius; turnouts	Min. 30" radius; min #6 t/os
Scenery:	Painted & photo back drops; real dirt, ballast, static grass, ground foam, etc. on a pink foam or hard shell base; scenery is about 10% complete
Structures:	Kits and kit-bashed
Locomotives:	Mixed Manufacturers
Rolling Stock:	Mixed manufacturers
Control:	Digitrax DCC
Operations:	UP local and through freights, Metra commuters, and Sleepy Creek RR short line operations
Other:	Tim's layout is located in a nicely finished, well lit, and carpeted layout room.

Modeling Tip: Layout Mock-ups

One of the neat things Tim Kleimeyer did in planning his layout, was to build a scale size "Gatorboard" mock-up of the layout. Tim's mock-up as seen at the right, shows the layout room, the layout, and the aisles around the layout in 1:24 scale. Note that Tim's mock-up, while not fancy, *is accurate* showing the exact room size, window and door locations, the layout's track plan and where the aisles are going to go. When building a fairly large or larger layout like Tim's, knowing how the layout and aisles fit the space is important. You want to see how people are going to be able to move around the room, reach into the layout, etc. Mock-ups also help to show how the backdrops will fit in.



Mike's Minute by Mike Hirvela

As we wrap up our 2018-2019 modeling season, I was thinking about the many ways we enjoy our favorite hobby. This month I want to share an experience that said a lot to me about how to have *Fun With Model Trains*. I recently met an older guy who said he had had his enjoyment with his model trains, and it was time to take down his layout. He's getting up in age and is having some challenges getting around now, and is facing other changes in life. He's facing these things head-on, but the trains must now go. So, where does the "Fun With Model Trains" come in here? Well, as we were there clearing off his train layout of locomotives, cars, structures, and scenic details in preparation to take it apart, he pulled out several cars he had decaled for the *Glutznagle Quarries*. "Oh," I said, "There has to be a story behind that name!" And there was. The gentleman joyfully recounted how the cars came about. It seems his wife is quite a craftsperson in her own right, and is well known as an expert "crafter". Several years ago she made a very nice terrarium using pebbles and small plants, and entered it in a local craft contest. But she didn't want to enter using her real name as too many folks knew of her skills. So she filled out the entry form with the name "Zelda Glutznagle". As it turned out, she took second place, and had to go up front and claim her award, which then let everyone know who it really was who had won! Hubby reckoned this was a perfect opportunity to have custom decals made for the "Glutznagle Quarries"! This he did and promptly lettered some bright yellow hoppers. Is this a fun hobby, or what?! I hope to see you in La Crosse for the Joint MWR/TLR Convention. Like the car side says, I'll be "Having a Blast" participating in the convention activities. Otherwise, I'll "see" you in the Semaphore next fall, have a great summer!



Midwest Region & Thousand Lakes Region 2019 Joint Convention

La Crosse, Wisconsin May 17-19

For convention information go to:

<https://www.thousandlakesregion.org/>



You're Invited to Enter a MWR/TLR Contest! By Kennedy Gauger

Hi, it's Kennedy Gauger again, Contest Director for the Thousand Lakes Region of the NMRA. I'm here to remind you again that it's not too late to put together a contest entry to take with you up to our Grand Junction Joint MWR/TLR Regional Convention in LaCrosse, WI May 16—19. As I've said, we'd love to see a bunch of models, crafts and photos in LaCrosse, and we'd especially love to see *your* model or photo or arts and crafts entry. All contests require you to fill out a simple NMRA 901 "entry blank" for you model or photo. If you need help entering the contests (some paperwork is involved), I can help you. Email me at: wkgauger@gmail.com, and I'll send you some helpful information. I look forward to seeing *you* with your model or photos, or arts and crafts entry in LaCrosse in a few short weeks! **P.S. Our Lady Rails should note that "Operation Linus" will be active at this convention so bring along your sewing machines and join the quilting fun!**

April's Clinic and Contest Photos by Jim Osborn Clinic

FVD webmaster, **Jim Osborn**, presented April's clinic "**Keeping Your Railroad in Focus**", and it was an excellent one. As anyone who has tried their hand at photographing a model railroad will tell you, creating a photo that is even reasonably focused throughout the photo and not just in one small area, is just plain difficult. Jim showed us how "photo stacking" has changed all that so that now anyone can take great model railroad photos using photo stacking software, a camera, tripod and cable release. Thank you, Jim for a great clinic! FVD Chief Clerk, **Carl Wagus**, will show us more ways a computer can help in model railroading on **June 2** with his clinic, "**Modular Construction of User Objects in Any Rail**". See you then! WH



Contest

April's "**Humorous Load**" contest was won by **Mike Hirvela** with his "Large Liquid Load" of Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer on, what else, an HO *Milwaukee* Road flat car (upper right photo)! Mike scratch built the load's bracing from strip wood. **Walt Herrick** came in Second with his HO "Shark Shippers, Ltd" container on a pulpwood flat (below). Walt used a toy shark and encased it in Woodland Scenics "Realistic Water" for the load. **Jim Osborn's** rolling G scale "Porta Privy" (lower right photo) took Third Place. Jim's privy was built from coffee sticks for a past FVD contest. Our next contest is "**Vehicles**"-limit 3 vehicles which will take place at our May meeting which will actually take place **Sunday, June 2**. This is due to the MWR/TLR Joint Convention in LaCrosse, WI May 16-19. Let's see some of your vehicles on **June 2** everybody! WH



They're almost Gone!

Our FVD special run **Cook Orchards reefer car** done by Accurail is almost gone! Each car costs \$23.00 plus shipping and handling of \$7.50 for one car, and \$14.00 for 2 to 4 cars (if available). Go to the FVD's web site:

www.foxvalleydivision.org

for complete purchase and shipping information. We have only a few cars left, so act now! (Photo by Jim Osborn taken on his layout.)



Where to Find Railroad Events or Activities

Looking for railroad events or activities to attend? You can directly check out the “RR Events” page of the FVD web site at: <http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/fvd2016/rrevents.v2.html>. Or, you can go to the web site, click on the “Community” tab, and then go to “RR Events”. By the way, if you ever hear or know of an interesting railroad event, please send it to me at my contact info on p. 7 of this newsletter so we can share it with everyone. Thanks! Jim Osborn

Member News

Congratulations **Denis Zamirowski** and **Tim Kleimeyer** for winning our April elections for **Assistant Superintendent and Paymaster** respectively! Denis and Tim won by an acclamation vote of the members present at the April meeting. The division thanks you both for your willingness to serve again.... Congratulations also go to **Gary Saxton** of Chicago and **Erich Abens** of Morton Grove. Gary is taking over as the division’s **Clinics and Programs Trainmaster** position from MMR, **David Leider**. Erich will be serving as the division’s **Membership Services Coordinator** taking over from **Bert Lattan**. Thank you Gary and Erich for volunteering, and thank you David and Bert for your many years of excellent and valuable service to the Fox Valley Division....FYI, due to scheduling conflicts, the division will not be participating in this year’s Franklin Park Railroad Days or Woodstock Elementary School’s Transportation Days....**Bert Lattan** filed one of his last membership reports recently as the FVD’s Membership Services Trainmaster. Bert reports that as of the end of March our membership stands at 193, down 3 from February. Bert also reports **Erich Abens** of Morton Grove, **Dan Colin** of Ingleside, and **Robert Chefalo** of Sleepy Hollow are our newest FVD members. **Welcome aboard guys!** WH



Thank You David Leider (left) and **Bert Lattan** (right) for your long service to the FVD as Clinics and Programs, and Membership Services Trainmasters respectively! **GREAT JOB, David and Bert!**



2018 - 2019 Fox Valley Division Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held from **1:30 to about 3:30 pm** (except as noted under “Other” below) at the **Gary Morava Recreation Center, 110 W. Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070**. Visitors are always welcome per the NMRA’s visitor policy. Note that clinics are subject to change without notice. For the latest clinic and all FVD news and information, visit our web site at www.foxvalleydivision.org.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Other</u>
May 19, 2019	Midwest/Thousand Lakes Joint Regional Meet in LaCrosse, WI.		For info, see https://www.thousandlakesrgion.org . Also, see pages 9—12 of the Winter issue of the Midwest Region <i>Waybill</i> newsletter for convention information and convention registration forms. Note, the special room rate for this convention is \$67.00 at the Days Inn LaCrosse!
June 2, 2019	Modular Construction of User Objects in Any Rail by Carl Wagus	Vehicles—limit 3	Last monthly meeting for 2018 – 2019
July 7—13, 2019	NMRA 2019 National Convention in Salt Lake City, UT. See the convention’s web site for more information: www.nmra2019slc.org		
June, July, August	<u>No regular meetings these months.</u> (The June 2 meeting above is rescheduled from May.)		
September 15, 2019**	TBD	TBD	1st meeting of the 2019-20 season.

**** NOTE! Our “Orange” Meeting Schedule Cards with the entire 2019—2020 FVD meeting schedule will be mailed to FVD members via USPS the last week of August!**



About the Fox Valley Division

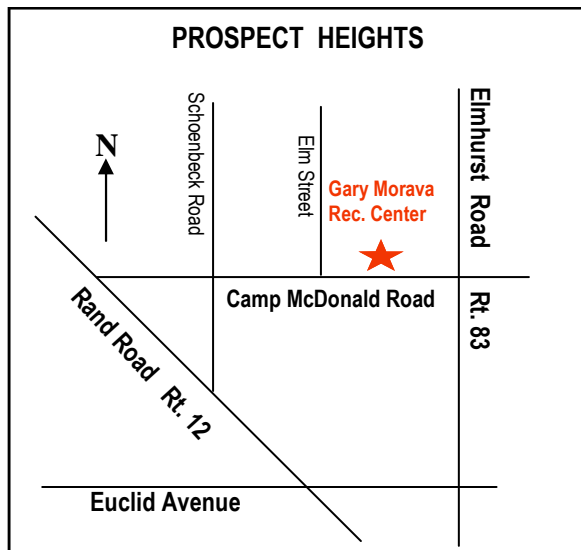
If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region and Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association or NMRA. The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes all of Lake and McHenry, and parts of Cook and Kane Counties in northeast Illinois. About 195 members of varied ages and modeling 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 monthly meetings are held September through May at the Gary Morava Recreation 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 monthly meetings. To promote the hobby of model railroading, the FVD sponsors and runs the large train show called "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 and bring a friend. We'd love to see you. Also visit us on the web at:

www.foxvalleydivision.org.

Questions? Contact FVD Superintendent, Mike Hirvela, or any FVD Board member listed below. We are here to help!



- The FVD's monthly meeting is at the :
Gary Morava Recreation Center
110 Camp McDonald Road
Prospect Heights, IL. 60070
- Our regular meeting time is:
1:30 to about 3:30 p.m.
- 2015 – 2016 meeting dates, contest and clinic info are on page 6 of this newsletter.

FVD web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org

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Midwest Region-NMRA
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