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Fox Valley Division
Midwest Region - NMRA
P.O. Box 1535
Arlington Heights, IL 60005-1535
<http://www.foxvalleydivision.org>

The Semaphore

Fox Valley Division • MWR • NMRA

February's Meeting

The North Shore and Western Division will be hosting a combined meet with the FVD at the Glenview Public Library on February 22. David Popp, Managing Editor of Model Railroader magazine will be discussing the "Latest Projects at MR" in a behind the scenes view of the Magazine. He is also inviting any member that wants to make the trip north to view his home layout, "The Naugatuck Valley RR" after the meeting. The railroad is about an hour's drive north from Glenview. The North Shore and Western Division will be serving refreshments and there will be contest prizes! At our November meeting, we were inundated with structures submitted by members of the North Shore Division. Let's return the favor and pit our freight car building and weathering skills against our Glenview neighbors! Here's the schedule:

<u>Time (pm)</u>	<u>Activity</u>
1:00	Library Opens
1:00-1:15	Room Setup
1:15-1:30	Model Contest Entry
1:30-1:45	Welcome
1:45-2:15	Break/Model Contest Voting
2:15-3:15	Clinic
3:15-3:45	Announcements /Contest Results
3:45-4:00	Room Cleanup
4:00-6:00	Layout Tours (If Scheduled)

The meeting will be held at the Glenview Public Library at 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, IL, in the Maynard Room. The Library is currently under construction, so the map location is approximate and it might be difficult finding a parking spot. The maps to the library are on page 2.

See you there!

High Wheeler's Coming!

It's the time of year that my wife likes the best - the time when one *Semaphore* covers two months! That's because of High Wheeler, the Fox Valley Division's annual model train show at the Harper College Sports Center. All scales will be displayed (OK, maybe not TT) and there will be somewhere on the order of 35 vendors and 17 clubs or layouts participating this year. This is the Fox Valley Division's big event, where we present to the public the joys of the World's Greatest Hobby. For some, this may be the only way to experience model railroading. For others, it can be the inspiration for a basement model railroading empire. For still others, it is an opportunity to see the latest in tools and techniques, or a new aspect of a hobby they thought they knew everything about. And for others, one more opportunity to eat hot dogs and chips sold by the Harper College Athletes.

Here are the details:

**February 28 and March 1
9:00 am to 5:00 pm.**

Admission:

Adults & teens	\$7.00
Seniors 65 & over	\$6.00
Ages 5 through 12	\$2.00
Under 5 years of age	Free

**Harper College Sports Center
Algonquin & Roselle Roads
Palatine, IL**

This Year's Remaining Events

February 22, 2009

1:30pm, Glenview Public Library at 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, Illinois

Clinic - David Popp: "Behind the scenes" of MR magazine
Contest – Freight cars

February 28 -March 1, 2009

9:00am-5:00pm, High Wheeler

No Clinic
No Contest

April 17-19, 2009 -- 2009 Spring Convention (Not a FVD group Outing)

Clock Tower Resort, Rockford, Illinois.

April 26, 2009

1:00pm, Gary Morava Center Annual Business Meeting

Clinic – TBA
Contest– train related photos

May 17, 2009

1:30pm, Gary Morava Center General Meeting

Clinic – Ed Rosengren, history of the Illinois Railroad Museum
Contest– TBA

April's Contest

There's no meeting in March, due to High Wheeler. April is traditionally Tax Deadline time, but the meeting is two days after the deadline: April 17. So we're asking you to bring in some of your own special paperwork - train-related photographic prints. But you can't tack a bunch of snapshots on a corkboard and expect to win! Here are the guidelines:

All prints must be mounted or otherwise affixed to a matte board or heavy cardstock

The mount's dimensions shall not to be less than 7" x 9 "

The minimum size for a print is 5" x 7"

Each contestant may enter a maximum of 3 prints

The entrant's name and photograph title must be affixed to the back of the mounting

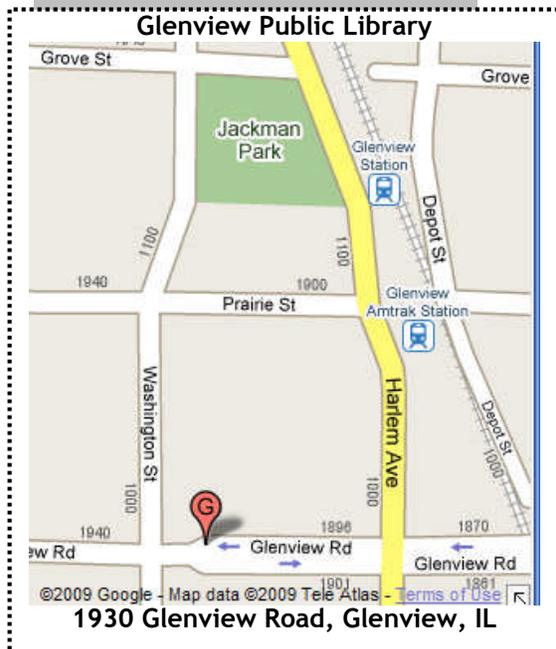
Remember, this is a popular vote contest, so don't be intimidated. I don't think we have anyone from the School of the Art Institute coming to the April meeting, and Skrebneski and

Scavullo haven't been at the Morava Center for quite a while. Let's see how many train-related photos we can get at the April meeting!

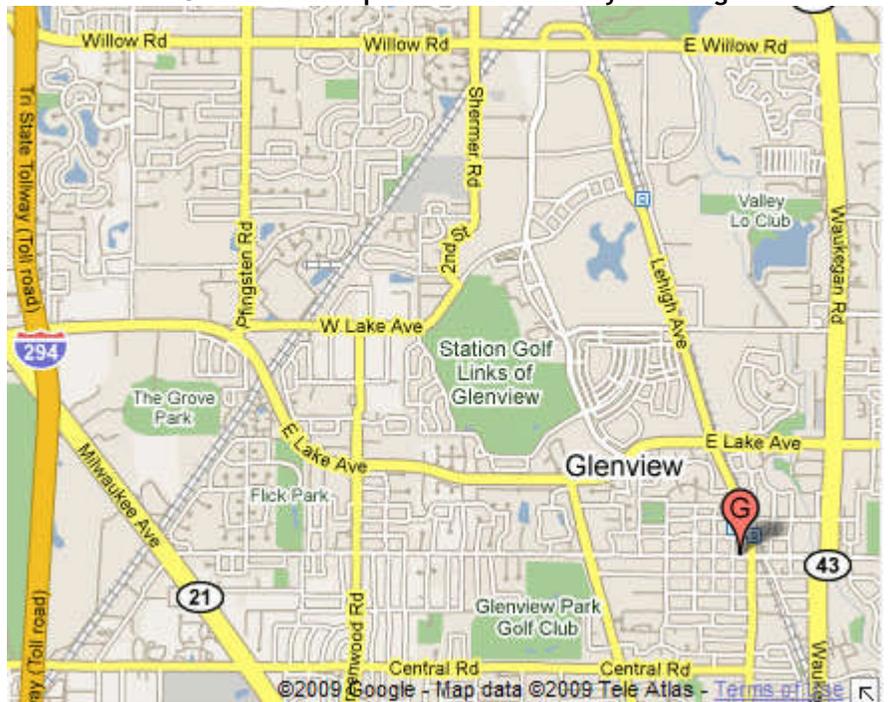
Ride the Line 2009

The members of the Rock River Valley Division are proud to host the 2009 Midwest Region Spring Convention. Once again, the convention will be held at the Clock Tower Resort and Convention Center, located off Interstate 90 at Business U.S. 20 (State St.) in Rockford, IL. The Clock Tower is only 60 minutes from O'Hare airport. The convention will be April 17-19, 2009. There will be a Model/Photo Contest, five Friday Night Operating Sessions, Clinics, Layout Tours, as well as Non-Rail Activities. Check the *Waybill* for details.

The Clock Tower Resort has reserved a block of rooms and is offering a special convention room rate of \$104. Reservations can be made by calling the Clock Tower at (815) 398-6000, or by mail at P.O. Box 5285, Rockford, IL 61125. You may also reserve via the Internet. You must enter Group Code "NMRRA" (note there are 2 "R's") when you place your reservation



"G" marks the spot for the February meeting



Hints, Tips, and Innovations

- Rick Saviano
Publications Trainmaster /
Membership Trainmaster

Sad and interesting news this month: Marklin, one of the most respected and oldest toy companies in the world, filed for bankruptcy on Feb 5. Sadly, this is also the year of Marklin's 150th anniversary, making it a bittersweet year for the German company. Marklin makes model trains in G, HO (three-rail), and Z, as well as HO (two-rail) and N under its Trix brand. Marklin was bought a year or two ago by Knightsbridge, a holding company that also owns LGB. I won't get on my soapbox about holding companies, but historically, they look for short-term gains, and that usually results in long-term troubles for the companies that are being held. Well, I guess 150 years is a good run, and at least Marklin paved the way for other companies like American Z Lines, Blair Industries, Micro Trains, and many others to venture into the smallest commercial scale to date.

I got an email from Robert Anderson with the results from an on-line survey. Robert has the website:

<http://www.model-railroad-resources.com/>

has an excellent eBook out on model train help, and hosts a model railroad blog. One question he asked was: Are you a member of a model railroad club? The results:

Yes	25%
Never have been	66%
Was a member	9%

The survey also pegged HO as 46% and N as close to 20%, so the numbers appear to be fairly representative of the way things actually are. I looked at those numbers, and reflected on my experience with the hobby. My father claimed that I had my first layout at the age of 9 months, but I've only been a member of the NMRA for 12 years. And I've only been going to the meetings for maybe 5 or 6 years. So I can understand the 2-out-of-3 modelers were never members.

I joined the NMRA because I was getting frustrated with where I was

with the hobby, and books and magazines didn't quite answer my questions. Going to the meetings allowed me to actually bounce ideas off of some of the most creative and detailed-oriented people I've ever met - and not all of them are "rivet-counters" (OK, I accused one of the FVD Board of Directors of being an "Audio Rivet Counter," but that's because he was looking for a sound chip that had a "good" steam sawmill recording, where you could hear the leather belts slapping against the wheels). The important thing is, when I have a question, I know I won't be made fun of, and when I suggest a solution to someone else's dilemma, it's not dismissed as unworkable just because I'm not an Master Model Railroader.

The only thing I have trouble with understanding is why one out of every ten modelers were members, but are no longer. Maybe they weren't as lucky as I am with the members of the Fox Valley Division.

Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

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Midwest Region 2009 Elections

Have you voted yet? The deadline is February 28, 2009. Check your copy of the *Waybill* for the Midwest Region 2009 ballot. This year we are electing a new President and Vice president, as well as several Directors. The *Waybill* has a list of candidates, their photos and bios for you to review before filling out and mailing your ballot.

FVD Website

Just a reminder of the Fox Valley Division's Web Site:

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

Visit often for the most up to date FVD information! It also has links to The Midwest Region and

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. 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. 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: Feb. 22, 2009
1:30pm, Glenview Public Library
 Clinic – Inside Model Railroader Magazine
 Contest– Freight cars
High Wheeler Feb 28-Mar. 1, 2009



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

