

THE FOX VALLEY DIVISION
MIDWEST REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

the SEMAPHORE

Volume 18, Number 7

April 1993

High Wheeler '93 A Huge Success

Ray Pettersen, Jr.

Each year our High Wheeler train show has grown. This year we enjoyed welcoming over 6,000 people, double the attendance of two years ago. This success hinges on publicity which was expanded this year with the **Chicago-Land Retail Hobby Dealers**. A special thanks to all the represented hobby shops and especially to **Leon Waldeck** of Palatine Hobbies who coordinated the cooperation along with sponsoring the Project Railroad with **Scott Hicks**.

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to the following: **Art Roth** for his inimitable performance in the publicity area and his unquenchable hunger for brownies; **Chas Hague** for his CADmium-plated floor plan; **Rich Boettcher** for his masterful handling of the ticket tables and the raffle; **Norm Smith** and **Al Farley** for their video screenings; **Tom Hoffman** and **Crew** for the educational clinic; **Jerry Hoffman** for being the Printer's Devil; **Frank Oldfield** for his uncontested outstanding contests; **Dave Flebbe** for sticking all that masking tape to the gym floor; **Jerry Vojtko** for his stylish announcements and wandering ways; **Irv Lange** for the high finance, coffee, rolls, and mechanical chores with the tables and chairs; **Bob Carney** and **Phil Valenzo** for the added publicity duties.

Plaudits go to the wives who graciously donated their time and efforts. And to friends who helped with many chores.

Finally, thank you to all the Fox Valley Division members who participated in all the activities of High Wheeler weekend. I sincerely hope that I forgot no one. Thank you one and all for everything.

1994 presents another challenge for us. But with your dedication and efforts we will once again produce another outstanding High Wheeler.

Superintendent's Report

Much has happened since the last issue of the *Semaphore* and we look forward to much more going on in the near future.

Our annual High Wheeler was a success in so far as having a first class show. The show was attended by 6,099 people and generated a profit for our division about equal to

the amount which we made last year. This is a significant achievement when seen in the context of a doubling of our rent by Harper College and the increased promotional costs necessary to overcome this increase. Congratulations are in order for chairman Ray Pettersen and his committee who contributed to the success of the show. A special thank you goes to the Retail Hobby Dealers Association and in particular **Leon Waldeck** of Palatine Hobbies for their support of our promotional efforts.

Next on our agenda will be the Regional Convention "Smilepost '93" at the Holiday Inn in Rolling Meadows. Our Convention committee has worked hard to provide the Region with a convention which will combine the best of previous conventions with some new concepts such as a Saturday Night El Ride and Sunday Brunch with guest speaker, author **Bruce Moffat** whose book *Forty Feet Underground* is considered the definitive work on the Chicago Freight Railways. We have lined up ten clinics for Saturday morning. There will be layout tours Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. We have finalized two prototype tours for Saturday afternoon. One will be the Burlington Commuter yard in Aurora and the other to the C&NW Global 2 yard in Proviso.

We are particularly proud of the tours which we have set up for the non rails. Our tours are scheduled for Long Grove, Frank Lloyd Wright Home & Oak Park Walking Tour, and the Aquarium/Oceanarium/Field Museum. In addition we will run a shuttle bus from the motel to the Schaumburg area malls.

All in all I feel that we have set up one of the best conventions in recent years and I hope that all of our members will join in attending the "Smilepost '93" convention.

Our regular meeting this month will take place at the Prospect Heights Park District. The April meeting is the one at which our division holds its annual business meeting. Your division officers will report on their respective areas of responsibility and will answer your questions regarding divisional concerns. We will also elect new trainmasters. You will find your ballot enclosed with this edition of *The Semaphore*. Be sure to exercise your vote. We need to know how you would like your division run.

Tom

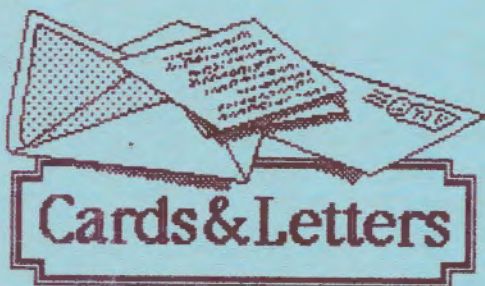
Trainmaster Candidate Biographies

Gerald (Jerry) Hoffman • Member of NMRA since 1979. He lives in the North Shore & Western Division. Jerry has been a Trainmaster before. He currently is the editor of *The Semaphore*. Jerry has been an exhibitor at High Wheeler for many years.

Arthur (Art) Roth • Art has been a Trainmaster for the past two years. He is currently Public Relations Trainmaster. Art is deeply interested in "getting the word out" about the Fox Valley Division.

Frank Oldfield • Frank has been Contest Trainmaster for the past two years. He introduced the contest table to High Wheeler in 1991. He has been active in assisting members get their achievement awards from National.

Richard (Rich) Boettcher • Rich has recently been very active with the Division. He organized the ticket and raffle tables for High Wheeler.



09 March 1993

Fellow Railroaders,

High Wheeler '93 is the last High Wheeler for me, and for other NMRA associates with whom I have since had comparative experience conversations.

After attending High Wheeler '93 on Saturday, I went elsewhere and purchased \$97 plus of RR model items that in previous years had been available at High Wheeler. High Wheeler is no longer a reliable source and extensive supply and variety of RR hobby material! (Go there for country western music.)

The displayed operating modules were excellent, but there are other RR events, more nearby, that now surpass what I saw remaining at High Wheeler '93.

Bye, Bye,
Herb Kluska

Dear Herb,

I appreciate your comments and concerns. High Wheeler's primary aim is to be a display of model railroading and not a swap meet in the style of the DuPage show.

We came very close to cancelling this year's show due to the increased cost of renting the college gym. The Chicagoland Retail Hobby Dealers Association offered to pay for increased publicity, but they asked that those dealers who would sell at the show be members of their association. For this reason those dealers who have traditionally exhibited were not able to participate this year.

These gentlemen are fine people and a very reliable and economical alternative to your local hobby dealer who, because of his overhead is forced to charge more. The obvious drawback is that the discounters are not readily available when you need them. The problems appear to be very hard to resolve and perhaps we should return to our former policy of no sales, rather than finding ourselves unwillingly thrust in the middle of the dispute between the two groups.

As to your comments on our musical selections, it was part of our increased promotion plan. My own tastes run to Gregorian Chants but only a few of our members wanted to go along with an ad campaign on the classical radio stations.

I hope this answers, in part, some of your concerns. If you have any further questions please feel free to call me at home, or, better yet, become involved with our show so that you can determine the policies that our division should follow.

Tom

the Semaphore
Editor: Jerry Hoffman

The Semaphore is a monthly Newsletter published by the Fox Valley Division of the Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) and is used to communicate information and activities to the members of the Division. Direct all comments and questions to: Semaphore Editor, P.O. Box 1535, Arlington Heights, IL 60006-1535.

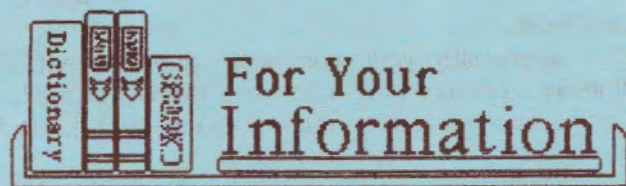
Board of Directors

Fox Valley Division Officers

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Tom Hoffman, <i>Superintendent</i> | 708-299-6276 |
| Dave Flebbe, <i>Assistant Superintendent</i> | 708-577-3891 |
| Irv Lange, <i>Chief Clerk</i> | 708-577-0015 |
| Rich Sweet, <i>Paymaster</i> | 708-459-1037 |

Fox Valley Division Trainmasters

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Frank Oldfield, <i>Contests</i> | 708-364-0152 |
| Bob Carney, <i>Membership</i> | 708-587-6211 |
| Jerry Hoffman, <i>Publications</i> | 312-725-9159 |
| Art Roth, <i>Public Relations</i> | 708-577-4430 |
| Ray Pettersen, Jr., <i>Ways and Means</i> | 708-259-3040 |



April 18th Meeting

Meeting begins at 1:30 p.m.

- Annual Business Meeting
- Election of Officers
- Contest: *First Generation Diesels*
- Railroad Video

February Contest Winners

First Place — Gerry Souter

Second Place — Roger Jones

Third Place — Rich Boettcher



Meeting Attendance

We've missed you... As a division of over 350 members we might have taken you for granted. Does it seem that way? What haven't we been doing that has kept you away? We would like to hear from you...

Don't worry that by showing up at a meeting that we will hit you up for money. We ask a nominal fee for coffee and pop. We also do things for our members with the money raised by *High Wheeler*.

From time to time we ask for volunteers to help with some projects. But, we make no demands on any of our members. Have you ever said that there was something about the way the division was run that you didn't like. There is a way to change things. As you will notice, there are **FOUR** candidates for the **SIX** trainmaster positions on the ballot.

Do you wish you were a member of a more active and informative division? You might be the one who can make a difference. Talk to any of the officers at the April 18th meeting. Tell them you are interested in serving the Fox Valley Division.

Where is the Gary Morava Community Center?

The Gary Morava Community Center is in Prospect Heights, Illinois. The center is on Camp McDonald Road. It is approximately one half mile east of Rand Road and one quarter mile west of Elmhurst Road. Camp McDonald Road is between Palatine Road and Lake-Euclid Road. I have attempted to draw a map with my computer. You may also find a map in September and October issues.



Smilepost '93

Registrations are coming in at an acceptable rate. To date there are approximately 90 people registered for the convention. We look for that to more than double by the date of the convention.

The Convention Committee has given us an activity-filled weekend. We will get to see some of the finest layouts in the area. We will also hear from some of the most knowledgeable clinicians in the N.M.R.A.



No May Meeting

Due to the convention, the Board of Directors has cancelled the May meeting of the Fox Valley Division. Watch for the September edition of *The Semaphore* for the latest information about the Fox Valley Division.

Be sure to read the next edition of *The Semaphore*. It will get you up to speed on the events for the coming year. I am sure each recipient of the September issue will find something that will be of significance to them.

The Board of Directors and officers wish you a pleasant summer. Drive safely and we will see you in September.



FOX VALLEY DIVISION
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