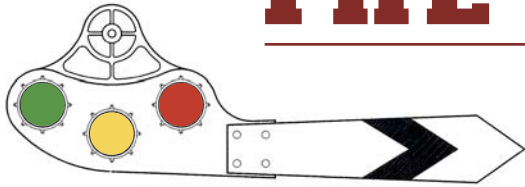


# THE SEMAPHORE

March 2011

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



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## Fun Stuff



An older style narrow gauge Electric Pusher Locomotive for use on ore docks to move ore cars, hoppers etc. Photo taken at Lake Shore Railway Museum 7/30/07. See page 7 for more photos.

## February Meeting Notes

### Do Your Duty!

Take time to go to the Fox Valley Division website and read the new Constitution and Bylaws approved by the Board of Directors. Questions will be taken at our April meeting where the Constitution will be approved by the membership. Changes were made to these documents to bring them up-to-date with our current activities. Take time to understand how your division is governed and the rules we operate by.

### Annual Elections

Be sure to be at our April meeting to make your vote count. We will be electing a Paymaster and an Assistant Superintendent. Nominate yourself if you can serve. Like many other activities, AP points for officer and volunteer may apply. Contact Chief Clerk Leif Hansen if you are interested in putting your name on the ballot.

**SEE NAPM** – the North American Prototype Modelers, Ltd and an additional layout in Milwaukee. Here is your chance to see the NAPM layout, all 4000 square feet of beautifully detailed HO scale. In addition, a trip to the Lionel Club of Milwaukee's 3-rail layout with overhead catwalks. Fox Valley Division is setting up a bus to take 50 people to this event. At the moment we have 29 people signed up. We need a few more. You can bring a guest, or two or more. Contact David Leider to sign up. Trip date will be March 27th. See more details at the NAPM web site: <http://www.napmltd.org>

**New Hobby Shop** – Timberline Train Shop – See our hobby shop web page for details.

**Dave Crement** mentioned that his home layout will be on the layout tours for the O Scale Meet in Lombard, March 12th from 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm. In addition, our clinic presenter, Ed Halstead will also have his impressive home layout open for viewing. More info at: <http://marchmeet.net>

### Midwest Region News

The Midwest Region Convention 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/>

Also, NMRA Model Railroading Month is November 2011. The region is requesting ideas from members for promoting model railroading during the month.

Current ballots are out for the Central District Director for NMRA. Three candidates are running. The ballot comes with an envelope, you provide the stamp. Add Suite 102 to the address label.

## NMRA National News

The NMRA Annual Meeting will be held in Las Vegas in November 2011 and volunteers are needed to assist with set up and operation of exhibits. IT and Electrical Engineering help is specifically requested.

David Johnson of FVD was appointed to the position of Data Sheet Coordinator by the NMRA President. David is looking for help from MMR's and others to update data sheets on car and locomotive standards. Writers and reviewers are needed. David also told the group about thousands of photographic negatives and slides received by the Illinois Railway Museum that need sorting, labeling and research.

## Fox Valley Division News

Highwheeler 2011 - March 5th and 6th at Harper College, Palatine, IL

Walter Radtke reports all is ready. All volunteers 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 Jim Landwehr regarding AP credit.

## Division Events Calendar for 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.

**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. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

**Special Notice:** The upcoming April issue of the Semaphore will have full coverage of 2011 High Wheeler show.

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

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

## February Meeting Clinic – “Traction – Where one car is the whole train”

The February clinic by Ed Halstead, Carl Lantz and John Cloos provided the in depth coverage of everything traction. If you needed that last little push to get started, everything you needed to know was covered. Ed started by covering the standards for O Scale and HO scale traction. Mentioning the differing scales used in the US and Everywhere else and the different wheel sizes that can cause problems in switch frogs.

Ed and Carl categorized the various types of traction in O scale and HO scale and covered prototypes, models, resources, parts, kits, tools and wiring of models. A copy of his handout can be found on the Fox Valley Division website at <http://foxvalleydivision.org> John Cloos featured his large display on Interurbans of the Fox Valley. He showcased several



traction models and short histories of the lines serving passengers from Chicago to Fox Valley destinations.

February 2011 - Carl Lantz (L) and Ed Halstead (R) discussed all you wanted to know about modeling trolleys



## Lake Shore Railway Museum

Founded in 1956, Lake Shore Railway Historical Society, Inc. (LSRHS) is a 501(c)(3) all-volunteer educational organization operating a railroad museum on the grounds of the former New York Central Railroad passenger depot in the borough of North East, Erie County, Penn. These are just a few of the many fine pieces in their collection. Photos from 7/30/07 by Jim Allen, see page 7 for additional photos.



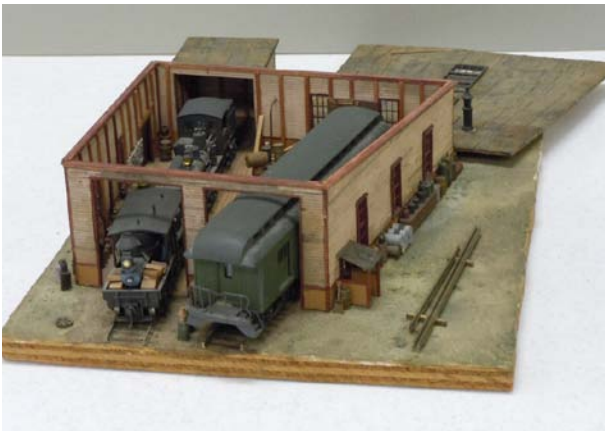
## February Contest

The Category for February was "Wooden Structures". A variety of types were entered.

The **First Place** Winner was Mike Pavlina for his "Bailey's Produce structure made from a George Selios kit and modified as only Mike does it.



**Second Place** went to Art Jones for his "Two Stall Engine House" made from a 30 year old Fine Scale Miniatures kit and according to Art, rebuilt after long storage during which the metal castings homogenized the completed kit interior and parts.



Jim Allen received the **Third Place** award for "Barn" built, surprisingly, from a round top wooden purse. Jim removed the hardware and covered the form with stripwood. He also used vinyl rock wall coverings for the foundation.

*Photos of all the entries can be viewed on the FVD website.*



The Barn was built from this wooden project box.

## The 2011 Festival of Passenger Trains by Art Paton and Jim Osborn

On Sunday, February 6th, FVD member, Bill Boyd, hosted the Festival of Passenger Trains at the home of Art Jones in Lindenhurst. This was the third consecutive annual event. The previous festivals had been hosted on Bill's famous Kearny and Black Hills layout. Bill recently moved into a condo and, unfortunately, had to dismantle his dramatic Kearny & Black Hills Railroad (Featured in Model Railroader magazine a number of years ago).

This year's festival ran on Art Jones' HO Scale Connellsville Division of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and showcased passenger trains of the past. Art and Bill invited 13 trains and had the engineers provide a short explanation of their history.



Mike Beckemeier's Hiawatha, Art Paton's UP FEF-3, Dan Christianson's B&O National Limited, Jeff Markey's GN Empire Builder and Vince Gortner's California Zephyr await their call in Art's staging yard.

There were also 8 additional trains on display including:

- CB&Q 1934 Zephyr by Con-Cor (HO)
- CB&Q Pioneer Zephyr by Challenger (HO)
- California Zephyr by Kato (N)
- El Capitan by Kato (N)
- Union Pacific Streamliner by Kato (N)
- Pioneer Zephyr by Con-Cor (N)
- Amtrak Empire Builder by Kato (N)
- An operating Z scale Santé Fe Super Chief.

The 2010 Festival was videotaped by Matt Jacobs. Matt carefully filmed and recorded the comments of each exhibitor. At an undetermined point in the future, the DVD may be available for viewing.



Meet the crew for the day's event.

Front: Mike Beckemeier, John VanBramer, Don Cook, Art Jones, Bill Boyd; Middle: Dan Christiansen, Kurt Youngmann, Dick Jacobs, Mike Hirvela, Jim Osborn  
Back: Dan Sylvester, Matt Jacobs, Jim Allen, Skip Schallert, Art Paton, Vince Gortner



Jim Allen's General Motors Rock Island Aero Train #2



Dan Christiansen's B & O's National Limited, with kit bashed cars from an MR article



Vince Gortner's California Zephyr.



Mike Beckemeier's Milwaukee Road Hiawatha, his only HO model



Don Cook's Great Northern Gas Electric pulling mixed freight cars

Jim Osborn comments: "I have participated in two of Bill's festivals so far and thoroughly enjoyed the experience each time. The first featured Trains of Fallen Flags and this one – Great Passenger Trains. I was able to see some wonderful models of historic trains and was forced to learn some additional facts about my home railroad as I researched the CNW's Kate Shelley 400. Bill has introduced a great concept that might serve as an activity on others' railroads: get a bunch of modelers together to have some fun, show off some equipment and expand knowledge of trains. Give it a try in whatever dimension fits your situation."

Bill has had to scale down his modeling activities to a 2 x 8 foot switching layout that fits in a small room of the condo. When asked what the next Festival might focus on, he joked, "It may have to be The Festival of Switchers!"

If you are interested in seeing more photos of some of the participating passenger trains at this year's festival, visit our Fox Valley Division website at this link: <http://foxvalleydivision.org/newfoxwebpagefiles/festival.htm>



Art Paton's UP FEF-3 and its passenger consist.



Don Cook's GN Cascadian, a replica of a day train between Seattle and Spokane



Jim Allen's NYC's 20th Century Limited, EMD E7's pulling Walther's lightweight cars



Jim Osborn's CNW's Kate Shelley 400, named for a young woman who saved a CNW crew and passengers in the 1880's, ask Jim for the story



John VanBramer's short train representing the Illinois Railway Museum



Art Jones' B&O Local, a 30 year old Pacific pulling local no.73.

All Festival of Passenger Trains photos by Jim Osborn.

More photos taken at Lake Shore Railway Museum.



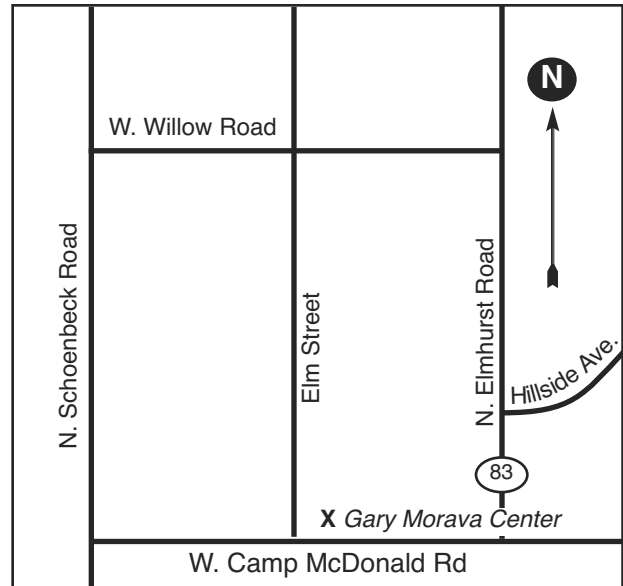
## About the Fox Valley Division

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 April 10, 2011** -- Note: 1:00 pm start time to 4:30 pm, at the Gary Morava Center, 110 W. Camp MacDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL



**Fox Valley Division**  
**Midwest Region-NMRA**  
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