



THE SEMAPHORE

April 2016

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



Layout of the Month: More High Wheeler Layouts article and photos by Walt Herrick

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Next FVD Meeting:
Sunday, April 17 at 1:00 pm
Morava Rec Center in
Prospect Heights
ANNUAL ELECTIONS for
Superintendent and Clerk
will be held at this meeting.
Please attend and vote!

Contest: 12 x 12 inch
Diorama of your choice
Clinic: MMR Don Cook's
slide presentation on "CNW
System Wide"



One of the goals of this year's High Wheeler Train Show was to get kids involved in running trains on some of the show's layouts. We got excellent response from many show layouts when we asked them if they would allow kids to run their trains. Layouts ranging from N to G scales made their trains available for the kids to run with proper supervision. Of course, the kids loved it! In the photo above, the FVD's Art Jones enjoys interacting with a brother and sister running the division's special layout for younger children while mom takes a photo.

Fun Stuff by Jim Allen

A U-Boat in the Semaphore? Although this is not a General Electric or an Electro Motive product, what I found particularly interesting with this U-Boat diorama is the modeler's effective representation of the water environment around the sub. What military modelers are using to represent waves, white caps and rushing water, etc. is clear and white caulk. I encourage you to check out military modelers internet sites for more great modeling ideas and not just with water effects, but also with any number of scenic effects. Those guys are really good at highly realistic modeling!



Layout of the Month: More High Wheeler Layouts con't



This year's High Wheeler featured a large variety of layout scales including Z, N, HO, S, O, and G. The high-rail O scale Midwest Division of the Train Collectors Association (upper left) had another large layout this year. The N scale Northwest N Trak club's layout had a beautifully scratch built model of an iconic Cary, Illinois business, "The Tracks" bar and grill, located near the UP's Northwest Line in real life. A brand new set of lighted airport modules graced the Midwest Rails G scale layout this year (below left), and a middle school student is the engineer for an S scale passenger train on the Chicagoland Association of S Gaugers layout (below right).



IHB #9006 spots a tank car at the chemical plant on the Midwest Mod-U-Trak HO layout (left) while kids enjoy the ever popular "Hershey" layout to the right brought by His & Hers Hobbies.



Superintendent Bios for FVD Elections 2016

Below are biographies for those running for the office of Superintendent in this year's FVD elections. On page 4 are the bios for Chief Clerk. **Elections will take place at our April 17th regular meeting. The April meeting will have a 1:00 pm start time** and a pizza lunch. We thank all of our candidates for running for office. Thanks also to Jim Osborn for taking the candidate's photos and Leif Hansen for collecting their bios. WH

Mike Hirvela for Superintendent

I have been interested in trains since I was a young boy and got back into the hobby on a serious basis shortly after retiring from a 24 year career in the Navy in 1995. Since then I have been employed in the safety field and am currently Safety Director for Stuckey Construction where I am responsible for the health and safety of all of our workers on all of our construction sites in northeast Illinois.

An NMRA member since 2002, I have been the FVD Membership Promotions Trainmaster since the merging of the NS&W and the FVD. In that capacity, I've enjoyed representing the FVD and the NMRA to those attending the model railroad and hobby shows in our area. I also have the FVD – NMRA member solicitation table every-other month at the Great Midwest Train Show in Wheaton, IL, meeting and greeting hobbyists and would-be hobbyists and talking about the FVD, our High Wheeler show, and the NMRA. I write the "Mike's Minute" column for the Semaphore, am a member of three model railroad clubs and president of one, and really enjoy model railroad operations.

I want the Fox Valley Division to continue to be an important part of the Midwest Region and have a voice in the ways and means the region organization uses to meet our stated goals for the hobby and the railroad modeler. If elected as Superintendent, I hope to continue to encourage the enthusiasm I see in our division members in learning more about the different subject areas touched by model railroading that can be incorporated into our own model railroads, and sharing those experiences with other members. There is something here for all – no matter what scale or gauge. It's a win-win for all. I hope you will consider voting for me as your Superintendent.



Chuck Rita for Superintendent

I grew up in a Chicago bungalow five houses away from a Pennsylvania RR branch line and an eighth of a mile from a Rock Island suburban commuter line. Trains were a daily part of my life. Those trains, along with a Lionel train set that was a Christmas present when I was almost five years old, led to me being the model railroader that I am today. During my college summers, I worked in various jobs for the Rock Island Railroad. After graduating from the University of Illinois with a degree in electrical engineering, I worked for a communications company for 34 years. I retired from that job and worked for 7 more years as a consultant. Most of my career was spent as a project manager. As a result, I have considerable of experience in managing projects and leading others to achieve common goals.



Currently as Superintendent of the Arlington Heights Society of Model Engineers, I hold an elected office and report to the President of the club and to its members. I am responsible for scenery, track, rolling stock, and related issues. Since my election I have organized club materials, initiated an inventory of all freight cars (about 840), initiated an evaluation of all freight cars to ensure that they meet NMRA and club standards, managed scenery and track issues, and created a recycling program.

Jeff Jarr has set a high standard for leadership of the Fox Valley Division. I believe that I have the qualifications to lead this organization so that it may continue to support its members and promote the hobby. In order to do that, we also need members to be involved in the organization. I will encourage continued involvement from those already participating in club activities and will work to involve others. Even if I am not elected, Jeff's successor will need your help. I will help; please join me. I would appreciate your vote for Fox Valley Division Superintendent. Thank you.

Chief Clerk Bios FVD Elections 2016

Below are the biographies for those running for the office of **Chief Clerk** in this year's FVD elections. Bios for Superintendent appear on page 3. **Elections will take place at our April 17th regular meeting. The April meeting will have a 1:00 pm start time and a pizza lunch.**

Denis Zamirowski for Chief Clerk

I received my first train set when I was about two years old and I still have those American Flyer trains. I can remember riding the Milwaukee Avenue streetcars and the Chicago and Northwestern steam trains. I learned to read by asking my mom what the car signs said on the streetcars. I even got to go in the Chicago Tunnel System. When I was about 13 I made a turnout for the Flyer trains by cutting a piece of straight track and a piece of curved track and epoxying it together on Plexiglas. Surprisingly it worked! I switched to HO and built my first kit Mantua loco when I was 14 years old.

I have made many trips to ride behind steam trains and traction. Like most of us I have a large collection of railroad and traction slides, films, videos and many models.

I have been a member of the NMRA since 1992. In the past several years, I have volunteered at the High Wheeler, iHobby, and the NMRA Midwest convention. My career was in the steel industry, and I have been active in the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) as Chapter Recording Secretary and Acting Vice-President. This work, I believe, has prepared me well for the Chief Clerk's position in the Fox Valley Division. I believe I will be able to handle the responsibilities of the Chief Clerk's job, and would appreciate your vote.



George Trandel for Chief Clerk

I have been a NMRA member since 2012 and active in the hobby for several years more than that. I served as secretary for two years at the large club I belong to, the Garfield Central in Chicago—a job that is similar to the Chief Clerk's job in the FVD. In my time in the NMRA, I've entered one or two models each year in the FVD's model contests and I'm proud to say I have managed to rack-up a string third place finishes. I've also had the opportunity to present a FVD clinic and to help out at High Wheeler Shows, selling tickets and hosting at the "Kids" table.

In my life outside of model railroading, I am a self employed architect specializing in commercial and retail projects, and also construction project management. My job is a busy one with regular out of town travel. I was also recently elected to my condo's governing board. This promises to be a challenging job because the 220 unit high rise building in which I live is planning several major renovation projects, one of which is re-plumbing the entire building!

The FVD is good place to meet other modeler's, and a place where I've been able to collect and exchange all sorts of modeling information. I've enjoyed my involvement with the Fox Valley Division and the NMRA, and I'd like to give back something to the organizations that have given me so much. I look forward to continued participation with the FVD and would welcome the opportunity to serve as its Chief Clerk.



Mike's Minute by Mike Hirvela

Working the Waukegan Yard Switcher Job

At this op session, you've opted to work (switch) Waukegan Yard on my C&NW North Shore Sub. This is a *large* yard and it has to be because it handles a *lot* of traffic as you'll see below. The yard's dimensions are 38 feet long and three feet wide at its widest point, though most of the yard is about two feet wide. The C&NW's two track main line runs behind the yard. The yard has an arrival/departure track, four classification tracks, a through track (to get from one end of the yard to the other unimpeded), a scale track (which doubles as a storage track when needed), and a MoW storage track. There are also a slew of industries surrounding the yard which are also listed below.

The previous yard crew did a pretty good job during the previous trick, but there are several cars yet to sort and the in-bound EJ&E transfer cars have to be weighed. We better get busy as traffic comes and goes all day long here. Cars funnel into Waukegan Yard from the EJ&E connection, from west(north) bound freight #483 "The Chief,"; from east (south) bound train #282 "The Ojibwa," the Waukegan Way Freight from Butler, and also from turns and the Extras that show up unannounced. All this and we switch the local industries, too! Here's a schedule of trains we expect to see at Waukegan Yard during our trick:

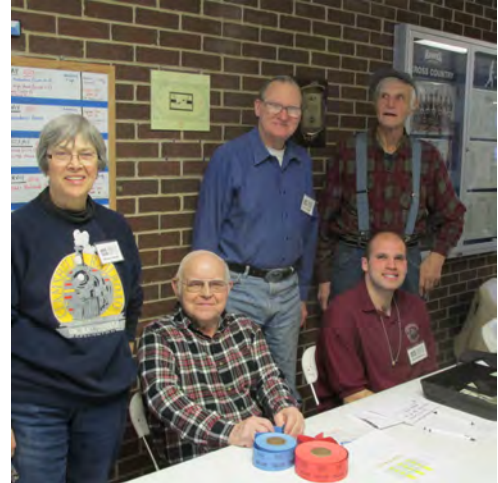
6:00 am: EJ&E does a transfer run into Waukegan yard before returning to Joliet (staging track).
 7:00 am: Gurnee Turn departs for the Industrial Park. Return TBD.
 7:15 am: Morning Abbott Turn departs for Abbott Labs. Return TBD.
 7:30 am: North Chicago Industrial Turn departs for N. Chicago industries. Return TBD.
 8:00 am: Local work at local Waukegan industries. Return TBD.
 8:30 am: Com-Ed loaded coal train arrives. Empties depart TBD.
 10:30 am: North (west) bound #483, the "Chief" arrives. Continues run TBD.
 11:30 am(est): Waukegan Way Freight from Butler yard arrives. Return TBD.
 12:30 noon: Local South departs for Lake Forest, Ft. Sheridan, Highland Park. Return TBD.
 1:00 pm: Afternoon Abbott Turn departs. Return TBD.
 1:30 pm: Waukegan Local Work. Return TBD.
 2:00 pm: Weber Yard Transfer departs for Evanston. Return TBD.
 3:45 pm: South (east) bound #282, the "Ojibwa," arrives. Continues run TBD.
 4:00 pm: Afternoon EJ&E Transfer arrives. Return TBD.

Local industry work includes switching the industrial tracks on the north end of the yard. The industries there are: the Johns-Manville factory, the Com-Ed power plant, A.L. Hansen Mfg., Killian Plumbing Supply, Olson Oil, and the CNW freight house. On the west side of the yard are: North Shore Gas, Goelitz Confectioners' (makers of Jelly Belly candies), Gordon Tool, Waukegan Steel Sales and U.S. Railway Equipment Supply. Work on the south end of the yard includes the service track under the coal tower, the sand bin, Reliable Electric Supply, Vascoloy-Romette, and across the main lines, Westvaco Paper and the depot team track.

Add to the above list, passenger trains dropping off and/or picking up mail and express cars from the team track next to the Waukegan depot, it can be a challenging job. Next month we'll explain just how we are going to "eat this elephant"? It will definitely be "one bite at a time"! See you then, and be sure to bring your appetites!

Member News

Big FVD “THANKS!” to all of our great volunteers (a few of which you see to the right) who helped make the 2016 High Wheeler Train Show a big success. This year’s show again increased slightly in attendance and revenues and was another huge hit with kids and their parents as well as modelers and train lovers. Vendors reported good sales, and one of our largest vendors said it was his second best High Wheeler Show ever. There were also several comments to staff about how “professionally run” the show was. **So, “hats off” to all of those High Wheeler workers in the FVD for another great High Wheeler Train Show effort!....**More than 40 FVD members and guests attended the High Wheeler Volunteers Appreciation Dinner at Lou Malnati’s in Buffalo Grove March 20th and enjoyed delicious salad, deep dish pizza, mostaccioli and drinks, as well as great conversation with fellow members, spouses and guests. WH



2015 - 2016 Fox Valley Division Meeting Schedule

Except as noted under “Other”, all meetings are held from 1:30 to 4:00 pm at the Gary Morava Recreation Center, 110 W. Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070. Visitors are always welcome, but per the NMRA’s new policy, must join after three visits. Important: clinics are subject to change without notice. For the latest clinic and all FVD information, visit our web site at www.foxvalleydivision.org.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Other</u>
April 17, 2016	Prototype slide presentation by MMR Don Cook on “CNW System Wide”	12” x 12” mini diorama. Your choice of subject and scale. Diorama <u>must</u> be exactly 12 x 12 inches in this contest.	1:00 pm start. Pizza lunch. FVD officer elections
May 15, 2016	<u>Clinic</u> Chicago Stock Yard & Packers David Leider MMR	Interlocking or street crossing tower <u>in diorama format</u> *	Last monthly meeting for 2015 –2016

*Contest entry must be presented on a diorama with a minimum surface size of 144 square inches.

July 3-10, 2016 NMRA National Convention “**Highball to Indy**” in Indianapolis. See the convention web site, www.nmra2016.org for complete information.

(Note there is no MWR convention this year because the Central Indiana Division, a Midwest Region division, is hosting the NMRA National.)





About the Fox Valley Division

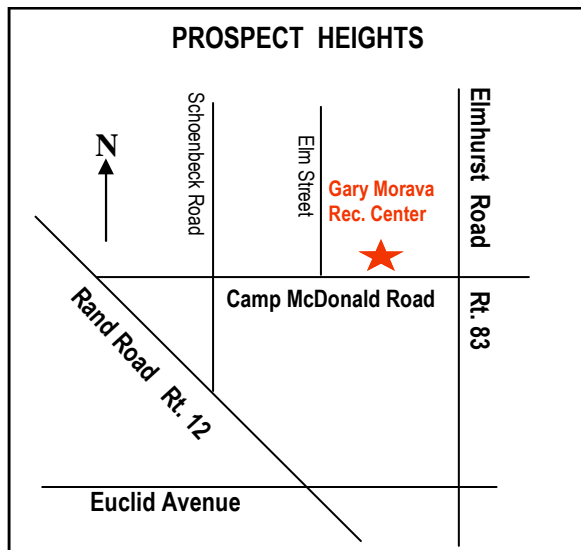
If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region and Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association or NMRA. The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes all of Lake and McHenry, and parts of Cook and Kane Counties in northeast Illinois. About 215 members of varied ages and modeling 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 monthly meetings are held September through May at the Gary Morava Recreation 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 monthly meetings. To promote the hobby of model railroading, the FVD sponsors and runs the large train show called "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 and bring a friend. We'd love to see you. Also visit us on the web at:

www.foxvalleydivision.org

Questions? Contact FVD Superintendent, Jeff Jarr, or any FVD Board member listed below. We are here to help!



- The FVD's monthly meeting is at the :
Gary Morava Recreation Center
110 Camp McDonald Road
Prospect Heights, IL. 60070
- Our regular meeting time is:
1:30 to about 4:00 p.m.
- 2015 – 2016 meeting dates, contest and clinic info are on page 6 of this newsletter.

FVD web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org

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