



The Semaphore

February 2010

Illinois Rail Museum Update

By John Cloos

We noted a bit of history and some of the highlights of the Fox River Trolley Museum's 2009 season in last November's issue of the Semaphore. The Semaphore's editor has finally found some space to let us continue with highlights of the Illinois Railway Museum's summer, and it was an eventful one!

The Nebraska Zephyr train set returned to regular operation following off campus repairs from an earlier accident. The Zephyr looked and ran as beautiful as ever. The Diesel Department also unveiled the recently restored CB&Q SD 24 #504 as part of last summer's Diesel Days celebration. The big SD was painted in the gorgeous Chinese red, gray and white scheme. The 2010 IRM calendar features the 504, and Zephyr along with Burlington SW7 #9255 and 4-6-4 Class S4 steamer #3007 in an impressive all CB&Q photo display. One diesel acquisition of note last summer was ex-Santa Fe FM H12-44 TS road switcher #543 still adorned in blue and yellow paint. The switcher, seen below, is a particularly nice addition to the museum's collection, having worked much of its life switching passenger cars at Chicago Union Station and environs.

Volume 36, No. 4

Inside This Issue

IRM Update	1
Meetings & Events Schedule	2
Great Schnepf FVD Op Session; Misc.	2
High Wheeler 2010 Set to Roll	3
Division News	3
FVD Board Contacts	3
About the FVD	4



The IRM Steam Department also had a busy summer as it worked to restore steam to the museum's regular operating line-up. UP 2-8-0 #428 seen above, was test fired late last summer. This was the first time in fifty years the 428 had felt the warmth of a fire in her boiler. Slow but steady progress continues to be made on Frisco 1630, and Shay #5. The big question for 2010 is, "Is this the summer we see steam return to IRM rails?" Only time will tell, but the Steam Team is getting close.

The annual Trolley Parade was greatly expanded in 2009 with many rarely seen cars operating—some on the mainline at speed! Cars with pantographs were included in the operations thanks to the IRM's Overhead Wire Department's extensive work. The Trolleybus Department added several new pieces, as well as announcing that it has entered into an agreement with the Orange Empire Trolley Museum in California to see an exchange of work and rare trolley busses.

Finally, a new car barn was built giving much needed shelter to a number of cars, and the wood shop had a large extension added to it. All in all, 2009 was a very good year for the IRM, and 2010 could be even better!

2010 Fox Valley Division Meetings & Events

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—2 clinics this month! Rich Mahoney will discuss iron ore and ferry operations in western Minnesota; Dave Cremen, MMR will discuss various aspects of passenger car construction.

Contest—Passenger cars

March 6 & 7, 2010

SPECIAL EVENT!

HIGH WHEELER Train Show sponsored and run by the FVD at Harper College in Palatine. Call Walter Radtke 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 Magazine's DCC Editor, Mike Palsgrove, on "DCC for Your 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

May 16 is the last FVD meeting until September. Have a great summer, and see you in Milwaukee July 11—18 for the NMRA's National Convention!

July 11—18, 2010 NMRA's 75th Anniversary Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This promises to be one of the NMRA's finest conventions ever as we commemorate Association's founding in Milwaukee 75 year's ago. The large National Train Show will also be held July 16-18.



Marquette Yard on Ted Schnepf's Dubuque Division Railroad holds 400 cars. Yardmasters, Jim Allen and Jim Osborn and crews were kept busy all afternoon in and around Marquette at this year's FVD op session.

Schnepf FVD Op Session Another Hit

Each year Elgin's Ted Schnepf graciously opens his home and huge, multi-decked O scale Dubuque Division Railroad to the Fox Valley Division for a January operating session. Each year the session seems to get better and this year's session, held January 24th, was no exception. Highlighting this year was the use of Ted's new 1,400 square foot room addition to the railroad. Though only about 25% finished, enough mainline and yard track was in place to really show the new room's potential. The new addition features a lengthened main line, sweeping curves, a new yard, and a ten foot ceiling making an already great rail road even better. Look for FVD member Jim Osborn's excellent feature article and layout photos of Ted's Dubuque Division in the March 2010 issue of Scale Rails Magazine.

FVD Yahoo Discussion Group

Have you joined our FVD Yahoo Discussion Group yet? It's easy! Just go to page 1 of the FVD web site for the link to the application to join. Stay in touch with FVD members, learn new and interesting "railroady" things, and join in on the fun on our new FVD Yahoo group!

Email Addresses & Emailed Semaphores

Membership Trainmaster, John Cloos's, remains hard at work compiling a list of FVD's members email addresses. 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. Semaphore Editor, Walt Herrick reports that a modest number of members are having their Semaphores "emailed only". He also would like to have more members on the Semaphore "email only" list. Email him at: wherricks@yahoo.com to join the Semaphore "email only list".

February General Meeting in Glenview

Remember, our February 28th General Meeting will be held in Glenview at the Glenview Public Library, 1939 Glenview Rd. This is a joint meeting with the North Shore Division. Meeting time is 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Two clinics will be given—one on Minnesota ore and ferry operations by Rich Mahoney, and one on passenger car construction by FVD's Dave Crement, MMR. This month's contest is "passenger cars".

MWR Elections

This is your last remainder that the Midwest Region of the NMRA is holding elections for four "Directors at Large". See the latest issue of the Midwest Waybill for complete candidate bios and your ballot. Ballots must be received by February 27th! Note there are two outstanding FVD candidates running for office.

Art Horn

FVD member Art Horn passed on in November. Our sincere sympathies go to Art's family and friends.

High Wheeler 2010 Train Show Set to Roll!

Our High Wheeler Train Show held March 6 & 7 at Harper College in Palatine is only about a month away! A lot has been done in recent months to prepare for the show. And a lot is being done this month to continue preparations.

WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO WORK THE SHOW! We'd love to have you join our crew (some of which you see pictured below). Call or email High Wheeler Director, Walter Radtke to volunteer a little or lot. His email address and phone number are listed below with our other Board of Directors. No experience needed, so please call Walter today to lend a hand!

If you can't volunteer, please find some time to attend the show. Bring your kids or grand kids to the Radio Disney show 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Sunday, or come on over yourself and enjoy the layouts, displays and vendors. **For complete show info go to www.foxvalleydivision.org. and then to the High Wheeler link.**



FVD members John Cloos, Lief Hansen, Jim Osborn, Walter Radtke, Harry Sorenson, and Jim Landwehr are all smiles as they stand in front of the model railroad display they constructed at the Mt. Prospect Public Library on February 1st. A similar display was constructed at the Arlington Heights Public Library the same day. The displays promote the hobby of model railroading as well as the upcoming High Wheeler Train Show at Harper College in Palatine, March 6 and 7.

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