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Fox Valley Division
Midwest Region - NMRA
P.O. Box 1535
Arlington Heights, IL 60005-1535

The Semaphore

Fox Valley Division • MWR • NMRA

Modeling Industrial Sidings

Dissatisfied with your sidings? Having trouble rationalizing having 20 reefer cars at one siding or cattle cars at your automobile plants? Well, out of the Great White North (all right, this year it's more like the near green North) comes Gary Children! Gary Children will be giving this month's clinic, modeling industrial sidings. I don't know about you, but this contest comes in the nick of time for me. It's the details that make the difference between a toy train and a layout worthy of an operating session. Gary will help you determine the details to add that will make the difference.

This month we will also have some tables in the back reserved for swap meet purposes. In fact, we will probably make this a permanent feature. So bring those extra cars and buildings that you worked so hard on, and lots of money to pick up those things you probably won't be able to find anywhere else.

See you there!

New Website

The Fox Valley Division now has a new website: www.Foxvalleydivision.org. With this new site, we will be able to update information more

quickly, providing those of you with web access better information in a timelier manner. So visit the site, update your bookmarks, and enjoy the fruits of our webmaster, Jim Osborn's labors. Check it out, and send your comments to FVDwebsite@comcast.net.

Railfun '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 was included in last month's *Semaphore*.

Hey, but don't just attend the convention, there's plenty else to do. We're still looking for Layout tours, and we always need the V-word (volunteers).

This Month's Contest

The January contest is passenger cars. Bring in your Zephers, your Streamliners, or your freelanced empire to our meeting. We had great participation in October and December, so I'm looking forward to this month. I'll have pictures of the winning entries in the February issue of the *Semaphore* (I know I said I'd try to have December's winners in this month's *Semaphore*, but pictures of pictures didn't quite look right).



This Year's Remaining Events

January 15, 2006

**1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
General Meeting**

Clinic – Gary Children:
Modeling Industrial Sidings
Contest– Passenger Cars

February 19, 2006

1:30pm, Gary Morava Center

Clinic – David Leider
Researching the Prototype
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

Hints, Tips, and Innovations

Share your expertise with others

*Rick Saviano- Publications /
Membership Trainmaster*

This month, we're going back to high school. We're going to cover three classes:

History: "Manifest Destiny" -

One of the questions I was asked during December's "Open Mike" was (I'm paraphrasing) "Why aren't you using more of your basement?" Ted Schepf's layout (don't forget to sign up for May's field trip to Ted's place) brings new meaning to the phrase "Manifest Destiny." The fantasy in every modeler's mind probably includes going around water heaters and over washing machines. The problem is that that can be overwhelming (a problem I am trying to resolve myself). The solution: phasing with achievable stages. This is supposedly how the U.S. Space Program succeeded in reaching the moon. Kennedy said, "Don't tell me it's impossible; tell me what would be needed to land a man on the moon." It also reminds me of a story I read quite a few years ago in *Readers' Digest*. "A man went to visit his brother. 'I can't believe you're trying to clear this wooded area and build a log cabin all by yourself. I couldn't imagine completing such a

monumental task!' His brother replied, 'I'm doing it a step at a time. All I'm concerned about right now is chopping down this one tree.'" Along those lines, I've created my master plan,

Clinics Wanted!

We're always in need of good clinics.

Contact Dave Leider and he can set things up for your presentations. (847)253-7484 or sooauthor@netzero.net.

and am now breaking it into manageable tasks. If I feel the need to connect the sections before it's all completed, I'll hint at the eventual look, and fill in the details as time permits.

Math: Mathematical Modeling - Proportional Geometry - If you remember Donn Branstrator's "meter stick" grade checker that he described at December's Open Mike session, you've got a general idea that some things don't need to be scaled, while others do. It took me a while to figure out that all I've read about helixes apply no matter what scale you model in: If you can find an o-Scale helix at a swap meet, you can use it on a Z-Scale layout. You'll just have a lot more vertical clearance.

In like manner, I belong to a Z-Scale Yahoo! email group, and many of the emails talk about scaling a 4x8 HO layout into a 2x4 Z layout. After listening to

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@pactiv.com or (847)550-1399

the "meter stick revelation," I thought I'd apply the same principle to the 4x8 layout: Why not use the same 4x8 sheet for my scale's layout? The sidings will be longer in terms of number of cars per siding, but doesn't that just make it more prototypical? Since only a single Chicago city block could fit in a 21"x42" area in Z-Scale, we're all dealing with selective compression anyway! (I'll let you know next month how Gary Children's clinic changes this opinion.)

Math (again): Another type of proportional geometry - For those of you with film cameras, there's a technique that works great for simulating realistic details: slides. Imagine looking through a warehouse door and seeing a perfectly detailed interior that seems to be 50 scale feet deep, then realizing that the building is a flat that's no more than 1 inch deep.

Share your Expertise!

Send me your virtual Layout tour or tips and tricks

Contact me, Rick Saviano at Saviano@att.net. Be sure to include the words "semaphore" or FVD in the title. I'll include your article in the next *Semaphore*.

The trick is accomplished by viewing a backlit 35mm slide, with a film area of 24mm x 36mm. But how do you get the closest objects in scale? If you use the following equation

$$\left(\frac{h_1}{l_1} = \frac{h_2}{l_2} \right)$$

(an equation for calculating the heights and lengths of similar triangles), you can "easily" determine how far to stand to have the slides come out right. Sparing you a lot of equation-

solving gibberish, the bottom line is the following table for a 50mm lens (the standard lens for 35mm cameras):

Scale	Distance
Z (1:220)	36' 1"
N (1:160)	26' 3"
HO (1:87)	14' 3"
O (1:48)	7' 10-1/2"
G	*

The asterisk in G stands for "Don't kid yourself, there is no scale for G; besides, you'll need more than 36mm for what you want to show." For those of you with access to the web, I'll try to put a spreadsheet link on the FVD website, so you can ignore all the boring equations and just play around with the results. Do you have a digital camera? I'll touch on that solution next month.

Saviano@att.net

Ωαντεδ!

Tyco (Mantua) 11 panel gondola
Contact Frank Cole: (847) 658-5019

Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

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High Wheeler's coming!

We still need volunteers for High Wheeler

Ticket sellers, floorwalkers, set up and teardown. And plenty of timeslots still exist. Sign up at the January meeting.

Check Out Our New Website!

<http://www.foxvalleydivision.org>

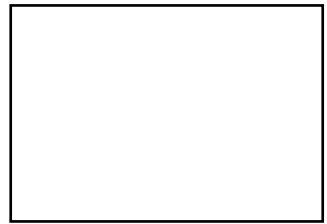
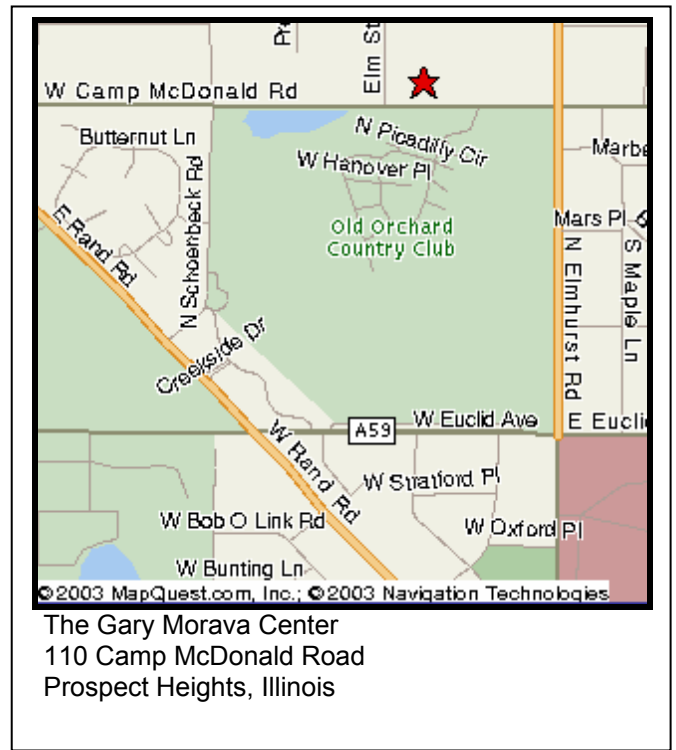
Visit our new website and update your bookmark! Our new pages will be updated more frequently, and have more relevant content than before.

Like what you see? Want the site to contain more? Send your comments to our webmaster, Jim Osborn, at: FVDwebsite@comcast.net.

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.foxvalleydivision.org. 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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