

# MODEL RAILROADERS

National Model Railroad Association, Midwest Region, Rock River Valley Division

# F L I M Z I E



Volume 41

Number 2

Winter 2008

## FALL and TRAINS Superintendent Don Brindle

November is one of my favorite months. That's funny - it's also National Model Railroad Month. Which makes it a busy month for us model railroaders.

Although you are probably reading this "after the fact" we are starting off the month (Nov. 1 & 2) with the 15th Annual Model Train Show at Midway Village Museum. It's hard to believe we've been doing this show for 15 years. We owe a big thanks to Frank McCabe for working with MWV to showcase our hobby to the public.

Next (Nov. 8) is the bus trip to the WISE Division's Trainfest in Milwaukee. It looks like it will be a sold-out trip, once again. For this event, we owe a big thanks to Ray Dyreson

(and the Zion Z-er's!). Given the price of gas these days, you can't get a better deal. But remember, the show is Nov. 8-9, so if you can't make it on the bus, you can still get there on your own, either day.

November is a month for showing the public what we do. There are several open houses in the area, including the Little "Q" Model Railroad in Aurora on Nov. 16-18, the Fever River Railroad in Freeport on Nov. 22-23, the Midwest "N" Pioneer Model Railroad in Broadview, IL. and the Lionel Model Railroad Club in New Berlin, WI. Nov. 29-30.

These events are made possible by the involvement of volunteers. So, the next time you're asked to help, say "Yes." Better yet, don't wait to be asked. With apologies to JFK: "Ask not what model railroading can do for you; ask

what you can do for model railroading."

Finally, don't forget that RRVD will be hosting our annual December Garage Sale at Midway Village. Note that the date is NOT the 1st Sunday of the month, but rather the 2nd Sunday of the month, **December 14th**. This is a great opportunity to either reduce the size of your inventory, or to improve the size of your inventory, depending on which side of the table you're on. If you have some things that you've decided just don't go with your modeling direction anymore, or you have too many F-7's on your roster, bring them down and rent a table (10% commission) and maybe you can find them a new home. If you're in the market for something you don't already have (maybe you don't have ANY F-7's), you just might be able to find a good deal.

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**Mail Preparation**

This function is carried on by the editor and several other persons volunteering their time to make this **FLIMZIE** possible.

**Who We Are**

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) was organized in 1935. NMRA's purposes are to set technical standards for model trains and to foster fellowship among model railroaders. NMRA is split into 17 geographic regions.

The Midwest Region (MWR) includes Northern Illinois, Western Indiana, Western Kentucky, Eastern and Central Wisconsin, and Upper and Southeast Michigan. MWR was established in

1945. It has one of the largest number of NMRA memberships of any region. MWR is made up of 11 geographic divisions.

Rock River Valley Division (RRVD) was founded in 1967. RRVD consists of Green and Rock counties in Wisconsin, Boone, Jo Davies, Ogle, DeKalb, Stephenson, Lee, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties in Illinois. RRVD meets are usually held the first Sunday of the month, September thru May. RRVD is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation.

**The FLIMZIE**

The **FLIMZIE** is the newsletter of RRVD. It tells you about the important things that happen in RRVD and it gives you information about RRVD events. Articles, and other materials are welcome as contributions to the mutual enjoyment of the hobby and the membership.

The **FLIMZIE** assumes no responsibility for any materials contributed. The information appearing in the **FLIMZIE** does not necessarily reflect the attitudes of the NMRA The MWR or RRVD

Please send all address corrections or changes directly to the person designated to be in charge of the Mail Roster.

Feel free to send all of your written materials, questions, corrections, gripes, comments and all such messages to the Editor

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

National Model Railroad Association, Inc.  
4121 Cromwell Road  
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Enclosed Amount of Annual Dues

- Regular Membership** \$55.00
- Family Member** (*Spouse or Minor Child of Member*) \$7.00
- Students** under 25 or any person 18 yrs or under \$28.00
- Membership without **Scale Rails & NMRA Bulletin** \$36.00
- Sustaining Member** (*Club/Business*) \$110.00
- Midwest Region **Waybill** Subscription \$6.00

(NOTE: Life Membership No Longer Available)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

## Contest Schedule

**2008-2009**

Jim McQueeney  
Contest Chairman

There was no contests scheduled for the months of November or December. The Annual Display and Show, which took place at Midway Village Museum and the up coming “Garage Sale” on the 14th of December have temporarily pushed the monthly contests back. However the following schedule is still going on as planned.

### January 2009

Rescue the Rolling Stock – As the railroads retired their rolling stock from revenue service they often put it to use for other purposes or sold it to private companies.

Box cars, Maintenance of Way cars and Cabooses were taken off of the rails and used as storage buildings and offices. Flat cars were used as loading ramps at team tracks and industry sidings. Passenger cars were re-used as temporary and even permanent depots or whistle stop locations. Tank car tanks were removed from their frames and used for permanent liquid storage.

Model a car off of the rails for another purpose – use your imagination!

### February 2009

On Line, served by rail, or Off Line Structures.

### March 2009

Flat car loads

### April 2009

Freight and Passenger Cars

### May 2009

Maintenance of Way Cars

## Trainfest Bus Trip Report

by **Tom Maladecki**

The RRVD bus to Trainfest in Milwaukee on Saturday November 8th was a sell-out once again. We departed the Clocktower on time with 41 on board, picked up a dozen more fest-goers in Beloit, then headed for the expo center at the Wisconsin state fair grounds.

Ray Dyreson kept the trip fun and everyone seemed to have a good time working on Ray’s infamous annual Trainfest Trivia Test. I got 12 correct and got first choice from the carton of candy. We arrived at Trainfest just about as it opened at 9AM. The bus parked near the back entrance and we got into the building quickly.

Trainfest was fantastic. If you have not been there, you have to go. I could be off by a few, but I counted 53 layouts, 17 groups, 67 manufacturers, and 47 vendors. There were also modelers demonstrating their skills as well as clinics by modelers and manufacturers. The vendors were selling most everything... I did leave a few dollars behind, but have some wonderful HO-scale treasures. Layouts were of every scale and some were of extremely fine quality. I really didn’t have time to fully explore everything in the six short hours we were there. I did visit with a few modeler friends who I

had not seen in a while. That included one who came from St. Louis, and brought his two teenaged daughters, and another who traveled from Cleveland with his wife.

The bus departed at 3PM, as advertised. Like Ray says, “everyone was too tired or too broke to go on.” We were at Beloit about 4PM and we got to the Clocktower about 4:30.

Trainfest 2009 is November 14th and 15th. Next year’s trip will be Nov. 14, 2009. Mark your calendar and ride with us.

A big thank you to Ray Dyreson for another fine job as coordinator of the trip.

## ATTENTION

We are paying closer attention to our mailing list. The qualifications to remain on the FLIMZIE mailing list, and monthly meet cards is as follows:

- A. Current up to date NMRA member.
- B. Attended at least one monthly meet during our last seasonal year.
- C. Signed up for the publications at one of our public shows. (entitlement good for one year!)

If one does not appear at least once on our monthly sign-in sheets your name will be dropped from our mailing list. You can continue to receive these publications, but you will need to submit a check made out to the RRVD in the amount of \$5.00 to cover postage and handling.

**MIDWAY VILLAGE ANNUAL MODEL TRAIN SHOW**  
Presented in November 2008



Thanks to Joe Whinnery for these outstanding pictures.  
And of course, many thanks to everyone that participated in this event.

**2008 MIDWAY TRAIN SHOW**

**Frank McCabe**

**Midway Village Museum Train Show Coordinator**

For the 15th year in a row, the Rock River Valley Division put on the Model Train Show at Midway Village Museum, held November 1 and 2, 2008. This year's show was deemed successful; however attendance was way down from last year. This year, we had 742 for the two day event, versus 1076 last year.

It is difficult to point to a specific cause, but in my opinion the need for better publicity is obvious. I think the fact that the event starting times were misquoted in both the newspaper and television indicates that improved communication from MVM to the media is needed. The disruption the erroneous start times caused our exhibitors is unfortunate. My employer (Hamilton Sundstrand) has traditionally contributed the cost of printing the show flyer and the Rock River Valley Division does some publicity work, but other than that, the promotional efforts lie with MVW. I have sent a message to MWV citing these points.

In addition to the publicity problems, the weather was not ideal (too nice - but obviously we don't have any control over that) and people's concern over their finances in a troubled economy may have played a part in our low attendance, as well.

The makeup of the show was similar to last year, but the Stateline S Gaugers were able to participate

this year with two small layouts and Ralph Haines set up the outside riding train, the Beaver Valley Lines, much to the delight of both young and old. Both of these exhibitors had been absent from the show for the last year or two.

Returning for the third year in a row were the Midwest Rails G Scale layout and the Lake County Society of Modular Engineer's HO Layout, both excellent and popular displays.

Once again we also had the Fever River HO module, which features quality bench work and an excellent level of completeness of scenery.

Also, a big crowd pleaser was the Peterson family Lionel layout which has many buttons to press that operates trains and accessories to delight the crowds.

In addition to the above, there were two Z scale layouts, one "timesaver" layout, one N scale layout, two additional Lionel layouts, one O scale switching layout, and one "on the floor" G gauge track. Complementing the layouts in all of these different scales were the National Railway Historical Society's slide shows and display table, RRVD display, railroadiana display, Argyle Club display, Illinois depot photo display, American Freedom Train display, videos and of course, perhaps most importantly, RRVD members and other model train enthusiasts, providing static displays and demonstrating modeling techniques.

The Midway Village Museum Model Train Show is a great opportunity for us to introduce our

hobby to the general public, as well as to current train enthusiasts, in a museum setting, at the beginning of the model railroading season. In addition, it supports the not-for-profit institution that is home to our monthly membership meets and Board of Directors meetings. In closing, I would like to thank everyone who participated, assisted, promoted, and attended our show.

We couldn't have done it without you.

Thanks again to all!

P.S. Next year's show is November 7 & 8, 2009!

Why is the railroad angry?  
Because people are always crossing it!

Why is it, that an engineer can not be electrocuted?  
He is not a conductor!

CABOOSE

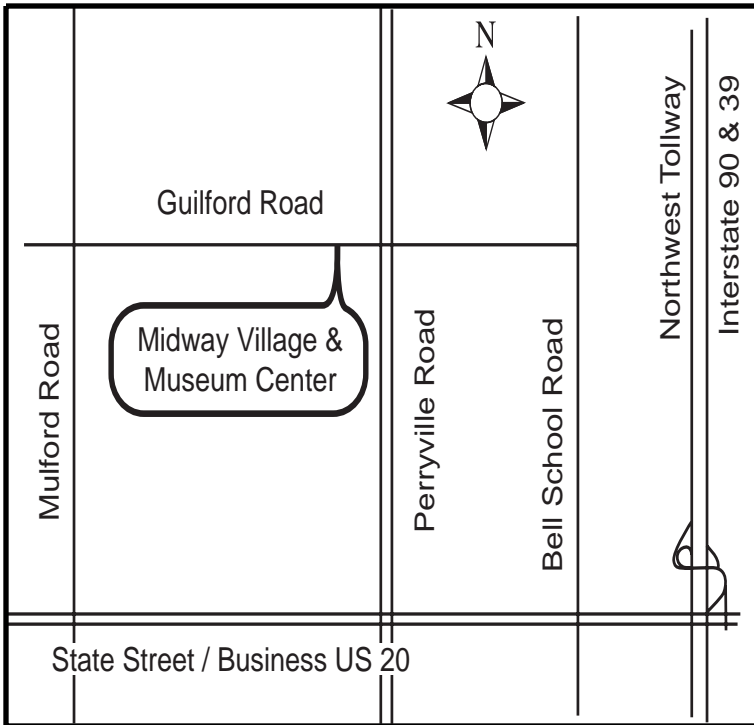


**Doug Loy**  
**Contributing Columnist**

This is the time of the year we should be seriously start thinking about model railroading because Christmas is just around the corner! Start stacking you list for all the railroad items you need. Don't forget to get what you really want for yourself!

I was reading in a magazine about model railroading. These people said that they weren't model railroaders but railroad modelers. Is there a difference? I think you have to give this idea some thought. We belong to the NMRA not the NRMA right.

Short and sweet this issue so have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**RRVD Meets - Location & Time**

Unless otherwise stated, RRVD Meets are held in the Lakeview Room at the Midway Village Museum Center. Midway Village is located at 6799 Guilford Road in Rockford, just west of Perryville Road. The doors open about 12:30 pm and the Meet gets started about 1:00pm

**MODEL RAILROAD  
GARAGE SALE  
Midway Village  
December 14  
1:00 to 3:30**

**Deadlines**

Fall issue ..... Aug 1st  
 Winter issue ..... Nov 1st  
 Spring issue ..... Feb 1st  
 Summer issue ..... May 1st

**Projected Issue Dates**

Fall issue..... Sep 1st  
 Winter issue ..... Dec 1st  
 Spring issue..... Mar 1st  
 Summer issue..... Jun 1st



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**FLIMZIE**

