



In this issue

Mike's Minute **P.5**

Next Meeting Info **P.4**

Upcoming Events **P.6**

Contacts **P.7**

Renew Your NMRA Membership Online!

If you still renew your membership annually through the U.S. postal service, we encourage you to make your next transaction online. It's quick, it's easy, and most important, it's secure. Instructions [here](#)

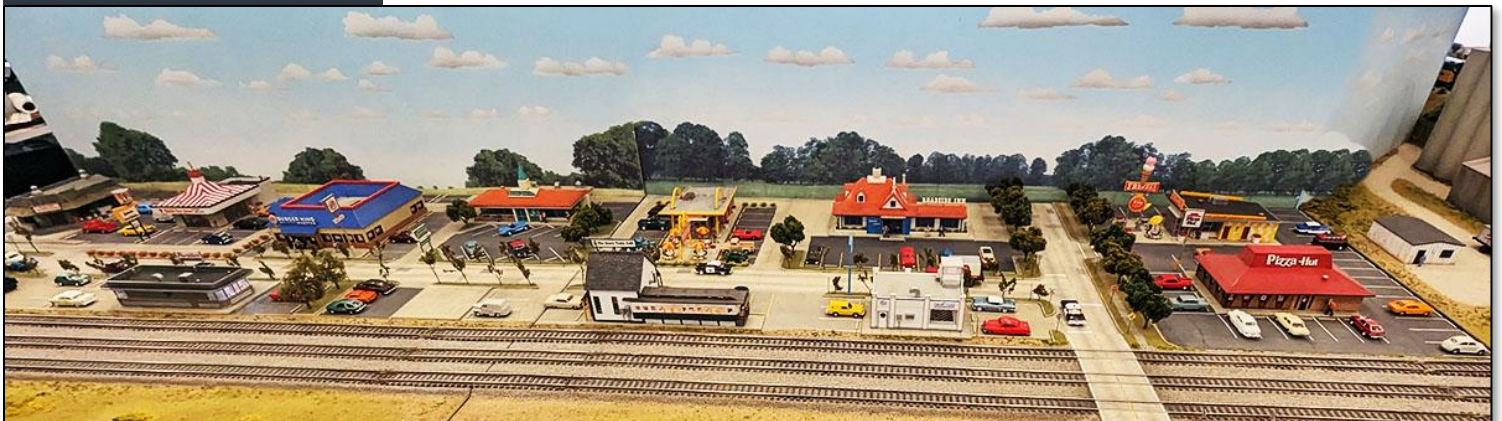
NS&W at Glenview Public Library

Text & Pictures
Jim Osborn, MMR®

On December 9 & 10, the North Shore & Western Model Railroad Club set up their annual display at the Glenview Public Library. The display is always a crowd pleaser – and was well attended as in past years. Many future model railroaders bring their parents to see trains in action. The children peer over the handrails and imagine having their own empires to run trains on someday.

Jack O'hara, Mike Bychowski, Mike Labeau, Mike Hajduk, Mark Brodsky, John Van Bramer and club president Jeff Jarr all participated in setting up and running the NS&W Model Railroad modular display at the library. It's a huge effort and commitment to set up and operate such a large display and we really appreciate their time and energy to make it happen. There is no better recruiting tool I know of!

It's always hard to capture the essence of a modular layout but I want to share a few pictures of some of the wonderful modular scenes and structures.

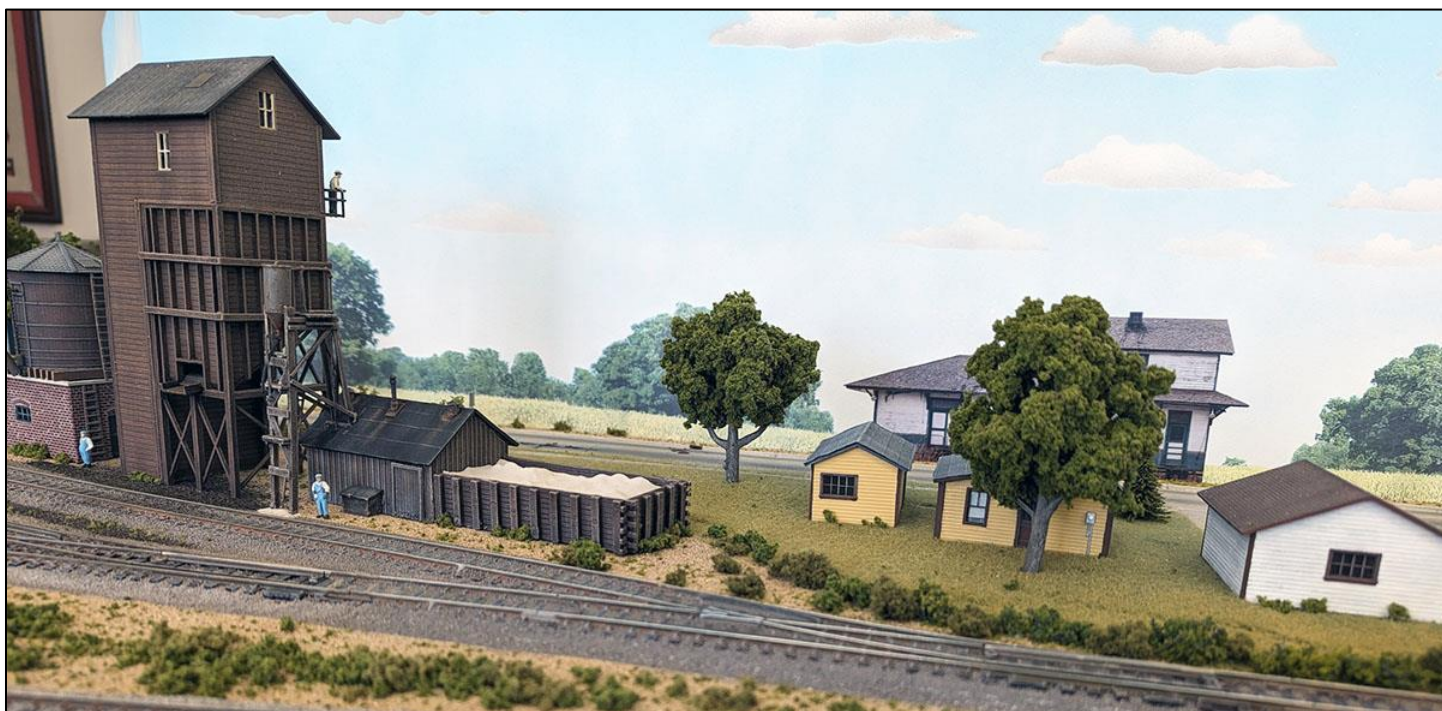


Cardiac City (above) is always a crowd pleaser. Jeff Jarr designed and built the module from the hard board up. I counted ten fast food shops in the city. Take a look at his [very complete clinic](#) on how to model roads for this module. At top is a closeup of the "Gravy Train Café" in Cardiac City. Check out the interior details. You can almost smell the Chicken Fried Steak on the tables.



Above: a view of the freight yard complete with two freight warehouses and a Maintenance of Way (MOW) shack. The lower tracks lead to the main train station.

Below: a sanding tower standing at the end of the rural town on the layout. I am always awed by the detail incorporated into all the scenes and structures.



Below: This farm scene is also one of my favorites. There are plenty of details enhancing the diorama. The layout features a triple track mainline on each of the modules. This allows for plenty of train movement at their showings.



Speaking of action: below is a CNW left-hand running weigh freight approaching the town's grade crossing on the outer mainline of the triple track right-of-way.





Above: The stock pen module is an older module but filled with details, including mooing sounds!

There is more information about the club, this large layout and a few more pictures in the [North Shore & Western Photo Gallery](#) on the [FVD site](#).

As you can see this is a collection of great modules. The club welcomes your interest and help. If you would like to be part of the fun and effort, please contact Jeff Jarr at jjarr@comcast.net.

Model Trains Are Fun -- Have some fun!

Jim Osborn, MMR®

Next FVD Meeting

When: Sunday, January 21, at 1:30 PM

Where: [Gary Morava Recreational Center](#) and [Zoom](#)

Presentation: *How to add a Layout Scene in 15 Easy Steps* by Bob Frankrone

Model Achievements: Up to 4 cabooses

Show & Tell: Display any category or train related item



Need to update
your NMRA
address?

[Link Here](#)



Mike's Minute

HAPPY NEW YEAR to you and yours. I hope the holidays were good for you and contributed to your model railroad. January starts a new year, and while your slate of activities is empty right now, it may fill up quick, of course weather depending. Several train-related events take place as the new year starts: the Mad City Train Show in Madison, WI in February; RRVD's show at Harlem HS in Loves Park, IL in March; and the Titledown Train Show in Green Bay in early May. The Great Mid-West Train Show (aka, the Wheaton swap) occurs the first Sunday of the month at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton, IL; and IRM kicks off its 2024 season on March 23rd. Operating enthusiasts have options too, with several model railroads running operating sessions monthly – many very worthy of participating. Whatever the focus, you're sure to find a model train running somewhere (see the Upcoming Events list).

Over the past year, we averaged 31 folks attending each month which are typical for an organization of our size. As much as we'd like to see you in person, we know there are some that like the option of participation via Zoom. It has connected us to folks joining from Florida, Tennessee, Missouri, Wisconsin, Indiana and the Orkney Islands, UK. How 'bout that!

And if you missed the December meeting in person, you missed a great lunch with grilled brats with choice decorations, holiday cookies, fruit cake and beverages. Our presenter experienced a little band-width problem over the net which we tried to solve during the meeting, but we ran out of time. Hopefully, we can schedule the last minutes of his presentation as we learned about a lot about the sub-roadbed foundation and all the parts for track, including ties, plates, spikes, joint bars, rail sizes and how the real railroads work to maintain a safe right of way for their trains. We kinda take our model track for granted, but during Dave Nelson's presentation, we learned about civil engineering, geology of ballast, force and physics, mathematics, and creative track alignment solutions. I found it real interesting. Model railroading touches so many other sciences and approaches art in many different forms.



Above: January display at the Mount Prospect Public Library. Photo: Mike Hirvela

Upcoming Events

• Monthly FVD Meetings

Held the third Sunday of every month at either the [Glenview Public Library](#) or the [Gary Morava Recreation Center](#), the meetings are an opportunity to share information, either in-person or on Zoom. Here is the meeting schedule through the end of the year. See the full schedule on the [FVD website](#).

When	Where
1/21/24 1:30-4:00 PM	Gary Morava Recreation center and Zoom
2/18/24 1:30-4:00 PM	Glenview Public Library and Zoom

• Midwest Regional Events



SAVE THE DATE

AROUND THE BEND
MIDWEST REGIONAL CONVENTION
MAY 2ND-4TH, 2024
The Century Center, South Bend, Indiana

Regional Train Event • Clinics • Layout Tours • Open to the Public
Operating Sessions • Display Room • NMRA AP Program Evaluation
Railroad and General Interest Tours • Help for Getting Started

[Around the Bend Convention Information](#)

• Club Events

Great Northern Railway Historical Society Virtual Layout Tour January 11, 7:30 PM. Hosted by John Robert Coy, MMR®. The presentation will feature a layout tour of John and Connie Coy's award winning Glacier Line, an O scale layout set in Montana in the Glacier National Park (Marias Pass) area. You'll enjoy a side-by-side photographic comparison of the prototype vs. layout images of Marias Pass. An open discussion will follow. This event is open to all NMRA and GNHS members. Zoom Meeting ID: **840 001 1240**, Passcode: **GN400**

Kenosha Train Show and Swap Meet: January 14 & February 11, 9 AM – 1 PM. 3030 39th Avenue, Kenosha, WI. \$5 admission. Call for more information: 262-331-0392

26th Arctic Run Model Railroad Show and Sale: January 20, 9 AM - 5 PM; January 21, 10 AM - 3 PM. Stevens Point Holiday Inn and Convention Center, 1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, WI. Contact jimbrow67@gmail.com for more information.

• Train Shows

[Mad City Train Show:](#) February 17, 18; 9 AM – 5 PM; Alliant Energy Center, Madison WI

[Great Midwest Train Shows:](#) monthly at the [DuPage Event Center and Fairgrounds](#) in Wheaton. The traveling show will be in East Moline, IL March 16-17. Information on both shows can be found on [Trainshow.com](#).

Contest Calendar

Division Meeting Date	Contest
January 21, 2024	Up to 4 Cabooses
February 18	Up to 3 Weathered Cars or Structures
March 17	Up to 3 Steam Locomotives
April 21	Up to 3 Refrigerated Billboard Cars
May 19	Up to 3 Freight Cars with an Open Load

Contest rules

Future contests be held in person at the meet. There will be no photographic entries. All entries will ONLY be displayed at the meet.

About the Fox Valley Division

Board of Directors

Superintendent: Michael Hirvela

Asst. Superintendent: Denis Zamirowski

Paymaster: Richard Sieben

Chief Clerk: Richard Hoker

Achievements & Contests: Jim Landwehr

Clinics & Programs: Gary Saxton

Membership Promotions: Michael Hirvela

Membership Services: Erich Abens
Public Relations & Social Media: Keith Dart

Webmaster: Jim Osborn, MMR®

Semaphore Editor: Chris Mattimiro

Contact any board member [here](#).

About the Semaphore

The Semaphore is published by the Fox Valley Division of the Midwest Region of the NMRA, a registered 501(c)(7) not-for-profit Illinois corporation.

Staff:

Editor: Chris Mattimiro

Assistant Editor: Michael Hirvela

Assistant Editor: Jim Osborn

If you receive this newsletter you live in the Midwest Region, Fox Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). The Fox Valley Division (FVD) includes all of Lake and McHenry, as well as parts of Cook and Kane Counties in northeast Illinois. About 180 members of varied ages and modeling ability belong to the FVD. Most modeling scales are represented in our division. Subscriptions to the Semaphore newsletters are free. Membership in the division is available through the NMRA at: <https://www.nmra.org/>

Monthly FVD meetings run September through May in-person and online via [Zoom](#). Each meeting features a clinic, model contest, and

information of interest to the membership. Outings, layout tours, and operating sessions may also be held.

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. Visit us on the [web](#)!

Mailing Address:

Fox Valley Division
PO Box 1535
Arlington Heights IL 60005-1535

Website:

<https://foxvalleydivision.org/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/fvdmra/>



© 2024 by the Fox Valley Division of the NMRA, Inc.