

THE SEMAPHORE

October 2020

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



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Semaphore Editor, Walt Herrick

Next FVD Meeting:

Sunday, October 18

1:30 pm via ZOOM

See **page 8** of this Semaphore for information about our new ZOOM meets.

Contest: 1 Weathered Structure

Clinic: LCC by Paul Wussow

See page 8 for complete information about the new FVD ZOOM meetings, and how clinics & contests will be held via ZOOM.

FVD Member "Shelter in Place" Modeling Projects by Walt Herrick

Editor's note: On September 20, I gave a FVD ZOOM clinic entitled, "**Model Railroading Projects We Did While Sheltered in Place**". In the next several Semaphore pages is a shortened version of my clinic. FVD members were quite busy during the months of "Shelter in Place" (SIP), and a wide variety of projects were undertaken during this time. Also, there are several great FVD layouts featured in this article. My thanks to all the FVD modelers who sent in the photos and info for the clinic and this article. WH



Jeff Jarr, has been busy during the Shelter in Place (SIP) working on new and old sections of the HO scale **North Shore and Western** display layout. Jeff's photo above shows one of the new sections with new Metra motive power, new streets and a great photo backdrop. **Check out Jeff's excellent 3 part clinic on how he builds his streets, on the MWR's Facebook page.**

Fun Stuff by Jim Allen

This is a concept of future personal rail transport or possibly a handcar for the 21st century.



FVD Member Shelter in Place Projects *con't*



FVD Super, **Mike Hirvela**, was a busy guy during Covid sending in photos of two dozen projects he did during the SIP! His red, HO scale, Ortner cars took an hour each to decal. Excellent N-scale modeler, **Ted Witt**, did a great job photographing and modeling his N scale harbor scene above. Ted sent in three photos. He 3D printed the parts to build the Clyde Whirley crane on the dock, and navigational marker in front of the dock.

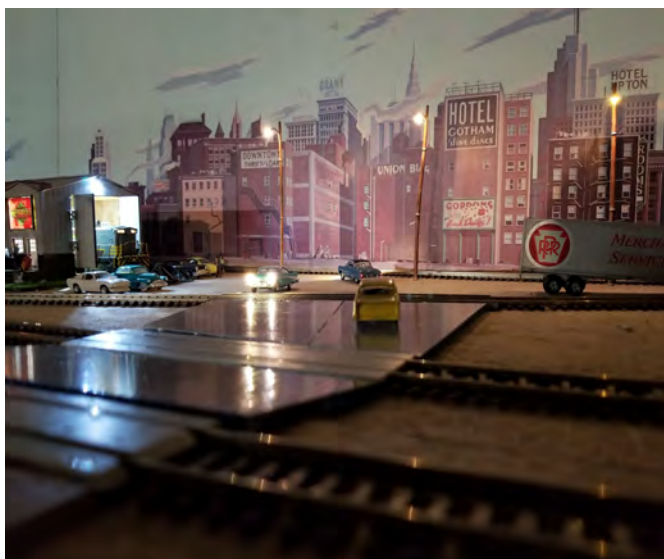


Will Westfall used Clover House dry transfers on an undecorated Accurail car in the above left photo which he took on his superb HO Soo Line layout. Will sent in photos for three other projects as well. Excellent prototype modeler **John Drozak** is modeling two HO, BN SD9 rebuilds using Rail Power shells. The units did transfer work around Chicago.

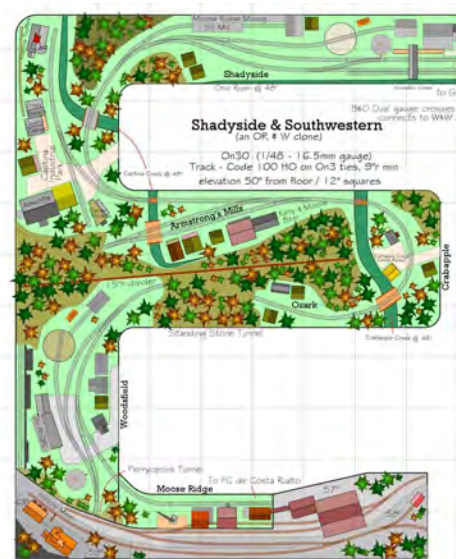
FVD Membership Services Trainmaster, **Erich Abens** and wife **Robin**, took Amtrak on a trip out to Arizona to tour the Grand Canyon. They returned just as the Covid crisis was heating up. Here's one of several photos Erich sent in. It's a photo of a cosmetically restored caboose in front of the Grand Canyon Hotel Erich took during their trip.



FVD Member Shelter in Place Projects *con't*



Frank Rosenbaum sent in a super night photo of his Far Seas Connecting RR after a rain storm (above left). **Gordy and Gail Erickson** (above right) have made considerable progress on their huge Milwaukee Road layout during SIP.



Two other large FVD layouts having made good progress during the SIP are **Bob Teuber's** (above left) **Kansas City Industrial Ry.**, and **Jim and Bob Landwehr's** (above center) **Union Pacific Midwest** layout. **Carl Wagus** has been doing work on his AnyRail track plans during the SIP. That's an AnyRail plan shown in the upper right photo.

Being an apartment dweller in down town Chicago, our FVD Clinics & Programs Trainmaster, **Gary Saxton** models in Z scale, and models very well, indeed. During the SIP Gary has been working on the signaling of his beautiful T-trak module seen at the right.



FVD Member Shelter in Place Projects *con't*



Jim Osborn sent in photos of three HO cars he's built during the SIP. Above left is his scratch built, CNW peek-a-boo gon. **Jim's May 2021 FVD ZOOM clinic will cover more cars he's building for his "Cars" AP certificate.** **Bob Didomenico** sent in a bunch of photos (above right) and info on his high-rail, O scale backdrop project. They were used in a **special two page "Modeling Tip" article in last month's *Semaphore*.**



Dan Cahill is building one very nice, basement sized, CNW "New Line" layout in HO scale (above) with a little help from FVD member **Art Jones**.



Those are **MMR Dave Leider's** moving totes to the left, used to move him and wife **Audrone** to Largo, Florida in June. Directly above is FVD Paymaster, **Tim Kleimeyer's** neat, new, modern era sanding facility for his freelanced Chicago area layout. And above Tim's sanding facility is **Leif Hansen's** contest winning 12x12 inch "Ol' Fishin' Hole" diorama permanently added to his home layout. Don't recognize Leif's diorama? Well, it's been modified to fit its new location. Before that, it won February's FVD contest: "12x12 inch Diorama—any scale".

FVD Shelter in Place Projects con't

Bob Hanmer's GN Messabi Division Kit-bashed Rolling Stock

To my chagrin, three very nice, prototypically inspired, kit-bashed, pieces of rolling stock were inadvertently *left out* of September's "Model Railroading Projects We Did While Sheltered in Place" clinic, and I feel terrible about it. The models have been added to the clinic after the fact, and they are shown in builder Bob Hanmer's photo below which was taken on his GN Mesabi Division layout. Bob tells us how he kit-bashed his cars in the caption. Sorry, I messed up and didn't get you in the clinic, Bob! WH



"I kit-bashed two "new" 36 foot DM&IR boxcars, both built pre-1910, that saw service into the 1960's. The steel car, 5366, received new steel doors on an MDC body, and the wood car, number 5240, is an Accurail kit that received new exterior fishbelly girders to match the prototype. The ore car is a 50 ton ore car which is smaller than all the 70 ton ore cars on my railroad. It started as a 3D printed body on an MDC ore car under frame with many added details." Bob Hanmer

Editor's note: Bob Hanmer's HO scale, Great Northern Mesabi Division layout circa 1958, was featured in the March 2020 *Semaphore*, and in his January 21, 2019 FVD clinic "Train Communications in the 1940s". The layout is currently out of service while Bob's house undergoes a major remodeling project. Bob enjoys Mesabi area iron ore modeling and prototype operations. He is currently vice president of the NMRA's Layout Design Group SIG.

Mike's Minute by FVD Superintendent Mike Hirvela

Our first virtual member meeting is now history. While I think it went well, as with most new things, there were some growing pains and technological challenges. I thank Jim Osborn for doing the extensive prep work needed to set us up for Zoom meetings, setting up the first meet on September 20, and getting our members trained on using ZOOM prior to the first ZOOM meet. Thanks also to Walt Herrick for assembling the photos of the summer sheltered-in-place projects we all sent to him, into our first ZOOM clinic, and the “cover story” for this month's *Semaphore*. I for one (even though I did submit a bunch of project photos!) was very impressed by the variety of subjects and craftsmanship shown in the models, modules and layouts. No matter the scale or gauge, everyone puts a lot of themselves into their modeling and the photos confirmed what we knew all along: model railroading IS the best hobby in the world! My thanks also goes to all 32 members who participated in our first ZOOM meet via their computer or phone hook-ups. I trust the presentations were informative to all who logged on. I have received some feedback regarding the audience perspective on using this method. So far all were appreciative of our efforts using ZOOM. If you have any comment—good, bad or otherwise—please send an e-mail and let me know how it worked for you, what issues you have experienced, and what can we do to improve the event for you. We'd love to double or triple our ZOOM participation, so let us know your thoughts. Thanks!

We will be using the ZOOM system for the entire 2020—2021 season. Our next meeting will be on October 18th, starting at 1:30 pm. Jim Osborn will have the ZOOM system available 30 minutes prior to the 1:30 pm start, so expect to hear some pre-meeting socializing as everyone logs on. If you haven't tried the ZOOM system yet, please contact Jim for a short “how-it-should-work session” before going “live.” It is not tough, but as with any new system, there may be some technical things that might need ironing out in advance. Information on how to get the system, log onto the system, and helpful hints on how to participate (like how to vote for the contest), are on page 8 of this issue. Never fear, we also have this information readily available on the Fox Valley Division web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org And “live” help is here if you need it. Just give me a call. Finally, it was great seeing all of you on ZOOM. It seemed like it had been too long, and it was! Looking forward to seeing you in October.

September's Clinic and Contest

September's clinic was given by *Semaphore* Editor, **Walt Herrick**, and was titled, “**Model Railroad Projects We Did While Sheltered in Place**”. A summarized and shortened version of the clinic is the cover story for this month's *Semaphore*. **October's clinic is “Layout Command Control” by Paul Wussow**. Paul will be showing us how LCC can control many non-locomotive related layout functions such as lighting, signals, turnout control, detection, etc. Join us for this informative and useful clinic!

September's contest was “1 Passenger Car” and a total of five entries were received. Denis Zamiroski took First in the popular voting with his brass, HO, North Shore Interurban coach 709 (below left). Denis prepped, painted and decaled his car which was purchased in the 1970s. **Jim Osborn's** HO, CMO express car took **Second** (middle photo below). Jim kit-bashed this car from an Accurail kit and added a scratch built Viking roof. **Leif Hansen** took **Third** with his Rio Grande Southern combine car “Edna” (below right). Leif decaled his car for the RGS. All model photos were taken by the entrants. See all of the entries at: www.foxvalleydivision.org **October's contest is “1 Weathered Structure”**. Remember, contest entries this season are your photos sent to the link given on page 8 of this *Semaphore*. Entry instructions are also given on page 8. **October's Contest Entry deadline: Noon October 16.**



Member News

FVD Congratulations to Mike Hirvela and Richard Hoker on being elected to the FVD's Superintendent and Chief Clerk positions respectively at our September 20 meet which was a makeup from last April's "Covid cancelled" meet. Mike was re-elected to the Superintendent's position having been previously elected twice as Super. This is the first time Richard has been elected Chief Clerk....Membership Services Trainmaster, **Erich Abens**, says FVD membership is 178....MMR **David Leider's** new book "**The B&O Chicago Terminal History**" (see page 9) is a winner according to those who have purchased it....**Mike Hirvela** has found the "holy grail" of rail-roadiana for big CNW fans like himself. It is the bell from CNW E class, 4-6-2, steam locomotive #1512. The loco was built by the Schenectady Locomotive Works (before it became Alco) and was delivered to the CNW in 1909. The bell is 30 inches tall, 22 inches in diameter, and very heavy. That's Mike's photo of his "new" bell. WH



2020 - 2021 Fox Valley Division Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held from **1:30 to about 4:00 pm** (except as noted under "Other" below). **This year all meetings will be presented on line using ZOOM virtual meeting technology.** See page 8 of the newsletter or the division's web site for complete instructions on how to use ZOOM and participate in the meetings. For the latest clinic and all FVD news and information, visit FVD's web site at www.foxvalleydivision.org.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Other</u>
October 18	LCC by Paul Wussow	1 Weathered Structure	1:30 pm start on ZOOM
November 22	LCL Traffic before UPS and FedEx by Mark Vaughn	1 Unfinished Project	1:30 pm start on ZOOM
December 20	Layout Wiring by Eric Peterson	1 Yard Switcher	1:30 pm start on ZOOM
January 17, 2021	3D Printing by Phillip Burnside	1 Open Load	1:30 pm start on ZOOM
February 17	Flat Buildings for Your Layout by Charles Malinowski	1 Over, Under, Around & Through	1:30 pm start on ZOOM
March 21	The Pursuit of Realism by Lance Mindheim; facilitated by Gary Saxton	1 Locomotive	1:30 pm start on ZOOM
April 18	1906 Crystal Lake, IL Depot Diorama by Walt Herrick	1 Illuminated Model	1:00 pm Start on ZOOM Annual Officer Elections
May 16	Scratch Building Cars for the AP Program by Jim Osborn	12" x 12" Diorama with Repurposed or Retired Rolling Stock	1:30 pm start on ZOOM
May 20—23	Midwest Region Annual Convention, " The Rockford Railroad Convention " * in Rockford, IL. for information see the Rock River Valley Division's web site: www.rrvd-nmra.com		
July 4 - 11	NMRA 2021 National Convention, " Rails by the Bay "* in Santa Clara, CA. See the web site for more information: www.nmra.2021.com		

***Note:** both the MWR "Rockford Railroad Convention", and the National NMRA "Rails by the Bay" national convention will hopefully be run as scheduled. Both events however, are subject to Covid-19 mandates at the time and place of the event.

Fox Valley Division ZOOM Meeting Instructions

On September 20, we will restart our monthly FVD meetings using the popular virtual meeting technology called ZOOM. Now any of us with a personal computer, notebook or smart phone should be able to attend the meet without having to worry about being contaminated by any disease! Your FVD Board believes ZOOM meetings could really boost meeting attendance and contest participation. Here's the info you need to participate in our ZOOM meets:

Email Address needed

- We must have your email address in order to send you the login credentials for each ZOOM meet. (If you do not receive the Semaphore notice each month via email, then we do not have your email address on file.)
- To add or change your email address, point your browser to the FVD web site <http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/>
- Click on the link at the top of the page just below the blue banner.
- Complete the form to add your email address to our address list.

ZOOM Meeting Procedures

- If you do not have the ZOOM app installed on your computer, please down load it and test it out at one of the webmaster's Orientation Sessions prior to the September 20 meet. The ZOOM app is FREE. Orientation sessions will be held Sunday, September 13 at 1:30 pm, and Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 pm.
- You will follow the same ZOOM procedures for each meet you attend.
- About a week before the meeting date, the FVD Webmaster will email you an invitation to the meet that will include a link to the meeting with your login credentials.
- Also included in the email will be a link to the FVD Timetable web page where you will find PDF downloads for a 1 page "FVD ZOOM Meeting Quick Guide", "ZOOM Meeting Procedures", and other help topics you may find useful. Tip: you may want print the Quick Guide to have for reference at the meeting.
- For security purposes, please do not post these credentials on any social media sites.
- Note: FVD meets are not being recorded and will not be available for later viewing.

Meeting Day

- The meeting "window" will be open about 30 minutes before the scheduled start of the meet.
- To join the meeting, click on the link in the email meeting invitation. You may be asked to do a short download or update, and you may be put in a ZOOM waiting room prior to the meeting. If so, the meeting host will shortly admit you to the meeting.
- After you are admitted, sit back and "enjoy the show".
- If you get stuck, email the webmaster at website@foxvalleydivision.org
- When the meeting is over, click the "Leave Meeting" button and you will go back to your computer's normal operation.

ZOOM Contest Entries

- With each meet invitation you will also be given instructions on how to submit a contest entry, and how to vote for the entry of your choice. Note that submitting a contest entry and voting will be done before each meet with our ZOOM meetings, not during the meet as we do when we are meeting live.
- With ZOOM meets, contest entries are limited to 1 model per contest. So, if the contest is "locomotives" you may enter one locomotive and no more.
- To submit an entry, take 1 - 3 photos at different angles of your model. Email your photos to the special contest link provided in your invitation email. Photo Tips: 1) Phone camera photos are fine, 2) Make sure there is enough light on your model, 3) "Fill the frame" with your model—in other words, don't take "long shots" of the model.
- **Contest Entry Deadline: Noon the Friday before the Sunday meet.** Early entries are encouraged.

ZOOM Contest Voting

- About two days before the meeting you will be emailed a meeting reminder and contest voting instructions.
- All contest entries will be anonymous.
- **Members may vote for any time from Noon the Friday before the meet, to Noon the morning of the meet.** Voting is done on line by clicking on the special link provided in the meeting reminder email.
- Winners will be announced at the meet.

Done! See the FVD web site www.foxvalleydivision.org/fvd2016/timetable.V2.html for full ZOOM info.



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 180 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.

2020 – 2021 FVD monthly meetings will be held September through May on line via ZOOM virtual technology per the schedule on page 6. Each meeting features a clinic, model contest, and information of interest to the membership. Outings, layout tours, and operating sessions may also be held when Covid 19 protocols are lifted.

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. Visit us on the web at:

www.foxvalleydivision.org.

The Baltimore & Ohio Chicago Terminal History



David J. Leider

David Leider's new book "The B&O Chicago Terminal History" is now available! To purchase the book directly from David, or for more info email him at: sooauthor@netzero.net

FVD's monthly meetings this year are on the internet via ZOOM virtual meeting technology (see page 8).

- Regular meeting time is: 1:30 to about 4:00 pm
- 2020 – 2021 meeting dates, contest and clinic info are on page 6 of this newsletter.

FVD web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org

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Fox Valley Division Board*

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Assistant Supt., **Denis Zamirowski**

Chief Clerk, **Richard Hoker**

Paymaster, **Tim Kleimeyer**

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Clinics & Programs, **Gary Saxton**

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Public Relations, **Walt Herrick**

Semaphore Editor, **Walt Herrick**

Ways & Means, Vacant

*Contact information for all FVD Board members is available on the division's web site:

www.foxvalleydivision.org