



THE SEMAPHORE

February 2020

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



N Scale Galesburg City Job

Layout of the Month article & photos by Walt Herrick

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Next FVD Meeting:

Sunday, February 16

1:30 pm at the

Morava Rec Center in
Prospect Heights

**Contest: 12 x 12 inch Diorama –
any scale**

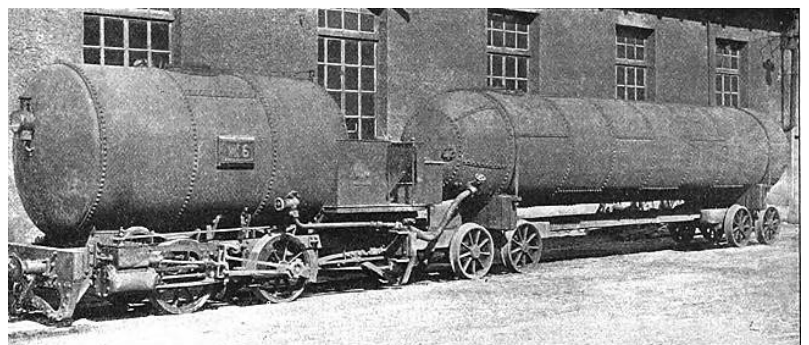
**Clinic: Take Full Advantage of
Your Layout Design Software by
Steve Miazga.**



There were several neat N scale model railroads at the 2019 Trainfest show, but one that really caught my attention was the Galesburg City Job conceived and designed by Jim Wiggin of Champaign, and built by Jim and Bill Selleck of Lansing, MI. The Galesburg City Job is a prototype inspired, J shaped switching layout set in the 1960s. Scenes on the layout are based on actual locations in a small industrial area of Galesburg, Illinois. Above, a Santa Fe Fairbanks-Morse H16-44 switches Illinois Light & Power's siding on the west side of the city. *Con't. on p. 2*

Fun Stuff by Jim Allen

This image is of a fireless locomotive. A fireless locomotive depends on an external source of steam such as a stationary boiler. Certain industries processing explosive materials could not be exposed to the open flame of a standard steam locomotive, hence the development of the fireless locomotive. What makes this particular machine interesting is the addition of the trailing steam tank.



N Scale Galesburg City Job Layout



GCJ builders Jim Wiggin and Bill Selleck met at several Galesburg Railroad Days events back in the early 2000s and found they had a common interest in N scale model railroading and railroading in and around Galesburg, Illinois. Despite living 320 miles from each other, Jim proposed they build a sectional N scale layout depicting a small industrial area in Galesburg. Bill liked the idea and Jim designed the Galesburg City Job layout. Most of the bench work was built at Bill's house in Champaign. The sections were then completed—including scenery—at each of the guys homes in Champaign and Lansing. Jim finished 3 sections and Bill 5 sections. They met several times to make sure the sections were compatible operationally and scenically. "Jim is really the 'brains' behind the layout. It's his design and his standards that we used to build it. I really appreciate his 'less is more' philosophy in designing and building the layout," says Bill. The scenes on the layout are not "rivet for rivet" models of Galesburg, but are close representations of actual Galesburg locations. Scratch building was used to duplicate some structures, and the motive power and rolling stock are close to that seen in Galesburg in the 1960s. All-in-all it makes for one very convincing depiction of industrial Galesburg, Illinois in the 1960s.



The upper left photo shows the north end of Illinois Light & Power's complex while the photo above shows the south end. Utility poles make a great open load on flat or gondola cars. They also are an eye-catcher in storage on the ground. Jim Wiggin took a refreshing "less is more" approach to designing and modeling the Galesburg layout.



In the three photos above, the layout's namesake, the Galesburg City Job, is today powered by two Santa Fe Alco S2s.

N Scale Galesburg City Job Layout



Basic Layout Information

Layout Name:	Galesburg City Job
Layout Builders:	Jim Wiggin & Bill Selleck
Layout Location:	The layout appears at 7-8 Train Shows each year including Trainfest
Layout Scale:	N
Layout Size:	9 1/2 x 18 feet "J-shaped"; 18" wide throughout
Layout Style:	Display switching layout
Layout Concept/ Locale:	Class I in an industrial area of Galesburg, IL
Layout Era:	1960s
Construction begun:	2013
Bench Work:	Sections built on 1" x 3" grid
Sub Roadbed:	Plywood
Roadbed:	N and HO cork
Track:	Atlas code 55
Track specs:	minimum 9 inch radius with no grades; min #6 turnouts
Scenery:	Ground foam, static grass, scratch built trees
Structures:	Kits-bashed and scratch built
Locomotives:	1960s diesels of Santa Fe, CB&Q, and other local roads
Sound:	Sound in several locos.
Rolling Stock:	Kits, RTR
Control:	NCE DCC; tethered & wireless throttles
Operations:	Display running; 2 hour op sessions using switch lists

Above, the Burlington's California Zephyr has been rerouted onto ATSF tracks due to flooding on the CB&Q. To the right, a NYC GP7 assists a Santa Fe GP9 with a work train out on the main line. The Galesburg City Job layout is basically flat with no grades like the prototype area of Galesburg it represents. Slight changes in elevations were achieved however, by using N and HO scales cork roadbed and "cookie cutter" bench work.



Mike's Minute by FVD Superintendent Mike Hirvela

Diversity is Modeling Interest

At our December and January FVD meetings, there were entries in the modeling contests and on the show-and-tell tables in a variety of scales (including the rare TT scale!), showing me that no matter the size, there is modeling interest and opportunity for everyone. That's one of the things that makes our hobby the best. There is something for you, no matter what your interest in scale, gauge, era, geography, economics, and/or history (real or fictional). The breadth of our hobby never ceases to amaze me. At the swap meets, I see new products, old products, vintage products, carefully repaired products, lovingly cared-for items, scratch-built items, and a myriad of accessories coming back around again for others to enjoy. I wonder, were model railroaders the first recyclers? I believe we probably can make something from nothing to meet almost any need or desire on our layouts. Something else that amazes me: I'm still learning new things about railroads all the time! Whether it be specific trains of my favorite railroad, or any other railroad, or how they were operated, or where they operated or once operated, or who ran them, or how trains got from point A to point B, and more. I recently found out a gentleman is modeling his home railroad after one of the most obscure railroads in Lake County IL: the Palatine, Lake Zurich and Wauconda. He is having a ball recreating the theme of a "down on it's luck" short line that served the resorts around Bangs Lake between 1918 and 1921. Also recently, I found a paperback book on the Woodstock and Sycamore Traction Co, a line with a lot of promise, but not much else, as it never made it to Woodstock. It did use those pointy-nosed and port-hole sided McKean Railcars, however! You just never know what you'll learn and when. I hope you attend and take advantage of our meetings. Our Programs and Clinics Trainmaster, Gary Saxton, works diligently to search for and provide a diversity of topics that any modeler can learn and apply. It might not be your top interest, but I think there is something in every clinic that we can use and appreciate. Speaking of appreciation, my sincere congratulations to Jim Osborn on earning the Structures AP award. Jim is now only one AP award away from becoming a Master Model Railroader. Who's next to get an AP award? I hope it's *you*. See you at a FVD meeting soon!



Here's Mike Hirvela at work switching the town of Morgantown, West Virginia on Art Jones layout during a recent op session. Art models the B&O's Fairmont Line which extends from Connellsville in southwest Pennsylvania, down through north western West Virginia. One of the great attributes of our hobby is its diversity. Mike is having a ball despite the fact that he's operating on a railroad that is very different from, and located some 500 miles from, his Chicago and Northwestern home layout that runs from Chicago to Milwaukee.

Modeling Tip by Jeff Jarr

I used Rust-oleum Multi-color Textured Spray Paint in its Desert Bisque color, to simulate the gravel roof on my REA building. (See "Show & Tell" on p. 5 of this newsletter.) The roof you see is pretty much the Desert Bisque paint straight out of the can. Jeff Jarr



January's Clinic, Contest and Show & Tell Photos by Jim Osborn

January's Clinic:

January's excellent clinic was presented by the Fox Valley Division's Clinics and Programs Trainmaster, **Gary Saxton** (right). Thank you Gary! Gary showed us how he built and uses a "\$220 Laser Cutter" in his modeling. Gary models in Z scale and for his presentation, he brought in several impressive Z scale models he built using his laser cutter to cut the parts for the models. See the www.foxvalleydivision.com's "Education" section for complete notes on Gary's clinic. On **February 16**, **Steve Miazga** shows us how to "Take Full Advantage of Your Layout Design Software" in another great FVD clinic. See you all on February 16!



January's Contest:

January's popular vote contest, "Open Loads" was won by **Joel Lebovitz** with his excellently modeled "S Scale Open Loads" on three flat cars and one gon (top left photo below). **Second Place went to Jim Osborn** for his nicely weathered railroad rolling stock wheels in his "Various Wheel Loads" on two gons and one flat car in HO scale (right side photo below). **Third Place was won by George K.** who modeled a very cool "European Military Train" in TT scale (left side bottom photo). See all of January's entries on the FVD's web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org, in the "Contest" section. February's contest is "12 x 12 inch Diorama" in any scale. Bring yours on February 16! WH



January's Show & Tell

In January, **Jeff Jarr** brought in his beautifully kit-bashed REA Building (see Modeling Tip on p. 4 of this Semaphore and his model below left). **George Trandel** brought in another beautiful model, this one of a tree armature made of wire and putty (below right). Thank you Jeff & George! WH



Member News

Congratulations to Jim Osborn, for achieving the NMRA's AP Award for "Structures"! Jim is the division's FVD Web Technologies Trainmaster. He received his award at the January 19 FVD meet from **FVD Achievements and Contests Trainmaster, Jim Landwehr** (top right photo by Mike Hirvela).

Jim Osborn is only one AP certificate away from achieving his Master Model Railroader certification from the NMRA. Go Jim Go!...FVD Assistant

Superintendent, Denis Zamiroski, sent us the bottom right photo of the division's recently installed display in the Mt. Prospect Public Library. Producing this display for the library is an annual event for the FVD. This year's display participants were **Denis, Jim Landwehr, and Mike Hirvela**. The display looks great guys! Thank you!....**FVD Membership Services Trainmaster, Erich Abens**, reports that the division's current membership stands at **185....**

It's not too late to start planning to attend the **Midwest Region's Convention in Peoria May 14—17**. Check out the Midwest Region's web site at:

www.mwr-nmra.org for more information. And, while you're at it, also check out the **NMRA National Convention** web site at: www.gateway2020.org.

This year's national is practically in "our own backyard" down in **St. Louis, July 12—18**. We hear a truly outstanding convention is being planned. WH



April Elections. Per our FVD bylaws, please be advised that our **Chief Clerk, Carl Wagus, is now accepting nominations** for the election of the division's **Superintendent** and **Chief Clerk** positions. **Elections will occur at our April 19, 2020 regular meet.** **Contact Carl at: crwagus@gmail.com** with your nomination. FVD officer elections occur every two years. In 2021 we elect an Assistant Superintendent and Paymaster. Terms of Office are two years.

2019 - 2020 Fox Valley Division Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held from **1:30 to about 4:00 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>
February 16	Take Full Advantage of Your Layout Design Software by Steve Miazga	12 x 12 inch Diorama—any scale	
March 15	LCC by Paul Wussow	TBD	
April 19	Changing Scales by Jeremy Dummmler	Weathered Model—limit 1 model	Annual elections 1 pm start with sub lunch
May 14—17	Midwest Region Spring Convention "The Peoria Rocket" in Peoria, IL Check the MWR web site www.mwr-nmra.org for more information.		
June 7	Crystal Lake, IL Diorama by Walt Herrick	Unfinished Project	Last meet for 2019-2020
July 12—18	NMRA National Convention "Gateway 2020" in St. Louis, MO For information, go to the convention's web site: www.gateway2020.org .		



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 190 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.

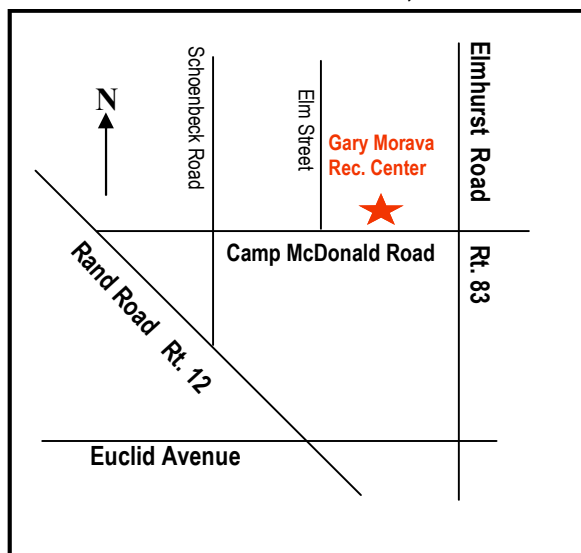
FVD monthly meetings are held September through May at the Gary Morava Recreation Center in Prospect Heights from 1:30 to about 4:00 pm. Each meeting features a clinic, model contest, information of interest to the membership, and a time for socializing. Outings, layout tours, and operating sessions 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!

PROSPECT HEIGHTS, IL



- 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 4:00 p.m.
- 2019 – 2020 meeting dates, contest and clinic info are on page 6 of this newsletter.

FVD web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org

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