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Fox Valley Division
Midwest Region - NMRA
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The Semaphore

Fox Valley Division • MWR • NMRA

Trip to *Trainfest*[®]

It's that time of year again! This month's meeting will be replaced by our annual trip to *Trainfest*[®] at the Wisconsin Exposition Center. There will be "over 40 operating layouts from Z to G" and plenty of displays, hobby shops, and demonstrations to keep us busy for the day. The luxury bus will leave the Regency Shopping Center at 10:00am on Sunday, November 13, and will be back around 5:00pm. As always, transportation will be taken care of by the Fox Valley Division. We will also take care of the \$10.00 admission fee for all FVD members. Not signed up yet? There's still time if you contact Dave Leider right away at (847)253-7484, or email him at sooauthor@netzero.net. Hope to see you there!

(Editor's Note: So that we don't get into any legal trouble, it should be noted that "*Trainfest*" and the *Trainfest* LOGO are registered trademarks of the Wisconsin Southeastern (WISE) Division, Inc. (NMRA")

Rail Fun '06

The Midwest Region Spring 2006 convention, named Rail Fun '06, hosted by the DuPage and Fox Valley Divisions, will be held at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield in Schaumburg, Illinois on April 28, 29 & 30, 2006. The convention registration form will be in the December *Semaphore*.

Last Month's Contest Winners

The October contest was cabooses (cabeese?), and we had great participation. With six entries and ten cabooses, judging was quite difficult. After all the votes were in, John Hetreed walked away with top honors with his O-scale D&H.



Don Robinson came in second with his O-scale G&W.



Dave Leider's three cabooses captured third prize with his Soo entries, these two kitbashed



cabooses and the scratchbuilt one on the next page.

This Year's Remaining Events

November 13, 2005

Trip to Train Fest

10:00am Regency Shopping Center

No Contest

December 18, 2005

1:30pm, Gary Morava Center

General Meeting

Clinic – 5 minute clinics – Open Mike Night

Contest– Train-related photography

January 15, 2006

1:30pm, Gary Morava Center

General Meeting

Clinic – Researching the Prototype

Contest– Passenger Cars

February 19, 2006

1:30pm, Gary Morava Center

Clinic – Details to be announced

Contest– Structures

March 4-5, 2006

9:00am-5:00pm, Harper College

High Wheeler

No Contest

April 23, 2006

1:00pm, Gary Morava Center

Annual Business Meeting

Contest– to be announced

Contest– Maintenance-of-way cars

April 28-30, 2006

Midwest Region Convention

Woodfield Hyatt

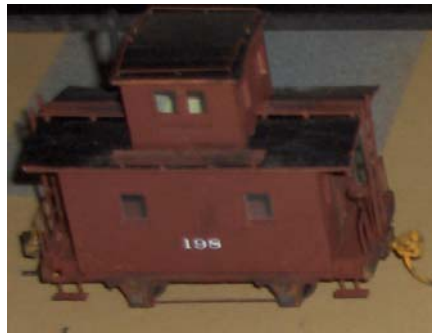
Details– to be announced

May 21, 2006

Field Trip – Operating session at

Ted Schepf's "Fox Valley O Scale"

No Contest



There's no contest for November (it's kind of hard to judge entries while riding on the bus), so you'll have plenty of time for December's contest - train-related photography. So dust off those 5x7s and 8x10s and share your expertise in capturing prototype details or how well you've captured the "reality" of your or someone else's layout, rolling stock, structures, or diorama. And the prize money can't hurt. See you then!

Now That's Dedication!

I know that last year I might have seemed a little harsh about attending meetings, so I thought I'd share the following with you: At the October meeting, I was sitting at the sign-up table as I usually do. As one person signed in, he mentioned that he didn't think he would make it to the meeting, because he just got out of the hospital. I was going to comment about how it sometimes takes a few days after getting out of the hospital before you feel like running around, figuring that he got out Friday or Saturday. But then he held out his hand and asked, "Can you help me get this wristband off?" Apparently,

"just got out" was a matter of minutes, not days!

So, I guess I shouldn't badger you anymore about attending meetings.

-Rick Saviano

Hints, Tips, and Innovations

Share your expertise with others

Rick Saviano- Publications / Membership Trainmaster

. . . and this month, a little bit of frustration. In the October Model Railroader, there was a great tip that I started to use. The author recommended making a scale model of your layout. Now, as you may know, I model in Z, so many have joked that a model of my layout might actually be larger than the layout itself. Anyway, the article suggested first making a scale model of the room the layout is to be in. This should be made out of 1/8" foam core board. Then, print out a scale version of your layout and place it on 1/8" foam core board. The concept of this article was that you can easily test layout height and size easier with the model than in "full scale." Making a model of the room with existing furniture, closets, doors, plumbing, and appliances makes it easy to see where the problem areas will be. To make this project easy to make and view, the author recommended a scale of 1/2" scale, also known as 1:24 scale.

Sounds pretty simple, huh? The article even suggested using scale figures to check aisle clearances. Isn't that a great idea!



Call for Layouts!

Layouts needed for 2006 NMRA MWR convention

One of the important parts of any convention is the layout tours. They provide inspiration for others' layouts, and give you the perfect opportunity to share your layout. Add your layout to the tour! Contact Rich Sweet at Rsweet@nactiv.com or (847)550-1399

Here's where the frustration starts: So I call one of the local hobby shops and niavely ask, "Do you have any Prieser figures in 1:24?" "Sure," was the relpy, "We've got a whole wall full!"

(For those of you who run in G, I'm sure you can guess what comes next.)

Well, before I got to that hobby shop, I stopped in another local shop. This shop's main focus is planes and cars, and the clerk grabbed two boxes and a got ready to pay, when I noticed that one of the boxes was 1:25, one of the two "standard" scales for model cars. (You would think that in 50+ years, the model car kit manufacturers

would have agreed on a single scale.) I took the 1:24 figures, because there was one kneeling, presumably to fix a flat tire, but for my purposes, represented under-table work. What's the difference?" the clerk asked. So I had to explain that if I used the 1:25 scale figures, it would look like I could fit 5 people in a space that would really be too tight for 4.

So now I go to the hobby shop I called, the one with the "wall" of 1:24 Prieser figures. I walk in, and what do I see? (All together now, G-guagers) A wall of "almost" 1:24 figures! !:22.5, 1:25, 1:20.5, and two packs of 1:24 figures, but those

were all nudes. Well, it doesn't get that hot in my basement, and I really didn't feel like spending the time to assemble and clothe the figures (did I forget to say that the nude figures were mostly just body parts?), so I special ordered from the Walthers catalogue. So, while I waited for my special order, I put the "room" and the "layout" together.

Was it worth the effort? Well, if I hadn't tested with my model of the model, the real layout would have either had to have a hole cut in it , or I would have had to moved one of the house's support columns. And it was much easier cutting the foam core supports to determine the right height than cutting 3" off the legs of the prototype. Wait a minute, since the model came first, wouldn't that make it the prototype?.

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Open Mike Night!

The clinic for December's meeting will be an open mike. Bring your favorite tip and share it with the other FVD members. Visual aids, as always, will be helpful. Contact Dave Leider so he can coordinate the presentations. (847)253-7484 or sooauthor@netzero.net.

Don't have a favorite tip? Come to the December meeting and hear how others have solved problems you may have encountered. We'll leave plenty of time for questions, and refreshments.

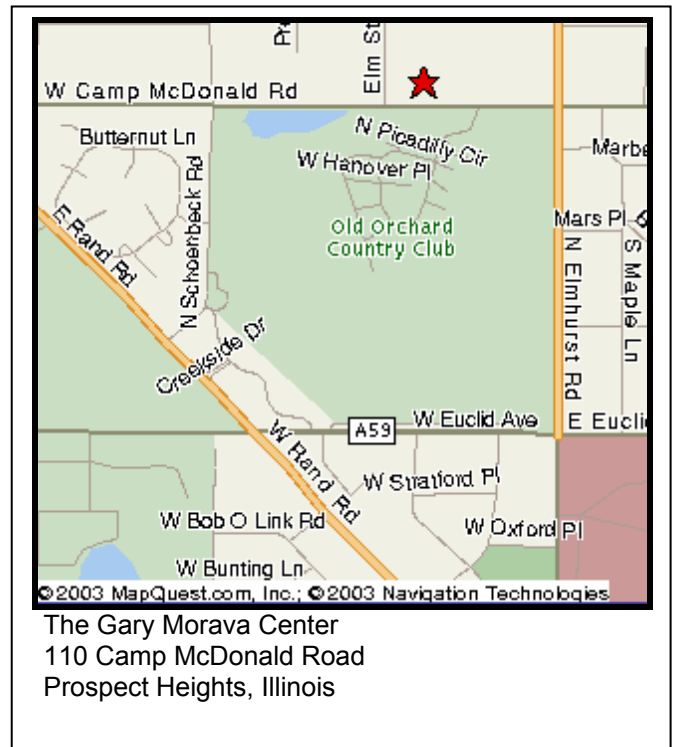
Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

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Location for General Meetings

General meetings of the Fox Valley Division are held at the Morava Center in Prospect Heights (See map at right).

The meeting schedule is listed in this Semaphore, and will be posted on our web site, www.mwr-nmra.org/fvd. If there are changes to the schedule, or if additional information needs to be disseminated to the membership, you will find it there.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

