



the Semaphore

December 1993

Volume 21, Number 4

Christmas El Ride

DECEMBER PROGRAM

THE MEMBERS OF THE FOX VALLEY Division will be treated to an early Christmas present. Those who have made their reservations will be among the 90 passengers on a Chartered El Ride. The passengers will board buses at Palatine Hobby at Euclid and Quenten in Palatine at 5:30 p.m. on the 18th of December. From there they will be taken to the Linden Avenue CTA Station in Wilmette.

Upon arrival they will board their Chartered El Train. As the train leaves the Linden Station they will be treated to sights not usually seen by the average person. They may notice the new Public Transportation Facility at Davis Street in Evanston. Some passengers may have heard of the big newsstand at Main Street just east of the tracks. Take another look, it is now closed. Then look around as our El enters the Howard Street yard.

There will be many other points of interest along the way. Loyola University is right next to the tracks. So is the final resting place of the giants and the common men, Graceland Cemetery. We will pass another institution of higher learning, DePaul University.

As the train approaches the downtown Chicago area, spectacular vistas will appear wherever your eye happens to look. Chicago at Christmas is a beautiful city.

Don't forget the neighborhoods. As the El winds its way out of the Loop, look. Look at the streets. Look at the homes. From the El you also have a chance to look inside the apartments of many people. Some may be struggling, others may be affluent. Each will celebrate the holidays in their own way.

Enjoy your trip. Above all, look, take in the city as it is presented to you. You won't forget the sights you will see.

Jerry Hoffman

Superintendent's Report

A very happy holiday season from the Hoffman family to the Fox Valley Division. The Division has had a very good year from several points of view. We had an excellent High Wheeler program with an increase in attendance of over 2000. We had our first convention in seven years and had a good time with it. We have had three excellent programs to start this year and have sold out our final trip of 1993 where the Division is renting an El Train to ride around the Loop on December 18th.

I look forward to a great new year with more programs on tap and our plans for High Wheeler '94 going along in good fashion. This writing leaves me with just five months left with my tenure in office. In April you will choose new officers to direct the Division. I would encourage many of you to consider standing for election this year as most of our executive officers will be leaving office. Our Trainmasters are an excellent group with a good deal of experience to assist the new board in moving our Division in new directions.

The Fox Valley Railroad is once more underway in constructing the layout with a goal of exhibiting it at High Wheeler in March. We hope to generate enough interest in it that we may start using it at the general meetings and hopefully develop an operating scheme for it. We are in need of assistance of members to help fix the track, build structures, and create scenery for the division-owned modules. Additionally, we are encouraging members to build modules which will mate with the division modules. In this way we can build a varied layout with members sharing in the ownership of the layout. If you are interested in helping with the division modules contact Irv Lange for information on how you can assist us. If you are interested in building your own modules contact Bob Carney who will assist you with understanding the guidelines for the modules which are almost identical to the NMRA guide-lines. I hope that more members will consider joining us and making the Fox Valley layout a vehicle for expanding our enjoyment of the hobby.

Have a fantastic holiday season,

Tom

NEW HO MODULAR GROUP FORMING

The first meeting in 1994 of the

MID-AMERICA MODURAIL NETWORK

as hosted by Bill Boyd
of *Railroading as a Hobby*

will be held at 7:30 P.M.
on Friday, January 14th in the
Maynard Room (downstairs) of the

GLENVIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

1930 Glenview Road
Glenview, Illinois
(1/4 block west of Harlem Avenue)

Please do not call the Library for information!

BRING YOURSELF

BRING A FRIEND

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

The results are in and I would like to thank all of the members who responded. It seems that the location is not convenient for about 43% of the members. Most of you still wish to receive *the Semaphore*. Others would like another day of the week.

At the November meeting with Dean Freytag we had 58 in attendance. Dean covered a lot of material in about 2-1/2 hours.

At our board meeting on December it was announced that the El Ride was sold out, that's 90 people. Another great turn-out.

Once again thanks to those who took the time to fill out our questionnaire and as always, I look forward to hearing from you all. If I can do something for you, give me a call after 5:00 p.m. That's what I'm here for. My number is 708-438-9109

See you next month.

Scottie Hicks
Public Relations Trainmaster

MODULAR STANDARDS

Enclosed with the next issue of *the Semaphore* will be a reprint of the Fox Valley Modular Railroad Standards. Bob Carney may be contacted if you wish to hook up with the Division's modules. We have had requests to set up our railroad at various locations.

Time to get your module(s) scenicked and ready to run. Let's show the people what we do.

CHRISTMAS FUN QUIZ

1. Name Santa's reindeer

- ① _____
- ② _____
- ③ _____
- ④ _____
- ⑤ _____
- ⑥ _____
- ⑦ _____
- ⑧ _____
- ⑨ _____

2. Who stole Christmas? _____

3. What are Frosty's eyes made out of? _____

4. What town was Jesus born in? _____

5. What three gifts did the Wise Men bring?

- ① _____
- ② _____
- ③ _____

6. Who had no gift fit for a king? _____

7. What kind of pudding do you give carolers to make them go away? _____

8. Where does Santa live? _____

9. Who paints pictures on your window? _____

10. What is Scrooge's first name? _____

11. What do Germans call their Christmas tree? _____

12. What was Grandma drinking before she got run over by a Reindeer? _____

13. Name one of Santa's alias' _____

14. What did my true love give on the 9th day of Christmas? _____

15. The Star of Bethlehem was over? _____

16. SITTEEMLO 17. YCNAD ANCE

18. ERTMNNOA 19. REEPTSNS

20. LHLOY 21. STASHRCIM

See page 4 for answers.

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PROGRAMS TRAINMASTER

Looks like everyone is looking forward to our Christmas El ride. The trip is completely sold out and I am personally looking forward to seeing all of you on December 18. We will meet at Palatine Hobbies (see map at right). Buses will leave at 5:30 p.m.

The Dean Freytag Clinic turned out great. Hope everyone had as good time. Attendance was 60. I hope this is a sign we're doing something right.

Don't miss the January meeting all you train fans. We're having Jeff Kehoe present a clinic on "The Crummy, Milwaukee Style." Norm Smith will also present his review of the '93 National Convention.

The Contest for the Month is Fallen Flag Caboozes. If enough interest is shown there will be separate contests for HO gauge and N gauge.

Every year, as part of our High Wheeler publicity the Daily Herald asks us to feature the layout of one of our Division members. The article will include photos of your layout and a feature story. **Do we have any volunteers.** We need layouts nicely scenicked and in good running order. Everyone will be given consideration. We are serious about this. These articles help generate interest in our hobby.

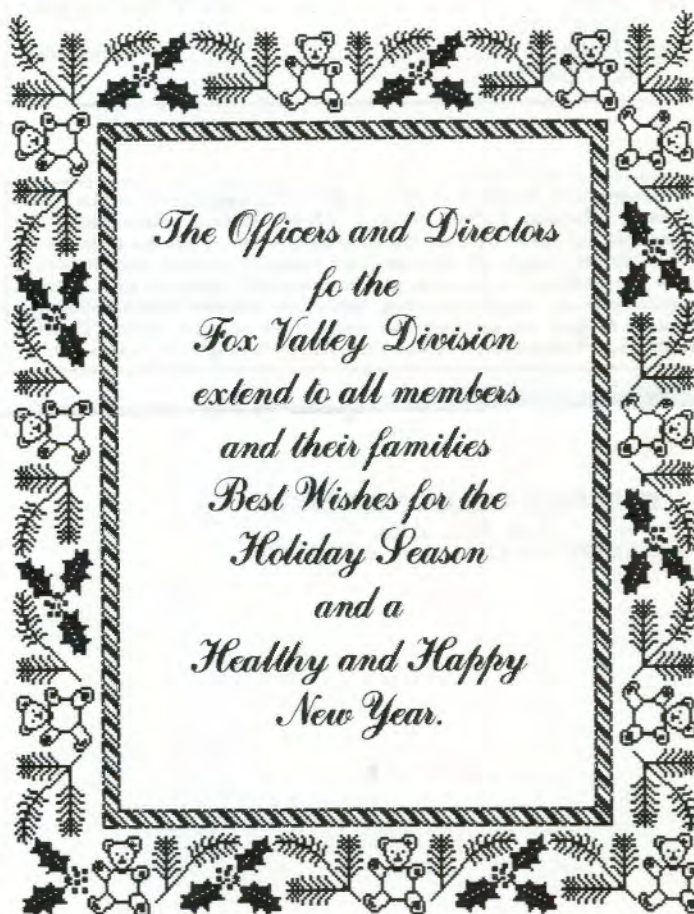
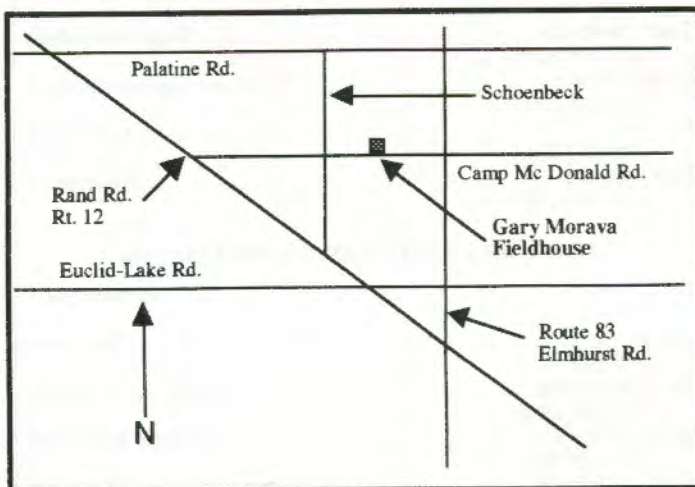
To volunteer, please call me at 708-577-4430 or Scott Hicks at 708-438-9109.

Art Roth

Program Chairman

P.S.: To all you Milwaukee Road fans. I've seen the new Milwaukee Shops book on the 35 Hiawatha. It's a large book (11 x 18) nicely bound in red and gold. Well written, with lots of historical pictures, it has 139 pages, four full color pages and five fold-out blueprint pages for you modelers. It is priced right around \$60.00. The 1994 Milwaukee Road calendars are out. They feature lines west this year.

WHERE WE MEET



MODEL RAILROAD SHOW

HIGH WHEELER '94

presented by
The Fox Valley Division
March 5 & 6, 1994

Harper College
Palatine, Illinois

Volunteers Needed!!!

As stated in Art Roth's article, the Division needs people to open their layout to a reporting team from the *Daily Herald*.

Call Art Roth or Scott Hicks for more information or to volunteer.

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THE FOX VALLEY DIVISION

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ANSWERS TO CHRISTMAS FUN QUIZ

1. ① Rudolph ② Donner ③ Blitzen ④ Dancer
⑤ Prancer ⑥ Comet ⑦ Cupid
⑧ Vixen ⑨ Dasher
2. Grinch 3. Coal 4. Bethlehem
5. ① Gold ② Frankincense ③ Myrrh 6. Drummer Boy
7. Figgy Pudding 8. North Pole 9. Jack Frost
10. Ebenezer 11. Tannenbaum 12. Eggnog
13. Kris Kringle 14. _____
15. Stable 16. Mistletoe 17. Candy Cane
18. Ornament 19. Presents 20. Holly
21. Christmas



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