

# THE SEMAPHORE

JANUARY 2011

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



## Inside This Issue

- December Meeting Notes
- Midwest Region News
- Fox Valley Division News
- FVD 2011 Events Calendar
- Semaphore Reminder
- The Liberty Limited
- December Clinic
- New Contest Format
- The Age of Steam Roundhouse
- December Contest Results
- Layout Tour
- In Memoriam (On Website only)

## Fun Stuff



Hedge-Trimmer locomotive found on the preserved Southerly section of the Blanc-Argent Line in the Touraine Region of France. It started life as a meter gauge Brookville diesel.

## 2011 Happy New Year!!

If you received the email about the January Semaphore, good for you. If you know someone who did not, or someone who did not get a printed copy and wants one, please have them contact Art Paton or Jim Allen. All Issues of the Semaphore are available on the Division Website.

## December Meeting Notes

Who said there was no free lunch? Ten Lou Malinati Pizzas awaited for and were consumed by the 35 members that braved the fierce wind on Sunday December 12th to attend the division meet. Following the luncheon, Walter opened the meeting with a lengthy tale about the problems associated with operating G Scale trains outdoors in the winter time. It seems his wheels accumulated enough ice and snow that the flanges no longer were present and he had trains going everywhere on their own. Walter said High Wheeler 11 was coming together nicely with some last minute applicants. He reminded us that

there was still one remaining volunteer slot open on the Sunday of the show.

FVD presented a perspective member Robert Landwehr with a free 6 month Rail Pass membership from our monthly drawing. Three contest awards were presented to the winners of the Diorama contest. See December contest results on page 4. Everyone was on their way home in time to listen to the Bears getting a whipping by the Patriots. A good time was had by all.

## Midwest Region News

The Midwest Convention, Badgerland Express, in Madison, Wisconsin on April 15-17, 2011 will be coming up right after HighWheeler. Be sure to check out

opportunities there. Details are available at <http://www.NMRA-SCWD.org/>

## Fox Valley Division News

### Highwheeler 2011

Walter Radtke says that we are making good progress on the show. There are just a couple of remaining slots for volunteers. Signup sheet will be available at the January meeting. Remember that those who volunteer are invited to the recognition dinner

to be held March 20th. Those who volunteer for two slots can bring a guest. In addition, volunteer time at Highwheeler counts toward points for the volunteer requirement for AP/MMR certification. Please contact Walter directly to volunteer.

## Division Events Calendar for the remaining 2010-2011 Year

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.

### January 16, 2011

Clinic TBA.

Contest: "Styrene" structures only.

### February 20, 2011

Clinic: Chicago O scale modeler Ed Halstead and noted Chicago HO scale modeler Carl Lantz will present an overview of trolley modeling in general, then speak to specifics of both HO and O scale. John Cloos will display award winning O Scale Trolleys. Contest "Wooden Structures".

### Cool websites

[www.buildyourownmainstreet.org](http://www.buildyourownmainstreet.org)

Free downloads of paper models of historic Illinois buildings in HO.

## Semaphore Reminder

The printed version of the Semaphore will only be sent to those requesting a print subscription beginning with the in January issue. An email reminder will be sent to every member that has an email address on file with the membership Trainmaster, John Cloos. Contact John or Jim Allen with your email address or if you desire a print subscription for \$8/year.

**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.

## The Liberty Limited

On December 10, 2010 a special train took 70 Wounded Warriors from Army, Navy and Marines branches from Washington DC to Philadelphia for the Army-Navy football game. Pulled by 1951 era Pennsylvania Railroad E8 diesels, the 19 passenger cars provided by owners from railroads and museums in several states roared up to Philly at 90 miles per hour. A link to a short video clip shows the train going through Newark, DE. More details are available on the Railway Age online website.

Link:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weqY\\_ip3eL0&NR=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weqY_ip3eL0&NR=1)

### NMRA Fox Valley Division Board Contacts

Superintendent, <b>Walter Radtke</b>	<a href="mailto:wagx2@email.com">wagx2@email.com</a>	847-255-2977
Chief Clerk, <b>Leif Hansen</b>	<a href="mailto:mudhen454@att.net">mudhen454@att.net</a>	847-437-7124
Publications Editor, <b>Art Paton</b>	<a href="mailto:apaton7@netzero.net">apaton7@netzero.net</a>	847-891-4596
Circulation Editor, <b>Jim Allen</b>	<a href="mailto:jallenad60@comcast.net">jallenad60@comcast.net</a>	847-356-2061
Clinics, <b>David Leider</b>	<a href="mailto:sooauthor@netzero.net">sooauthor@netzero.net</a>	847-253-7484
Public Relations & Webmaster <b>Jim Osborn</b>	<a href="mailto:FVDWebsite@comcast.net">FVDWebsite@comcast.net</a>	847-587-5654

Look for all FVD Board members contact information  
on line at the division's website  
[www.foxvalleydivision.org](http://www.foxvalleydivision.org)



## December Meeting Clinic

Bill Darnaby gave an excellent slide presentation on some new techniques he used to scenic his model RR at home. He focused on how to turn the flatlands of Iowa into some interesting and realistic looking scenes. He also shared methods on using a digital

camera to assist in creating background elements of those scenes. Jim Osborn took notes and posted them on the division web site. Thanks to Bill for making the trip in the gale force winds.

## New Contest Format for 2011:

Jim Landwehr informed us that the contest format was going to be split into two contest classes for each category --General and Advanced. Contest entries will be submitted into the General category unless you have won 2 first place awards in the last two years or you are an MMR or have an AP certificate in the

contest category. Then your entry will go into the advanced class. He is also revising the popular vote process such that we will only select one entry rather than 1, 2 and 3 in each class. In summary, members can vote for one contest category selection in each class at each meet.

## Age of Steam Roundhouse

Sent by Leif Hansen, this link provides information on the Age of Steam Roundhouse project, using the private funds of Jerry Joe and Laura Jacobson. It is an inspiring story of a railroad owner in Ohio who sold his railroad and used the funds to preserve and restore priceless examples of the steam and early diesel era. Worth a look. <http://ageofsteamroundhouse.com>



Architectural renderings showing construction details of the roundhouse.



Locomotives that are a part of the collection.

## December Contest

The Category for December was "Dioramas". A variety of types were entered.



The First Place Winner was Bruce Reuter for his "Train On Culvert" diorama.



Second Place went to John Cloos for his "Chicago, Aurora & Elgin Rte. 53 Overpass in Lombard"



Leif Hansen received the Third Place award for "Narrow Gauge Siding"

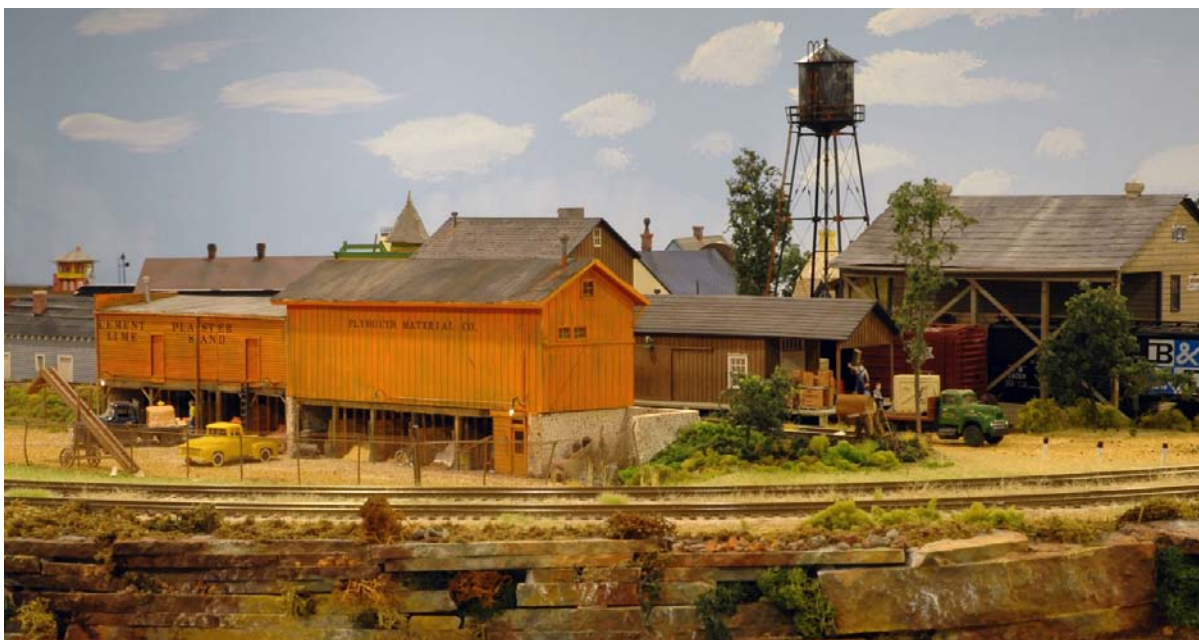


## Layout Tour

The CB&Q branch line terminates in the town of Wellsburg, IA on Jim Osborn's CNW, Western Division HO scale pike as it might have been in the 1960s. There are 20 local businesses that rely on daily trains operated by "the Q" between Wellsburg and the CNW interchange. Here are some recent photos taken on the west side of town. Contact Jim Osborn if you are interested in visiting or attending an operating session on his layout.



The City Fire House and City Hall sit among Potter's Feeds, Stadler Plumbing and Al's Cycle shop on the West side of town.



Plymouth Materials, The LCL Freight House and Potter's Feeds all reside near the branch and are serviced by both rail and truck traffic.

## Layout Tour *continued*



Another view of Potter's Feeds, the Fire house, City Hall and Stadler Plumbing along the west end of the branch line.



The Corner Café and the local hotel are at the junction of County Farm Rd T19 and County Rd D25; just across the street from the town station.



## Bill Linson's eulogy for Dean Freytag

Flags are flying at half staff today over model railroads throughout Ohio and beyond, mourning the passing of model railroad legend Dean Freytag.

Freytag, 86, passed away Christmas night at the assisted living facility in Ashland, OH, where he had resided for the past 11 months. He leaves a sister Carol, a brother-in-law Jim, and a niece and nephew. He was preceded in death by wife Ann Elizabeth (Davies) in 1999.

Dean had four loves in his life. In no particular order, they were Ann, railroading, steel mills, and Ashland University. It is to the latter he left most of his estate, being honored with the grandstands in their new football stadium being named in his and Ann's honor. He was a lifetime member of the National Model Railroad Association, a Master Model Railroader, and the contest director for that organization for a number of years. Interestingly, he never attended Ashland University, never worked on a railroad, refused to ride on the trains calling them rough-riding and dusty, and never ever worked in a steel mill.



But he probably knew more about the steel-making processes than many who did work in the industry. He was a prolific modeler of all things about railroading, but especially steel mills. Indeed, it was steel that dominated the 13'



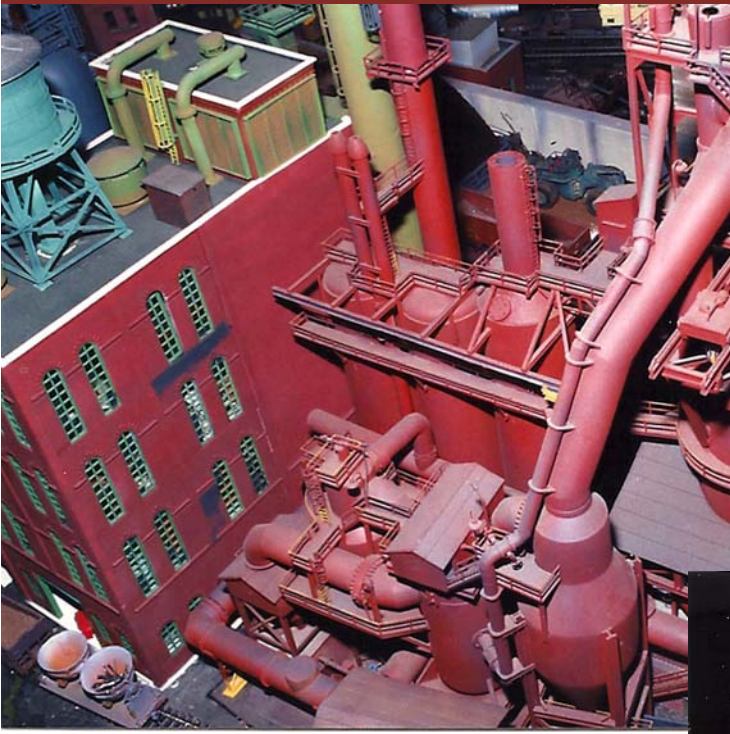
x 38' main room of his HO model railroad. His models of the various components of the steel mills that dominated the landscape in what he called the "Ruhr Valley of the United States" -- that section of the country between Cleveland and Pittsburgh -- are the prototypes for the the Walthers series of steel-making structures used by modelers throughout the world.

Freytag was an author of at least two books used extensively in modeling, "The Cyclopedia of Industrial Modeling" and "The History, Making & Modeling of Steel", and his "how-to" articles appeared in the modeling press frequently over the past 50 years. He was published in Model Railroader, the leading model railroading magazine, more than 50 times. His

manuscripts were "banged out" -- literally -- in all caps on a manual typewriter, as were his letters, notes and even post cards.

Dean was a proponent of working with styrene -- he was featured in an instructional video about styrene -- and Plastruct shapes, and virtually everything he built was from scratch and/or kit bashed. He seldom, if ever, felt the structural "iron work" of bridge and industry models were "heavy" enough and nearly always "beefed them up" with his beloved Plastruct components. His modeling transcended craftsmanship into art. His discerning eye saw a steel mill ladle in the discarded cap from a whiskey bottle, the conveyor belt rollers in the used throw-away razor blade





guards, and literally dozens of other such applications. Not always the most patient of teachers, he nevertheless was a mentor to dozens -- maybe even hundreds -- of modelers, and to listen to and learn from Dean was to learn from a master. Not to think he was one or two dimensional, Dean was a avid reader of war novels -- particularly World War II in which he served -- and deeply interested in Civil War history, having visited the battlefields on numerous occasions. He wore out two exercycles, putting thousands of miles on each of them as he watched the Cleveland Browns and Cleveland Cavaliers. He always had cats that were given railroad names, i.e., "Smokey", "Cinders", and Chessie".

He spent a lot of time on the telephone with modeling friends all over the country discussing a myriad of topics, but usually related to railroading. It was Dean Freytag who put train watching into perspective when he once said to someone questioning the time spent, "I'm with friends who share interests, we're sitting outside in lovely weather and when there aren't trains going by we discuss the world, the economy, football, and all sorts of things."



Dean Freytag is shown on the right.





The lights are dimmed on Dean Freytag's South Ridge Lines, and fires are out at his Davies Steel complex. Model railroading has lost an icon, and I have lost a friend.



All photos are of Dean Freytag's South Ridge Lines.

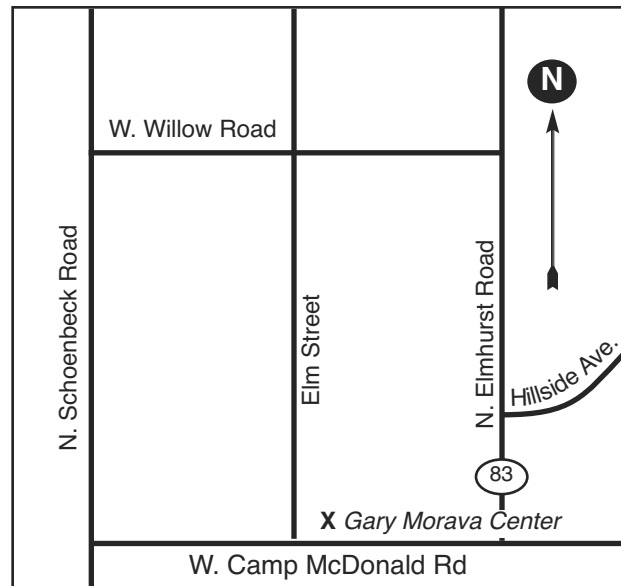
## About the Fox Valley Division

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](http://www.foxvalleydivision.org).

**Questions? Contact FVD Superintendent, Walter Radtke or any board member listed on page two of this newsletter. We are here to help you!**



## Next Meeting

The Fox Valley Division will hold their next meeting on January 16, 2011, from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, at the Gary Morava Center, 110 W. Camp MacDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL



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