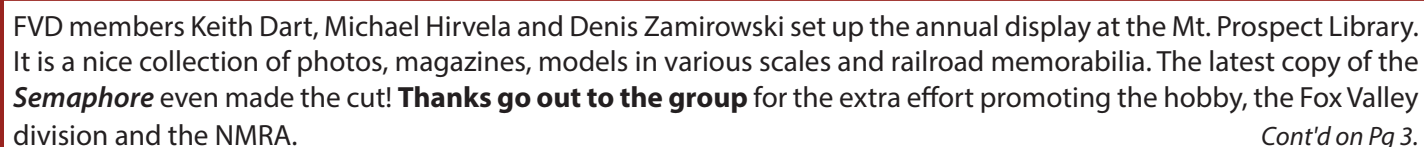




**FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION**



Cont'd on Pg 3.



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

<b>Pages 1 &amp; 3</b>	<b>The FVD library display</b>
<b>Page 2</b>	<b>Keep Those Trains Moving</b>
<b>Page 4 &amp; 5</b>	<b>Chicago Indust. RR Update</b>
<b>Page 6</b>	<b>Midwest Region Convention</b>
<b>Page 7</b>	<b>Mike's Minute</b>
<b>Page 7</b>	<b>Fun Stuff</b>
<b>Page 8</b>	<b>Feb. Contest &amp; Next Meet</b>
<b>Page 9</b>	<b>What's Happening (or not)</b>
<b>Page 10</b>	<b>Meeting Schedules</b>
<b>Page 11</b>	<b>Call for Articles</b>
<b>Page 11</b>	<b>Division Information</b>

***Keep Those Trains Moving, by Jim Osborn, MMR...***

The latest scene I have been developing is a scrap & salvage yard next to the gravel quarry. I had a blank space surrounded by tracks that needed an industry. It was not long before Steve's Scrap & Salvage was established.



I had an old Suydam corrugated metal building in my unbuilt structures box, so I finally used it adding some details and weathering to be the anchor for the scene. I also built a Model Tech Studios, 30 ton industrial crane kit with a 4-pronged claw on the end of the lifting cable. I added a turnout and the industry spur to service the facility. When I was looking for more **Scrap and Salvage** to fill out the site, I remembered that Leif Hansen entered a gondola filled with compressed scrap metal cubes as an open load in the March 2018 division meet contest. I contacted Leif to learn how to make the cubes. He gladly shared the process with me.

Here's how to do it. Make a bent up fixture out of thin brass or aluminum that is about 5/8" on a side for HO scale. Then cut up foil candy wrappers and stuff them into the fixture putting a dot of white glue in between layers as they are added. (**Lindt** dark chocolate bar wrappers worked great - and the chocolate is very good.) I used an old pencil end to smash them down as I went along. I placed a small piece of handy wrap under the fixture to keep from gluing the mess to my work bench. When done, I carefully pushed the cube out of the fixture, reshaped it a bit and let it dry overnight. I am pleased with the results. The following pictures tell the story...



Lots more work to do on the scene but I like the addition of the scrap cubes on pallets - and they were easy to make. I am still on the hunt for more Scrap & Salvage to fill the scene out - **Steve's Scrap & Salvage** receiving is always open! Take care, stay safe and **Keep Those Trains Moving!**

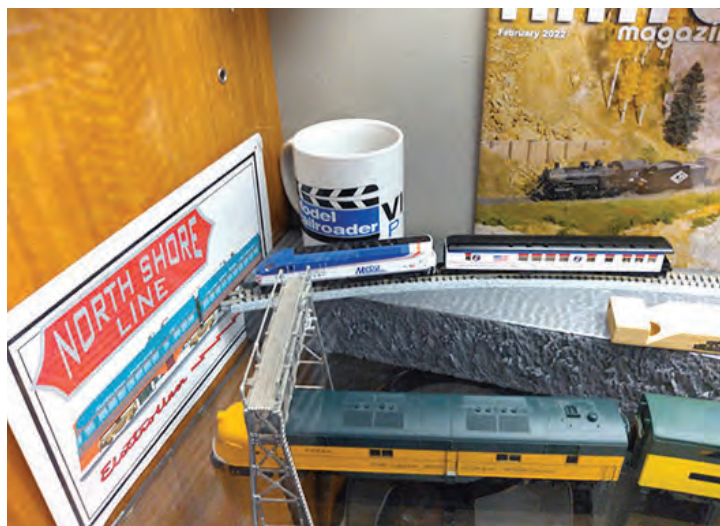
Jim Osborn, MMR



### Mt. Prospect Library Display,

Photos by Keith Dart & Michael Hirvela.....

The crew arrived about 9 am on Feb 1st to assemble the display. The library staff tells us ours is always very popular. Here are few more pictures:



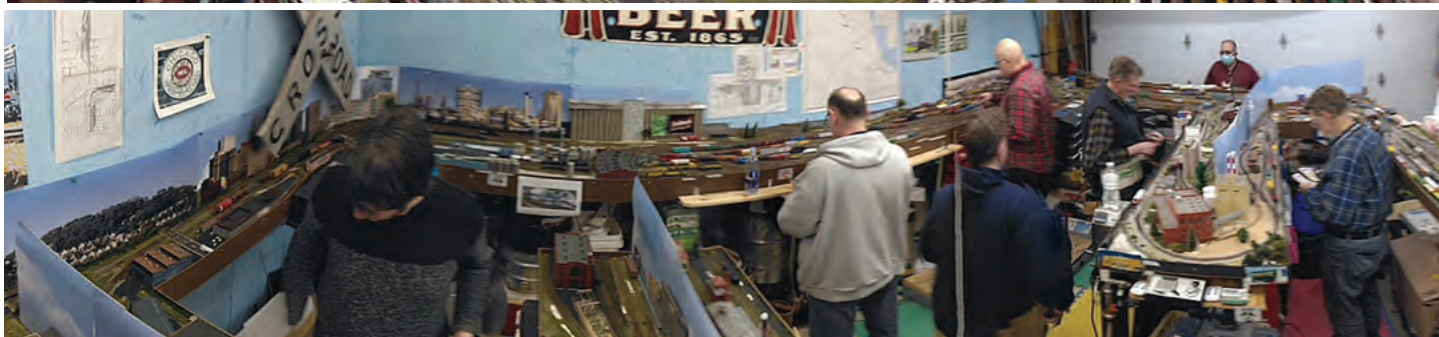


## Operations and Update on the Chicago Industrial Terminal Rwy. by Keith Dart, Assistant Editor

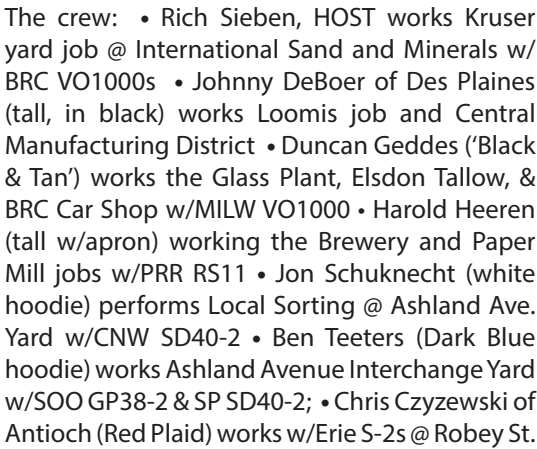
As so previously well-documented by the *Semaphore's* former Editor-in-Chief Walt Herrick, Metra Energy Mgr. Rich Sieben, FVD & OPSIG Member since 2014 of Island Lake, IL hosted 10 Guest Engineers from various professional backgrounds, & 'geographical hometowns' for what was hailed by consensus of those gathered as a rounding success (not including the occasional cameo &/or 'major-league mooch attempt' by several of the more emboldened indigenous house pets ... "Spennn—Cerrr!!" You can read the detailed article about the railroad by clicking here:

<https://www.foxvalleydivision.org/images/semaphorefiles/semaphore202009.pdf>

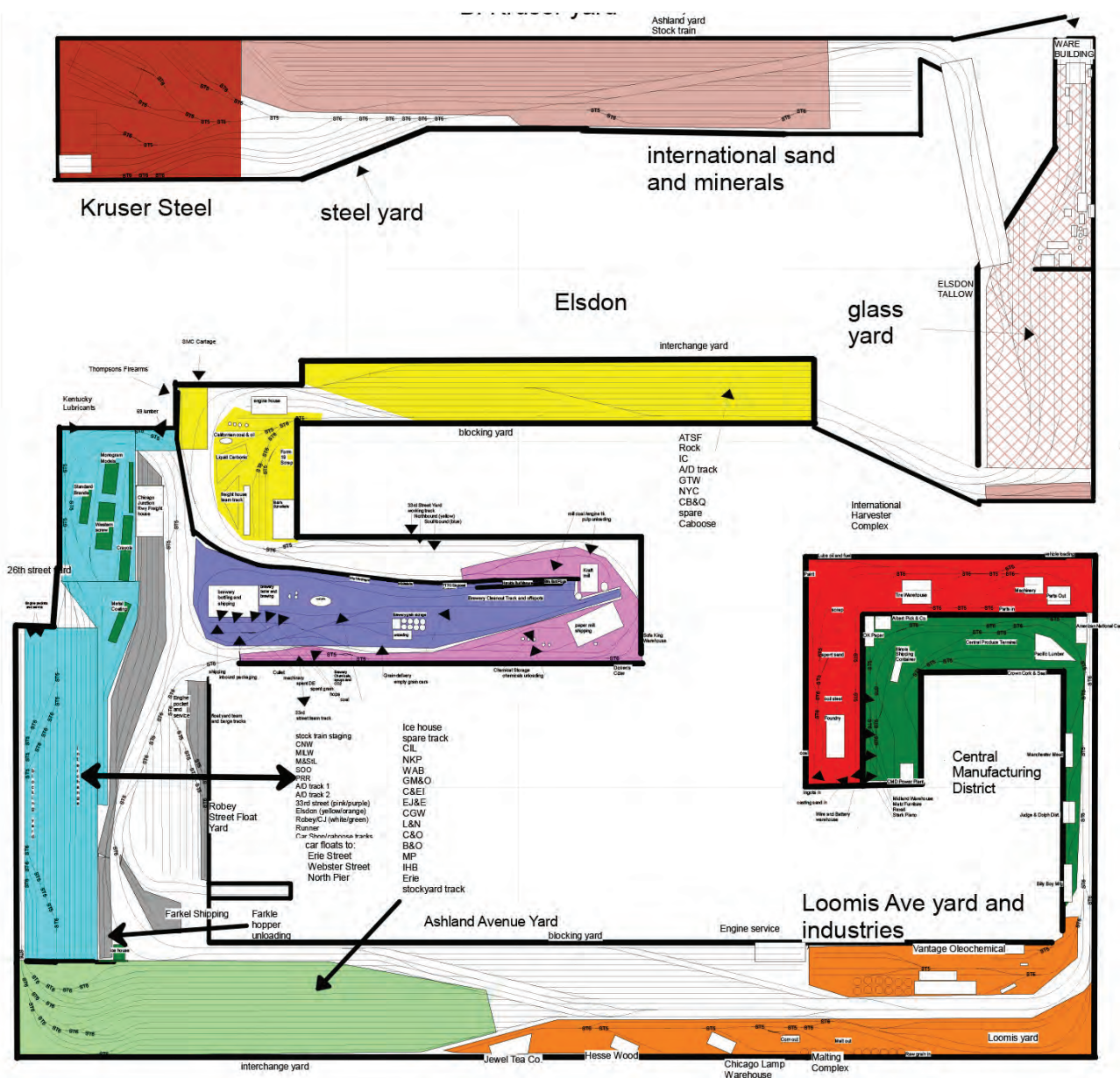
On February 12, during my visit, 17 Locomotives were used, 20 transfers ran, 700+ cars were touched, 128 industries were served by 11 engineer/operators for 6 hours! Whew!!! Here's a few pictures of the action on this complex layout.







Woods (maroon "Ducks UnLtd." above on the left) switches 26th St. Yard w/MSt&L GP9s • Art Lemke of West Chicago (black/white/blue plaid) works 33rd St. Yard w/CGW GP30 • Dave Hammer of Lake Zurich (in knit cap & white sweatshirt) @ Elsdon Industrial Yard w/GT GP38s • And of course Spencer above right. • Photos by Keith Dart of Deerfield (not pictured) who worked the new Kruser Steel Mill w/MU'd EJ&E VO-1000s. The Steel Yard is Rich's latest expansion project. K.D







Marriott East, 7202 E 21<sup>st</sup> St  
Indianapolis, IN 46219



Four Full Days  
Three NMRA Regions  
An RPM Conference  
Three Day Train Show  
One Convention  
May 18-22, 2022

Clinics  
Layout Tours  
Ops Sessions  
Prototype Tours



<https://www.indyjunction2022.org/>



**RPM**  
CHICAGOLAND



## Mike's Minute ...



The Month of March traditionally has been a transitional month with Spring arriving, snow is almost gone and winter is officially (technically) over. With more moderate weather comes the opportunities to get out and about and visit those train shows & swap meets and return to the fun of operating sessions that were canceled due to COVID now that the Governor is removing certain requirements.

Speaking of Train Show / Swap Meets, the FVD shares an NMRA member table at the Great Midwest Train Show (GMWTS), aka the Wheaton swap, at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in alternating months with our friends in the DuPage Division. The FVD has the table in April and June. April is covered. We need someone to be our rep at the June (5th) 2022 GMWTS. Let me know if you can assist [it ain't that hard] and I can fill you in on the details.

Our use of the ZOOM virtual meetings over the computer continues to meet with success. I am looking forward to when we can get back to in-person meetings. Your Board of Directors are discussing the impact of the latest Governor's news and IF we can get back together in-person yet this Spring. Our Webmaster and Clinics Trainmaster are working out some technologically details based on experiences of other NMRA divisions on how we can have "hybrid" meetings, with folks physically present AND at the same time, allow folks to attend virtually.

As noted in the NMRA Magazine, the national NMRA Board of Directors decided that a small increase in annual member dues will be necessary. Now is the time to renew your membership at a lower price than after April 1st. Also, there will be a new option to access the monthly NMRA Magazine in a digital version rather than in print. The print version will still be available, but access to the digital version will result in significant \$\$ savings. Members may want to review the new dues options and choose what is best for them. I don't want anyone feeling left out.

Our next meeting: March 20th at 1:30 pm, with a log in time of 1:00 pm, using the ZOOM Meeting System. Our webmaster sends out the meeting notice with the log-on credentials to make it easy. The notice comes out by e-mail, so be sure we have your current e-mail address and advise of any change.

Everyone take care, and we'll see you on the 20th!  
M.H.

## Fun Stuff... What the heck is this? by Jim Osborn

The Volo Auto Museum is famous for its excellent displays of muscle, hot rod, movie, military and antique cars, but they have been expanding. 1st animated dinosaurs appeared and then this showed up on their property - some assembly required.



A couple of weeks later the museum conservator made real progress with the loco. The tender is marked "The Great Alaskan Railway." The coach is from Juarez, Mexico.



I also found this GP35 on the museum grounds. Anybody recognize the paint scheme? Mexico?



And finally, I found these coaches in the parking lot.



According to a press release, the Jupiter 4-4-0 steam locomotive and tender were used in Disney's 2013 film "*The Lone Ranger*." Also on view will be the parlor car that's from another train in the same movie, as well as the baggage and parlor cars made famous by Will Smith in "*Wild Wild West*." What fun! J.O.



## February Contest Results ...

Ted Witt's N Scale Capt'n Porky's Wharf was awarded 1st Place honors in the Large Structure contest. The HO Scale scratch-built "Continental Grain Company" by Michael Hirvela was awarded 2nd place in the contest. An HO Scale, Kit Bash "Parker's Paints" by Leif Hansen placed 3rd. Pictures are shown below. We had 7 entries in HO, and N scales. See more and larger photos of all the model entries on our web site at:

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



Ted Witt's Capt'n Porky's Wharf (left) Michale Hirvela's Continental Grain Co. (center) Leif Hansen's Parker's Paints (right)

**Next Meet - March 20, 2022, 1:30 start....**

### Programs:

***A Teen Explores Chicago's Railroads in 1977***  
***(Prequel to the December clinic)*** by Steve Brown

and

***November 2021 trip to Panama Canal RR*** by Steve Brown

**Contest:** Send in photos of your favorite and interesting **Steam Locomotive** to the photo contest website. You may submit up to three photos of your model to the web site.





An interesting United Kingdom Double Fairlie made by Bachmann is shown above.

Celebrate and share your modeling work and fun with the membership.

Click on: <https://form.jotform.com/201995250508962> to submit your contest photos.



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

-  Fox Valley Division member Rich Sieben has raised his hand to help contribute content to the **Semaphore** in future issues. His first story will be in a subsequent edition. A big **thank you** goes out to Rich for pitching in for the division.
-  Beginning this year, Walthers will skip the annual publication of their reference book. The next publication will be the 2024/2025 edition - available in late 2023. They will only publish every other year going forward.
-  **Great Midwest Train Show** (aka: the Wheaton / DuPage Swap ) is under new management and is holding swap meets at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton, IL. The dates for future shows are: March 6, April 3, May 1 and June 5, 2022. Follow the signs to the fairgrounds entrance. See: <https://www.trainshow.com/>
-  **Tri-City Train Show** (Roma Lodge Swap), in Racine, 7130 Spring Street (County Hwy C) on the following days: 8am – 12 noon: (1 show remaining): March 13.
-  **Lake County Model RR Club Open House (50 Year Celebration)**, March 19 & 20, 11am to 4pm both days.
-  **Rock River Valley Division Train Show** at Harlem High School, Machesney Park, IL, March 26-27, 2022
-  The **Chicago Area O-Scale Meet** will be held on April 1-2, 2022 at the Lombard Westin. See their web site for more info: <https://marchmeet.net/WP/>
-  **Titletown Train Show** will be at the KI Center, Green Bay, Wisconsin, April 9-10, 2022.
-  Save the date: Gail & Gordy Ericksen's **Milwaukee Road Southwest Division** Open House. See this impressive layout on Saturday, April 23, 2022, 1- 4 pm. Details to follow next month.
-  Fox Valley Division will hold **elections for Superintendent and Chief Clerk** at the April 24th membership meeting. Contact the Chief Clerk, Richard Hocker to toss your name into the hat for either of these positions. Join in the management of the FVD. Click this link to contact any Board Member: <http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/fvd2016/contactus.v2.html>
-  The **Rochell Railroad Park, Railroad Days** will be held on May 21 & 22, 2022. See their web site for details: <https://www.rochellerrailroadpark.org/>
-  The **Midwest Region** will hold a tri-regional convention in Indianapolis on May 18 - 22, 2022. See the FVD RR events web page for more details - it should be a dandy! See: <https://www.indyjunction2022.org/> There will be an RPM meet in conjunction with the convention. Book your hotel rooms now - INDY time trials are running at the same time.
-  The **National N Scale Convention** is planned for a Nashville venue on June 22-26, 2022. See: <http://www.nationalnscaleconvention.com/> for details as they become available.
-  Great Tri-State Rail Sale at the La Crosse Center, La Crosse, Wisconsin, will be held on July 16th in Copeland Park. Info at: <https://4000foundation.org/>
-  **NMRA Gateway 2022 National Convention** will be in St. Louis, August 7 – 14, 2022. Please watch the website for details: [https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event\\_id=13724](https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event_id=13724)
-  The **Rock River Valley Division** will host the 2023 MWR convention. Dates TBD.



## 2021 - 2022 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 timetable tab on the division's web site <http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/fvd2016/timetable.v2.html> 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). Save the dates for now - details will follow.

Date	Presentation	Contest	Notes
Dec. 19, 2021	<i>New Hard Shell Scenery Method</i> by Bob McGeever, and <i>A Teen/Tween Explores Chicago's Railroads - The Sequel 1975-78</i> by Steve Brown	An Odd Consist - 2 units max.	
Jan. 16, 2022	<i>Four Approaches for Arduino Controlled Signals</i> - by Gary Saxton	Open Load for 1 Freight Car.	
Feb. 20, 2022	Consist & DCC Speed Matching by George K.	1 Large Structure. 5000 sq. scale feet or more. (eg. in HO Scale that's only 9.75 inches on a side.)	
Mar. 20, 2022  <b>Next Meet</b>	A Teen Explores Chicago's Railroads in 1977 (Prequel to the December clinic) by Steve Brown and November 2021 trip to Panama Canal RR by Steve Brown	1 Steam Locomotive.	
Apr. 24, 2022	Railroads of International Harvester in Chicago by Richard Sieben	1 Refrigerated Billboard Car.	1:00 Start Business & member meeting, election of Super & Chief Clerk
May 15, 2022	DCC Switching by Mike Wood	1 Small Structure. 500 sq. scale feet or less. (eg. in HO Scale that's only a little less than 3 inches on a side.)	
May 18-21, 2022	Midwest, North Central & Mid Central Tri-Region Convention	For more information, see: <a href="https://www.indyjunction2022.org/">https://www.indyjunction2022.org/</a>	





### **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/>

The *Semaphore* is published by the Fox Valley Division of the Midwest Region of the NMRA once a month, ten months a year, from September to June. The Fox Valley Division of the Midwest Region of the NMRA is registered 501(c)7 not-for-profit Illinois corporation.

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 generally 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, MMR®

Assistant Editor: Michael Hirvela

Assistant Editor: Keith Dart

Contributing Editor: Rich Sieben

### **Fox Valley Division Board of Directors**

**Superintendent, Mike Hirvela**

**Asst. Superintendent, Denis Zamirowski**

**Chief Clerk, Richard Hoker**

**Paymaster, Tim Kleimeyer**

**Achievements & Contests, Jim Landwehr**

**Clinics & Programs, Gary Saxton**

**Social Media Coordinator, Keith Dart**

**Membership Services, Erich Abens**

**Membership Promotions, Mike Hirvela**

**Web Technologies, Jim Osborn**

**Public Relations, Keith Dart**

**Semaphore Editor, Jim Osborn**

**Ways & Means, Vacant**

Need to contact any BoD members? Click this link to:

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

©Copyright 2022 by the Fox Valley Division of the NMRA, Inc.