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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

Superintendent's Report

It is January and we are at the midpoint of our 2007-2008 season. That means spring is just around the corner. With the coming of spring, it is time to think about the Midwest Region Spring convention. This year the convention will be held in Waupaca, Wisconsin on May 9 - 11. If you look on a map, Waupaca is 196 miles from Prospect Heights with a driving time of 3 hrs. Not that far away.

Like all of the region conventions this one will have operating sessions on Friday night, clinics on Friday night and Saturday morning, a tour of the Waupaca Foundry Friday afternoon (I heard this is something worth seeing), layout tours Saturday and Sunday afternoon and the banquet on Saturday night. The hotel has an indoor water park, so bring your swim suits.

If you are wondering how much this will cost, here are your expenses: the room rates are \$69 per night for a single and \$79 per night for a double, the convention full fare is \$50 and you will need about 15 gallons of gasoline there and back, about \$50 (at current prices). If you bring your wife and she likes to shop like mine does, well, that's another story.

Log into the convention Website, www.mwr-nmra.org/WaupacaRails2008/Home.htm for the convention information. for the hotel information, go to www.bestwesternwaupaca.com.

In the past conventions that I have attended, I have noticed that there has been a lack of Fox Valley Division members. I would like to see more attendance from our members at this convention. I'm planning on being there and I hope I will see you there, also.

- Richard

Next Month's Contest

There will not be a contest for January, so that will give you all some extra time for the February contest. The theme will be "Builder's Choice - Completed Project," and we're leaving it wide open! Have you got a finished project that you've been waiting to enter, but the topic's never right? Well, this is the perfect time. Structure, engine, diorama, boxcar, you literally name it! This contest will probably be the most difficult to judge, but also promises to be the most interesting. Hope to see you and your project there!

January Meeting

We will have an abbreviated meeting at the home of Ted Schnepf, which will be followed by an operating session on his "The Milwaukee Road - Northeast Iowa Dubuque Division/Iowa & Dakota Division." I've been writing about Ted's layout since January 2003 (all right, back then it was only three sentences, but you can't fit much on a postcard), and Ted's was my first experience with operating sessions. It's a pleasure seeing the progress that's made each time we visit, and Ted always manages to blend challenge with enjoyment the way he balances the assignments. The start time is 1:00pm. There's a map with Ted's house "Starred" at the bottom of page 2. Don't be fooled, though: you can't get there from Route 20, you'll have to turn into the subdivision off of Irving Perk Road (Route 19). Space is limited, but you may still be able to sign up. Contact Dave Leider (847-253-7484)

See you there!

This Year's Remaining Events

January 20, 2008
1:00pm, Operating session at Ted Schnepf's "Fox Valley O Scale"

No Clinic
No Contest

February 17, 2008
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center
Clinic – Jim Singer, Railroad Oddities
Contest - Finished Project – your choice

March 15-16, 2008
9:00am-5:00pm, High Wheeler
No Clinic, No Contest

April 20, 2008
1:00pm, Gary Morava Center
Annual Business Meeting
Clinic – Boy, is my thumb green
Contest - Unfinished Project – your choice

May 25, 2008
1:30pm
Layout tours (Details TBD)
No Clinic
No Contest

Summer, 2008
Possible Field Trip
– Details to be announced

Tapes Available From Our Library

Just a reminder that we have VHS tapes available for loan. Look for them by the front table of our meeting room.

Last Month's Contest

The December contest was the finished kit-bash made from the parts in the Mt Vernon Manufacturing Company, the Life-Like® model kit that was passed out at the September meeting. And what a turnout! We had a total of TEN entries, a Fox Valley Division record for at least the last six years. And the entries were as impressive in quality as they were in quantity!

First place went to Walter Herrick's Yard Office on an Embankment:



2nd Place went to Jim Osborn, for his Spice's Speed Shop and Apartment's for Rent:



And 3rd Place was a 3-way tie, another first in FVD. Frank Cole's Dietzgen Store:



Ted Schnepf's Fox Valley O Scalers



126 Will Scarlet Lane, Elgin, IL

Leif Hansen's
Mt. Vernon Manufacturing:



And David Leider's
Glassey's Repair Shop:



You can see larger photos of all the winning contest entries by going to our website:

<http://www.foxvalleydivision.org/>

Golden Spike Award

Congratulations to David Crement, Jim Osborn, and Jim Landwehr on their completion of the Golden Spike Award, the first step to becoming a Master Model Railroader. You can get a Golden Spike, too! Just contact the Achievements and Contests Trainmaster, Jim Landwehr at 847-577-7984

Volunteers Needed for High Wheeler!

Boy, March just seems to come along faster and faster each year. Walter Radtke, our Ways and Means Trainmaster, is again in charge of the event, and needs more help than ever! This is the 30th anniversary of High Wheeler, and there are some special things going on to make this one to celebrate. So we need your help: Contact Walter (847-255-2977, or wagx2@email.com) and show some support for the event that gives us the funds to finance our trips to Trainfest® and all the other field trips we go on!

We Need Your Help to make High Wheeler a success! Give Walter a call!

Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

Superintendent Rich Sweet Superintendent@foxvalleydivision.org	847-550-1399
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Clinics & Programs Trainmaster David Leider sooauthor@netzero.com	847-253-7484
Ways and Means Trainmaster Walter Radtke wagx2@email.com	847-255-2977

Find the Secret Word Contest

Be one of the first to bring in your mailed-out copy of the Semaphore, with the secret word circled, to the February meeting and you will receive a prize. Words inside this text box are excluded.

The secret word for this month is:
"boxcar"

No one found our first "word." It really was a toughie: Rich Sweet was the email address that changed from November!

Location for General Meetings

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

Why Do You Get This Newsletter?

You are a member of the National Model Railroad Association, or one of our "courtesy" recipients of the *Semaphore*. Thank you for joining a group of people interested in and enjoying the Model Railroading hobby. The NMRA is divided into Regions and Divisions. You live in the Midwest Region and the Fox Valley Division.

The Fox Valley Division has around two hundred members and you are one of them. Membership in the Fox Valley Division costs you NOTHING beyond your national membership. As a matter of fact, most times we give you things. How can we do that? In March each year, we hold a train show at Harper College in Palatine. The proceeds from the show support our activities throughout the year.

If you are interested in learning more about model railroading you can come to our meetings and sign up for our events. There you will meet and hear from people who want to share their knowledge of the hobby. We meet once a month at the Gary Morava Fieldhouse in Prospect Heights. Each year (our year runs from September through May) the *Semaphore* is mailed to the entire membership.

Welcome to the Fox Valley Division!



Next Meeting: January 20, 2008
1:00pm Operating Session: Ted Schnepf

No Clinic
No Contest



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED