



In this issue

Mike's Minute [P.1](#)

Oh Scale! [P.2](#)

Next FVD Meeting [P.4](#)

MSI: Behind the Scenes [P.4](#)

Upcoming Events [P.5](#)

Contest Calendar [P.6](#)

Riding Up Front

You usually don't get the engineer's view unless you're strapped to the front of the locomotive. Or just looking out the window of the cab car.



Mike's Minute

SPRING arrived two days after our last meeting and with the change of seasons comes a potential change in leadership for the Division. At the April meeting per the Division By-Laws, we elect division officers to two-year terms on a rotating basis. That is, in odd-numbered years we elect an Assistant Superintendent and a Paymaster, which we did last year. This even-numbered year we elect a Superintendent and a Chief Clerk. I know the incumbent Chief Clerk is willing to continue and while I am willing to continue as your Superintendent, any member can step forward and toss their RR hat into the election process for either office. Since time is short before the next meeting, if you are inclined to run for office, please contact the Chief Clerk or me to get your name on a ballot. (side note: For a long time, I was just a plain ol' member, but I took that step forward when others couldn't continue. I had no experience as a division official, but it has been rewarding. Could be for you, too. Please consider running for any division official when you feel the urge. You won't regret it.)

Our April meeting will be held at the Glenview Public Library in Glenview. We (the Board) have had discussions regarding moving the meeting location around the division, but location and cost are always stumbling blocks. Your input and feedback on the use of these facilities will be of great help in determining where we meet in the future. If you know of another good meeting location, please let an official or Board member know. Our May meeting, which wraps up our season, will be at the Morava Recreation Center in Prospect Hts. The schedule for our 2024-2025 season will be forthcoming in a future edition of the "Orange Card."

Please join us at our next two gatherings and meet modelers who have similar and varied interests. Whichever method (in person or over the net) you select to participate, I appreciate you taking the time and effort to attend, and I hope you found the presentations interesting and informative. We're continually trying.

- Mike Hirvela

Oh Scale! Words and photos: Jim Osborn, MMR

The O scale modelers meet was held in Lombard on March 14. Jim Osborn, MMR, (FVD), Steve Miazga, MMR (Wise Div), Jim Landwehr (FVD), Rusty Dramm, Eric Peterson (CID) & Larry Kurkorski assessed the O scale models against NMRA evaluation standards. Here are a few of the outstanding models on display.



Left: Northern Pacific 24-foot wood caboose with full interior by Rusty Dramm. Right: Chicago Great Western wood caboose and full interior by James Zwernemann.



Above: Pikesville Junction display by Greg Cygnar. Below: Milwaukee Peek-a-boo gondolas by James R. Schultz.





Above: Ken's Tractor Repair. Display by Michael Fiotend. Below: Milwaukee 1236, 2-8-0 Steam Loco by Ed Trusbow



Left: Fox River Valley Railroad 1701 Geop by Shaydin Anthony. Right: Northern Pacific EMD F9-A by Mike Booth

Don't Miss: Behind the Scenes Trains Tour at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry!

Join the Fox Valley Division as we meet the designer and operator of the Great Train Story Layout and Pioneer Zephyr!

Date: Friday, June 21, Time TBA

Tickets will be limited. Join our next meeting on Sunday, April 21 for more details.



Next FVD Meeting

When: Sunday, April 21, 2024, 2:00 PM

Where: [Glenview Public Library](#) and [Zoom](#)

Organization Topics: Annual business meeting and election of the next Superintendent and Chief Clerk

Presentation: *Photographing Your Models Outdoors* by Keith Kohlman

Learn how to take dramatic and amazing photos of your modeling work by taking them outdoors.

Bring for Display: Up to 3 Refrigerated Billboard Cars

got trains?



Riding one, running a model, laying track, assembling scale structures, debugging hardware/software, looking at art, visiting a museum, just thinking about them? Got an interesting story to tell? We're story spotters, looking for people to share their experience (or lack thereof)! Contact Chris Mattimiro, cmattimiro@outlook.com.



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
4/21/24 2 PM	Glenview Public Library and Zoom
5/19/24 2 PM	Gary Morava Recreation center and Zoom

• Midwest Regional Meetings



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

The image features a circular logo on the left with the text 'AROUND THE BEND' at the top, '20' on the left, '24' on the right, and 'MIDWEST REGION CONVENTION' at the bottom. Inside the circle is a landscape with a winding road and a blue sky. Below the circle is the NMRA logo. To the right of the logo is the text 'SAVE THE DATE' in large white letters on a brown background, followed by 'AROUND THE BEND' in large brown letters, 'MIDWEST REGIONAL CONVENTION' in smaller brown letters, 'MAY 2ND-4TH, 2024' in large brown letters, and 'The Century Center, South Bend, Indiana' in smaller brown letters. Below this is a brown banner with white text listing event activities.

[Around the Bend Convention Information](#) and [Promotion Video](#)

• Club Events & Shows (click links for more information)

[Lionel Model Railroad Club Open House](#) April 13-14. Parkland Plaza, 2721 S Calhoun Rd, New Berlin, WI 53151

[Great Midwest Train Shows](#) are held monthly at the [DuPage Event Center and Fairgrounds](#) in Wheaton. Information on both shows can be found on [Trainshow.com](#).

[Illinois Railway Museum Events](#) in May. Follow links below for more information.

- [MOTHER'S DAY](#) observation at IRM. Sunday, May 12. Moms admitted FREE when accompanied by at least one fare paying adult or child.
- [CHICAGO AND NORTH WESTERN WEEKEND](#), May 18 & 19. Roll out the yellow and green!
- [MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND](#), Saturday through Monday, May 25-27

Contest Calendar

Division Meeting Date	Contest
April 21	Up to three Refrigerated Billboard Cars
May 19	Up to three 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

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](#).

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/>

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



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