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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

Election Time!

The April meeting is our annual business meeting. It will be held at the Gary Morava Center, and will begin at 1:00 pm. We will be voting for two officers: Superintendent and Chief Clerk. Below are the biographies of the two incumbents:

Superintendent

Currently held by Richard Sweet

I have been a member of the Fox Valley Division Board of Directors since 1992. During that time, I have held positions of Publications Trainmaster (Semaphore Editor), Chief Clerk, Paymaster and Superintendent. For the last eight years, I have been the division Superintendent and Division Director on the Midwest Region Board of Directors. And, in addition to the Superintendent, for four years I held the position of Ways and Means Trainmaster (High Wheeler Show Manager).

While I have been Superintendent, I have strived to:

- Keep the division solvent
- Keep our division meetings interesting
- Hold activities to keep the division members active
- Be sure that High Wheeler is profitable
- Promote the hobby of model railroading
- Maintain a strong division Board of Directors
- Be an active member of the Midwest Region Board of Directors
- Participate in region activities

In the past, I have planned the annual Holiday Party and the Appreciation Dinner. I believe that, if the division has the money, it should be spent on some social activities as well as activities related to model railroading.

Chief Clerk

Currently held by Leif Hansen

I have been a member of the NMRA since 1985 and Chief Clerk for the last 4 years. I would like to continue to contribute to the Fox Valley Division and stay on as Chief Clerk for another term.

I have a lot of computer experience and I know how to type, two items that I feel are important for a Chief Clerk to have. I have committed the time slot for the various events and I should be able to attend most of the functions as required. So, if you feel that I can do the job for you, please vote for me for Chief Clerk.

If you are interested in running for either of these positions, please contact our Assistant Superintendent Harry Sorenson (hsrcsconsult@juno.com). I'd also suggest bringing in copies of your own Bio, to add to your cause as write-in candidates. And don't worry, this will be a popular vote of the attendees, so no superdelegates will be involved.

See you at the election!

This Month's Meeting

In addition to the business meeting, we will be having a clinic by Ingrid Drozdak entitled, "Boy, is My Thumb Green." This is one clinic you won't want to miss: Ingrid will take us from Styrofoam to scene in a single clinic. If you haven't attended a meeting in a while, this would be one to attend.

Next Month's Meeting

The May meeting layout tour has been cancelled and replaced with a road trip to Rochelle, IL to visit Railroad Park. This will be on our regular meeting date. Because of the location and the

This Year's Remaining Events

April 20, 2008
1:00pm, Gary Morava Center
Annual Business Meeting

Clinic – Boy, is my thumb green
Contest - Unfinished Project – your choice

May 18, 2008
9:00am – 5:00pm
Trip to Rochelle Railroad Park
Meeting Places TBD
No Clinic
No Contest

proximity points, instead of a bus trip, we will carpool from various points. We will contact everyone who signed up as to where these yet-to-be-determined starting points will be. If you are would like to go, contact our Clinics and Programs Trainmaster David Leider to sign up. Watch the Semaphore or check the Web site for further details.

This Month's Contest

The April contest theme will be "Builder's Choice - Unfinished Project." and we're leaving it wide open, just like February's contest. Got a project that you just can't seem to complete? Has it been bugging you? Well, you're in luck! That Pain-in-the-Layout just might translate into prize money in this month's contest. Of course, judging for this one will be even more difficult than the February contest. I can't wait to see what everyone's got cooking! Hope to see you and your project there!

Midwest Region Spring convention

Remember, the Midwest Region Spring convention will be held in Waupaca, Wisconsin on May 9 - 11. With operating sessions on Friday night, clinics on Friday night and Saturday morning, a tour of the Waupaca Foundry Friday afternoon. There will be additional layout tours Saturday and Sunday afternoon, and the banquet will be on Saturday night.

For more information, refer to The Superintendent's Report in the January *Semaphore*, or go to the convention Website, www.mwr-nmra.org/WaupacaRails2008/Home.htm. For hotel information, go to www.bestwesternwaupaca.com.

Hope you can attend!

Track Treks

Jim Osborn is the FVD Public Relations Train Master and our Webmaster. He has been authoring *Track Treks* as a continuing column featuring local layouts. Contact Jim if you would like your layout profiled in the Track Treks. His contact information is listed on page 3.

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.

End of the Line

It is with heavy heart that we report the death of Jim Otis. Jim was an early and very active member of the NMRA Fox Valley Division as well as many other associations in his community. We will greatly miss him and his always helpful contributions to the association. The Fox Valley Division membership wishes to pass on its most sincere condolences to his family.

The family of Jim Otis wishes to thank you for all the get well cards and visits during his extended illness with lung cancer. Since Jim's death on March 14, the number of members at the visitation and funeral, the lovely cards, memorial gifts, and other kindnesses extended to the family have been overwhelming. It truly shows the caring attitude the Fox Valley Division of the MWR-NMRA members have toward each other. Thank you! Big Jim was smiling down on all of you this year at the 30th anniversary of the High Wheeler Show!

-Judy Otis

Clinics Wanted!

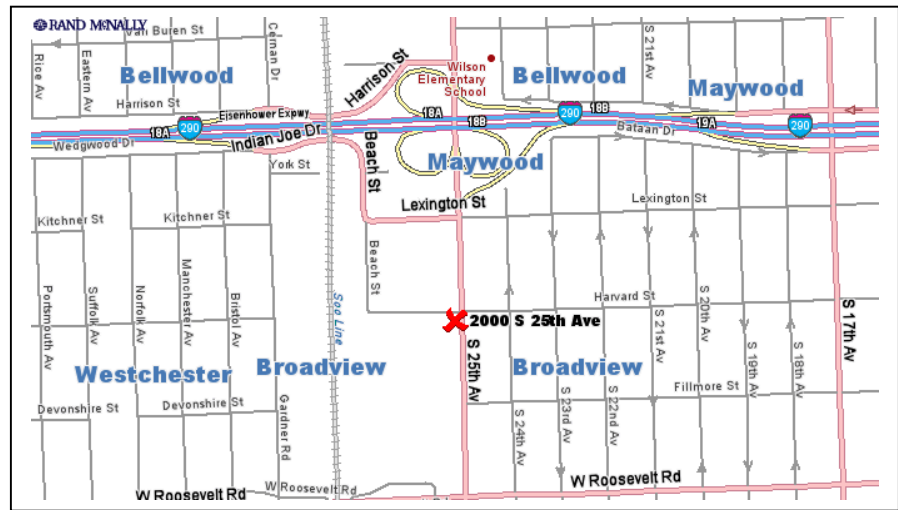
We're always in need of good clinics.

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

Hints, Tips, and Innovations

Rick Saviano
 Publications Trainmaster /
 Membership Trainmaster

I received a flyer fro the Midwest N Pioneer Model Railroad Club about their Open House on Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13, 2008, from Noon until 5 p.m.



Midwest N Pioneer Model Railroad Club

A permanent N scale model railroad club centrally located in the near western Chicago suburb of Broadview.

Come and see the largest permanent N Scale layout in the Chicago area! Come see as at our first Open House on Saturday, April 12 and Sunday, April 13, 2008, from noon until 5 p.m. We are building a layout measuring 60' by 14'.

<p>Address: 2000 S. 25th Ave., Broadview, IL 708-343-3040. Web site: midwestnpioneer.org</p>	<p>Directions: Eisenhower Expressway (I290) to 25th Ave, exit going south.</p>	<p>Meeting nights: Wednesday and Fridays 7:00 until 10:00 p.m. Email: staff@midwestnpioneer.org</p>
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Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

Superintendent Rich Sweet Superintendent@foxvalleydivision.org	847-550-1399
Assistant Superintendent Harry Sorenson hsrconsult@juno.com	847-669-8936
Chief Clerk Leif Hansen lhansen@d211.org	847-437-7124
Paymaster Tim Kleimeyer kleimeyert@comcast.net	847-426-4732
Public Relations Trainmaster Jim Osborn jlosborn@comcast.net	815-578-8315
Membership and Publications Trainmaster Rick Saviano saviano@att.net	847-429-0804
Achievements and Contests Trainmaster Jim Landwehr JLandwehr901@yahoo.com	847-577-7984
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

Bring in your mailed-out *Semaphore*, with the secret word circled, to the April meeting and you will be entered in a mini-affle to receive a prize. Words inside this text box are excluded. The word may or may not have spaces between them. As an example, "Warsaw" might have shown up in "war saw" or hidden in "the wars awe"

The secret word for this month is:
 "ions"
 You must find all 5 occurrences

The February word was found by:
Steve Martinak

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 17, 2008**
1:00pm, Gary Morava Center
Annual Business Meeting and Elections
 Clinic – Ingrid Drozdak - Boy, is my thumb green
 Contest - Unfinished Project – your choice



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED