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## Not rated for high speed

Dave Nelson's clinic, "A Closer Look at Track" will examine the parts of a prototype railway, with the goal of making us more aware of the details that should be modeled on our layouts. Join us on Sunday, December 17 at 1:30 PM at the Glenview Public Library to see Dave's presentation and for a light lunch.



## Mike's Minute

Just saying 'December' brings a chill and a shiver to me as it seems it is all too soon arriving, even though we had snow on Halloween and after Thanksgiving, the seasons are arguing with each other. But we all know Winter is inevitable and provides us opportunities as there is no shortage of model railroading activities here and there in our neighborhood. [see the Happenings list below].

At the FVD November meeting, we had fewer folks physically present and over the net at the Morava Recreation Center than we had in October. It was a very nice day outside and I'm sure some folks took advantage of the weather to get those last-minute outdoor projects completed, and it seems we always are competing with the football teams. I really do appreciate everyone taking time out of their day and attending our gathering in whichever manner they choose. We're trying to be as accommodating as possible for folks to attend as they see fit because this hobby seemingly has no limit to the information, history, technology, and techniques that can be applied. An example is Dan Cahill's presentation at our November

meeting on a not-so-well-known Irish monorail system with some interesting motive power, passenger accommodation and operating challenges, especially how to do turnouts, turntables and above-grade road and farm crossings. But they creatively figured it out. You can view and download Dan's slides on the [Irish Lartigue Monorail Railroad](#), along with past clinics on the [FVD Clinic Presentations page](#).

Our December meeting will be held in one of the meeting rooms at the Glenview Public Library. We're trying this location to determine IF it will be an alternative for the Morava Center for future meetings in view of rising room rental rates. We still have the option of member participation via Zoom as we have obligated to continue to use that system into 2024. Your input and feedback on the use of these facilities will be of great help in determining where the 2024 meetings will be held. We have had discussions regarding moving the meeting location around the division, but location is always a stumbling

block. If you are aware of another suitable location, please let a member of the Board of Directors know and we'll research it.

Our webmaster sends out the meeting notice a few days before our meetings. It includes Zoom log-on credentials to make it easy to use. We'd really like to see you in person, but if you'd rather participate online, that's OK. Whichever method you select to participate in, I appreciate you taking the time and effort to attend. Please be sure we have your current e-mail address on file and advise of any change. Thanks.

Regards,

Mike Hirvela

### Next FVD Meeting

**When:** Sunday, December 17, 2023, 1:30 PM Lunch

**Where:** [Glenview Public Library](#) and [Zoom](#)

**Presentation:** *A Closer Look at Track* by Dave Nelson.

Dave uses prototype photos to look at track from the subroadbed up to the ballast, the ties, the tie plates, rails, rail joiners, and other elements of railroad track such as culverts, ditches and guard rails with the goal of making us more aware of details that are so easy to overlook, and yet deserve to be modeled more precisely on our layouts.

**Contest:** One Steam or Diesel Yard Switcher

**Show & Tell:** Display any category or train related item

### Welcome New Members!

Say hello to those who have joined us in 2023:

- Peter Amling, Chicago
- John Bauer-Buis, Woodstock
- Brian Cline, Lake In The Hills
- John Orofino, Jr., Harwood Heights

### **Your Article or Photo Here!**

Yes, we're looking for your creative ideas, projects and images to share with our members. Contact Chris Mattimiro, [cmattimiro@outlook.com](mailto:cmattimiro@outlook.com).

## Upcoming Events

- **Monthly FVD Meetings**

Held the third Sunday of every month at either the [Glenview Public Library](#) or the [Gary Morava Recreation Center](#), the meetings are an opportunity to share information, either in-person or on Zoom. Here is the meeting schedule through the end of the year. See the full schedule on the [FVD website](#).

When	Where
12/17/23 1:30-4:00 PM	Glenview Public Library and Zoom
1/21/24 1:30-4:00 PM	Gary Morava Recreation center and Zoom
2/18/24 1:30-4:00 PM	Glenview Public Library and Zoom

- **Midwest Regional Meetings**

[2024 Convention](#) will be held May 2-4, 2024, in South Bend

- **Club Events**

[North Shore & Western Model RR Club Display](#) at the Glenview Public Library

December 9, 9 - 4:30; December 10, 1 - 4:30.

[Kishwaukee Valley/Eakin Creek Model Railroad Club's 2023 Holiday Display](#).

December 10 & 17, noon – 4 PM, Millgrove 'Railyard' (lower level), 13400

Sun City Blvd., Huntley, IL 60142. More info: [Larry.Rostis@gmail.com](mailto:Larry.Rostis@gmail.com)

[Northwest N-Trak Holiday Display](#)

December 16, 9-5; McHenry Public Library, 809 Front St, McHenry IL 60050

- **Holiday Trains**

[Metra Holiday Trains](#) are sold out. Book early next year!

[Happy Holiday Railway](#) at Illinois Railway Museum, December 9,10, 16, 17. See [website](#).

- **Train Shows**

[Great Midwest Train Shows](#) are held monthly at the [DuPage Event Center and](#)

[Fairgrounds](#) in Wheaton. Information on both shows can be found on

[Trainshow.com](#).

# Contest Calendar

Division Meeting Date	Contest
December 17	One Steam or Diesel Yard Switcher
January 21, 2024	One Caboose
February 18	One Weathered Car or Structure
March 17	One Steam Locomotive
April 21	One Refrigerated Billboard Car
May 19	One Freight Car with an Open Load

## Contest rules

Future contests be held in person at the meet. There will be no photographic entries. All entries will ONLY be displayed at the meet.

## About the Fox Valley Division

**Superintendent:** Michael Hirvela

**Asst. Superintendent:** Denis Zamirowski

**Paymaster:** Richard Sieben

**Chief Clerk:** Richard Hoker

**Achievements & Contests:** Jim Landwehr

**Clinics & Programs:** Gary Saxton

**Membership Promotions:** Michael Hirvela

**Membership Services:** Erich Abens

**Public Relations & Social Media:** Keith Dart

**Webmaster:** Jim Osborn, MMR®

**Semaphore Editor:** Chris Mattimiro

Contact any board member [here](#).

## About the Semaphore

The Semaphore is published by the Fox Valley Division of the Midwest Region of the NMRA, a registered 501(c)(7) not-for-profit Illinois corporation.

### Staff:

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If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region, Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association (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 belong to the FVD. Most modeling scales are represented in our division. Subscriptions to the Semaphore newsletters are free. Membership in the division is available through the NMRA at: <https://www.nmra.org/>

Monthly FVD meetings run September through May in-person and online via [Zoom](#). Each meeting features a clinic, model contest, and

information of interest to the membership. Outings, layout tours, and operating sessions may also be held.

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!](#)

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