

- 1 National Train Day
- 1 This Month's Meeting
- 2 Belated Certificate of Appreciation
- 2 Last Month's Contest
- 3 Midwest Region Spring convention!
- 3 Last Month's Meeting Board of Directors
- 4 Location for General Meetings

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

# The Semaphore

Fox Valley Division • MWR • NMRA

## National Train Day

May 10 will be the 139th anniversary of the Golden Spike in Promontory, Utah. Amtrak®, MasterCard, and even Wheel of Fortune, are some of the 100+ sponsors of this first-ever national event. The history, as written in the web pages of National Train Day:

“On May 10, 1869, in Promontory Summit, Utah, the “golden spike” was driven into the final tie that joined 1,776 miles of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railways, ceremonially creating the nation’s first transcontinental railroad. And America was transformed.

“Suddenly, the country was united in a way it never had been, and train travel sparked imaginations in small towns and big cities, among folk who desired adventure and businessmen who saw fortunes to be made. The sound of a train whistle was the soundtrack of happy reunions and tearful farewells. It heralded the arrival of mail, supplies and change.

“The train became more than the go-to mode of transport for people and goods. It was a proud achievement of engineering vision, technical ingenuity and sweat. It was a cultural force that sparked the creative imaginations of storytellers in songs, movies and novels. Railways provided jobs for thousands of Americans. The train station became a focal point of every community, from New York City’s Pennsylvania Station to the tiny stations that dotted rural America.

“Now, 139 years after the golden spike connected east and west, there’s never been a better time to take the train. Huge crowds and the frustrations that go with them burden our highways and airports. And at a time when we all share the same pressing concerns about ecology and energy conservation, trains are a more energy-efficient mode of travel than either autos or airplanes. Riding the rails is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint. Not to mention meet interesting people and see breathtaking scenery.

“So mark May 10th on your calendar for a coast-to-coast celebration of the way trains connect people and places. In New York’s Penn Station and Union stations in Washington DC, Chicago and Los Angeles, there will be simultaneous National Train Day festivities that are a treat for all ages.

“The spirit of National Train Day resides at the Golden Spike National Historical site in Utah, which commemorates the achievement of those who created the nation’s first transcontinental railroad. It was there that the final spike was driven into the tie that joined the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads on May 10, 1869, and it’s part of a network of nearly 400 important sites that’s cared for by the National Park Service. And like all of the places you can visit within the National Park system, the Golden Spike National Historical site is alive with history, recreational adventures and beauty. Find out more about our national parks at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).” \*

Check out the National Train Day website: [www.nationaltrainday.com](http://www.nationaltrainday.com) .

## This 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 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. It will be a carpool trip instead of a bus trip, due to rising fuel costs and the perplexing distance and nearness of the destination (so close, and yet, so

\*from the pages of the National Train Day website, specifically <http://www.nationaltrainday.com/about-train-day>

# This Year's Remaining Events

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

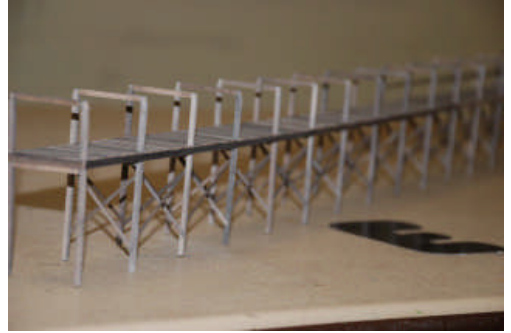
**Have a Great Summer! The next general meeting will be:**

**September 21, 2008**  
1:30pm, Gary Morava Center  
Further details will be in the September *Semaphore*

far). We will therefore have multiple pickup points. There may still be time to join the caravan, so if you would like to go, contact our Clinics and Programs Trainmaster David Leider to sign up.

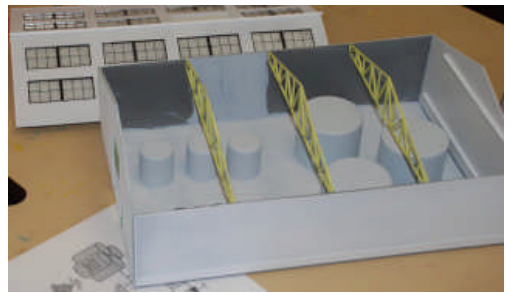
## Belated Certificate of Appreciation

At the April meeting, Fred Klinger presented Ron Fedor with a belated Certificate of Appreciation, from November 17, 1985. Ron drove the bus for a field trip to the Wood Street Yards when it was converted to Container operations. Giving Ron the Certificate after all these years is further proof that we at the Fox Valley division really appreciate our members and volunteers. Or maybe it shows that sometimes you can put things in a "safe place for the next meeting" that is a little too safe!



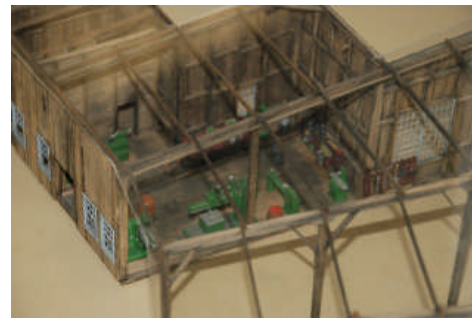
## Last Month's Contest

The April contest theme was "Builder's Choice - Unfinished Project." Speaking of putting things in a "safe place" that is a little too safe, I misplaced the list of winners. I'll print the winners in the next *Semaphore*. In the meantime, below are the entries:



## 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.

## 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](mailto:sooauthor@netzero.net).

## 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](http://www.mwr-nmra.org/WaupacaRails2008/Home.htm) . For hotel information, go to [www.bestwesternwaupaca.com](http://www.bestwesternwaupaca.com) .

*Hope you can attend!*

## Last Month's Meeting

The April meeting had a clinic from Ingrid Droziak entitled "Boy, Is My Thumb Green." In the course of about an hour and a half, she took us through scenicing part of a layout from white Styrofoam to finished scene. An impossible task, you may ask, but we all witnessed the transformation from this:



Just goes to show you what you can do with the right incentive, enough materials on hand, and a little bit of time.

### Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

Superintendent Rich Sweet <a href="mailto:Superintendent@foxvalleydivision.org">Superintendent@foxvalleydivision.org</a>	847-550-1399
Assistant Superintendent Harry Sorenson <a href="mailto:hsrconsult@juno.com">hsrconsult@juno.com</a>	847-669-8936
Chief Clerk Leif Hansen <a href="mailto:lhansen@d211.org">lhansen@d211.org</a>	847-437-7124
Paymaster Tim Kleimeyer <a href="mailto:kleimeyert@comcast.net">kleimeyert@comcast.net</a>	847-426-4732
Public Relations Trainmaster Jim Osborn <a href="mailto:jlosborn@comcast.net">jlosborn@comcast.net</a>	815-578-8315
Membership and Publications Trainmaster Rick Saviano <a href="mailto:saviano@att.net">saviano@att.net</a>	847-429-0804
Achievements and Contests Trainmaster Jim Landwehr <a href="mailto:JLandwehr901@yahoo.com">JLandwehr901@yahoo.com</a>	847-577-7984
Clinics & Programs Trainmaster David Leider <a href="mailto:sooauthor@netzero.com">sooauthor@netzero.com</a>	847-253-7484
Ways and Means Trainmaster Walter Radtke <a href="mailto:wagx2@email.com">wagx2@email.com</a>	847-255-2977

## Editor's Note

**Rick Saviano**

Publications Trainmaster /  
Membership Trainmaster

Well, another Semaphore Volume has been put to rest. I've enjoyed writing, and I hope you've enjoyed reading it. Enjoy your summer! I look forward to sending the September Semaphore and seeing you at the next meetings.

*See you in September!*

### Find the Secret Word Contest

Hopefully, the "Find the Secret Word" contest has brought a smile to your faces. We'd like to know if you'd like us to continue it. Let me know at:

[Saviano@att.net](mailto:Saviano@att.net) and put the word "Semaphore" in the subject line.

**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).

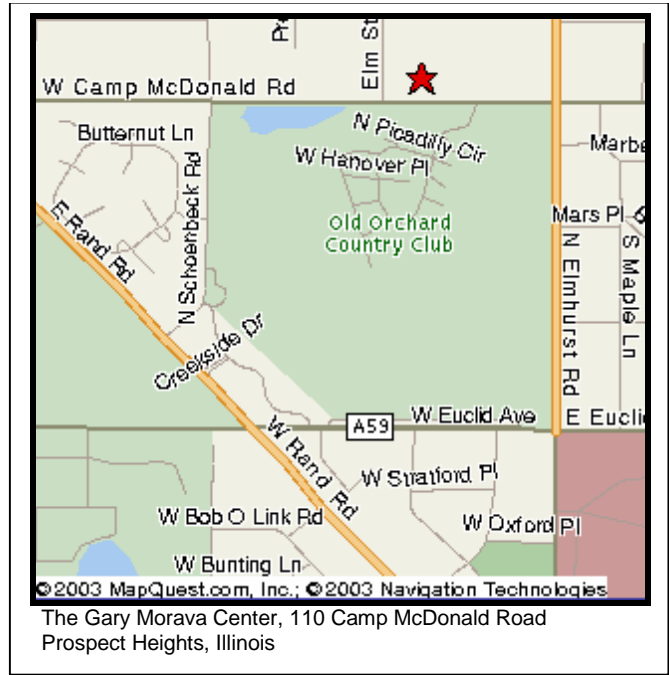
**Why Do You Get This Newsletter?**

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: September 21, 2008**  
**1:30pm, Gary Morava Center**  
**First Meeting of the 2008-2009 season**  
 Clinic and Contest details will be printed in the September *Semaphore*



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED