

Volume 36, No. 4

The Semaphore

December 2009

Notice: December's Meeting Schedule is Different!

- * Lunch at 1:00 p.m.
- * Clinic promptly at 1:30 p.m.
- * Contest at about 2:30 p.m.
- * News & Info at about 3:00 p.m.
- * Socializing at about 3:15 p.m.

December's Meeting

We invite you to join us Sunday, December 13th for our monthly division meeting and annual Holiday Lunch. Note the almost reverse order of activities that day! Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m. followed promptly at 1:30 by Art Jone's clinic on "Steel Stud Benchwork Construction". You may have seen Art's article on this topic in a 2008 issue of Model Railroader. Following Art's clinic will be December's caboose train contest. We wrap up with NMRA and local model railroading news and information, and finally, a "social hour". Yes, we know this month's meeting schedule is a little wacky, but we also know model railroaders are known for their outstanding ability to adapt!

December's Contest

Bring in three to six of your favorite caboose and form a "Caboose Train" for December's contest. Your caboose may be any era, any color, or any scale—the contest is wide open *except* that you must have three to six of them! As usual, a popular vote of the members present at the meeting will determine our winners.



Tom Schweiss's Milwaukee Yard caboose track.

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Semaphore Emailing to Start!

This month's Semaphore will be both mailed to you via the U.S. Mail *and* emailed to those FVD members whose email addresses we have. We will continue sending you the Semaphore this way until you tell us you want your Semaphore emailed **ONLY**. To have your Semaphore only emailed and (thus save the division time and money), email Semaphore Editor, Walt Herrick at: wherricks@yahoo.com. We'll put you on our Semaphore's "Email Only" list. Thanks, everyone.

New FVD Yahoo Discussion Group

Our division has a new Yahoo Discussion group thanks to efforts of Membership Trainmaster John Cloos. John says, "The purpose of the group is to give our members another way of communicating with each other. There are so many things we will be able to do with this group from working out car pooling arrangements, to helping FVD members with solutions to modeling problems, to just plain talking to each other." If you are not part of the group yet, go to "page 1" of the FVD website for the link to the application to join. Remember, this group is only for FVD members. We look forward to seeing and talking with you in the new FVD Yahoo discussion group!

FVD 2009-2010 Meetings & Events

December 13, 2009 General Meeting 1:00—4:30 p.m. Gary Morava Center, Prospect Heights

Note time and schedule changes for December's meeting on page 1!

Lunch— is served at 1:00 p.m.

Clinic—Art Jones on "Steel Stud Bench work Construction".

Contest—Cabooses Train with three to six cabooses

January 17, 2010

SPECIAL EVENT!

An afternoon FVD Operating session on Ted Schnepf's O scale Milwaukee Road—Dubuque Division—full base-ment model railroad. Reservations required. Call David Leider at 847-253-7484, or email him at:

sooauthor@netzero.com

to reserve your spot.

February 28, 2010 General Meeting 1:30—4:30 p.m.

Joint meeting with the North Shore Division at the Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, IL.

Clinic —To be announced

Contest—Steam Locomotives

March 6 & 7, 2010

SPECIAL EVENT!

HIGH WHEELER Train Show sponsored and run by the FVD at Harper College in Palatine. Call Walter Radke 847-255-2977 to volunteer to work the show., or email him at: wagx2@email.com.

No contest or clinic this month.

April 18, 2010 Annual Business Meeting 1:30—4:30 p.m. Gary Morava Center, Prospect Heights

Clinic—Model Railroader's DCC Editor, Mike Palsgrove on "DCC for our Model Railroad".

Contest—Structures

May 16, 2010 General Meeting 1:30 —4:30 p.m. Gary Morava Center, Prospect Heights

Clinic—TBA

Contest—Unit Train of 5-8 cars

This is the last FVD meeting until September. Have a great summer everyone!

July 11 –18, 2010

NMRA 75th Anniversary National Convention

in Milwaukee, WI. The National Train Show also meets July 16-18.

New High Wheeler Web Site!

Have you checked out High Wheeler's new web site yet? By all means after you finish reading your Semaphore, run don't walk, to your computer and go to the FVD's web site. Click on "High Wheeler 2010 Train Show" on the far left menu, and "Ta-Daa!" you've entered the High Wheeler web site! The site is the excellent work of Publications & Webmaster Trainmaster, Jim Osborn. On the site you'll find lots of great information about High Wheeler 2010 including information on tickets, money saving coupons, directions, and photos of past shows. It is an excellent way of promoting and getting key information about High Wheeler to FVD members and the public.

Email Addresses Still Needed

Membership Trainmaster, John Cloos's, has received about half of the FVD's members email addresses as of this writing. He'd like to receive more!

If you haven't done so already, please send your email address to John at:

foxvalley2001@yahoo.com

Remember, the FVD will NOT be sending you a bunch of junk emails. We do want to send you the Semaphore and other important information, or maybe a personal note, as well.

January's Meeting: An Afternoon of "O" Operation on Ted Schnepf's Dubuque Division

Ever want to take the throttle of a big, heavy, nicely detailed O scale loco? How about running some beautiful orange and gray Milwaukee Road equipment? Join FVD members January 17 at Ted Schnepf's large O scale layout in Elgin for an afternoon of excellent O scale model railroading operations on his Milwaukee Road Dubuque Division. Call Dave Leider at 847-253-7484, or email him at : sooauthor@net zero.com to reserve your spot, You'll be glad you did. Ted's is one nice layout, and there is nothing like running big O scale trains!

Walter Needs Your Help!

High Wheeler help, that is. High Wheeler Director, Walter Radke still has ample opportunity for FVD members to help work the 2010 High Wheeler. Set up, take down, ticket taking, display layout, and other High Wheeler crews all need more workers. For more info and to sign up, call Walter at 847-255-2977, or email him at:

wagx2@email.com

Thanks Dave & Dave

Big FVD "THANKS" to Dave Phillips for a great November clinic on "Operation Lifesaver" and Dave Leider for an impromptu tour of his exquisite Waupaca, Wisconsin HO scale shelf layout following the November meeting.

Time to Vote!

The Midwest Region of the NMRA in which we reside is holding elections for four "Directors at Large". See the latest issue of the Midwest Waybill for complete candidate bios and your ballot. Also note there are two FVD candidates!

November's Contest a Winner!

November's "Interior Detailing" contest drew eight excellent models in four scales, and one not so excellent model in a yet to be determined scale (see below). In viewing the entries, Contest Trainmaster, Jim Landwehr said, "It is really going to be tough voting on these. They are all so good!" When the votes came in, David Crement took first place with his scratch built O scale EBT machine shop built following much research of the prototype. Jim Allen's beautifully scratch built HO scale erection shop was second, and Dave Leider's scratchbuilt HO scale greenhouse and store took third. Dave's model is a replica of his family's business when he was growing up. Other entries included Harold Helland's HO meat packing house, John Cloos's half inch scale section house, Dave Crement's O scale store and diner, and Rick Savino's Z scale Night Hawks Diner scene. Walter Radke received a "Dishonorable Mention" for his "Talking Outhouse" entry, but made up for it with the HO scale machine shop he also entered. View all November's great models in the "Model Contest Photos" section of the FVD's web site.



Dave Crement's O scale EBT Machine Shop



Jim Allen's HO scale Erection Shop



Dave Leider's HO scale Green House and Store

NMRA Fox Valley Division Board of Directors

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About the Fox Valley Division

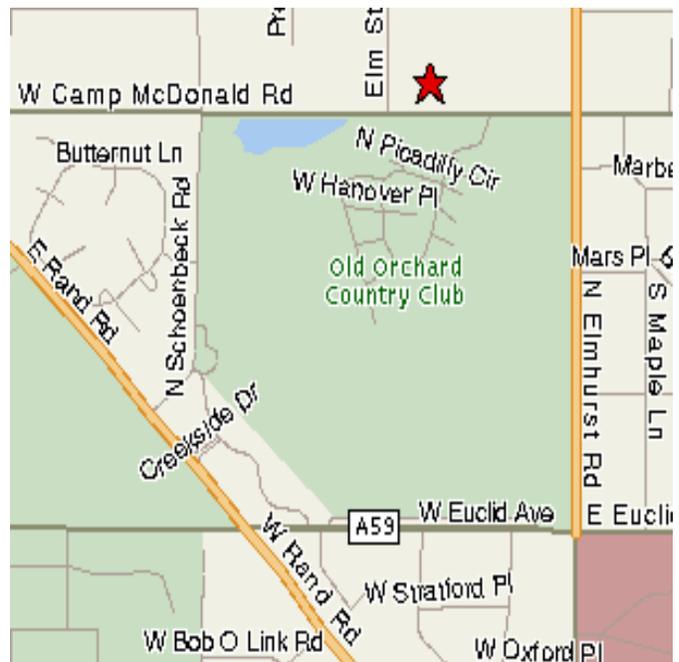
If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region and Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association or NMRA. The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes McHenry and parts of Cook, Kane, and Lake Counties in northeast Illinois. About 150 members of varied ages and modeling ability levels belong to the FVD. Almost all modeling scales are represented in our division. Membership in the division is free as are the Semaphore newsletters.

FVD general meetings are held September through May at the Gary Morava Center in Prospect Heights from 1:30 to about 4:30 pm. Each meeting features a clinic, model contest, information of interest to the membership, and a time for socializing. Outings, layout tours, and operating sessions are also held periodically in addition to, or instead of, the general meetings. To promote the hobby of model railroading, the FVD sponsors and runs a large train show, High Wheeler, in early March each year at Harper College in Palatine, Illinois.

We encourage you to take advantage of all the FVD has to offer. We are here to help answer your questions, help improve your modeling, and help you better enjoy the great hobby of model railroading. Join us at a FVD meeting or outing. We'd love to see you. Or, visit us on the web at: www.foxvalleydivision.org.

Questions?

Contact FVD Superintendent, Rich Sweet or any board member listed on page 3 of this newsletter. We are here to help you!



General Meeting Location: Gary Morava Center, 110 Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL

General Meeting Time: 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. See page 2 for the dates and exact times of this year's meetings.