



Semaphore

Volume 19, Number 4

December 1991

December Meeting

This month's program will have a little bit for everyone. First of all there will be a diorama model contest titled "Seasons Greetings." The theme of this contest is any diorama depicting the

MEETING

December 15, 1991

1:30 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church
431 S. Arlington Heights Rd.
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
708-253-4840

holiday season. The diorama should be no larger than 2' x 2' and can be built in any scale. Secondly, there will be an auction. You may bring any piece of surplus railroad equipment which you want to get rid of. You may set a minimum bid, but the division will collect 10% of the selling price. This is your chance to get rid of that Atlas passenger station you haven't liked and maybe pick up a Campbell Bret's Brewery kit. The third part of the program will be slide show of winter scenes. Anyone can bring up to 10 slides

of any railroad scene taken during the winter months.

November Contest Winners

A photo contest was held at the November meeting. The winners of the still photo contest are:

- 1st: Frank Oldfield
- 2nd: Scott Duff
- 3rd: Scott Duff

The winners of the slide contest are:

- 1st: Alex McCornack
- 2nd: Alex McCornack
- 3rd: Norm Smith

Congratulations to all of you.

1995 Convention

It has been suggested that the Fox Valley Division host a 1995 convention (spring or fall) for the Midwest Region's 50th anniversary. The region is interested in people who would be willing to participate in planning and organizing this convention. Please contact any board member if you are interested.

Video Equipment

The board of directors wants to know if anyone in the division has a video camera and editing equipment. We would like to make a video tape of Highwheeler which could be used for publicity. If anyone has this equipment and would like to do this, please contact any board member.

Superintendent's Report

The Division would like to thank John Drozdack and Marion Brasher for the November program. Like the Rock Island, 1991 will soon be no more. It's been a good year with many excellent clinics and trips arranged for our division members. My gratitude to those who worked so hard for us and gave of their time and energy.

Time marches on and we must begin preparing for our annual Highwheeler

Semaphore

Editor: **Rich Sweet**

The Semaphore is a monthly newsletter published by the Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association and is used to communicate information and activities to the members of the Division. Direct all comments and questions to the Editor.

show. Ray Petterson and his crew have laid down some excellent preparations and have asked for assistance with the show especially in the area of publicity. I hope that all division members will consider contributing their efforts to making the show a success.

We must also consider elections which will be coming up in April. Our constitution states that nominations for officers may not be made later than the last general meeting before the election. Our last general meeting will be the third Sunday (16) in February. Offices up for election include Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Clerk and Paymaster. Dave Hamilton will definitely be unable to run for another term as Chief Clerk. The other officers have not yet made a formal commitment. Service on the Board of Directors is one way for you to determine the direction which our division will take. Please consider it.

Happy Holidays from the Hoffman Family. We've already decorated the house and made out our Christmas list. The kids LGB has once more repossessed the family room. I wonder if I'll get that Campbell Grain Elevator I've asked for the last four years (it never hurts to ask).

May you have a joyous holiday season and may the first present you open contain a new locomotive.

- Tom

NMRA Scouting Merit Badge

"Every scout should have a railroading merit badge." This bold statement is printed on the bottom of the stationery of the national NMRA scouting merit badge coordinator. Perhaps a more realistic statement would read "every scout should have the opportunity to earn the railroading merit badge." The catch is that to earn any merit badge, a scout needs a counselor with some knowledge in the specified

field to guide him in the proper direction and help him over some of the hurdles he may encounter. We, as model railroaders, have this knowledge to assist these boys. It is not a large job. It is not a difficult task. But, it does take some dedication to our youth. To some, the very thought of just associating with 12 to 16 year old boys is enough to bring on hyperbolic agony. To others, the accomplishment of a finished project can result in the self satisfaction of a job well done.

On November 13, 1991, the regional Board of Directors approved the formation of an ad hoc committee for the railroading merit badge. The official name of the committee will be "NMRA Scouting MB MWR." I have been appointed coordinator on the regional level and now I am calling for your assistance to develop on the division level. With the exception of the SCWD, I need a division coordinator in all divisions of the Midwest Region. Also, we need many counselors in all divisions to assist, examine and approve the scouts for their merit badges. In essence, a counselor would be a teacher, guidance counselor, examiner and congratulator. As a counselor, you will not have to go look for the scouts. They must seek you out and be somewhat prepared for the badge testing. The Boy Scouts of America have a definite procedure set up for badge counselors.

Work and time on this project is creditable toward the NMRA Association Volunteer Certificate. This will be further discussed in my next report. For now, here is a description of what you would agree to do as a counselor:

1. Follow the requirements of the merit badge making no deletions or additions and ensuring that the advancement standards are fair and uniform for all scouts.

2. Have two or more scouts present at all instruction sessions.

3. Renew your registration annually if you plan to continue as a merit badge counselor.

If you are interested, please write to me and indicate your willingness. From the response, I will appoint a division coordinator and hopefully get the program in motion. Please indicate if you would like to be division coordinator and/or a counselor. The Midwest Region has the largest membership. Now lets get the largest number of scouts their merit badge. I'll be waiting to hear from you.

Very sincerely yours,

Captain Albert D. Nelson
MWR Coordinator
NMRA Scouting Badge MWR
1661 Atlanta Circle
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Schedule

January 19
On-line Structures Contest

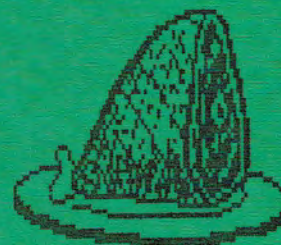
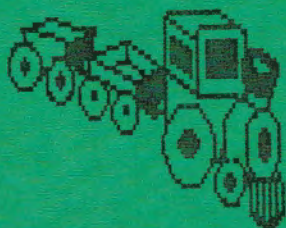
February 16
Off-line Structures Contest

March 6, 7, 8
Highwheeler
Harper College

April 26
Open Cars With Loads Contest

Fox Valley Division Officers

Superintendent	
Tom Hoffman	708-299-6276
Ast. Superintendent	
Dave Flebbe	708-439-1744
Chief Clerk	
Dave Hamilton	708-253-1003
Paymaster	
Irv Lange	708-577-0015
Fox Valley Division Trainmasters	
Contests	
Frank Oldfield	708-640-1932
Fox Valley Railroad	
Don Brynelsen	708-773-3932
Membership	
Bob Carney	708-587-0774
Publications	
Rich Sweet	708-459-1037
Public Relations	
Art Roth	708-394-3053
Ways and Means	
Ray Pettersen, Jr.	708-259-3040



*Happy
Holidays*



Fox Valley Division
Semaphore
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