

THE SEMAPHORE



April 2017

FOX VALLEY DIVISION • MIDWEST REGION



Layout of the Month: Roger Taylor's HO Outer Belt & Southeastern

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Next FVD Meeting:

Sunday, April 23
1:00 pm at the
Morava Rec Center in
Prospect Heights

Contest: Switchers—limit 2

Clinic: A Ride on Africa's Blue Train, Rovos Rails Pride of Africa by George Ferraro. Note 1 pm start time for pizza lunch and annual FVD elections.



A pair of Outer Belt & Southeastern SDs cross the high trestle on Roger Taylor's HO model railroad. Though Roger is a very recent Rail Pass member of the NMRA, he is a well known and respected Elgin area model railroader. You may have seen him behind the counter at Lombard Hobbies, at his own sales tables at various train shows, or as a key crew member of the popular USS Badger car ferry diorama/switching layout seen *con't on p.2*

Fun Stuff by Jim Allen

Here's a photo of a European railway workers transport van. It is used to transport workers to different job sites on the railroad. Please note that this is *not* a photo shopped photo—it's the *real thing*! How many VW buses do you think were used to "kit-bash" this piece of equipment?



Layout of the Month: Roger Taylor's Outer Belt & Southeastern



(from p.1) for many years at local train shows. The trestle is made of wood, and is 13 inches tall and five feet long. It was salvaged from the Valley Model Railroad Club's original 1953-1999 layout in South Elgin, IL. Let's now take a closer look at Roger's Outer Belt & Southeastern.

The OB&S connects Roger Taylor's two favorite railroads, the C&O to the east and the Chicago Great Western on the west. The top photos show C&O F units in front of the C&O diesel house at Russell, KY, and a C&O passenger train pulling into the depot at Russell. To the right we see the busy Hooker Bay waterfront terminal with its in-street trackage, docks, barges, traveling cranes and several industries. Below to the left is the five story, scratch built Bayside Textiles plant which Roger purchased at a train show. The below right photo shows two OB&S EMD SD units in the sharp light grey, blue and red paint scheme. The units are coming off the Hays mountain line with a mixed freight. Though a freelanced model railroad, Roger's goal is to capture the essence of the prototype in the scenes on his layout.



Layout of the Month: Roger Taylor's Outer Belt & Southeastern



The Chicago Great Western is Roger's other favorite railroad. On this page we'll follow CGW Extra 401 on its way west led by two SD40s. Resplendent in their Great Western red and black paint, the units are easy to spot. This was the last Great Western diesel paint scheme before the railroad was merged into the Chicago Northwestern in 1968. Above left, the train rolls through a double track bascule bridge and past the bridge's control tower. Next the train meets an east bound freight as it passes by Riley Tower (above right). Note the lit markers on the east bound's caboose. Below, Extra 401 crosses a deck truss bridge which was also salvaged from the Valley Club's original layout.



Basic Layout Information

Layout name:	Outer Belt & Southeastern
Layout builder:	Roger Taylor
Construction started:	2007
Layout location:	Roger's basement
Layout scale:	HO
Layout size:	23 x 35 feet
Layout style:	Around the walls with peninsulas
Layout concept:	Freelance Class I bridge line between the CGW and C&O
Layout era:	1960s and 70s
Bench work:	Open grid
Base/Sub road bed/ roadbed:	Plywood base, foam sub base, cork roadbed on the mainlines
Track and turnouts:	Commercial—mostly Walthers and Peco code 83
Min Radius:	30 inch mainline radius; 22 inch on secondary trackage
Max Grade:	1.5%; 2.5% on the mountain line
Main line length:	160 feet; 80 feet of secondary trackage
Scenery:	85% roughed in; 45% complete
Structures:	Kits, kit-bashed and scratch built
Locomotives:	Mostly plastic diesels with a few steam and brass. Almost all model mfrs. are represented.
Rolling stock:	Kits and RTR with almost all manufacturers represented.
Control:	NCE DCC with wireless and tethered throttles
Operations:	Regular informal op sessions using switch lists and specific jobs
Influential Modelers:	The late Ken Olsen from Batavia was Roger's mentor, and Gary Lester from the Valley Club.

April Elections & Candidate Bios

The FVD's April 23, 2017 meeting is our Annual Meeting for the year. At that meeting we will hear year end reports from our board officers, and most importantly, hold elections for two of our four board officers. This year we elect an **Assistant Superintendent** and a **Paymaster**. Any member wishing to run for either of these two offices should contact our Chief Clerk, George Trandel ASAP, and tell him of your intentions to run for office. Candidate biographies received before the April *Semaphore's* publication deadline, are given below. WH

Ingrid Drozdak for Assistant Superintendent. Ingrid has been interested in trains since she was 6 or 7 when she “had a blast” playing with her cousin’s Lionel set with him. Fast forward many years when she got a new boy friend, John, who just happened to be a serious model railroader. That was a good thing since John eventually became Ingrid’s husband. Ingrid joined the NMRA in the mid 1990’s and since that time has been very active in the organization and the hobby. Known as the “Tree Lady” for her expertise in making model trees, she has given clinics at three national conventions and at many NMRA regional and division meets. She has served as Clerk for the North Shore and Western Division, Photo Contest Chair of the Midwest Region, and Director-at-Large for the MWR. Ingrid is an avid Z scaler who is working on a larger layout to go along with her coffee table layout which she brings to various train shows and conventions. She would very much like to work for the FVD as its Assistant Superintendent. (Photo taken at a past High Wheeler face painting booth which, as you can see, Ingrid participated in!) WH



Tim Kleimeyer for Paymaster. Tim has been the FVD's Paymaster since 2004 and would like to continue serving the division in that capacity. Before becoming Paymaster, Tim was the FVD's Assistant Superintendent. As Paymaster Tim has an important job. He is responsible for managing all aspects of the divisions finances including High Wheeler Train Show finances. During High Wheeler, he was on site all day both days of the show. Each month Tim prepares a financial statement for the FVD BoD, and each year he presents an Annual Financial Report for members at the FVD's Annual Meeting. Tim also does the FVD's IRS filing each year. Tim enjoys his job and looks forward to again serving the FVD as its Treasurer. WH



Mike's Minute by FVD Superintendent Mike Hirvela

With April comes showers, tax returns and, oh yes, Division Elections. We have candidates who have stepped forward and are running this year for FVD Assistant Superintendent and FVD Paymaster positions. The FVD election will be conducted during the April 2017 meeting. Please plan to attend this meeting to support the individuals running for these key positions on our Board of Directors with your vote. Also coming up in April is the Midwest Region's Convention at the Holiday Inn Express in Rockford, IL on April 28, 29 and 30. The Rockford folks sent in a preliminary schedule for the convention and it is available on our website: www.foxvalleydivision.org. This will be a special convention for the RRVD as they will be celebrating their 50th anniversary being an NMRA division. The convention is appropriately called “Golden Rails”. Like the FVD did for our 2014 MWR convention held in Schaumburg, the Rockford folks have worked to keep the expenses low. Registration is a bargain at \$40 without the buffet, and an amazing \$50 for full participation. Some cool activities are planned such as a “Hobo Grill” at the Rochelle Railroad Park Pavilion on Friday afternoon. Operating sessions will be held Friday evening on three local model railroads, clinics are on the schedule for Saturday morning and afternoon along with the model and photo contests, and layout tours. A buffet dinner will be served Saturday evening. The Midwest Region Board of Directors meets on Sunday morning, the 30th. As usual, this meeting is open to all members. The MWR's 2017 Convention, Golden Rails, is shaping up to be a real good one, and its all going to happen “in our own back yard”! Are you going?

March Clinic and Contest—photos by Jim Osborn

At March's regular meeting, members were treated to an excellent presentation on Duluth Missabe Iron Range operations by clinician Bob Hanmer. First Bob gave us an overview of basic prototype Iron Range operations. Then he showed how he has adapted these to his HO scale model railroad. Bob's railroad is highly detailed and operations on his railroad are equally detailed using a Time Table and Train Order system similar to his prototype's. Thank you, Bob, for a great clinic! WH



March's contest was "Structure of Your Choice—any size or type".

George Trandel placed **First** with his beautifully scratch built and finished "Engine House" (above left) in HO scale. **Second Place** went to **Ray Witt** for his authentic looking, kit-bashed "LaBelle Factory" (upper right) also in HO. **Bob DiDomenico's** nicely built HO Atlas "Interlocking Tower" kit (right), was our **Third Place** finisher. Go to the FVD's web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org to see all of March's contest entries.

"Yard Switchers—max 2" is April's contest. WH



Modeling Tip: a brake for cars spotted on a grade

Roger Taylor had a problem on his layout spotting cars on sidings having grades. The cars would always roll. He found a neat solution to this while shopping at a local Walgreens of all places. He spied a clear plastic container full of weird, square shaped erasers in the office supplies section of the store. Turns out the erasers fit perfectly and snugly between HO scale rails. The "brake" stays put and keeps cars from rolling down the grade. Another tricky problem solved by a resourceful model railroader! WH



Fox Valley Division Shirts Still Available!

A limited number of our famous maroon Fox Valley Division polo shirts, as seen at the right, **will again be available for sale at April's regular meeting on March 19th.** Several sizes are available. Cost is \$25.00 per shirt payable by cash or check. Get ready for spring with a stylish FVD maroon, short sleeve polo shirt!



Ways and Means Trainmaster still needed

The division is still looking for an individual to assume its important Ways & Means Trainmaster position. This position organizes and runs our High Wheeler Train Show held each year in early March. This year's High Wheeler was suspended due to a major renovation project being done on the Harper College gymnasium normally used to host the show. *However*, we still need a Ways and Means Trainmaster *now* to help the board prepare for (hopefully) next year's show including finding a new venue for the show. (Harper construction is expected to take another two years.) At a recent board meeting, it was agreed that the bottom line on our Ways and Means position is that **if we don't find a Ways and Means Trainmaster, we cannot organize and run another High Wheeler Train Show.** It's as simple as that. Members, please consider serving as the FVD's Ways and Means Trainmaster and carrying on the High Wheeler tradition. Thank you! WH

Membership News

This *Semaphore* is coming to you a week early so that you have a little more time to review the candidate bios on page 4. These bios are for the candidates who have declared their candidacies before the April Semaphore went out. Note that other candidates may declare their intention to run anytime on or before elections are held April 23. This year elections are for our **Assistant Superintendent** and **Paymaster**. **April's meeting start time is at 1:00 pm** and, as usual, we'll have a **pizza lunch** to celebrate the elections.....Because the *Semaphore* is early this month we won't have a membership report from our Membership Services Trainmaster, **Bert Lattan**. Bert doesn't get his membership reports from the NMRA until about the first week of the month. Though we have no membership report, your editor can tell you we have at least one new member, **Roger Taylor**, whose Outer Belt and Southeastern was this month's Layout of the Month. Roger recently joined as a Rail Pass member. Welcome aboard, Roger!....FYI, **Jim Osborn** is always looking for FVD photos of either the prototype, models or model railroads for the FVD web site and/or the Midwest Region web site which he is also web master of. Send your photos to him at his email address on page 7. Jim also likes to get upcoming railroad event info for the FVD's web site. Send that information to the same email address.....**The Rock River Valley's MWR convention "Golden Rails" is being held April 28—30.** This is going to be a great convention at a great price, and in a great location close to us. Why not beat the spring rush and sign up now! WH

2016 - 2017 Fox Valley Division Meeting Schedule

Except as noted under "Other", all meetings are held from 1:30 to about 4:00 pm at the Gary Morava Recreation Center, 110 W. Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070. Visitors are always welcome per the NMRA's visitor policy. Note that clinics are subject to change without notice. For the latest clinic and all FVD news and information, visit our web site www.foxvalleydivision.org.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Other</u>
April 23, 2017	"A Ride on Africa's Blue Train, Rovos Rails Pride of Africa" by George Ferraro	Yard Switchers—max 2	1:00 pm start. Pizza lunch. <u>FVD officer elections.</u>
April 28–30, 2017	2017 Midwest Region Convention "Golden Rails" hosted by the Rock River Valley Division at the Holiday Inn in Rockford, IL. Complete information on the division's website: rverd-nmra.com.		
May 21, 2017	"Introduction to Operations Under Time Table and Train Order Authority" by Chris Czyzewski	Exposed or Open Load of Your Choice	Last monthly meeting for 2016–2017
July 30–August 6, 2017	2017 NMRA National Convention "Orange Blossom Special" in Orlando, FL. See the convention's website for complete information: nmra2017orlando.org		



About the Fox Valley Division

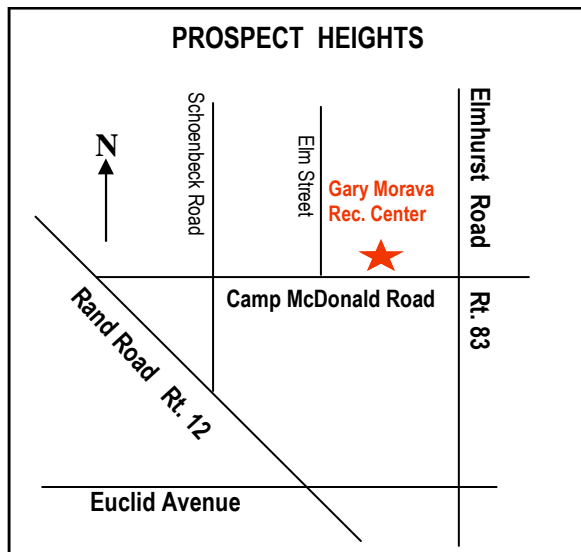
If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region and Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association or NMRA. The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes all of McHenry and parts of Cook, Kane, and Lake Counties in northeast Illinois. About 220 members of varied ages and modeling 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 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 normally sponsors and runs a large train show called "High Wheeler" in early March each year at Harper College in Palatine, Illinois. (Note: the 2017 High Wheeler is suspended due to a major renovation of the Harper gymnasium used for the show.)

We encourage you to take advantage of all the FVD has to offer. We are here to answer your questions 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, Mike Hirvela, or any FVD Board member listed below. We're 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.
- 2016 – 2017 meeting dates, contest and clinic info are on page 6 of this newsletter.

FVD web site: www.foxvalleydivision.org

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