

February 2021



## Division Meeting

# The SEMAPHORE Fox Valley Division

----- DECEMBER 1974

VOLUME I #6 -----

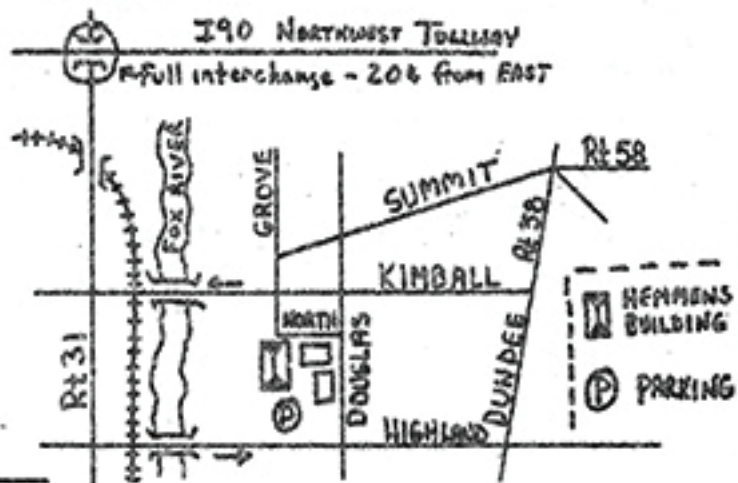
### ##### DIVISION MEETING #####

Date: SUNDAY DECEMBER 15

Time: 1:30pm to 5:00pm

Place: Hemmens Auditorium  
Elgin, Illinois

Program: Gordon Odegard  
"Track Detail" Clinic  
Jim Hediger  
"Auto-Train" Clinic  
RAFFLE WP 2-8-2 Mike



The gang from Model Railroader are our guests for December's meeting in Elgin. Associate Editors Gordon Odegard and Jim Hediger from the staff of Model Railroader will be with us for Sunday's meeting and each will be presenting clinics we think you'll like.

Jim Hediger will be presenting his newly assembled clinic on Auto-Train. December's issues of Trains and Model Railroader feature articles by Jim on Auto-Train from both the prototype and model viewpoints. We think you'll find Jim's clinic both timely and interesting as he discusses this new and different railroad operation.

Gordon Odegard will be presenting his clinic "Track Detail". Gordy's clinic will show some of the many little details of track and right-of-way detail often overlooked by modelers which give roadbed the railroad "feel". Here's a nuts-and-bolts clinic which many of us can put to good use on our own layouts.

And finally, how about United Western Pacific 2-8-2 Mike for under your tree this Christmas? We're going to raffle it off at the meeting and some lucky guy is going home with a real prize! Tickets on sale at the meeting for \$2 each. The winner will be drawn at the meeting. Don't miss out!



## FOX VALLEY CHRISTMAS PARTY

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Last chance! Saturday Dec 14th is the date and the Blue Moon is the place for the Fox Valley Division's first Christmas Party.

Bring your wife and join us for dinner and an evening of fun at the Blue Moon restaurant in Elgin. We've reserved a special party room just for our group.

Only \$13.00 per COUPLE (\$6.50 ea) will reserve a spot for you, including a full dinner banquet. The FV Division festivities will begin at 7:00pm with the opening of our COD cocktail bar. Dinner will be served at 8:00pm. The "watering stop" will remain open during and after dinner for those who wish to quench their thirst.

Dancing and entertainment is available in both the ball room (\$1.50 each admission) or the Blue Moon's cocktail lounge (no charge).

Come on and join us Saturday December 14th for an evening of fun. Reservations are required, no tickets at the door. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday December 11th. Contact Mrs. Linda King, 254 Hermitage Court, Hoffman Estates 60172 today. Check the reservation form in the back of this issue. See you there!

### ON THE READY TRACK

Here's a brief run down of FV Div coming events. Circle the dates and come on out to join the fun.

DECEMBER 14th is the Fox Valley Division's Christmas Party. Bring your wife for dinner and an evening of fun with your FV Div friends. See above for details.

DECEMBER 15th is our Division meeting in Elgin. See page 1 for details.

JANUARY 17th (Friday evening). Tony Koester, Managing Editor of Railroad Model Craftsman joins us for the evening. Tony's clinic will talk about developing a concept for your railroad for prototype operation. Tony and FV Asst Super Steve King will follow up with a clinic on applying the prototype to card order operation. Don't forget this is a FRIDAY meet.

FEBRUARY 16 we'll be holding our first Division meeting in the Aurora area. We're looking forward to a visit to the "Little Q" club layout and hope we'll be seeing some new faces from southwestern FV area. Watch the Semaphore for details.

MARCH 16 a real live auction. Bring your goodies for auction at the FV Div's first auction. Watch the Semaphore for details.

APRIL 13 in Elgin and two great clinics. Frank Bryan "Does Your RR Make Money" and Steve Karas "Diode Matrix Turnout Control".

MAY 16 is Layout Tours! Several fine layouts on the tour, watch for details.

RUNNING EXTRA any time and any place. Keep an eye on the Semaphore and announcements at the meetings for these "Running Extras". Coming up is a trip to Galesburg, tour of a Dispatcher's office, and tour of one of Chicago's busiest interlocking towers.

We'll keep working on programs as long as you show us you're interested. We'll be looking for YOU at your meets.

### THE CABOOSE

While we're on the subject of meetings, where was everybody last month? November's meeting saw a lot of empty chairs.

Maybe we've mis-judged the interest in model railroading and Division activities. Maybe November's turnout of barely 30 people is "typical". Maybe the guys in the Divisions around us who said, "they won't show up" were right.

Maybe we mis-judged when we figured guys like Gene Glendinning, Greg Heier, Allen McClelland, Gordy Odegard and Jim Heddiger, Tony Koester, and all of the others who have visited at our meetings would stir up interest in the FV area. Surely they must be more interesting than tape/slide clinics!

Maybe only a few of you really are interested in learning more about model railroading, meeting new people interested in model railroading, or participating in Division activities. Then again, maybe we're not doing



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something right. Maybe monthly meetings don't interest many. Maybe "name" people visiting meetings don't interest many. Maybe the Semaphore gets mailed too early, too late, is too big, or is too small. Maybe you'd like to do something we've haven't thought about or haven't done. Maybe Sunday afternoon is a bad time to meet.

But then again, maybe there really is only a small interest in anything. When a group of us got together to get the FV off the ground, we agreed on a couple of things. First, the FV was going to be an active Division and not just a Division in name. No "clique" was going to "run" it, and every opportunity would be made available to allow "new" people to become active in the Division. And finally, we'd "support" the Division as was necessary for at least a year to give it time to get going.

When barely 10% of the membership shows for a meeting, it makes you wonder whether you should have tried to begin with. I hope we're wrong!

#### SEMAPHORE MAILING CHANGES

Mailing the Semaphore is the Division's single greatest expense. We mail monthly to nearly 300 NMRA members who live in the FV area. That's almost \$30 a month in postage alone!

We recently surveyed our meeting attendance rosters to see just who was coming to the meetings. As expected, meetings in Elgin draw from the Elgin area and meetings in Arlington Heights draw from the Arlington area. A few people do attend "out of area" meetings, but for the most part, if the meeting is more than 15 minutes away, many don't bother.

Of the nearly 300 NMRA members in the FV Division, our rosters showed that less than 100 have ever been to any activity. Conversely, two-thirds of the membership never attended a meeting!

So why spend \$20 of the \$30 total a month to mail the Semaphore to the people who have not, and apparently

don't plan to attend any FV Division activities? Put another way, why should 30% of the membership support the remaining 70% to the tune of \$20 a month?

It's a reasonable question that we thought ought to be put to the members who attend meetings. Last October and November we talked it over. Out of the varied comments, we've sorted it out like this.

The Semaphore will be mailed monthly (10 issues a year) to every FV member who attends one FV function in each of two semi-annual periods. The two periods extend from September through January and February through August. With a normal meeting schedule, the Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec and Jan meetings are included in the first period, with Feb, Mar, Apr, May, and July in the second period. June and August meets are not scheduled.

We feel attending two meetings a year is not too much to ask in the way of participation. Do you? Remember, meetings are FREE. The Division supports itself by its projects: raffles, name tags, car cards, etc. and although we ask that you support these projects, we don't require you to do so.

Effective with the February issue of the Semaphore, if you have not attended a FV Division function in the preceding Sept-Jan period, you will no longer receive the Semaphore regularly. Two general mailings will be made yearly, probably in September and January. Subscriptions to the Semaphore are available to anyone for \$2.00 per year and may be sent to: Ken Priest, 503 Park Blvd, Streamwood, Ill 60103.

We'd much rather see you at a meeting, but if you can't make it, on behalf of the rest of us, we hope you understand why we can't continue to send the Semaphore to you.

#### JANUARY BOARD MEETING

Date: January 5, 1975 (7:30pm)

Place: Perry Sugarman's  
272 Nottingham Court  
Crystal Lake, Ill  
(815) 455-0388

Please call if plan to attend.



## BRASS LOCO RAFFLE

Our brass is slightly tarnished! Last month we promised we'd raffle a PFM Denver & Salt Lake 2-6-6-0 at our December meeting.

Well, to make it short, while we were promoting the raffle, the loco was inadvertently sold. We scoured the area for another 2-6-6-0 but drew a blank.

To the rescue came our friends at Toy and Hobby House in Des Plaines, who by the way had nothing to do with the 2-6-6-0 foul-up!

They've made available to us a United 2-8-2 Mike of Western Pacific heritage. Thanks to them, the raffle is still on!

Tickets will be available at the December meeting for \$2 each. And December's meeting will see someone go home with a fine HO brass model. The drawing will be held at the December meeting...don't miss your chance to win a 2-8-2. By the way, if you picked up tickets at November's meeting, we hope you'll be there for the December drawing, but you do not have to be present to win. Good luck to all of you!

## CAR CARDS ON SALE

The orders are rolling in. But we still have a supply of operating car card and waybill packs. If you're interested in putting some operation into your railroad, these car cards and waybills are just the thing!

This car card and waybill system is in use on many pikes around the country, including Allen Mc Clelland's Virginian & Ohio, Jim Paines' Durham & Southern, Stew Marshall's South Troy English and Wickliffe, and many others.

Briefly, the system uses a car card to identify each car on the layout. A waybill is inserted into pockets on the car card to provide routing instructions for the car. One car card is used for each car on the layout, and about two to three times that number of waybills are needed to provide an adequate supply and variety to the car routings.

The Division is taking orders for car car cards now, with first delivery

expected by December's meeting. Car cards come in packs of 100 cards (10 assorted car types) for \$1.00 and waybills are 60¢ for a pack of 100 waybills. Check the car card advertisement in this issue for details and breakdown of car cards and waybills.

Here's a chance to equip your railroad (or future pike) for a real operation at a cost of only a few dollars. Our supply will be limited and with the cost of card stock paper skyrocketing, any reruns will be costing more.

Get your order in today. By the way, Steve King and Tony Koester will be discussing car card operation at the PV Division meeting Friday January 17th in Arlington Heights.

## FOX VALLEY NAME BADGES

Still available at \$1.75 each are Fox Valley Division name badges. These are 3" X 1½" engraved badges with a light brown background and white lettering. "Fox Valley Division" and "NMRA - MWR" come on all badges. Your name (up to 20 letters and spaces total) is engraved on the third line.

To order, use the order form in this issue. Send to: Roger Ekholm, 852 Brook Street, Elgin 60120. Make check payable to "Fox Valley Division-NMRA" and be sure to print clearly your name just as you'd like it on your badge.

Better yet, come to a meeting and order directly from Roger.

## SWAP SHOP

Buy: Zip  
Sell: Zip  
Trade: Zip

\$1.00 for 5 full column lines to advertise something you have for sale, want to buy, or want to trade. Send to: Steve King, 254 Hermitage Court, Hoffman Estates 60172

HOOSIERAIL '75 MIDWEST REGION CONV  
April 18-20 W.Lafayette, Ind

***In This Issue...***

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***A Blast from the Past...***

By now I hope you have obviously figured out that the first 4 pages are in fact from 46+ years ago! Superintendent Mike Hirvela was doing some house cleaning at the Illinois GN MRR Club Zion facility currently being vacated and he found this old issue of the *Semaphore*. He sent it to me and we both felt it would be cool to share it with you.

***Covid Thoughts - by Jim Osborn, Editor ...***

**Tempus fugit - Time flies.** On one hand, it seems like we've been in this lock down forever. Yet, it's only been 9 months. On the other hand, it seems like just yesterday that everything came to a grinding halt. *Where did all the time go? Why haven't I made more advances on my layout? Why haven't I finished more model construction?* In my personal case, the answer lies in 3 parts: 1) What I am doing; 2) What I shouldn't be doing; 3) What I am not doing.

**What I'm not doing:** Let me start with category 3. No person-to-person division meets, no restaurant breakfasts, no bull sessions, no op sessions, no layout tours, no camaraderie - I could go on. Because of all this, I have not run a train on my layout since March. I am going to need a snow blower to get all the dust off the tracks just to move a train. When will this end? It has been going on forever - or at least it seems like it.

**What am I doing?** (category 1) Building merit grade cars to obtain an NMRA Achievement Program (AP) certificate for Master Car Builder. So far, 3 scratch built cars and two merit grade cars are complete. Only one more scratch built and 2 spruced up kit-bashes to go. When I finish those & get the AP Cars Certificate, I will have all the requirements

My take-a-ways from the December '74 issue:

- \$2.00 raffle for a brass 2-8-2 Mikado. Such a deal. Where do I get a ticket?
- Gordon Odegard, Jim Hediger, Allen McClelland and Tony Koester featured speakers. What a lineup!
- The Fox Valley division spanned all the way down to Aurora. Where was the DuPage Division?
- Pleas for more attendance at the monthly meets with only 10% attendance back then. We are doing better in that category at 20%, but I guess some things never change.
- It appears that this was just the 6th issue of the *Semaphore*. Volume 1 - #6. As best as we can tell, the FVD was officially formed on April 27, 1974.
- The whole issue was typewriter written. (Holy cats! I can hardly make it through a sentence without a spelling correction!) JO

for the Master Model Railroader certificate. As my dad used to say, "That and quarter will get you on the bus." True, bus rides are more than a quarter now, but it has been a goal for me for a long time. Unfortunately, I hadn't been doing much work on the AP cars - until Covid came along. Now I am close, and hopefully, I'll be done about when we all get vaccinated. Perfect timing!

**What I shouldn't be doing?** (finally category 2) Boy this list is long. It starts with eating. I know why they call it the Covid-19! I am carrying an extra 10 pounds around with me now. (Is that Covid-10?) It's too easy to snack; there's less activity and too much Netflix. The gym is closed. Solitaire and midday naps are just too easy to take... These things take time away from what I should be doing during this bizarre Covid quarantine.

**Now, to my point:** We need to take the time we spend on the "should not" activities and use it for more "should be" activities. Easier said than done - but we can all help support one another. Let me give you two, personal examples. 1) I received a photo of a wonderful - just completed - scratch built caboose from a fellow modeler. **BAM!** When I saw that photo, it got my juices flowing and I was down in the workshop cutting styrene for my latest scratch built car thinking, *I can do that!*



(Continued next page...)

## Covid thoughts, Cont'd...

2) Another friend sent me a picture of a new, detailed scrap yard scene he'd just completed on his layout. **BAM!** I was back in my shop again.

It seems to me one benefit of the NMRA is that we are really a support group. Sort of Modelers Anonymous? The in-person meets provided that group connection. That important interaction has, unfortunately, been weakened by Covid restrictions. The Zoom meets are good - but it is hard to talk one-on-one in the Zoom app. Now the onus is on us as individuals to find ways to support one another. Take the initiative; share your work. Inspire the hobbyist in us all. How?

**Send me photos of your projects.** I'll make sure they are published for all the members to see. Anything to spark that **BAM** -- especially when we are about to slip off the wagon and take a nap, or grab some snacks, or binge another streaming series. Help save us all from Covid doom. Do it now! *Tempus fugit!*

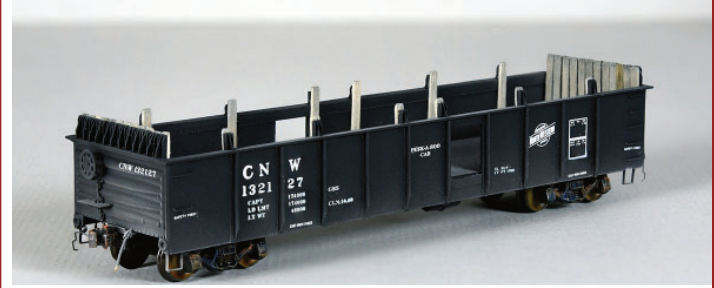
Jim Osborn, Editor

[website@foxvalleydivision.org](mailto:website@foxvalleydivision.org)

## What's Happening - or not ...

- Phillip Burnside (CID) hosted a great clinic during the Jan. meet on his design of a 3D printed "Bag House". It was very inspirational. If you don't know, a "Bag House" is a giant industrial air cleaner!
- We will hold **elections** for Assistant Superintendent and Paymaster at the April virtual meeting. We need candidates - click <http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/fvd2016/contactus.v2.html>. Contact Chief Clerk Rich Hoker if you are willing to put your name forward.
- The MWR spring **convention** in Rockford has been postponed until next September. Additional information will be forthcoming.
- **Train Shows, Inc.** is hopeful they'll be able to re-start the train show season sometime in the spring.
- **NMRA-X** mini-conventions by Regions and by National sponsorship are occurring on line. Videos of the "clinics" are available on You-Tube. Search for NMRA-X in your browser search box; it will bring up the video set.
- We just learned that the NMRA 2021 Rails By The Bay convention has been **canceled**. It will become an **NMRA-X** virtual event. Details will be forthcoming.
- **Kalmbach Media** has reorganized their web presence to [www.Trains.com](http://www.Trains.com). All their website content is available under one name.
- **Wisconsin Southern RR** painted a loco in a special paint scheme for their 40th Anniversary.
- **UP** had a derailment of freight cars on their former C&NW mainline in Iowa on Christmas Eve.
- **Cumbres and Toltec Scenic RR** called out their vintage rotary snowplow for the first time this season to clear their line.
- **Western Maryland #1309**, a 2-6-6-2 and Baldwin's last steam locomotive built, has been undergoing a restoration for several years. It was fired up and came to full pressure and steamed in tests on the Western Maryland Scenic Railway, using their one of the diesels as a "load." Hmmm, would that diesel be considered an Open Load?

I'll start by sharing one of my Covid projects - here's a snap of my recently scratch built CNW Peek-a-Boo gondola.



And here's the outstanding scratch built Duluth South Shore and Atlantic caboose by Steve Miazga (WISE Division) that got me going again. **BAM!** Thank you Steve!



## January Contest Results & More...

Jim Osborn's (Editor) lumber load on a bulkhead flatcar won 1st place honors in January. Bob Hanmer grabbed 2nd place with his lumber load and Harry Meislahn took 3rd place with his lumber load. You can see all the model entries on our web site at:

<http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/fvd2016/contests.v2.html>

The February contest category is **Over, Under, Around or Through**. Enter a bridge, tunnel portal, signal bridge, industry building, signal mast, junction tower -- whatever you can go over, under, around or through. **Note the May contest has been changed to a photo of a Small Scene with re-purposed or retired Rolling Stock - the scene is not limited to a 12" x 12" diorama as originally stated.**

Submit contest photos any time. Just click on the secure link below to send in your photos for any of the future contests. JO

<https://form.jotform.com/201995250508962>



1st Place - Lumber Load



Here's a February through example.

## 2020 - 2021 Fox Valley Division Meeting Schedule

Meetings are held from 1:30 to about 4:00 pm (except as noted). This season all meetings will be presented online using ZOOM virtual meeting technology. See the next page 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](http://www.foxvalleydivision.org).

Date	Clinic	Contest	Notes
<b>Next Meet...</b>			
February 21	Flat Buildings for Your Layout by Charles Malinowski	1 Over, Under, Around & Through	1:30 pm start on ZOOM
<b>Future Meets...</b>			
March 21	The Pursuit of Realism by Lance Mindheim; facilitated by Gary Saxton	1 Locomotive	1:30 pm start on ZOOM
April 18	Prototype Jct. Reconstruction by Steve Miazga, Wise Div.	1 Illuminated Model	<b>1:00 pm Start</b> on ZOOM Annual Officer Elections
May 16	Scratch Building Cars for the AP Program by Jim Osborn	Photo of a small scene with re-purposed or retired Rolling Stock	1:30 pm start on ZOOM
May 20—23	Midwest Region Annual Convention, "The Rockford Railroad Convention" HAS BEEN POSTPONED. For information see the Rock River Valley Division's web site: <a href="http://www.rrvd-nmra.com">www.rrvd-nmra.com</a>		

July 4 - 11 NMRA 2021 National Convention, "**Rails by the Bay**" in Santa Clara, CA. See the NMRA web site for more information: <https://www.nmra2021.com/>

## Mike's Minute...

Last month I started out to write an enthusiastic paragraph about the new year with unlimited possibilities -- while kissing the old year goodbye. But as you all know, the passing of our friend, newsletter editor and all-around good guy, Walt Herrick, took precedent and January had a somber tone. Sadly, we have learned that Carl Wagus, FVD member and former Chief Clerk passed away on December 29. His obituary can be read at: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/nwherald/name/carl-wagus-obituary?pid=197408450>



Carl Wagus

As we say good bye to the old year, we should pause and reflect on the year gone by, our successes and our shortcomings -- remember those who have passed on to that big roundhouse in the sky. I hope that when you reflect on years previous

in your own sphere you get the feeling that because of folks we knew we can continue learning, growing, cultivating friendships and shaping our own futures. I plan to keep involved in 2021 to honor our Fox Valley predecessors, my late "S" gauge go-to-guy in Virginia, Dale Stocks; along with several former high school classmates and other acquaintances who have passed on.

This month's *Semaphore* also looks back, but in a different way. The December 1974 *Semaphore* that leads off this issue was discovered in the archives of the Illinois Great Northern Model Railroad Club, located in Zion. Several club members and I had been cleaning out the club spaces and removing the 30 year old railroad in preparation to vacate the building by the end of the year. [ *In case you're wondering - we did meet the deadline.* ] Finding that issue brought back memories of that month and year as a point in time. I recall exactly where I was at that time. As you read the old issue, you will learn that the FVD members of that time were also facing a turn of the year as well.

Mark K, my late philosophical friend from Texas would say, "Life is not about the destination, but the journey." And as Tom Hanks' conductor character in the film, "*Polar Express*" notes, "*It's not where the train is going, but deciding to get on board.*" All journeys begin with the first step. What's your first step in 2021?

We still have positions open for the Division's **Publications Trainmaster** (*Semaphore* editor), **Public Relations Trainmaster** (advertise our activities), and **Social Media Coordinator** (Facebook et al. accounts manager). This could be one, two or even three members. How about taking that first step? Get on board by considering to take on one or more of these activities -- we need your help to keep the division's journey going.

In the meantime, Jim Osborn & I will be proceeding as best we can to get the newsletter out on time. This is our second issue, but now we need your assistance in gathering interesting content for subsequent issues more than ever. We are seeking your inputs and ideas - whatever they are and whatever you think others would be interested in.

Our next virtual meeting will be on **Feb. 21st**. See page 7 for meet details and page 9 for Zoom instructions if your are not familiar with the application. I have enjoyed seeing everyone attending our ZOOM meetings. It's almost like meeting in person -- and in some ways -- it's better. We have included clinicians from other divisions across the country to up program content; there is no driving time and you can have the refreshments of your choice! BTW, take a few minutes to participate in our virtual contest by submitting photos of your **Over, Under, Around or through Model. Entry photos are accepted any time through our Timetable web page.** Finally, don't forget to vote for your favorite contest entries. Click this link to vote between Fri. Noon before the meet and Sunday Noon the day of the meet.:

<https://form.jotform.com/201986084212959>

Everyone take care, stay safe and have your fingers crossed for things to get back to 'normal' sometime in 2021. May we all have clear track and green boards ahead! MH



## ***Fox Valley Division ZOOM Meeting Instructions***

On September 20, we restarted 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 download it and test it out.
- 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 to 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 admit you to the meeting.
- After you are admitted, sit back and "enjoy the show". If you get stuck, email [website@foxvalleydivision.org](mailto:website@foxvalleydivision.org) for assistance
- When the meeting is over, click the "Leave Meeting" button and the app will close.

### ***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 in person.
- 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. Submit your photos with special upload 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 day of the meet. Voting is done on line by clicking on the special link provided in the meeting reminder email, or you can click here: <https://form.jotform.com/201986084212959>
- Winners will be announced at the meet.
- See the FVD web site for full ZOOM info: <http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/fvd2016/timetable.v2.html>



### **Call for Articles....**

Future Semaphore issues need interesting content. Consequently we are looking for model or prototype railroad related articles. Send us your content (words and photos) or even ideas. We'll take care of the editing and insertion in the publication. Contact us at:

<http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/fvd2016/contactus.v2.html>

### **About the Fox Valley Division**

If you receive this newsletter, you live in the Midwest Region and Fox Valley Division area of the National Model Railroad Association or NMRA. The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes all of Lake and McHenry, as well as 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. Subscriptions to the Semaphore newsletters are free. NMRA membership in the division is available through the NMRA at:

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

2020 –2021 FVD monthly meetings are held September through May on-line via the ZOOM virtual meeting technology per the schedule in this issue. 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 allow gatherings.

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: <http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/>

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Mailing address:

Fox Valley Division  
P. O. Box 1535  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005-1535

Website:

<http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/>

Until further notice, regular meetings are held virtually via Zoom from 1:30 until 4:00 PM per the schedule listed in this publication and on its website at:

<http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/fvd2016/timetable.v2.html>

Editor: Jim Osborn

Assistant Editor: Michael Hirvela

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