

THE SEMAPHORE

OCTOBER 2010

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



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The September Division meeting was well attended

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FUN STUFF!

In keeping with Jim Allen's first shorty, here is one in progress to pull shorty cars. Model by Art

Merger Update

The North Shore & Western and Fox Valley Divisions proposed merger was unanimously approved at the October 3rd Midwest Region Board of Directors meeting. The new division will assume

the Fox Valley Division name. Based on the first joint meet, we are off to a great start.

High Wheeler 2011

Planning is well underway for our premier event of the season. Jim Osborn requests that members send photos they have of last year's event for use in the publicity and the website for the 2011 event. Roles supporting the show are filling up and some are still open. At the next meeting Walter Radtke will have a signup sheet for the remaining positions. As always, backup folks are welcome and your help is always needed. Jobs currently filled are: Floor Manager: Jim Allen, Publicity: Jim Osborn, Finance Officer: Tim Kleimeyer, and Assistant Show Manager: Leif Hansen

Jobs Open include the following:

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Setup and Teardown Manager
- Vendor Liaison
- Volunteers for Ticket Sales,
- Door Checkers
- General Help (Gofers)

High Wheeler website is <http://highwheelertrainshow.com>

Tour de Chez Radtke

After the September meeting, the Radtke's graciously invited the whole group to view Walt's Garden Railroad. The pictures capture only a portion of the extensive trackage and gardens. The Radtke's have combined beautiful plantings with a whimsical and irreverent railroad theme. First, all but two of the many dozens of buildings were acquired from Walgreens. They are all exquisitely decorated birdhouses. Each costing around \$10 each.

As chronicled on the website, Walt has unique block signals consisting of planter edging blocks with a rounded end, stood *continue on page two*



Tour de Chez Radtke con't

on end and having the rounded end painted green or red. The railroad has been in progress for 12 years and is entirely track powered, using two power supplies. Spring each year is used to find faults and get the electrical parts working. According to Walt, the best fault finder is an "Eggliner" passenger car.

The short wheelbase quickly pinpoints faults. At least one train is stored under a tunnel box year 'round so a train can be run when weather permits. Walt told me that HO railroads tend to all look alike and that a Garden Railroad is a color palette that each artist uses to paint their own canvas. This certainly appears to be the case at Walter Radtke's railroad.

Meeting Notes – September 19, 2010

Jeff Jarr was recommended by the Board of Directors as the interim Assistant Superintendent and approved by the Superintendent. He will serve until April elections. Harry Sorensen is recovering nicely from a recent operation and is in good spirits. Thanks to Harry for all his years of service to the division and the hobby.

John Cloos is leading the Open House team and needs help writing up guidelines and assistants to help with layout tours since hosts will have a lot to do simply describing the railroad and offering operating assistance when operations occur. John reports that more than 30 layouts have been offered for the tours and determining the right scheduling is his next priority. The Semaphore will have a preview of each monthly tour.

The October Layout tour features the Kishwaukee Valley & Eakin Creek Railway, a series of 4 separate layouts in Sun City/Huntley, IL. The residents at Sun City have an active model railroading environment and are having an open house on Sunday, Oct 10th. There are a total of 4 separate layouts (N scale, HO scale, 3-rail O scale, and a large outdoor G scale layout.) The layout will be open from 10am to 4 pm, and can be found in the Del Webb/Sun City development in Huntley. The layouts are located in the basement and adjoining rear yard of the Millgrove Woodshop, at 13400 W. Sun City Blvd in Huntley. You may call 847-669-2392, or check their website at www.sccah.com for more details

John Cloos is the Membership Trainmaster and requested that you send your current email and contact information to him. Also, to increase membership and interest in the Division, John and two members will be staffing a table at the DuPage Train Show each month. John is looking for volunteers to help staff the table each month, volunteers get free admission to the show, please contact him directly.

John Cloos created and Jim Osborn will send out a Division member survey asking about member interests and experience. This will be done by email, so please complete the survey if you have not already

done so. This information will help determine the composition of meeting and Division events and services to members. The survey has only two pages and is automatically submitted. No stamps or envelopes needed. Thanks John & Jim!!

Make sure you send your email address to the webmaster if you have not received any email correspondence from either the NSW or FVD in the past. Beginning in January the Semaphore will only be available on the website, or through special arrangements with the Membership or Circulation Trainmasters, John Cloos or Jim Allen.

Jeff Jarr introduced the North Shore and Western Modular Club. This group remains an independent group of 9 members. It is a 100% NMRA member club and enjoys several NMRA benefits including insurance. The modular layout is able to operate both DC and DCC modes. The club website shows several great pictures of the award winning scenery and structures. The club will be operating at the following events:

- Trainfest, Milwaukee, WI, November 13-14, 2010
- Glenview Public Library, December 11-12, 2010
- High Wheeler 2011, March 5-6, 2011

The club will give away train sets at the Glenview Library event and will conduct a clinic on how to build modules. For more information on the North Shore and Western Modular Club, contact Jeff Jarr at jjarr@comcast.net. Club Website link is: <http://foxvalleydivision.org/newfoxwebpagefiles/nsw.htm>

Gary Hendrickson mentioned the Nickel Plate Convention is taking place on September 30th at the Mad River Railroad Museum in Bellevue, OH. The museum website link is: <http://www.madrivermuseum.com>

Rich Sweet reported that the Midwest Region of NMRA is bidding for the 2012 Midwest Convention. Rich also said both Fox Valley and DuPage Divisions have hosted the convention in the past. Rich said he and Burt are starting a planning committee to pick dates and a venue. They will need help for all the *continued on page 3*

standard convention events. The target date will be May 18-20, 2012 (subject to change.)

Dave Leider reported on the rededication of Southern engine 401 in Monticello. It's a beautiful engine and runs on vegetable oil. Here is a YouTube link from the event. Be sure to turn up your sound to hear the whistle and the bell. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fKlq47N9HVI>

Random conversations revealed that Dan Sylvester's cat Zipper, took some liberties with his layout while Dan was away. Seems that Zipper selectively removed the Mode A's tires from Dan's Athearn!! Zipper also removed selected vehicles for cat-play. Minor damage included a crossbuck and the handcar shed door. Dan is still looking

for a truck and a horse and buggy. Dan says trusty Asian room divider screens now protect the layout when he is away. Zipper may be down to 8 lives left!

Mike Pavlina told me about his use of unsupported homosote roadbed on his layout and much to his surprise it is very stable and makes for much lighter benchwork. Mike is creating a highly detailed layout including finely built structures, rolling stock, landscaping and fine details. Ask him to show you his pictures.

Jim Allen described his role as Circulation Editor and described his Action/Reaction railroad built on a bicycle wheel that keeps the train in one place while the scenery revolves. Jim has introduced the Fun Stuff spot in the Semaphore. Send him your fun items.

September Contest Winners

The September contest was for "Factory Fresh" painted models. There were 10 entries representing motive power and rolling stock and a variety of scales. Balloting was very close and needed to be resolved with a plea from Jim Osborn for more people to vote.



First Place: John Cloos for his O-scale CA&E Interurban Car



Second place tie:
Top, Charlie Klingel's Rock Island 0-6-0.
Bottom, Jim Allen's On3 Beyer-Garrett



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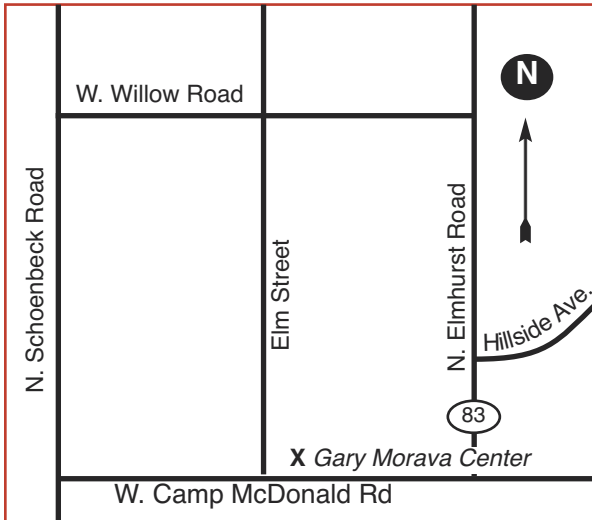
Look for all FVD Board members contact information on line at the division's website www.foxvalleydivision.org



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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 new FVD Superintendent, Walter Radtke or any board member listed on page three of this newsletter. We are here to help you!

Contest and Clinic Program Schedule for 2010

October 17th Meeting: Sunday, October 17, 2010

1:30 - 4:30 pm, Gary Morava Center, 110 W. Camp MacDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL

Contest Category is an "Oddball" piece of rolling stock or structure.

Clinic: Dave Leider will demonstrate how to apply static grass
Program: Dave Leider will report on recent activities at the National Convention

Layout Visit: Sun City Railroad in Huntley, IL Sunday, October 10, 2010 11am-4pm

November 21st Meeting:

Contest Category is a "Lighted" piece of rolling stock or structure.

Clinic: Jim Allen will discuss Casting Resin Parts

December 12th Meeting: NOTE: 1:00 PM Start Time

Contest Category is a "Diorama" including a structure and a piece of rolling stock

Clinic: Bill Darnaby will present his NMRA clinic on "Scenery Techniques"

All members are encouraged to enter the contests. A wider variety of entries makes judging more interesting and we all get to see more of what Division members are building. Jim Landwehr is the Contests Trainmaster. Dave Leider is the Clinics and Programs Trainmaster. Please contact them if you have questions about clinics, programs or contests. Short clinics can be added to the schedule if you have a modeling tip for the group