

THE SEMAPHORE

May 2014

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



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Another Great Job By the FVD!

Wow, the Midwest Region Spring Convention, Railfun 2014 really lived up to it's name! I had a great time and from what I heard talking with others at the convention, everyone else was having a lot of fun also. Overall, the convention was very well organized and ran flawlessly thanks to all the hard work and effort everyone put in to making it a success. I would like to personally thank all the RailFun Convention Committee members and volunteers from the Fox Valley and DuPage Divisions for the terrific job they did organizing and helping with the convention. I would also like to thank Kloke Locomotive Works and the Illinois Railway Museum for their great tours, the clinicians who worked so hard to bring us a variety of both hands-on and rail related clinics, and all the layout hosts who opened their layouts for viewing and operating sessions. Our layouts were top notch and truly helped make the convention a memorable occasion. A special thanks goes to our event presenter, Mark Llanuza, who gave the event a grand finale with his captivating railroad photo presentations. If you were not able to attend the convention this year, you really missed out on a good time. I highly recommend going to the next regional! They are well worth the cost, and the friendships you develop could last a lifetime. Once again, "Great Job" and "Thank You" everybody!

Jeff Jarr, RailFun Convention Committee Chairman and
Fox Valley Division Superintendent



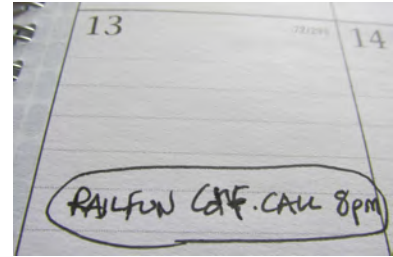
FVD Superintendent, Jeff Jarr (on right) assists RailFun Registrar, Bert Lattan, at the registration desk the Friday morning of RailFun 2014. Attendees were pleased with RailFun's excellent organization.



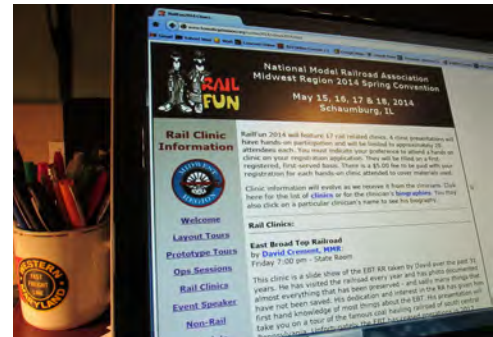
Workin' at RailFun. The FVD's Mike Wood preps for his Friday night "Basic Electronics" clinic (left), while Mike Hirvela keeps on line tabs of the many op sessions he was in charge of (center). Jim Landwehr (at podium) presents awards to contest winners at Sunday morning's awards presentation. Mark Llanuza's (right) four excellent "slide shows" were a fitting conclusion to a great convention. Jeff Jarr and Walt Herrick photos.

RailFun 2014 in Review—Convention Prep and Day 1

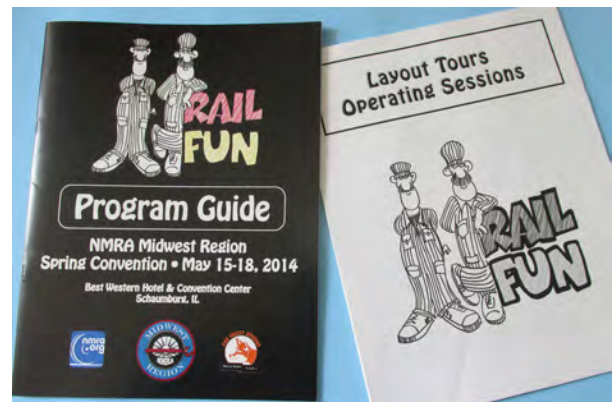
Planning for RailFun 2014 started some 15 months prior to the event. Under the direction of FVD Super, Jeff Jarr, a twelve member Convention Committee was formed. Early periodic planning meetings turned into every other week Thursday night conference calls starting last September, and then once a week calls the month before RailFun was to begin. In addition, face-to-face meetings were held whenever needed. Photos on this page by Walt Herrick.



RailFun 2014's terrific web site was created and regularly updated by Jim Osborn. It was instrumental in drawing attendees to the convention. The well organized, nicely illustrated and easily navigated site was loaded with layout photos and information, and lots of other convention information about layout tours, op sessions, clinics, "hands-on" clinics, prototype tours, registration, contests, accommodations, dining, maps, etc.



Hours of coordinated, collaborative effort went into almost all aspects of RailFun 2014. For example, producing the excellent RailFun Program Guide and Layout Tours booklet involved many people. Jim Allen did the layout, graphics and printing set up for the books with help from his wife Ann and Jim Osborn. Jim Osborn did the layout and graphics work for the front and back covers of the booklets. Jeff Jarr, Bert Lattan, Mike Hirvela, Ingrid Drozdak and Walt Herrick provided the information being printed and did proof reading prior to the booklets being sent to the printer.



RailFun activities started with Thursday night op sessions. In total, 91 attendees participated in RailFun op sessions over three days. The FVD's Steven Haworth was one of our members who opened his freelanced Rio Grande Southern standard gauge layout for both an op session and layout tour. Here he's at the controls of a short local freight making its way down grade. Many layout owners who had layouts on tours or were used for op sessions, put in a lot of layout prep work prior to the convention. Steven did too. The massive rock cuts behind him and throughout his layout, were installed in the weeks before RailFun.



RailFun 2014 in Review—Day 2



The Friday morning of RailFun 70 plus conventioners headed for Klope Locomotive Works (in snow showers!) to see the work being done building a replica of the Lincoln Funeral Car. Lincoln Funeral Train Executive Director, Bill Werst, sat on a step ladder to talk about the project, the 2015 train's trip from Washington D.C. to Illinois, and answer questions (center). FVD member Alex Bukala and his wife talk to Dave Klope about the Lincoln Train project (left).



Friday afternoon at the Illinois Railway Museum, Executive Director, Nick Kallas, talks to a group in front of the Diesel Shop (left), and at the Steam Shop. There he's standing near Frisco #1630 (center) which was being made ready for her 2014 debut. (See p.7 of this Semaphore.) At the Wood Shop, IRM veteran, Ray Bennett describes how the museum does 1:1 kit bashing on decades old wood cars. More than 70 people also toured IRM. All tour photos by Walt Herrick.



Friday evening saw the start of layout tours. RailFun's farthest western layout tours were in Huntley at the KV&EC's four club layouts (HO layout upper left) and Pete Walton's Great Midwest layout (upper right) in Del Webb. One of Railfun's northern most layouts was Jim Osborn's HO Chicago Northwestern Western Division layout in Lake-moor. Jim's award winning CNW diesel shop with interior detailing is behind the open stall tracks and turn table. Jim was also open for layout touring Sunday afternoon and for an op session Thursday night. He was a busy man during RailFun! Walt Herrick and Jim Osborn photos.



RailFun 2014 in Review—Days 2 and 3



Friday evening also saw the start of clinics and contest viewing. The contest room is being set up Friday afternoon in the above left photo. Tyrone Johnson's popular "hands on" Accurail reefer kit-bashing clinic was an early sell out. That's the FVD's Mike Bychowski getting ready to do some bashing (center). FVD's David Crement, MMR, presented an extensively researched clinic on his favorite East Broad Top R.R. Friday night. Jeff Jarr and EBT RR photos.

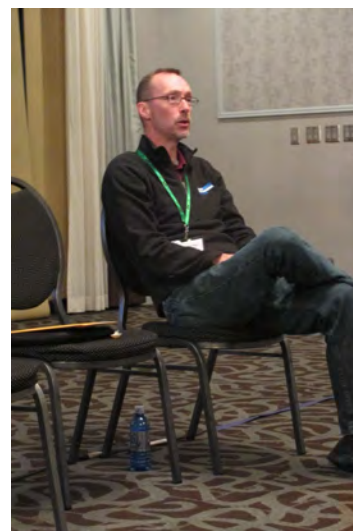


Clinics began bright and early again Saturday Morning. Alan Houtz's two "hands on" air brushing clinics were sell outs. The Rock River Valley Division's Bill Kirchmeyer gave an fine clinic on "Basic Operations" (center). Prolific model railroad author Jim Six (not shown) was another Saturday morning hit with the two clinics he gave about his layout and his experiences in the hobby. Jim has almost 300 published articles to his credit. Alberta Eller (above right) gave a wonderful non-rail "Arts and Crafts" clinic late Saturday morning. Jeff Jarr, Jim Osborn, Walt Herrick photos.

Layout tours continued Saturday afternoon. The Reid brothers outstanding N scale Cumberland Valley System saw lots of visitors (right), as did Greg Bedlek's huge HO GN & NP below.



RailFun 2014 in Review—Days 3 and 4



Saturday night saw more op sessions like the one on Dennis Hesse's layout (upper left). Several clinics were also given including an excellent one on weathering by Fred Firkus. Fred's heavily weathered SOO GP30 took third in "Locomotives" in the popular vote contest. Model Railroader Magazine's David Popp (right) gave an informative clinic on current activities at MR, MR Video Plus (which he edits), and the state of the print publishing industry. David stayed an extra half hour after his clinic ended at 9 pm to answer questions. Walt Herrick photos.



Here's photos from the Sunday morning awards presentation. Do you recognize any FVD members in the line ups? How about Dave Flebbe, Mike Hirvela, Denis Zamirowski, and Jim Allen in the Popular Vote group photo on the left, Jim Osborn in the NMRA Judged models center group photo, and Denis Zamirowski and Jim Allen in the NMRA Judged photos on the right? In popular voting Dave placed third in the "Structures" class with his Filer's Shack, Mike took first in the "Rolling Stock" class with his TRLS transfer caboose, Dennis took third in popular vote "Photos" with his "Smoke in the Canyon" shot, and Jim Allen took second with his "UP 1988 in Rochelle" shot. Jim Osborn garnered "First Place Structures" and Best of Show awards in the NMRA Judged "Structures" class with his superb, scratch built in styrene, covered bridge. In NMRA judged photos, Denis took a second and a third in the digital photos class with his "Keeping the Pole on the Wire" and "Cutting the Ribbon" shots, and Jim Allen took second in the black and white photo category with his "Man in Workshop" print. Jeff Jarr photos.



The FVD's Jim Osborn won NMRA Judged "Best of Show" and "First Place Structures" honors with his great styrene, scratch built covered bridge. Mike Hirvela's transfer caboose took First in the "Rolling Stock" category of the Popular Vote contest. Walt Herrick photos.

RailFun 2014 in Review—Day 4



Mark Llanuza presented four amazing photo shows to end the formal RailFun 2014 program Sunday morning including two brand new ones. “Wig Wags and Semaphores” (right) featured shots taken on the last class I U.S. railroad division with semaphores still in service.



Sunday afternoon's warm, sunny weather made up for all the cold we had the first days of RailFun making layout touring quite enjoyable. Jeff Jarr rushed home from RailFun wrap up activities at the Best Western Plus, just in time to welcome visitors to his Chicago Northwestern layout. His triple lift bridges at Duluth are impressive. MMR, Don Cook's gorgeous Great Northern layout was also open Sunday afternoon, as was the DuPage Division's Ed Lorences's big, beautiful B&O layout down near Midway Airport. Those are double headed Y-6's pulling a B&O freight. The last of the Sunday afternoon layout tours brought an end to a very fun, RailFun 2014. Mark Llanuza, Jim Osborn, Walt Herrick photos.



"Well, that about wraps it up for RailFun 2014 don't it, Al?"

"Yep, it sure does, Winfred. It was a mighty fine convention, don't you agree?"

"I certainly do, mighty fine indeed."

"Guess all we have to do now is say 'Good bye', Winfred."

"OK. Good bye, Winfred."

For more photos, contest results and coverage of RailFun 2014, go to the RailFun 2014 web site at:

<http://foxvalleydivision.org/railfun2014/welcome.html>

or

the Midwest Region's web site at: www.mwr-nmra.org

FVD Rochelle Outing August 23

The Fox Valley Division will return to Rochelle's Railroad Park for another great outing on August 23. Last year's outing was so much fun we are doing it again! The action starts at 10:00 am and ends around 4:00 pm. The FVD will bring the food, grills, and drinks. You bring... YOU! (And maybe your camera.) Contact Jeff Jarr to confirm your attendance at: jjarr@comcast.net or 773-286-8755. *See you there!*



2014 Election Results

At our April 13th regular monthly meeting we unanimously re-elected Jeff Jarr as FVD Superintendent and Leif Hanson as Chief Clerk. Jeff will be serving his second term as Super, and Leif his sixth term as Clerk. Thanks for running and serving again guys. *Congratulations!*

Thank You David Leider!

At the May 7th FVD board meeting, David Leider, MMR, announced he is retiring from the position he has so capably handled for the past ten years, Clinics & Programs Trainmaster. Using the numerous contacts he's developed over the years, Dave has done a great job of lining up clinics for our monthly meetings. Dave was also responsible for the fine schedule of twenty plus clinics offered at the Midwest Region RailFun convention May 15—18. An outstanding clinician himself, Dave has stepped in several times at the last minute to give a clinic when a clinician could not make it. We thank David for his excellent service to the FVD and wish him well as he takes a break from FVD clinics and board work. Note: the FVD has not yet filled the Clinics & Programs Trainmaster position. If you have an interest in serving in that capacity, or know someone who might, please contact Superintendent, Jeff Jarr, at jjarr@comcast.net.

IRM's 1630 Back in Action!

After a seven year layoff, the Illinois Railway Museum's beautiful Frisco Decapod steam engine #1630, is back in service. While out of service the locomotive underwent extensive renovations many of which were required to meet new, highly rigorous FRA requirements for steam locomotives. 1630 made her first revenue run Saturday afternoon, May 24th and was expected to continue running May 25 and 26. For this seasons's complete IRM operations schedule, go to: www.irm.com, or call 815-923-4000.



Summer 2014 Events

The 2013-2014 FVD meeting season has ended and we are now off for the summer. However, below are listed a couple of NMRA summer activities you might be interested in. For more area summer events, see the "**Local Railroad Related Events**" section of the FVD web site, www.foxvalleydivision.org.

*Reminder: 2014-2015 orange Meeting Schedule cards will be mailed to members in late August.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
July 13 - 19, 2014	NMRA National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. Check the national web site www.nmra.org and <i>NMRA Magazine</i> for further information.
August 23	2nd Annual FVD Rochelle Outing
September 12, 13	Michiana Division's 2014 EduTrain Conference
September 21	September FVD Monthly Meeting 1:30 to 4:00 pm, Prospect Heights

Michiana Division 2014 EduTrain Conference September 12 & 13

As a heads up for everyone, the Michiana Division's 2014 EduTrain Conference will take place Friday and Saturday, September 12 and 13 in Middlebury, Indiana. Registration is \$45 with an optional Friday night banquet fee of \$25. As always, top modelers will be presenting informative, educational and inspiring workshops, clinics, and talks designed to improve your modeling and your layout's appearance and operations. The learning starts at 9 am and ends about 9 pm. The conference will take place at the Das Essenhuis Conference Center in Middlebury. For more information go to the Michiana web site at:

<http://michiana-nmra.org/> or danbrewer.nmra@yahoo.com

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

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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!

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 235 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 its Semaphore newsletters.

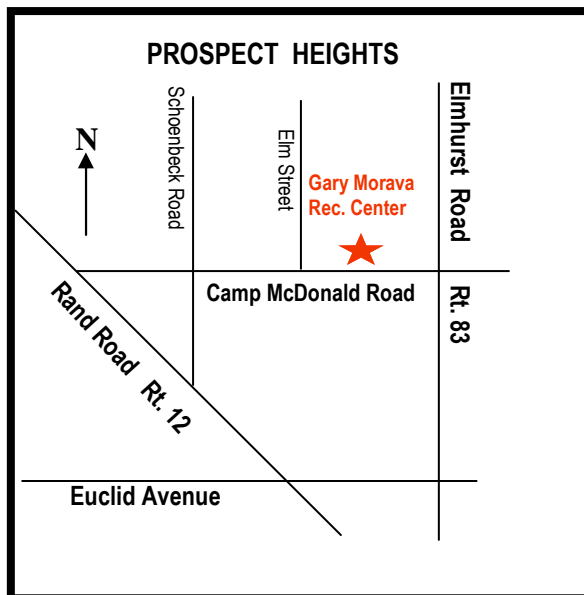
FVD general meetings are held September through May at the Gary Morava Center in Prospect Heights from 1:30 to about 4:00 pm. Each meeting features refreshments, a clinic, model contest, information of interest to the membership, and a time for socializing. Outings, layout tours, and operating sessions 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 7 for the rest of this year's meeting schedule.



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Midwest Region-NMRA
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