



THE SEMAPHORE

April 2014

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



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Reminders!

- The next monthly meeting is April 13 at 1:00 pm. A pizza lunch will be served.
- **Elections** for Superintendent and Clerk **will be held** at the April 13 meeting.
- **No** May monthly meeting due to RailFun.

Note! May's Semaphore will come out the week *after* RailFun 2014.

See you April 13th and at RailFun!

RailFun 2014 Preview Issue!



Well, Winfred, think the folks out there are tired of seein' RailFun 2014 stuff?

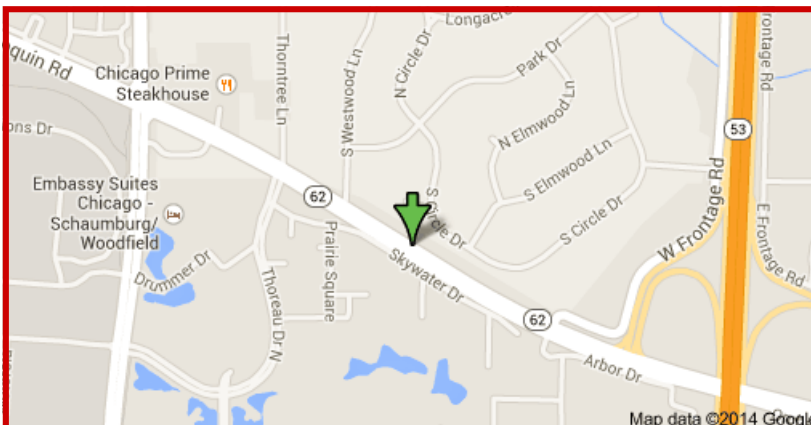
Heck no, Al. There'll be a ton of great stuff at RailFun 2014. We could probably fill three Semaphore's with it!

I agree, Winfred. Let's show 'em some more startin' on page 2!

RailFun 2014 Headquarters

The Best Western Plus
1725 E. Algonquin Road
(Rt. 62)
Schaumburg, IL 60173

847-397-1500



RailFun 2014 web site: <http://foxvalleydivision.org/railfun2014/welcome.html>

RailFun 2014 Preview

In the last Semaphore we gave you a peek at what's going to be at RailFun 2014. This issue you'll get a bigger peek! First, some RailFun basic information for you:

Basic Information

- *A model railroading extravaganza May 15-18 in Schaumburg, IL!*
- Headquarters: Best Western Plus, Schaumburg
- **\$45.00 member registration fee if registered by May 2nd**
- Go to: <http://foxvalleydivision.org/railfun2014/welcome.html> for full details and tons of layout photos!
- Questions call or email Jeff Jarr, Jim Osborn, or Bert Lattan (see page 11 for their contact information)

What follows is just some of what will be at RailFun 2014!

Layouts

General* layout tours times are: Friday 7-10 pm
 Saturday 1-5 pm
 Sunday 1-5 pm

***Check the RailFun 2014 web site for exact touring times!**



In the next couple of pages we'll show you some of the RailFun layouts you might not be familiar with. Above left is a small part of Greg Bedleck's large, 2,700 square foot HO Great Northern/Northern Pacific layout in Kildeer. The layout features freight, passenger, and interchange trains with lots of industrial switching. The above right HO layout belongs to Bill Drzal in West Chicago who models the CNW in Peoria in 1976. Track and scenery are 100% finished on this nicely done layout. To the immediate right is the Elmhurst Model Railroad Club's HO layout. They also have an N scale layout and an HO_{N3} layout. If you haven't seen this club in a while, be prepared to for some nice additions and several changes to their original layouts.



RailFun 2014 Preview con't



Another great club layout is the Garfield Central Model Railroad Club in Chicago (above left). Their HO layout is 27 x 50 feet and has 1,500 feet of hand laid track, built in place turnouts, 42 inch radius curves on the mainline and NCE DCC. Scenery is mostly done throughout the layout. Jeff Jarr's freelanced CNW layout takes up most of his 30 x 32 foot basement with big time Class I railroading in HO scale. You'll see a double track main line, big structures, big bridges and lots of CNW green and yellow diesels on this layout depicting a fictional line from Chicago to Duluth.

The HO railroad on the right is the creation of Chicago's Ed Lorence. Ed models the B&O as it existed in 1954. The layout has beautiful eastern mountain scenery, great structures and bridges, transition era B&O steam and diesels, and Class I freight and passenger operations. This terrific layout has been featured in RMC and on an Allen Keller video.



Another great B&O layout is Art Jones' Fairmont, M&P Sub (upper left) located in Lindenhurst. This nicely sceniced, operations oriented, multi-level layout occupies Art's 30 x 33 foot basement. On the upper right is a great model railroad in the making in DesPlaines: Steve Haworth's standard gauge Rio Grande Southern. This railroad fills Steve's 27 x 39 foot basement and is a very nicely designed, operations oriented pike.

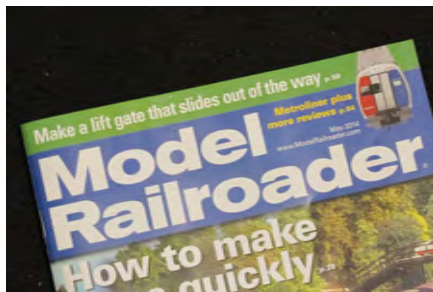
RailFun 2014 web site: <http://foxvalleydivision.org/railfun2014/welcome.html>

RailFun 2014 Preview—Layouts con't



HOn3 Colorado narrow gauge is what Waukegan's Dan Sylvester models and models very well (above left). This 4 x 8 jewel is the smallest at RailFun and features scratch built structures and rolling stock, exquisitely re-motored steam locomotives, beautiful detailing, and operations by the book based on Dan's 38 years experience as a railroad conductor. One of the largest RailFun layouts is Ted Schnepf's O scale Milwaukee Road (above right) which occupies a 35 x 70 foot "original" layout room, and a "new" 33 x 40 foot addition to his basement in Elgin. Standard and narrow gauge are modeled with track work and scenery 100% complete in the original room, and most track work and some scenery done in the new addition. Ted has done the "King of the Gauges" proud with this huge layout.

RailFun Clinics



Model Railroader Magazine's, David Popp, headlines RailFun 2014's list of clinicians. David will talk about "What's New at Model Railroader Magazine". The FVD's own David Crement, MMR and railroad historian (right), will be giving a clinic on Pennsylvania's narrow gauge, East Broad Top, a railroad he has researched extensively for over 30 years. The FVD will also be represented by John Drozdak whose clinic is "Custom Transfer Caboose". John will explore how to model mid-western, home-built transfer cabooses such as the Milwaukee Road transfer cab at the lower left.

The rest of RailFun's clinics are given below. **Please check the RailFun web site for the times, dates and room locations of these clinics!**



—Pre-build Your Layout
—Cloth-shell Scenery

Gregg Condon
Gregg Condon

—Basic Operations

Bill Kirchmeyer

—Bigger is not always Better
—Model Railroading is a Journey

Jim Six
Jim Six

—LDSIG/OPSIG Hot Stove Discussion

Allen Byrne

—Planning Your RR Estate

Eileen Roth & Bob Storozuk

—Weathering Models

Fred Firkus

—Fences for Your Layout
—Scratch-building Trees*

Fred Henize
Fred Henize

—Kit-bash an Accurail Reefer*

Tyrone Johnsen

—Operation Lifesaver

Gary Children

—Basic Electronics

Mike Wood

—"Hands-on" Airbrush Clinic*

Alan Houtz

***Hands-on clinics— limited registration and nominal fee. **See the RailFun web site for clinic times & dates.**

RailFun 2014 Preview con't

Prototype Tours



RailFun is offering two historic prototype tours. The first is to Kloke Locomotive Works in Elgin Friday morning. Kloke is building a close replica of the Lincoln Funeral car (above) in preparation for its 2015 trip from Washington, D.C. to Springfield, Illinois following, as closely as possible 150 years later, the train trip that took Lincoln's body back to Illinois after his assassination. The train will travel on rail roads whenever possible and be transported by flat bed truck the other times. Kloke's 4-4-0 Leviathan will power the train which is expected to include one other historic car.



The Friday afternoon Illinois Railway Museum tour promises to be an outstanding one. Attendees will be shown almost all the back shops and work areas of the museum including the steam, diesel, car, electric, carpentry, etc. shops. The tour also includes a train ride.

NMRA Contests

Traditional NMRA judged model and photo contests will be offered at RailFun. Categories for the NMRA contests are:

- Steam locomotives
- Diesel and other locomotives
- Passenger Cars
- Freight Cars
- Non-revenue
- Structures on Line
- Structures off Line
- Display on Line
- Display off Line
- Traction
- Modules (portable layout)
- Black and white print (film)
- Color prints (film)
- Color and black white slides
- Black and white prints
- Color prints (digital)

*Note that entry forms should be filled out prior to bringing the model to the contest office. See the web site for further details including other special awards to be presented.

Popular Vote Contests

Popular vote contests will also be offered at RailFun in the following categories:

- Motive Power
- Rolling Stock
- Structures
- Photos

*See the RailFun web site for entry information and contest rules.



The FVD's Jim Allen built this amazing HO_{n3} *paper* hopper from a kit. It would certainly get votes in the popular vote contest—and there would be no entry forms to fill out to enter!

RailFun 2014 Preview con't

Non-rail Clinics

Four fine non-rail clinics will be offered including “Planning Your Railroad Estate” by Eileen Roth and Bob Storozuk, “The Side Tracked Wife” by Marge Clark, Arts and Crafts by Model Railroader’s Alberta Eller, and “Operation Lifesaver” by Gary Children. Check the RailFun web site for the times and dates of these clinics.

Event Speaker Mark Llanuza

Our event speaker, professional photographer Mark Llanuza, is known for his outstanding rail photography especially his “adverse weather” rail photography. Sunday morning he’ll be presenting four slide shows, two of his most popular, and two brand new shows for RailFun attendees. These shows promise to be some of the highlights of RailFun 2014



You’re Still Invited! by FVD Superintendent Jeff Jarr

You’re still invited! Remember last month I made a personal invitation to you, and every other member of our great Fox Valley Division, “to a ‘once in every eight years’, model railroading and train extravaganza in our very own Fox Valley (and DuPage) Divisions’ back yards”?

I spoke, of course, of the up coming ***RailFun 2014*** Midwest Regional Convention to be held **May 15-18**, and my invitation still stands! Remember you’ve got to register before May 2nd to get the special \$45.00 registration fee for NMRA members. Any non-member friends you may know can get in for only \$55.00 before May 2nd. If there’s any doubt in your mind about the great things that are going to happen May 15th through the 18th—the 30 fantastic layout tours, the dozen excellent op sessions, 17 super clinics, two great prototype tours, the nice slate of non-rail activities, traditional NMRA and popular vote contests, and outstanding featured speaker slide shows—check out the RailFun website. There you’ll find tons of information and photos and how to register. As I also said last month, contact me or Jim Osborn if you have any questions about RailFun. Our registrar, Bert Lattan, can also be contacted. Our contact information is on page 11 of this newsletter.



I look forward to you accepting my invitation and seeing you at ***RailFun 2014!*** *Jeff*

RailFun 2014 web site: <http://foxvalleydivision.org/railfun2014/welcome.html>

Election Bios

At our April 13th regular Monthly meeting we will elect a new FVD Superintendent and Chief Clerk. Below are the bios of the candidates that are running for office as of this writing. Both are incumbents.

Jeff Jarr, candidate for Superintendent. I have been privileged to be FVD Superintendent the past two years. I have been involved in model railroading for about 40 years. My father got me interested in the hobby when I was twelve and together my father and I have built seven model railroads over the years. I model the CNW and currently have a large layout under construction which occupies most of the basement of our home. I became a member of the NS&W Division in 2006 and served as refreshments “chairman” and NS&W Modular Layout Coordinator, as well as being elected Paymaster. After the NS&W and FVD merged, I served as FVD Assistant Superintendent and our NS&W Modular group became a 100% NMRA membership group. We continue to show our layout at various train shows throughout the year. I have made many new friendships during my time in the FVD, and I would be honored to be elected to another term as your Superintendent.

Leif Hansen, candidate for Chief Clerk. I have been a member of the NMRA since 1985 and would like to continue contributing my services to the Fox Valley Division to keep it running in an efficient and productive manner. I have very good computer and keyboard skills which are key qualifications for this position. I have held this position for the past ten years and have enjoyed the work which are also important qualifications for the Chief Clerk. I will continue to be able to devote the time necessary to attend the various meetings and functions required of this position. I look forward to serving another term as Chief Clerk of the FVD, and would appreciate your vote on April 13th.

2013 – 2014 Meeting Schedule

2013-2014 orange Meeting Schedule cards were mailed to members the last week in August. The remaining months’ schedule is given below and on the FVD web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org. *Any schedule changes or additions are posted on the FVD web site as soon as they are made known to the web master.*

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Clinic</u> | <u>Contest</u> | <u>Other</u> |
|----------------|---|----------------|---|
| April 13, 2014 | Rock molds and other scenery techniques by George Trandel | Diorama | 1:00 pm start. Lunch provided. <u>FVD officer elections.</u> |

May 15, 16, 17, 18, 2014 **Rail Fun 2014*** Mid West Region Convention hosted by the FVD In Schaumburg, IL. FVD volunteers needed. Contact Jeff Jarr at jjarr@comcast.net or 773-286-8755.

Note: there will be no May FVD monthly meeting in lieu of the Rail Fun convention being hosted by the FVD.

July 13 - 19, 2014 **NMRA National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio.** Check the national web site www.nmra.org and *NMRA Magazine* for further information.

***RailFun 2014 web site:** <http://foxvalleydivision.org/railfun2014/welcome.html>

NMRA Web Sites

Fox Valley Division

www.foxvalleydivision.org

Railfun 2014

www.foxvalleydivision.org/2014railfun/welcome.html

Midwest Region

www.mwr-nmra.org

National

www..nmra.org

2014 National Convention

www.2014cleveland.org

Fox Valley Division Board Contact Information

Superintendent, **Jeff Jarr**

jjar@comcast.net 773-286-8755

Ass't Superintendent, **Bob Shlemon, Jr.**

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Chief Clerk, **Leif Hansen**

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Publications & Semaphore Editor, **Walt Herrick, Jr.**

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Ways & Means—High Wheeler, **Jeff Jarr**

jjar@comcast.net 773-286-8755

Do you have a question or two? Visit our website at: www.foxvalleydivision.org.

Or, call or email one of us above. We're here to help you!



*"3 1/2 days of trains for only
\$45 bucks before May 2nd !
That's a deal, Al, a real deal,
for a regional convention, yes-
siree!"*

I agree, Winfred, I agree.

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 all of McHenry, Lake and parts of Cook and Kane Counties in north-east Illinois. About 240 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.

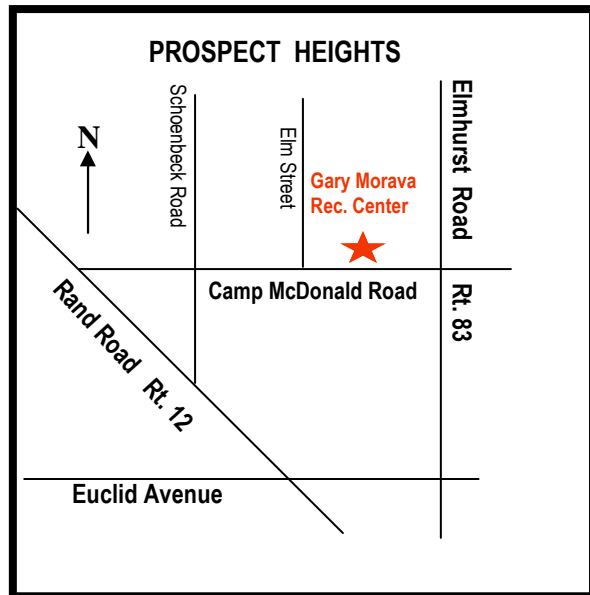
FVD general meetings are held September through May at the Gary Morava Center in Prospect Heights from 1:30 to about 4:00 pm. Each meeting features a clinic, model contest, information of interest to the membership, and a time for socializing. Outings, layout tours, and operating sessions are also held periodically in addition to, or instead of, the general meetings. To promote the hobby of model railroading, the FVD sponsors and runs the 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 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.

Visit us on the web at:

www.foxvalleydivision.org.

Questions? Contact FVD Superintendent, Jeff Jarr, or any FVD Board member listed on the previous page of this newsletter. We are here to help you!



Regular Meeting Location: Gary Morava Center, 110 Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL

Regular Meeting Time: 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. See page 10 for the rest of this year's meeting schedule.



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