

THE SEMAPHORE

June 2022

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



This Scratch Built On30 Disconnect Truck Logging Caboose by Kevin Jones of the Mid-Central Region was one of the many fine entries in the Indy 2022 convention celebration of modeling skills. There were 136 participants in the event - see photos of all the entries at: <http://www.mwr-nmra.org/mwr2016/mwr.contestphotos.html>

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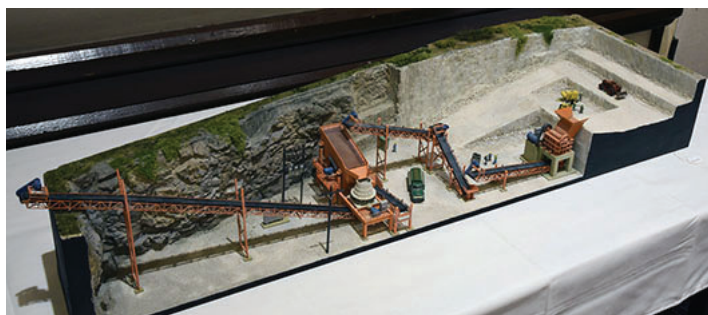
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Boston & Maine P-4a Pacific #3713 by Dave McMullian, NCR - Best in Show - Kit Built Steam Locomotive Category.



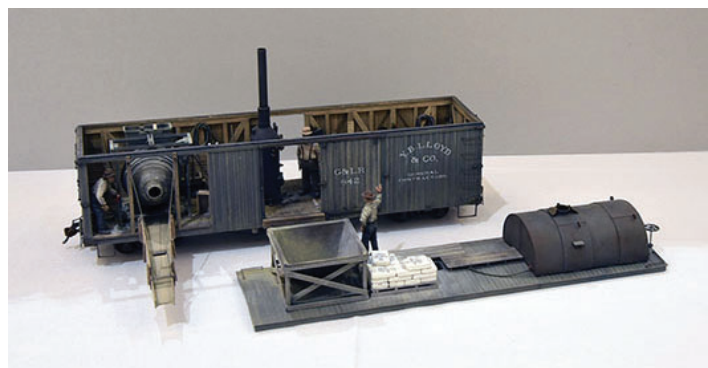
N Scale Parsons Creek Coal Co Drift Mine by Robert Osburn, MCR - 2nd Place - Scratch Built Structures.



Limestone Quarry by Jim Allen, MWR won 1st Place in the Display Category.



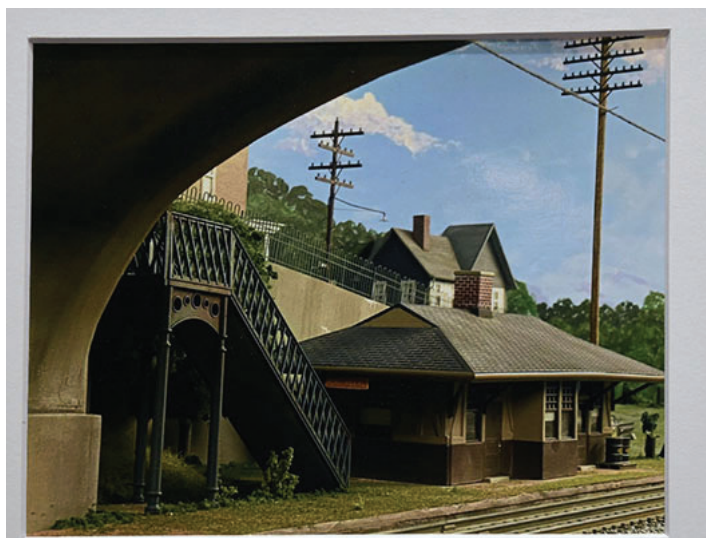
DRT Electric Engine by Brook Qualman, NCR - Peoples Choice and 1st Place - Scratch Built Loco Categories.



Concrete Mixing Boxcar GL&R 842 by Sam Swanson, MCR won Best in Show - Scratch Built Non-Revenue Category



Weed Sprayer & Chemical Tank Car by Richard McPherson, MWR - 1st Place - Kit Built Non-Revenue Car Category



Port Royal PA, 1957 by Neal Schorr, MCR - 2nd Place - Model Color Photo Contest Category

I trust your modeling senses have been tweaked by these fine examples as mine have been. Head down to the work shop and create a few of your own!

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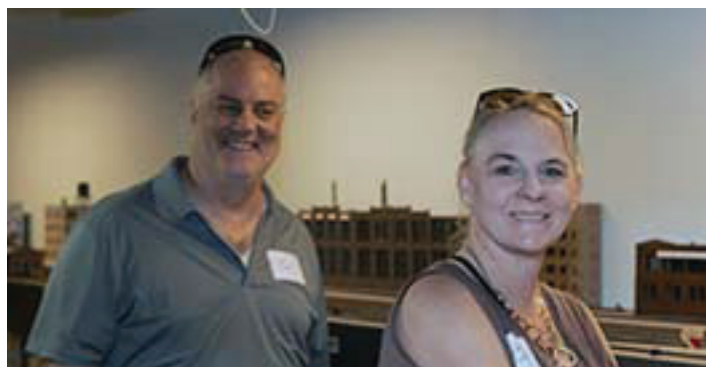
FVD members Gail and Gordy Ericksen hosted an open house to view progress on their *Milwaukee Road Southwest Division* Pike. The Semaphore photographer captured a few pictures at the event. Thanks to Gail and Gordy for hosting! A good time was had by all!



Gail Ericksen and Jim Allen must be discussing structures.



Spring Morning, Cajon by Michael Hauk, MCR - Best in Show - Prototype Color Photograph Category



Ray and Barb are all smiles at a model railroad event.



Blu Day Lily Art Quilt by Dena Dramm - People's Choice and Best in Show Needlework Category



Jeff Jarr former FVD Super is enjoying the layout.



Jim Allen, Dan Cahill and a friend pause the trains for a pose.



David Crement stopped by for a visit.



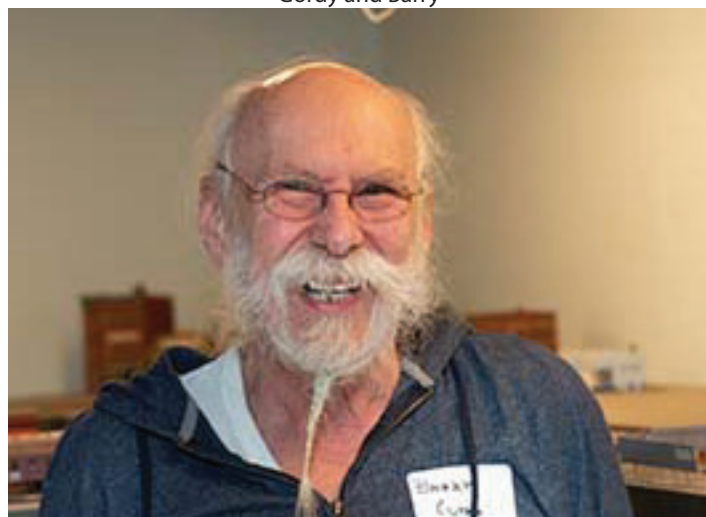
Superintendent Michael Hirvela runs a local passenger train.



Gordy and Barry



Bob Teuber enjoys the day.



Barry Cutala



Steve Fields & guest



Gordy and Assistant Super Denis Zamirowski



Charlie Johnson



A conversation reportedly overheard,.....
 "Wouldn't it be nice if we had a train layout like this in our basement?"

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That's all for this month. The Semaphore staff is taking a couple of months off to do some rail-fanning and modeling. The next issue will be published in September prior to next season's 1st meet. Have a great and safe summer. And remember.....

Model Railroading is Fun! Jim Osborn, MMR, Editor

Fun Stuff... What the heck is this? by Keith Dart

My travels took me to the west side of Chicago - specifically Armour and Kinsie Sts. along the U.P. tracks. I spotted something interesting. So, "What the heck are those things in the retaining wall?" (Almost look like hose reels, but they're 2 parts of 1 overall unit.) Any ideas? Let the **Semaphore** staff know! (Continued next page...)



Next Meet - September 18, 2022, 1:30 start.... In person at the Gary Morava Center and via Zoom.

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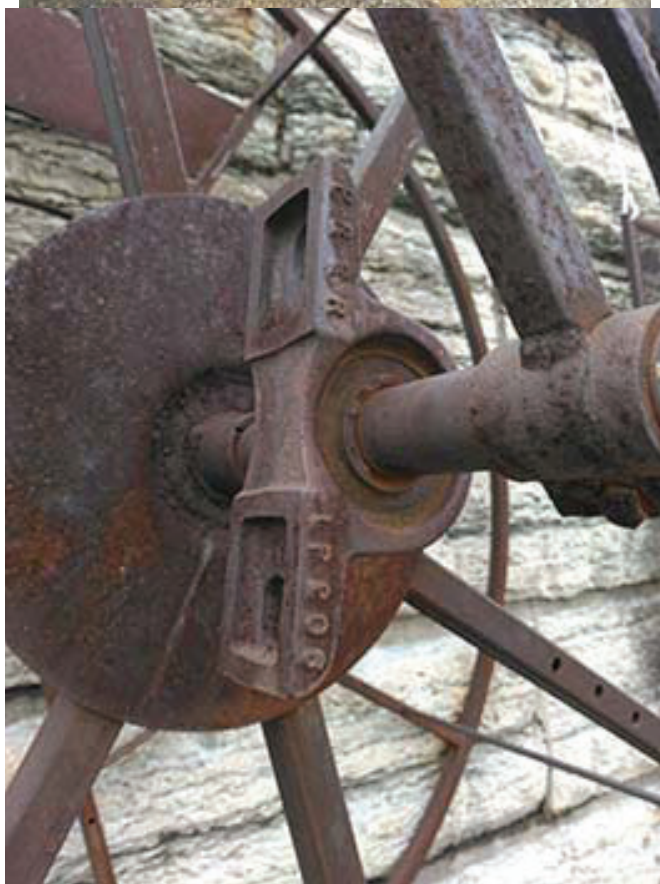
The Clinic Presentation and Contest Category are to be Announced later. Watch the FVD website Timetable for details as they become available.

The HO Scale, Scratch Built, **Taconite Junction** by Bob Hanmer took 1st Place in the Small Structure contest. The HO Scale, Scratch-Built **JK tower Roanoke VA** by Michael Shockley was awarded 2nd place in the contest. The N Scale, Laser-Kit, **Pete's Market** by John Grosse took 3rd Place. We had 7 entries in 2 scales. See more and larger photos of all the model entries on our web site at:

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



Bob Hanmer's HO Scale Taconite Junction - 1st Place



Michael Shockley's HO Scale JK Tower, Roanoke, VA



John Grosse's N Scale Pete's Market - 3rd Place

Nice detail here - plus a great cut stone retaining wall. Send us your ideas on what these were. K.D.

Mike's Minute ...



A minute, or two or even three this time. Last month I noted our May 15 meeting would be a 'hybrid' session with an in-person meeting at the Morava Center in Prospect Heights AND virtual presence via the Zoom computer system. First, to let

everyone know, we had 15 members at the Morava Center, from 12 different communities, from Chicago and Lincolnwood to Crystal Lake and Sleepy Hollow; and several in-between. My thanks to those who journeyed to Prospect Heights to participate. Those present took advantage of beverages and a special cake that Denis Z arranged (p.s.: there was none left over). I also wanted to let you know we had 14 or more members logging in over the Zoom system, locally and from distance. Thank you for your participation. Let me know your experience with this.

As I wrote last month, using the technology that exists today, it would seem an easy proposition to put such a combination meeting together. However, we are not a TV station and we had to make sure certain requirements could be fulfilled: WI-FI bandwidth, hardware and software compatibility, hook-up cables and power cords running on the floor between the components, WI-FI connections, Zoom system hosting and monitoring while another computer has the Power Point slides, external plug-in presentation with share-screen issues, microphone locations and etc., etc., etc. We did experience some audio issues as the microphone on my laptop all-of-a-sudden didn't work, and our audio output via an amplifier in the meeting room didn't work either. To give you an idea of what we dealt with, Mr. Osborn had his computer hosting the Zoom meeting on one side of the room using the building WI-FI, while I had my computer on a podium on the other side of the room with my zoom log-on and the power point slides. My laptop was using an HDMI cable to the digital projector (to show the laptop screen on the big movie screen), and the audio feed ran from the digital projector to an audio amplifier feeding a floor speaker. When we couldn't get the microphone on my laptop to work, Mr. Osborn set up a tablet computer, tied into the zoom system via WI-FI and we used that for audio feed only. Things went well once I remembered to 'share screen' and we got through the first part of the program. We then had our feature presentation, and that's where some rehearsal would have helped. We could have planned better and thought about how to focus on the demonstration item the presenter brought along using the tablet camera and audio while keeping the power point slides going on the

display screen for the audience to follow. Blame it on our inexperience with manipulating equipment (we'll work on that) as we can only do one focused item at a time [we don't have a TV control room full of equipment.] There was a bit of jumbling of hardware to muddle through the presentation (we'll work on that, too). After our break, we had the contest results and the 2nd part of the program. So, were we successful? Folks who were present provided positive feedback and were appreciative of our efforts. Overall, I would call the meeting successful. Need feedback from the Zoom world. Based on our experience, our first meeting in September will be similar and hopefully smooth.

The Tri-Region Convention in Indianapolis was held May 18th – 22nd with over 500 registered attendees, including NMRA President, Gordy Robinson; several national board members and folks we know from our Zoom sessions, such as Dave Ackmann from Missouri, who provided us a clinic and templates for billboards, and Steve Priest, former editor of RMC. As you can tell, I had a great time.

I'm excited about the 2022 NMRA National Convention in St. Louis August 7-15. Sign-up now if you haven't. The list of clinics, tours and events definitely will fill a week.

I'm also looking forward to our first meeting of the Fall season on September 18th with great anticipation to hear "what you did on your summer vacation." And you could make that a Power Point slide photo presentation that we can include in our schedule.











Be on the lookout for the "Orange Card" with information on our 2022-2023 season. The dates are set and the clinic presenters are being scheduled. Always check the **Timetable** web page on our website for the latest information on each division meeting. The meeting notices come out by e-mail, so be sure we have your current e-mail address and advise of any change. Our webmaster sends out the meeting notice with the ZOOM system log-on credentials to make it easy to use the Zoom system if you'd rather participate that way. If you need to update your email address for the division and region go to:

<http://www.mwr-nmra.org/mwr2016/mwr.address.change.html>

Have a safe summer. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Regards, MH

What's Happening - or not ...

-  The refurbished **East Broad Top Railroad** will kick off it's 150th anniversary starting May 6th, 2022. See their event web page for more details: <https://eastbroadtop.com/ride/150th-anniversary/>
-  **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 on the 1st Sunday: Sept 4, Oct 2, Oct 30, and Dec 4, 2022. Follow the signs to the fairgrounds entrance. See: <https://www.trainshow.com/>
-  Dave Crement will host a 2 hour O Scale figure painting workshop. Sunday June 12 at 1:00pm or Monday June 13 at 10:00 am. Dave will supply your O Scale figure and all necessary paints, brushes & tools. You will receive the figure and detailed instruction on completion. \$20 per person to cover material & figure costs. Contact Dave by phone 847-560-3412 or email On3@comcast.net for sign-up details.
-  WAMR 32st Strawberry Fest Model Railroad Show will be held on June 18 & 19 at the Waupaca Recreation Center, 401 School Street, Waupaca, WI. There will be many layouts, vendors & swap tables. Contact Roger Hildebrandt, 7693 Evergreen Dr. E, Waupaca, WI 54981, 715-258-8218 for more information.
-  The **National N Scale Convention** is planned for June 22-26, 2022. Sheraton Music City, 777 McGavock Pike, Nashville, TN 37214. See: <http://www.nationalscaleconvention.com/> for details as they become available.
-  Marshall, Wisconsin, live steam club will hold an open house on July 16th on Rt. 19 at Hwy 73 just east of Madison.
-  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. Marriott Grand, 800 Washington Ave., St Louis, MO. Please watch the website for details:
https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event_id=13724
-  The **Kalmbach Media** just announced that **Trainfest** will be held on November 12-13, 2022 at Wisconsin State Fair Park in Milwaukee, WI. The show will be open to the public from 9am to 5pm on both Saturday and Sunday.
-  There will be no Midwest Region Convention scheduled for 2023.

Meetings are held from 1:30 to about 4:00 pm (except as noted). This season all meetings will be presented online using ZOOM meeting technology **as well as in person at the Gary Morava Center**. See the timetable 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 updates and all FVD news and information, visit FVD's web site at www.foxvalleydivision.org. Save the dates for now - details will follow.

Date	Presentation	Contest	Notes
Aug. 7-14, 2023	NMRA National Convention	St. Louis, MO	www.nmra.org
Next Meet			
Sept 18, 2022	Presentation TBA	Contest TBA	
Oct 16, 2022	<i>Two Prototype Steam Engine Overhauls</i> by Chuck Rita	Contest TBA	
Nov 20, 2022	Presentation TBA	Contest TBA	
Dec 18, 2022	Presentation TBA	Contest TBA	
Jan 15, 2023	Presentation TBA	Contest TBA	
Feb 19, 2023	<i>Interchanges</i> by Scott Payne	Contest TBA	
Mar 19, 2023	Presentation TBA	Contest TBA	
April 16, 2023	Presentation TBA	Contest TBA	
May 21, 2023	Presentation TBA	Contest TBA	



LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE OUT THERE

Send us your: Prototype or model artwork, images, cartoons, drawings, paintings photos, layouts, etc. We'll take care of the editing and formatting for 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/>

Regular meetings are held virtually via Zoom and in person at the Gary Morava Center 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

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

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

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