



In this issue

Mike's Minute **P.1**

Next FVD Meeting **P.2**

New Member Welcome **P.2**

Upcoming Events **P.3**

Contest Calendar **P.4**

Contact Information **P.4**



Mike's Minute

SPRING is almost here as we kick the clock ahead one hour and the following week Spring officially arrives. I know our members are looking forward to the change of seasons and saying goodbye to Winter. We sadly also have to say goodbye to some influential hobby people: Jim Hediger, long-time Editor at Model Railroader Magazine, and Rolf Plachter of Racine, Wis. Many of you know Mr. Hediger from the many articles he authored in MR Magazine over a 40-year career. His Ohio Southern model RR was one of the first to utilize a helix in its construction. I had the fortunate opportunity to visit his home and the OS during a Mid-West Region convention some years ago. It was smaller than I envisioned from the magazine description but was running smoothly and was a joy to see in person. Mr. Plachter, while not a household name south of the Wisconsin-Illinois border, built the MidWest Lines in four rooms of his basement. He and his RR have been featured in MR and in video on Trains.com. I have had the pleasure of operating the MWL twice a month for the past several years. When Jim

Allen asked me what this operations thing was all about and could we go somewhere and see it in action, we went to Rolf's. Jim found out Rolf was an old machinist by trade, and they spent most of the night talking machinery, while enjoying the railroad. Jim and I still go to Rolf's as it is too nice not to visit. It was fun to see Rolf smile while watching us making his creation come to life. He still had a handshake like a vise-grip even the week before he passed quietly. I will miss him.

Our March and April meetings will be held at the Glenview Public Library. Holding our meeting at the GPL helps us stretch our budget. If you know of another good meeting location, please let an official or Board member know. We (the Board) have had discussions regarding moving the meeting location around the division, but location and cost are always stumbling blocks. Your input and feedback on the use of these facilities will be of great help in determining where we meet in the future. Our May meeting will be at the Morava Recreation Center in Prospect Heights. It wraps up our season. The schedule for our 2024-2025 season will be forthcoming. Watch for the "Orange Card" in the mail.

Join us at our gatherings and meet modelers who have similar and varied interests. Whichever method (in person or online) you select to participate, I appreciate you taking the time and effort to attend, and I hope you found the presentations interesting and informative. We're trying. Regards,

Mike Hirvela

Next FVD Meeting

When: Sunday, March 17, 2024, 2:00 PM

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

Presentation: *Santa Fe livestock movement* by Steve Sandifier, MMR

In the years prior to 1970 it was common to see stock cars on American Railroads. Horses (primarily until the 30s), cattle, sheep, goats, and hogs were regularly shipped across the country to provide horsepower and food for Americans. Since these are living creatures, special treatment was necessary to keep livestock from becoming dead freight! And yes, you could find the stockcar hauling grain, tomatoes, or rail. Steve will discuss the procedures, rules, forms, cars, stock pens, feeding stations - everything required to make this industry function.

Bring for Display: Up to 3 steam locomotives

Welcome New Members!

Say hello to those who have joined us in 2024 (so far):

- Thomas Schulty, Mt. Prospect
- Jeff Shcramuk, Huntley

got trains?



Riding one, running a model, laying track, assembling scale structures, debugging hardware/software, looking at art, visiting a museum, just thinking about them? Got an interesting story to tell? We're story spotters, looking for people to share their experience (or lack thereof)! Contact Chris Mattimiro, 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
3/17/24 2 PM	Glenview Public Library and Zoom
4/21/24 2 PM	Glenview Public Library and Zoom
5/19/24 2 PM	Gary Morava Recreation center and Zoom

- **Midwest Regional Meetings**



SAVE THE DATE

AROUND THE BEND
MIDWEST REGIONAL CONVENTION
MAY 2ND-4TH, 2024
The Century Center, South Bend, Indiana

Regional Train Event • Clinics • Layout Tours • Open to the Public
Operating Sessions • Display Room • NMRA AP Program Evaluation
Railroad and General Interest Tours • Help for Getting Started

[Around the Bend Convention Information](#) and [Promotion Video](#)

- **Club Events & Shows** (click links for more information)

[March O Scale Meet](#) March 14-17: Westin Lombard at Yorktown Center, 70 Yorktown Center, Lombard, IL, 60148.

[Rock River Valley Division Train Show](#) March 16-17, Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-3. Harlem High School, 9229 N Alpine Rd, Machesney Park IL

[A Day at the Archives](#) – A weekend to benefit multiple train archive efforts. April 6, 10 AM – 9 PM. VFW Post 1197, 645 S River St, Batavia IL

[Lionel Model Railroad Club Open House](#) April 13-14. Parkland Plaza, 2721 S Calhoun Rd, New Berlin, WI 53151

[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
March 17	Up to three steam locomotive
April 21	Up to three Refrigerated Billboard Cars
May 19	Up to three Freight Cars 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

Board of Directors

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:

Editor: Chris Mattimiro
Assistant Editor: Michael Hirvela
Assistant Editor: Jim Osborn

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!](#)

Mailing Address:

Fox Valley Division
PO Box 1535
Arlington Heights IL 60005-1535

Website:

<https://foxvalleydivision.org/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/fvdmra/>



© 2024 by the Fox Valley Division of the NMRA, Inc.