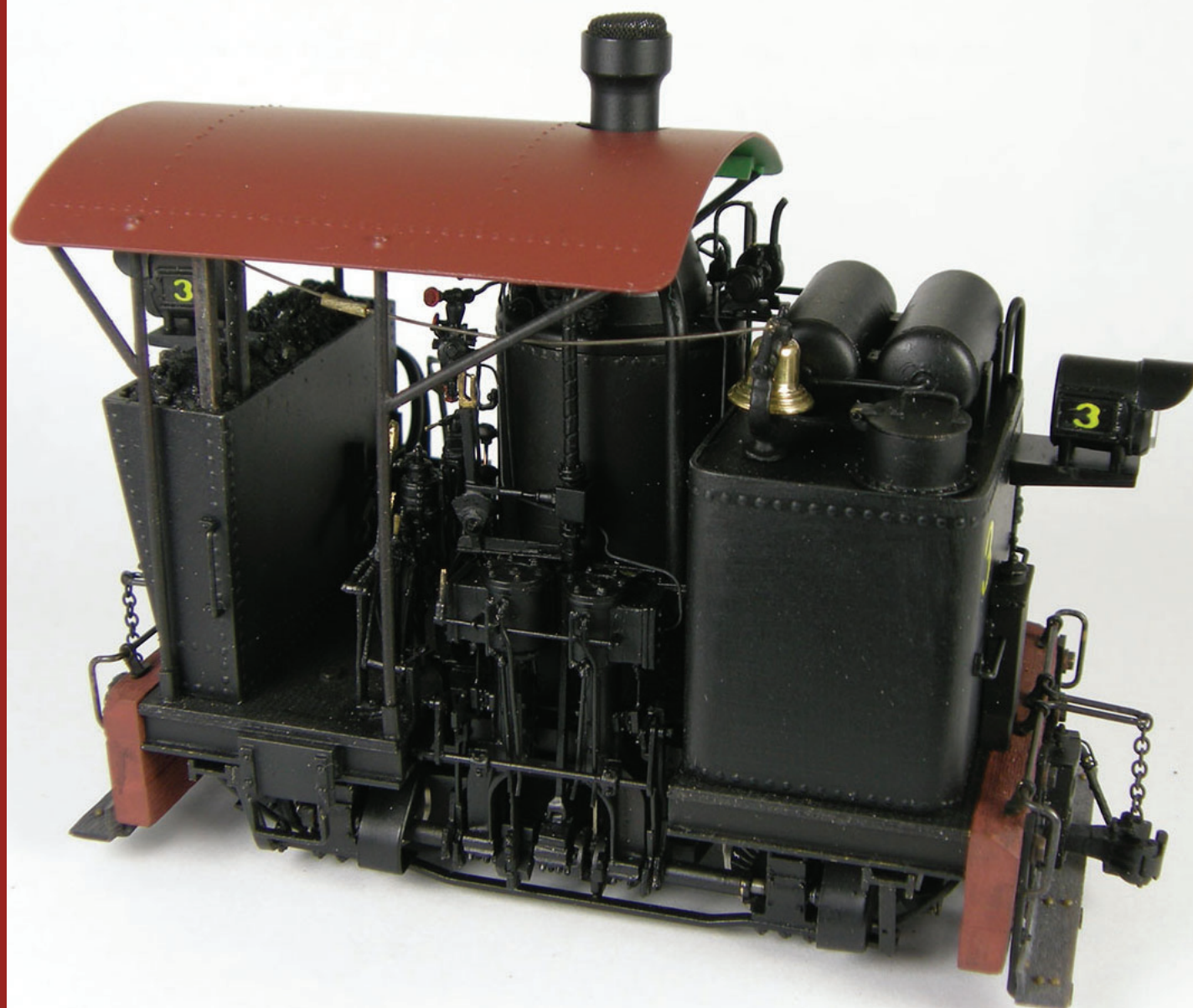


# THE SEMAPHORE

October 2022

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



Fox Valley Division member Jim Allen, fabricated this exquisite, scratch-built *On3 Single Truck Shay*. Jim's model won 1st Place *Steam Locomotive Celebration* honors at the St. Louis National Convention. He also received the Wm. J. Lenior Locomotive Construction Award for the Best Scratch Built Steam Locomotive. It's been 5 years since this honor was last bestowed at a National Convention. Jim received 4 additional 1st and 2nd place merit awards at the convention as well as the *Awata Most Realistic Locomotive* recognition.

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

<b>Page 1</b>	<b>On3 One Truck Shay</b>
<b>Page 2 &amp; 5</b>	<b>Keep Those Trains Moving</b>
<b>Page 3 - 5</b>	<b>Passenger Trains of Ireland</b>
<b>Page 5</b>	<b>Fun Stuff</b>
<b>Page 6</b>	<b>Sept. Contest &amp; Next Meet</b>
<b>Page 7</b>	<b>Mike's Minute</b>
<b>Page 8</b>	<b>What's Happening (or not)</b>
<b>Page 9</b>	<b>Meeting Schedules</b>
<b>Page 10</b>	<b>Are you there?</b>
<b>Page 10</b>	<b>Division Information</b>

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

Like everyone, I am awed by the wrath of the two recent hurricanes and the destruction they have brought to central Florida and Puerto Rico. The pictures of loss of property and life we have all seen are heartbreaking. I have been in touch with two former NSW/FVD members who relocated to areas within Ian's path. Mike Hurlburt and David Leider both report that their families are okay and only have minor exterior cleanup to tend to. They have power, running water and Internet service - but are faced with the reality of what happened in the communities around them. I speak for the division in saying that we are all thankful for their safety and wish them well through what will obviously be a lengthy recovery of the area.

At the September meet, our Superintendent mentioned an art form that sounds interesting. Rich Sieben found a process that can turn your favorite railroad picture into a tactile art form. He was kind enough to write out the instructions to share with us.

***Step by step instructions on how to order your own custom paint by number train pictures, by Rich Sieben***

1. Go to Amazon.com and search for "***Texture of Dreams***"
2. Select the size of painting you want to make. 16x20" is common.
3. Click on the yellow button that says "customize now".
4. Next it will ask you to select a digital picture file. Click on the black 'Browse' button.
5. Select the picture from you files and adjust the image to fit the canvas like you want it.
6. Click 'SAVE' in the upper left hand corner.

7. Select a frame if you want one; the default is 'none'.
8. Select an aluminum metal tripod (and easel) which is recommended by me if you don't have one.
9. Add it to your cart and pay.

It takes a week or less to get the picture on canvas, stretched on a wood frame with all your numbers for paints in each section. You also get the premixed paints and some basic brushes and hanging hardware for the picture.

I also recommend you get some better brushes than the ones they give you. Brushes come in various sizes with the smallest being multi-zero and very useful for small details.....they are all small details with the possible exception of vast blue skies with no clouds. But don't worry, it is easier to do than you think. I use magnifying glasses to see better: what will work best for you depends on your vision.

My favorite brush is either a 3/0 or 5/0 but I have used a 20/0 for a few things and larger areas get either a 0 or 1 brush size. Interestingly, the sizes are not uniform across different manufacturers, but only within one product line.



What was a 10/0 from one company was the same size physically as my 3/0 brush from another company.

This is another way to play with trains for me! Adding texture to the picture gives it an interesting quality.

I've included two more pictures that follow. You can see how I started the painting process and the original photo of the Metra train by turning to page 5.

Here's a link to the ***Texture of Dreams*** vendor Rich used.

<https://www.amazon.com/Texture-Dreams-Personalized-Stretched-Customized/dp/B07SJJQ97?th=1>

## **Passenger Trains of Ireland** by Dan Cahill, FVD ...

This past July I spent 3 weeks in Ireland. While most of my time was spent visiting cousins and friends - and experiencing the Irish Covid-19 protocols, I was able to spend a day doing some rail-fanning. I started by stopping at the train station in the town of Kildare, which is located about 35 mi southwest of Dublin. Kildare is a bit of a hot-spot; it sits on one of the busiest main lines from Dublin. While I was there, it seemed a train came through about every ten minutes! Due to the small size of the island (approximately the size of Indiana) and the low density of heavy industries and natural resources, freight traffic is difficult to find in Ireland. So, the only trains I saw that day were intercity and commuter trains from Dublin.

The most common type of passenger train is the 22000 class, built by Hyundai Rotem, shown below. These are



multiple unit diesel-electric sets where only the end units are powered. End units also have a control cab so the train does not need to be turned at terminals. They are geared for 100 mph and have been in use since 2008.

Another common type of passenger train is more like our Metra trains. It has a single 201 class diesel-electric engine



(in the right column top two pix), a number of passenger cars, and then a control car on the rear of the train for push-pull service. The diesel-electric engines were built by General Motors in the mid-1990s and are also geared for

100 mph. The 201 powered trains are apparently only used on the Dublin to Cork runs at this time.



After Kildare, it was on to Dublin to visit the two main passenger stations: Heuston and Connolly. Trains from



Heuston station serve cities from the northwest to the south of Ireland so there was plenty to see. Lots of 22000 class and 201 class trains were on display. In this photo of a 22000 class train (below), notice the words on the platform. It says "Fan Taobh Thair Den Líne Seo", which you can probably imagine translates to "Stay behind this line." While everyone in Ireland speaks English, the Irish government has a long-standing policy that there are two official languages, English and the native Gaelic. Only a small percentage of the population can speak/read Irish fluently, but the government wants to encourage its use as much as possible to keep it from dying out.

(cont'd next page)



After Heuston Station, it was on to Connolly Station in the heart of downtown Dublin. This station serves areas all along Ireland's east coast and one route to the northwest, with a mixture of commuter, intercity and international service. Commuter service is mostly via their DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transit) trains using the 8100 class shown here below:



and 8500 class shown below with all electric multiple unit sets. The 8100 class was built in the mid 1980s by a GEC-Alstom consortium and the 8500 class was built in early 2000s by Tokyu.



Additional commuter service is provided by a diesel-electric 29000 class built by Spanish company CAF. They are shown below posing for my two pictures.



Intercity service uses the 22000 class diesel-electric trains, described earlier. International service, from Dublin to Belfast, uses the 201 class engines seen below, with a special set of passenger cars, and a control car shown on the next page.



(cont'd next page)

201 Class Control Car shown below.



Finally, Dublin began building a light rail system in 2004 called Luas (pronounced loo-aahs). There is a north-south and an east-west route that today total about 26 miles. The cars were built by Alstom Citadis and use 750 V DC for power through an overhead catenary system. One paused long enough for me to capture my final picture.



Unfortunately, my schedule did not allow time to ride any of the trains while there, but that is on my bucket list for the next visit. Dan Cahill, FVD

[Editors note: Freight trains operating during my posting in Europe in the early 90s. Most of the cargo was beer kegs. In fact Guinness had a rail yard next to its brewery loaded with custom keg wagons. Here's a web photo of one type of a carrier - others carried the large roundish kegs on their sides. I believe that most of the rail freight traffic in Ireland ended around 2006. J. O.]



### Paint by numbers...

(Cont'd from page 2)



Initial painting results are shown above and the original photo that was used for the painting is shown below.



### Fun Stuff... Or maybe not so fun?

This picture from an anonymous source has been around web for a while and it recently crossed my desktop again. Knowing several retired rail workers, I can only imagine the creative excuse for this huge derailment offered by the brakeman..... J. O.



*"Don't blame me, I was only doing what the sign said!"*

Next Meet - October 16, 2022, 1:30 start.... In person at the Gary Morava Center and via Zoom.

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The Clinic Presentation will be **Tips and Hacks** by Jerry Kruger. He will cover numerous ideas using commonly available tools and supplies in novel and unexpected ways to help build and maintain your model railroad. You will want to try at least one of these and put it on your "to do" list. Guaranteed!

The contest topic is: **Gondolas with a load** - Up to 5 entries per person. This month's contest is for in-person meeting attendees only - no photographic voting.

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The Midwest Region Board of Directors will meet in The Gary Morava Center at 10:30 am prior to the division meet. Guests are welcome.

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Watch the FVD website Timetable for details and updates as they become available.



HO Scale - Kit-Built - Passenger Car **Northwestern** by Bob Hanmer took 1st Place in the **September** Passenger Car contest. 2nd Place was awarded for an O Scale - Ready to Run - stripped and repainted, Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Baggage car - by Bob DiDomenico. See more and larger photos of all the model entries on our web site at:

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

The **October contest** will feature Gondolas with a load - Up to 5 entries per person. This month's contest is for in person meeting attendees only - no photograph/web voting will occur.



## Mike's Minute ...



It was great seeing everyone again during our first in-person meeting of the season at the Morava Center last month - 15 attended in person. 16 members logged in over the ZOOM system. I hope they found the presentation interesting and informative as I did.

Our Programs and Clinics Trainmaster Gary Saxton, gets the credit for finding and coordinating a topic on passenger train diner service from an out-of-state presenter. Technology at its best. I know we will have some great upcoming topics this season. Be sure to check our website for updates as the season progresses.

You can participate in helping Gary. If there is a subject you would like to know about, or if you have keen understanding of a topic in model railroading that might be of some interest to other members, please contact Gary and discuss your need or volunteer to be a presenter. I have done a couple of these, and they are not tough. You may find you have a knack for presentations. You won't find a hook pulling you off the stage.

**Trainfest** is looming on the horizon coming up November 12 and 13; this year sponsored and coordinated by the good folks at Kalmbach Media, with assistance from the guys of Great American Train Show, Inc. (the folks who put on train shows across the country at various locations). The floor plan is firming up. As soon as certain approvals by local authorities are achieved, we'll hear something definite. I have my fingers crossed.

I attended the Great Midwest Train Show, aka the Wheaton swap meet, at the DuPage County Fairgrounds on October 2nd. The swaps were brisk from the opening of the doors, so if you missed out on finding that bargain you've been hunting, there is another swap coming up on October 30. There will not be a swap at the DuPage Fairgrounds in November due to the Train Show guys running Train Fest at State Fair Park, West Allis, Wis. Next Wheaton swap is on December 4.

The division has elections coming up in April 2023 for Assistant Superintendent and Paymaster. Volunteering to run for an elected position is a way you can contribute to the success of the division. Think about it, and let me, the Chief Clerk or any board member know of your interest.

**Speaking of contributing, our PR Trainmaster Keith Dart is always accepting ideas on how to publicize the Division, amongst our neighboring Divisions, Clubs, Hobby Shops, & 'Division Eligible' Public...!" Please send him your ideas. We also need your content for future issues of the *Semaphore*!**

We will be hosting the Midwest Region Board meeting prior to our regular meet. The BoD meeting starts at 10:30. Come by early if you are interested and would like to meet its members in person. Bob McGeever, MWR President, will be there if you would like to chat with him. Note that October's contest category is, **"Up to 5 Gondolas with Open Loads."** Only in-person entries (no web photos) will be accepted in October. Open loads are always fun, so bring your best models to share with the group!

At this time we are planning on holding Hybrid In-person/Zoom meetings for the entire season. Specific meeting notice details are sent out via e-mail one week before each meet, so be sure we have your current e-mail address on file and always advise of any changes. You can update you email address at:

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













Each monthly notice includes the ZOOM system log-on credentials to make it easy to access the Zoom system if you choose participate that way. Details on each hybrid meeting agenda are also listed on the timetable tab of our website and in each issue of the *Semaphore*.

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

Here's to a great 2022-2023 season!

Regards, Mike Hirvela, Superintendent

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

-  The **Fox Valley Division** will be holding in-person division meets at the **Gary Morava Center**. The meets will also be broadcast via Zoom. See the next page for details on each meet. We hope to see you there!
-  **Great Midwest Train Show** (aka: the Wheaton / DuPage Swap Meet) 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: Oct 30, and Dec 4, 2022. Follow the signs to the fairgrounds entrance. See: <https://www.trainshow.com/>
-  The **Kalmbach Media** 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. <https://www.train-fest.com/>
-  In 2023 the Midwest Region (MWR) will elect a President, a Vice President, and three (3) Directors at-Large. All the positions are for a term of two-years, with a two consecutive-term (four years) limit. If you are interested in applying for any of these positions on the MWR Board of Directors, or have questions about any of the positions, please contact Steve Studley at [sastudley@gmail.com](mailto:sastudley@gmail.com) (812) 876-9726 Or Paul Mangan at [pmangan62@gmail.com](mailto:pmangan62@gmail.com) (608) 835-9577 prior to **October 6, 2022**
-  The Chicago Tribune recently reported that Metra will be rolling out several all battery powered locomotives on the 16 mile Rock Island Beverly branch between Blue Island and the La Salle street station. The locos will run up to full track speed with a 150 mile range and are expected to be in operation in approximately 3 & 1/2 years. 3 locos down and 170 to go! You can read the full Metra press release at: <https://metra.com/newsroom/metra-create-battery-powered-locomotives>
-  The **Mad City Train Show**, Alliant Energy Center, Rimrock Road and John Nolen Drive, (just off the 12-18 By-pass), Madison, Wis., February 18 and 19, 2023. <https://www.nmra-scwd.org/scwd-events.html>
-  WI, STEVENS POINT: CWMR 25th Arctic Run Model Railroad Show & Sale. Holiday Inn Convention Center Hotel. 1001 Amber Avenue. January 21-22, 2023. Saturday 9:00 am-5:00 pm. Sunday 10:00am-3:00pm. Adults \$4.00, \$2.00 kids 12-17, under 12 FREE. Many layouts, swap/sales tables, vendors. For information contact Jim Miller, (715) 340-0265 or email to [jimbrow67@gmail.com](mailto:jimbrow67@gmail.com) or Don Anderson (715) 340-8105 or email to [crm114@tds.net](mailto:crm114@tds.net).
-  There will be no Midwest Region Convention scheduled for 2023.
-  The **Rock River Valley Division Train Show** will be held on March 25, 10 am - 5 pm & 26, 10 am - 3pm, 2023
-  The **FVD will hold its Annual Business Meeting** on April 16, 2023. The agenda will include reports from each Trainmaster and the Election of the Assistant Superintendent and Paymaster. Contact the Rich Hoker, Chief Clerk if you would like to run for either of these offices. Contact any officer at: <http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/fvd2016/contactus.v2.html>
-  The resurrected **Naperville RPM** will once again be held in the Chicago area. The dates are October 27 and 28, 2023.
-  Southern Pacific SD44R #7399 and 4-8-4 #4449 with the "**World's Fair Daylight**" bound for New Orleans in the spring of 1984.

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](http://www.foxvalleydivision.org). Save the dates for now - details will follow.

Date	Presentation	Contest	Notes
Sept 18, 2022	<i>Dining on the Rails</i> by Marita Richards	1 Passenger Car	
Oct 16, 2022 <b>Next Meet</b>	<i>Tips and Hacks</i> by Jerry Kruger	Up to 5 Loaded Gondolas per entrant. (Live/In-Person entries only vs. online - no photos)	Midwest Region BoD meeting starts at 10:30 am - visitors welcome.
Nov 20, 2022	<i>Grain &amp; Railroads</i> by Mark Vaughan	1 "Over, Under, Around, or Through."	
Dec 18, 2022	<i>Two Prototype Steam Engine Overhauls</i> by Chuck Rita	1 Steam Locomotive.	
Jan 15, 2023	Presentation TBA	1 Diesel Locomotive.	
Feb 19, 2023	<i>Interchanges</i> by Scott Payne	1 Illuminated structure.	
Mar 19, 2023	Presentation TBA	1 Refrigerated billboard car.	
April 16, 2023	Presentation TBA Annual Business Meeting and Election of Asst. Superintendent and Paymaster Contact the Chief Clerk if you would like to run for either of these offices.	1 freight car with an Open load.	
May 21, 2023	Presentation TBA	1 structure.	
Submit Your Contest Photos at: <a href="https://form.jotform.com/201995250508962">https://form.jotform.com/201995250508962</a> (Submit any contest photos any time except for the October meet.)			



### 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>

**The deadline for any issue is 1 week prior to the 1st day of the issue month.**

### 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.

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<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>

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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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