

# THE SEMAPHORE

November 2022

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



Fox Valley Division member and Midwest Region AP Chairman Jim Landwehr entered the results of his summer modeling project in the October contest. His 1st place entry featured a series of gondola pipe loads made from various straws Jim purchased from the web.

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

Last month I really liked Jim Landwehr's "Pipe Load" contest entries and felt they warranted further discussion. Jim was happy to share the process he used with me. Photos of his work are on the front page of this issue.

Jim found a variety of "fat" straws of different sizes on the Amazon on-line marketplace. It turns out that "fat" straws are used for pulpy or otherwise thick drinks. The paper straws he chose were up to a half inch in diameter. There were a number of challenges he had to address in crafting the loads.

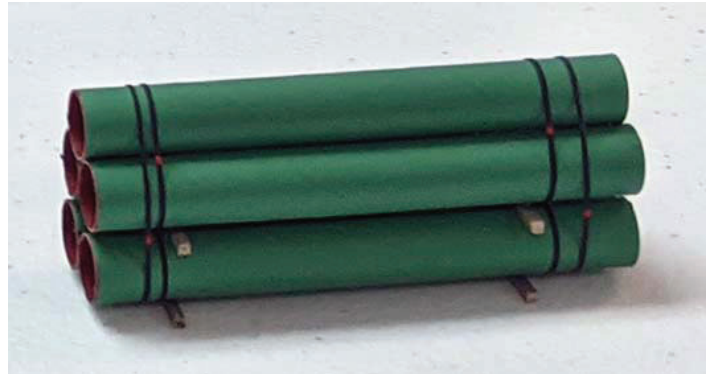
First he had to figure out how to cut the straws squarely and cleanly to the correct load lengths. His solution was to insert an appropriately sized wood dowel into the straw and chuck the dowel and straw into his drill press. He created a fixture that held a horizontal #11 X-acto blade at the correct height and turned on the drill press. By carefully touching the blade against the rotating straw and dowel, he was able to efficiently create a clean cut on the paper straw.

With the straws cut, Jim sealed the paper with polyurethane (shellac would also do the job). The sealer also filled the paper wrap seam on the straw. When dry, he then air brushed the exterior of the "pipes". He hand brush painted the interior ends of the pipes with either the same exterior color or a contrasting color for effect.

Finally, he used narrow detailing tape to make the load straps. [Berkshire Junction elastic EZ-line also used for scale telephone lines makes great load strapping. Ed.] He bunked and strapped the pipes into load-sized piles. The results speak for themselves.

Jim is the Fox Valley Division Achievement and Contest Trainmaster. He is also the Midwest Region Achievement

Program Chairman. You may contact him with questions via the "Contact US" pages of either the FVD or MWR websites. Here's a closeup of one of his pipe loads. Thanks for sharing Jim!



As we are all aware, the recent weather presented us with spectacular fall colors -- one of the best that I can remember. Here's a snap I took of a crimson red maple two houses north of my home.



This got me thinking, I haven't seen a red crimson maple tree on any one layout. I've seen some of the orange sugar maples but not red maples. I am going to give it a try and will report my results next month. I have some fine red ground cover in my scenery materials bin. I think I will spray a dusting of silver paint on the upper part of the armature

(continued next page....)

before adding red "leaves" to try and get the shimmery effect of the back of the maple leaves. I did a web search and did not find much on a process other than commercial products. If anyone has tried making red-leafed trees, let me know your process and I will share it in my next report on the topic. Take care and keep those trains moving! J. O., Ed.

### ***Fun Stuff... How about a brain teaser for a change. So where is that railroad?***

Railroads for the most part use names that indicate where they start, travel and end. If I said, "Chicago and North Western", you draw a mental image of the area it serves. Same for The Southern, Florida East Coast, Central of NJ, etc. But what about the smaller lines? How's your knowledge of these railroads? See how well you can match the RR with its location, headquarter city & state. I've broken the list in two to help you. No cheating by using the web. Remember we are watching you! Answers appear on page 7.

#### **Railroads part 1:**

1. Aberdeen and Rockfish RR
2. Midland Continental RR
3. Grasse River RR
4. Beaver, Meade & Englewood RR
5. Fore River RR
6. Pioneer & Fayette RR
7. Ware Shoals Rwy
8. Quincy RR
9. Tallulah Falls Rwy
10. Campbell's Creek RR
11. Brimstone RR
12. Laurel Line (L & WV)
13. Bauxite & Northern RR
14. Winifred RR
15. Yakutat & Southern RR

#### **Headquarter city & state - part 1:**

- A. Lost River, Alaska
- B. Quincy, California
- C. Gibbons, Arkansas
- D. New River, Tennessee
- E. Quincy, Massachusetts
- F. Reed, West Virginia
- G. Fayetteville, North Carolina
- H. Conifer, New York
- I. Scranton, Pennsylvania
- J. Jamestown, North Dakota
- K. Virginia/West Virginia border
- L. Keyes, Oklahoma
- M. Cornelia, Georgia
- N. Fayette, Ohio
- O. Shoals Jct, South Carolina

#### **Railroads part 2:**

16. Zug Island RR
17. Ahnapee & Western RR
18. Rockdale, Sandow & Southern RR
19. Essex Terminal RR
20. Red River & Gulf RR
21. Wharton & Northern RR
22. Algers, Winslow & Western RR
23. Maritime Coal RR
24. Hutchinson & Northern Rwy
25. Steelton & Highspire RR
26. Bowden RR
27. River Terminal RR
28. Delta Route RR
29. Narragansett Pier RR
30. Preston RR

#### **Headquarter city & state - part 2:**

- A. Hutton, Maryland
- B. Macan, Nova Scotia
- C. Columbus, Mississippi
- D. Bowden, Georgia
- E. La Compe, Louisiana
- F. Plattsburgh, Pennsylvania
- G. Detroit, Michigan
- H. Margorie, Texas
- I. Cleveland, Ohio
- J. Casco, Wisconsin
- K. Kingston, Rhode Island
- L. Windsor, Ontario, Canada
- M. Hutchinson, Kansas
- N. Green Pond, New Jersey
- O. Oakland City, Indiana

Next Meet - November 20, 2022, 1:30 start.... In person at the Gary Morava Center and via Zoom.

The Clinic Presentation will be **Grain and Railroads** by Mark Vaughan. Grain transport has been a staple of railroads from the early days through modern times. Here's an opportunity to learn more about the important commodity.

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

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



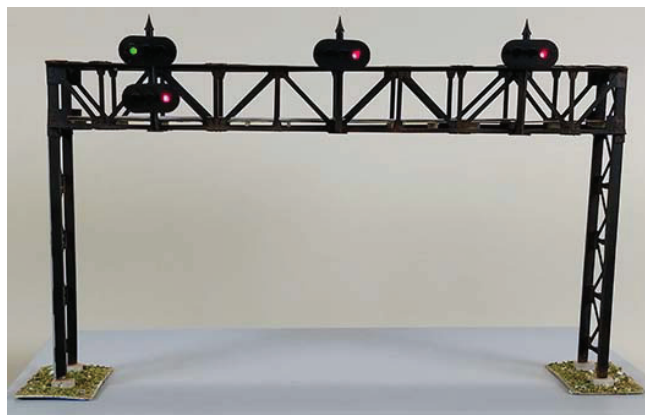
2nd place, HO Scale - Scratch & Kit-Bashed gons with loads by Jim Osborn (upper left). 3rd place HO Kit bashed gons with loads by Michael Hirvela (upper right). 1st Place in the **October Gondolas with Loads** contest was won by Jim Landwehr (see the front page) with his pipe loads (middle left & on the front page). A Silk Purse scratch built show and tell display

by Ken Mosney (RRVD - above right). 3 show and tell O Scale gondolas with loads by Bob DiDomenico (left). See more and larger photos of all the models on our web site at:

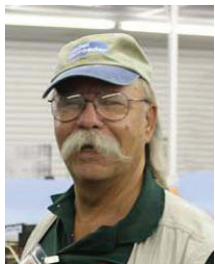
<http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/fvd2016/contests.v2.html>

The **November contest** will feature anything that trains go **Over, Under, Around and Through**. An example of a **through** is shown at the right. We will resume accepting photographs of contest entries. Send in up to 3 photos of your models anytime at:

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



## Mike's Minute ...



We hosted the Fall Mid-West Region Board of Directors meeting in person and over-the-net prior to our division meet on October 16. A number of topics were discussed including developments underway for the Regional Advisory Council whose members advise the NMRA National organization. Issues involve some serious stuff regarding IRS 501-c status of MWR divisions (some have it – some don't) and liability insurance or bonding for officers of the organization. For the average member this does have an impact because IF the division gets a 501-c (3) status, any funds contributed are charitable and certain IRS rules apply. Liability insurance or bonding covers decisions and actions of the members of the Region and Division Board members. Some actions might be challenged given the litigious nature that anyone can file lawsuit for almost anything. Some protection for the individuals who are representing you, the members, is being looked into. Certain situations are known to have occurred in other divisions which have had repercussions. While I don't think any of members would object to what the BoD decides, I hope any member can feel free to discuss any concern with me.

The MWR BoD also discussed meeting on Saturday vs. Sunday. While that may seem not to be a big deal to the FVD, about half of the MWR divisions host meetings on Saturday. Meeting in person, traveling to meetings in different cities and weather concerns, were discussed (including continuing to use the Zoom System as a method to attend from afar.) Also discussed were future MWR conventions, location and hosting requirements. As we have noted, there will not be a convention in 2023 for a variety of reasons. The MWR Board is working on coordinating a convention for 2024, location and host(s) TBA. More info to follow.

The MWR is looking for candidates for Director-At-Large. We need at least one more volunteer to fill the slate of candidates for a two-year term. The incumbents are term-limited and cannot run for office. The D-A-L position qualifies for NMRA Official certificate after 3 years in office. So, if you volunteer and get elected, serve satisfactorily, get re-elected, serve satisfactorily again, you can add an AP certificate toward Master Model Railroader. Additionally, as a D-A-L, you are on the MWR BoD and can contribute to a 1,500 person, 5-state region, rather than just the Fox Valley division. Contact me if you are willing to help.

After the MWR BoD concluded, several of the board members stayed and attended our regular FVD monthly meeting. We had 37 attendees, both in-person (25) and over the Zoom System (12). [Side Note: We had some left-over food items from the MWR lunch and additional snack items which were available to members attending: **one of the gents from the Rock River Valley Division (Rockford and vicinity) asked if we would like to attend one of their meetings provided we bring along the snacks!** Back to the meeting: We had a different audio system for this meeting, and I understand the presentations over-the-net came through clear. Please let me know if you had any difficulties. The presenter of the feature topic was from Cleveland, OH, and I noted a number of members taking notes as he described his use of certain common everyday products for our model railways in ways we didn't anticipate. I found it informative – a "Why didn't I think of that?" moment. Our Programs and Clinics Trainmaster Gary Saxton, has some other great topics coming up this season. Be sure to check our website for updates in the months ahead as the season progresses.

I'll mention again the division has elections coming up in April 2023 for Assistant Superintendent and Paymaster. We exist on volunteers to help the continued success of the division. Think about it and let me or any board member know of your interest. Points under "Official" in the Achievement Program are earned for service to the division.

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 your 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>


Finally, I hope you had a Happy and not too scary Halloween and are looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving as many folks do this time of year.


Regards, Mike Hirvela, Superintendent


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


 The **Chicago Tribune** reported that **Rhaetian**, a Swiss Rail company, ran a nearly 1.2-mile-long train composed of 100 rail cars Saturday near Bergun, Switzerland, during the operator's bid to set a record for the world's longest passenger train as part of celebrations to mark the Swiss operator's 175th anniversary. The route up and through the Alps included 22 tunnels and 48 bridges. Here's a good story with pictures: <https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/world-record-train-switzerland/index.html>


 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 generally on the 1st Sunday: Dec 4, 2022, Jan 8, 2023, February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7 and June 4. 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 **November 6, 2022**


 The Canadian Pacific RR will be running its annual holiday Train on CP trackage from Chicago to Milwaukee on December 8, 2022.


 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 [jimbro67@gmail.com](mailto:jimbro67@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.

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
Nov 20, 2022 <b>Next Meet</b>	<b>Grain &amp; Railroads</b> by Mark Vaughan	1 "Over, Under, Around, or Through."	
Dec 18, 2022	<b>Two Prototype Steam Engine Overhauls</b> by Chuck Rita	1 Steam Locomotive.	
Jan 15, 2023	NCE Switch Cat by Mike Wood	1 Diesel Locomotive.	
Feb 19, 2023	<b>Interchanges</b> by Scott Payne	1 Illuminated structure.	
Mar 19, 2023	Presentation TBA	1 Refrigerated billboard car.	
April 16, 2023	Weathering with Pastels by John Drozdak 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	History of Cardboard Structures by Dave Lull	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.)			

## Answers to the Where's that RR?

### Part 1

1 G - 2 J - 3 H - 4 L - 5 E - 6 N - 7 O - 8 B - 9 M - 10 F - 11 D - 12 I - 13 C - 14 K - 15 A

### Part 2

16 G - 17 J - 18 2 - 19 L - 20 E - 21 N - 22 O - 23 B - 24 M - 25 F - 26 D - 27 I - 28 C - 29 K - 30 A



### 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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### 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>

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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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