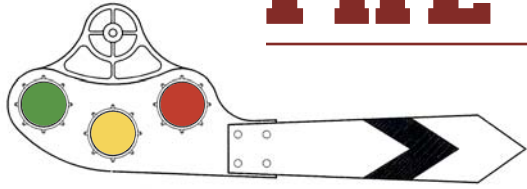


THE SEMAPHORE

NOVEMBER 2010



FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



Inside This Issue

- NMRA National News
- Midwest Region News
- Fox Valley Division News
- High Wheeler 2011 Update
- Fox Valley Annual Events Calendar
- October Meeting Clinics
- October Contest Results
- Estate Sale
- Items For Sale
- Featured Member Layout

Fun Stuff

This month's entry is from a memorial display of work by John Proebsting, former President of the SOO Line Historical Society at the October meeting. This is the Crescent Moon project.



Important Notice

The December issue of the Sempahore will be the last printed issue. Starting January 2011, the Sempahore will be distributed to the FVD membership via e-mail. If, however, you would still like to receive a printed version for a charge of \$8.00 a year, contact either Art Paton at apaton7@netzero.net, 847-891-4596 or Jim Allen at jallenad60@comcast.net, 847-356-2061.

NMRA National News

Headquarters just completed an analysis of our RailPass Program to see how many RailPass members went on to become full NMRA members. The statistics show that, since January 1, 2009, a whopping 65% have "re-upped!" That's just about 2 out of every 3 RailPass members who've stayed with us. From the time the RailPass program started in 2005, about 48% have renewed... again a great statistic. A lot of the credit for that retention goes to everyone in our Regions and Divisions. You're making new members feel welcome, and you're showing them the benefits of NMRA membership. So... THANKS!

Huge progress is being made with Diamond Club scanning. Craig Sutherland, the man in charge of the

project, reports that they have about 500 sets of diesel loco plans (average size: 24"x30"). In addition, he and Stephen Priest brought about 50 boxes of photographs (with about 700 photos each) back to Historical Archives Services (the company doing the scanning) from our Kalmbach Memorial Library. They mentioned that there are a lot of black and white steam loco shots, some early diesel shots, and a lot of photos that caused these seasoned pros to say "wow." Stephen called the collection "an unknown treasure." We're finding out that our archives are even more vast than we thought! So if you or your members haven't made a donation yet, please do so we can get these railroad treasures on the web... and eventually into your hands.

Midwest Region News

The Midwest Region awarded the 2012 Convention to Springfield and recommended that the Fox Valley and DuPage Divisions bid for the 2014 Convention. Jim Allen and Dave Leider are in the running for election to the Midwest Region board. Dave Johnson was appointed to serve on the nominating committee. In other news, Jim Osborn described the events and opportunities at the Midwest Region

Convention in Madison, Wisconsin on April 15-17, 2011. Details are available at <http://www.NMRA-SCWD.org/>

Fox Valley Division News

Jeff Jarr was approved as assistant superintendent by the Board of Directors. Jeff will serve until Division Elections in April 2011.

High Wheeler 2011

Walter needs people to volunteer for Set Up/Tear-down manager and for Volunteer Coordinator. Please contact Walt directly to volunteer. In addition, the volunteer sign up list was available at the October meeting. Slots for Ticket Taker and Exit Door posts are going fast, Contact Walt soon to get one of these cushy jobs. Remember, if you work two volunteer shifts, you receive a ticket for you & your guest to use at the complimentary volunteer dinner later that month. Please note that High Wheeler is the only fundraiser done annually to raise operating funds for the Fox Valley Division. Your volunteer work makes this possible and preserves free meetings, refreshments and other benefits.

Estate Sale

The Estate of Bob Quinn is offering items from his model railroading hobby. Please contact Beverly Quinn at bevquinn22@comcast.net.

Walter Radtke is offering several items for sale. Many of them are brass models from Balboa, Westside, Overland, PFM, and Red Ball. Contact Walt directly if you have interest in any items.

Division Events Calendar 2010 and 2011

Regular meetings are held from 1:30 PM thru 4:30 PM, at the Gary Morava Recreation Center, 110 W. Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are free and guests are always welcome. Contest events include awarding of certificates. Refreshments are provided by the Division.

November 21, 2010

Clinic: Casting model parts in resin - Jim Allen.

Contest: "Lighted" piece of rolling stock or structure. Please bring your own power for your display

December 12, 2010

Note: 1:00 PM start time

Clinic: Jim Darnaby will present his clinic on Scenery Techniques directly from the national convention.

Contest: "Diorama" including a structure and a piece of revenue rolling stock.

January 16, 2011

Clinic TBA.

Contest: "Styrene" structures only.

February 20, 2011

Clinic discussion TBA.

Contest "Wooden Structures".

March 5 & 6th, 2011

The 33rd Annual High Wheeler Train Show

There will be no regular meeting this month.

March 20, 2011

The High Wheeler Train Show Recognition Banquet

Sign up to volunteer and help with High Wheeler get a seat at the banquet for food, fun and recognition.

April 10, 2011

Note: 1:00 PM start time.

This is our annual business and election of officers meeting. This year we will elect the Assistant Superintendent and Treasurer positions.

Program: Cody Grivino, Associate Editor of Model Railroader Magazine will present a discussion on the Wisconsin Southern Railroad. Contest: "Bring Anything" that is related to trains. This is a real opportunity to be creative.

May 15, 2011

This is the final meet for the 2010 - 2011 modeling year.

Clinic: Dan Goins, from the Central Indiana Division, "How to easily make beautiful rock cliffs from ceiling tile." Contest: "Old" loco or piece of rolling stock.

NMRA Fox Valley Division Board Contacts

Superintendent, Walter Radtke	wagx2@email.com	847-255-2977
Chief Clerk, Leif Hansen	mudhen454@att.net	847-437-7124
Publications Editor, Art Paton	apaton7@netzero.net	847-891-4596
Circulation Editor, Jim Allen	jallenad60@comcast.net	847-356-2061
Clinics, David Leider	sooauthor@netzero.net	847-253-7484

Look for all FVD Board members contact information

on line at the division's website

www.foxvalleydivision.org

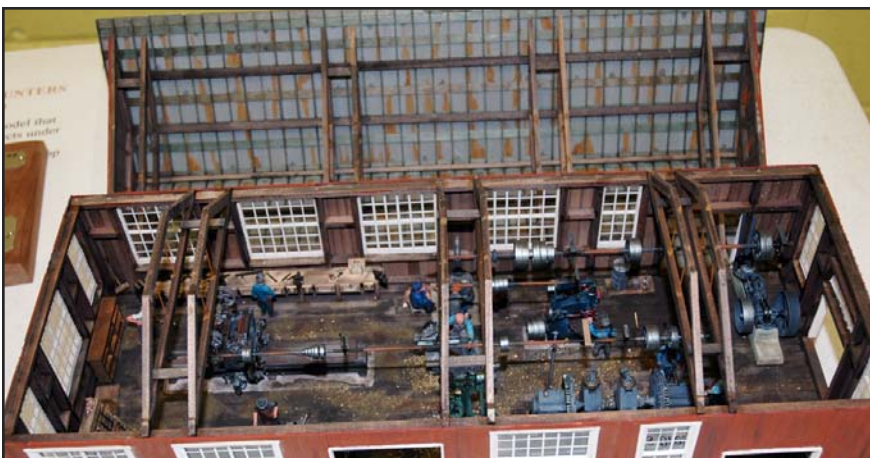
October Meeting Clinics

Dave Leider described the design of the Static Grass Applicator developed by Dave and Jim Allen from available plans. The unit can be powered by two D Cell Batteries or by a “wall wart.” A ground lead must be connected to the surface using a nail, or T-pin. The applicator creates a 1500 volt static field. The cup at the end of the applicator contains the grass and applies it over an area of 50% diluted white glue. Successive layers are built up by applying pump hair spray to the grass surface and then applying another layer. This provides greater coverage and density. Dave demonstrated the application of static grass and it turned out great. Also, as a horticulturist, Dave commented on the types of materials that look most like real grass and shrubs that he prefers to use. Contact Dave for details on purchase of applicators and advice on materials.



Dave Leider presented slides from the layout tours that he and Leif Hansen attended during the 2010 Milwaukee NMRA Convention. A variety of layouts offered realistic scenery, scale and flats of buildings and a variety of layout designs for small and larger spaces. Dave proposed a group tour of the Lionel Club of Milwaukee due to its large size, wide variety of models, operating trains and accessories and ability to view it from above. Contact Dave if you are interested.

David Crement presented a short clinic on the use of tools and methods to create rivet embossing on models made of brass. Dave had an exact model of a bridge made entirely of brass with rivet embossing on each joint of the bridge. Dave also showed a die he made used for offsets commonly made in steel plates to keep an even or flat surface where plates joined. Dave also had a model of a machine shop from the 1800's in East Broad Top, PA, that is currently undergoing restoration by the historical society there. Stunning in its detail, this model won an award from the historical society for its authenticity.



October Contest Results

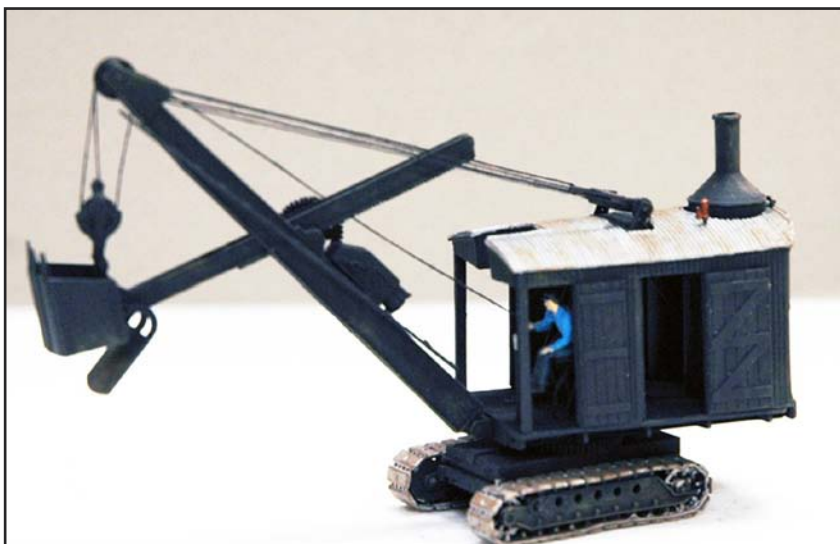
There were a total of 10 contest entries in the Category of "Oddball." See photos of all the entries on the division web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org



The First Place winner was Jim Allen for his Self Propelled Tank Car.



Second Place went to Art Paton for his shorty F7 and coaches.



Third Place went to Don Cook for his Steam Shovel

Featured Layout

Mike Pavlina has our featured layout for this month. Mike was born in Hammond, IN, grew up in Whiting, IN and spent his youth watching all the Eastern railroads coming through. He said he has been “horsing” with trains since the age of 5. His current layout has been in progress for over 13 years. Mike models the Chinook and Minidoka line in HO scale. It is a rock hauling railroad named after the rock producing industry (Chinook) and the mine (Minidoka). The layout is 29' X 25' and is a mountainous railroad rising from 30" to 60" overall. It is a steam operated railroad that has its time frame established to be no later than 1938. A great amount of time has been spent ensuring that all of the details (autos, etc.) do not violate this parameter of time frame. Mike has learned that Homosote is stable enough to support roadbed, trains and scenery without the traditional benchwork supports. He has runs of several feet between supports that seem to handle traffic and landscaping without sagging or deformation. Turnouts and track are Shinohara code 70 to be more in scale with the line and era being modeled. Mike is also very skilled at landscaping, structures and detailing of his layout. The pictures shown here offer some insights into his modeling techniques. Mike uses the hydrocal hardshell technique. His structures are a mixture of kits with modifications, and scratchbuilt. The brewery to the right is a George Selios kit that has been modified to fit Mike’s view of the era he models.



Mike’s technique includes using an artist’s eye to create scenes within a scene. For example in the photo on the left, you can see the truck backed up to the loading door and the driver is out of the cab looking at the guys sitting down to lunch. Obviously he won’t get loaded until they are done!

Ask Mike about his story of seeing the Dreyfuss 20th Century Limited racing the Pennsy Broadway Limited pulled by a T-1 or two K5’s, through Southeastern Chicago (Englewood) and Northern Indiana (Whiting).



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

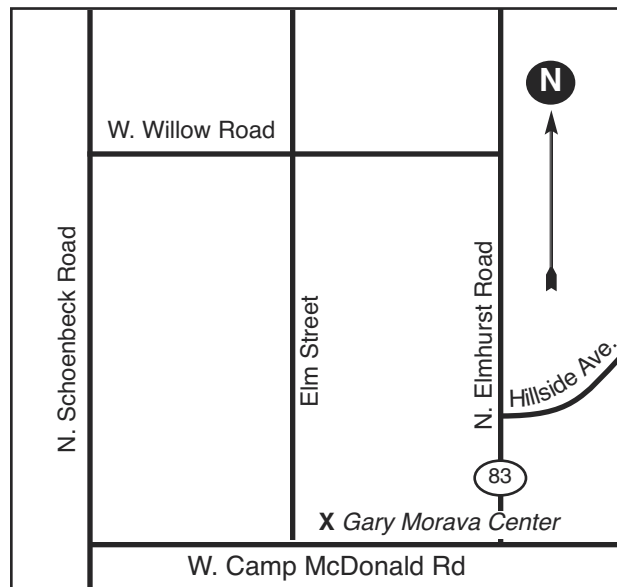
About the fox valley division

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 three of this newsletter. We are here to help you!



Next Meeting

The Fox Valley Division and the North Shore Division will hold their next meeting on November 21, 2010, from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, at the Gary Morava Center, 110 W. Camp MacDonaldd Road, Prospect Heights, IL