

FLIMZIE



Volume 44

Number 3

Spring 2012

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

by John Mann

The 2012 show and sale will be held March 24th & 25th at Jefferson High School. Some tables are still available for \$25 each. Please contact our registrar, Don Brindle, for further information.

Set-up begins Friday—the 23rd—at Jefferson, starting at 4 PM. We will meet for breakfast on Saturday, starting at 6:30 AM. I need volunteers for set-up; I can also use volunteers during the show and for tear-down, beginning at 4 PM, Sunday the 25th. Please contact me at 815-332-2496 if you can help. Many hands make light work!

The Railsplitter 2012 show is also coming up. It should be fun. Information can be found elsewhere in the Flimzie or online at our website (<http://rrvd-nmra.com>) for this event.

There will be no regular meeting of the RRVD in March, due to a scheduling conflict with Midway Village. The Argyle group is having an Open House that day, and all are welcome. There will be several layouts open in the area then, also.

I am finishing my third year as your superintendent. This

will be my last year as superintendent and also my last at running the show and sale. I am grateful for the help and encouragement I have received during my terms.

We are in need of some new officers. Contact Gary Lo-

iselle for the specifications of the jobs. The terms are year to year. There is no three-year requirement for any of the positions. As an aside, I was the first superintendent to also run the show and sale. In my opinion, these are probably best done by two people.

We are looking for a place to have the Board of Directors meetings on the third Monday of the month, beginning in July. The room should hold about twenty people, and it would be wonderful if it was free. If anyone has any information on this, please contact me.

Ingrid Drozdak, Mike Hurlburt, Barb Rothwell, and Dave Johnson have been elected to the Midwest Region Board. I wish them well.

See you at the Show!



Clarence Welte showing off the Timesaver at the 2011 Rockford Show & Sale. (Photo by Joe Whinnery)

FLIMZIE - The NMRA Rock River Valley Division Newsletter

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

	Enclosed Amt of Annual Dues*
Regular Membership	\$66.00
Family Member (Spouse or Minor Child of Member)	\$9.00
Student Member (Under 25 Years)	\$32.00
No Scale Rails & NMRA Bulletin Membership	\$44.00
Sustaining Member (Club/Business)	\$110.00
Midwest Region Waybill Subscription	\$6.00

(NOTE: Life Membership No Longer Available)

Name: _____

Street Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

*as of 1/22/2012

Railsplitter 2012

Don't forget the Illinois Valley Division annual meet and convention will be held March 8-11 2012 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in downtown Springfield, Illinois.

More information about this event can be found online at the following website: www.railsplitter2012.com

RRVD Website

Our website can be found at <http://rrvd-nmra.com>. You'll find information about our upcoming events, photographs, an inventory of our video/DVD library, past issues of the Flimzie, and much, much more. You can also sign up there to receive email reminders for upcoming meetings and to receive an electronic version of the Flimzie. Check it out!

January 2012 Meeting Presentations

*Excerpts from a presentation by Tyrone Johnsen on
Jan. 8, 2012 at Midway Village and Museum Center.*

On Sunday, January 8th, Tyrone Johnsen gave two presentations entitled “An Overview of the Western Fruit Express Company” and “Modeling the Fruit Growers Express/Western Fruit Express/Burlington Refrigerator Express Car Fleet” to the members of the RRVD.



Tyrone Johnson displays his Refrigerator reefers during his January presentation. (Photo by Joe Whinnery)

The Great Northern Railway formed the Western Fruit Express Company in 1923 and was sole owner of that entity.

The railway did this for primarily three main purposes.

These purposes were as follows: ensuring an ample supply of refrigerator cars during the peak of the harvest times, use and revenue from the GN/WFE refrigerator cars during the seasons when they are not in service, and specialized protective service for the transport of perishable freight.

The Western Fruit Express was operated as a part of a system with the Fruit Growers Express Company, the Burlington Refrigerator Express, and the National Car Company.

The FGE/WFE/BRE/NC System served shippers in forty states, and service extended over approximately 78,500 miles of rail line on their contracted railways. This represented thirty-five percent of the total rail mileage of the continental United States.

The combined companies provided transport protective service—inspection, refrigeration, heating, and

ventilation—and refrigerator cars to seventy-five railroads through 500 locations. The WFE had over 7,000 reefers, and the combined companies operated over 26,000 reefers in the 1930s. Clearly, these companies served an important role in the transportation of perishable items and made up a significant portion of the overall railroading industry.

McQueeny Earns 7th NMRA Certificate

It was announced at our January meeting that Jim McQueeny had earned his 7th NMRA AP Certificate which enables him to earn the Master Model Railroader Certificate. For a brief bio on Jim, see page 6.



Master Model Railroaders Marion Brasher(left)and John Mann(right) flank Jim McQueeny(in center) (photo by Joe Whinnery)

From the Dispatcher's Desk

by Jim Saska

As I mentioned in the last edition of the Flimzie, my family and I relocated to the town of Woodstock in order to shorten the daily Metra commute to my new job in downtown Chicago. Unfortunately, the house we purchased didn't have a basement, so my new train room was a spare bedroom that was 11' x 10'. Before we loaded up our moving van, I knew that my new space could not fit all of the modular benchwork I had built in South Beloit so I wound up unloading some of it to a friend. I decided to hire a local layout consultant to come up with a specific design to fit into this spare room. The consultant came up with two different track plans—a dogbone-shaped track plan and a double deck point-to-point track plan. I chose the dogbone plan, since there was a good chance we would be moving again in the near future, and it would be easier to break down and transport to our next house. The consultant also assisted me with constructing the benchwork for the new layout, much of which came from my old one. The new bench work we built was T-style with a plywood top and was built in three distinct sections. I used drywall screws to strengthen it and bolts and nuts to make it easy to disassemble. After finishing the construction, I purchased poly-extruded insulation foam—pink in color—and placed it on the plywood top, which I cut to fit. I highly recommend using this product when building your layout. It is very lightweight, easily shaped with a knife, and is not susceptible to shrinkage as Homosote tends to be. I glued the foam to the plywood top using contact cement, and glued a few more layers of foam together on top of this base layer of foam in order to get a second level. Additionally, I purchased two Woodland Scenics three percent incline sets in order to allow my trackwork to rise from the first level to the second level on my layout. With the spare foam that I had, I also formed mountains on my layout by cutting layers out in the right shapes and gluing them together with contact cement. I used my breadknife, sandpaper, and a Surf Foam tool to shape these layered levels into gently sloped mountain shapes. It was time to lay the track. (To be continued).

Train Crew Report

Ron Johnson was born in Modesto, California and grew up in Sherwood, Oregon, a small town near Portland. He became interested in trains when he received an American Flyer set for Christmas around the age of seven. Back then he thought American Flyer was the best because it had only two tracks like the real railroads. He and a friend would combine their train sets together and run the trains all over his friend's house, which never seemed large enough. HO scale railroading took over as Ron's primary train interest around the age of twelve when he discovered HO scale trains at a drugstore.

The aspect Ron enjoys the most about model railroading is building the layout scenery. This is evident when one visits his basement layout and views the background photographs, which he personally took and had professionally enlarged. He is also beginning to learn how to operate on train layouts and has thoroughly enjoyed it. Ron mentioned several RRVD members as having a great influence on him as a modeler. These members include Bill Teeters, Jim McQueeney, Les Zimmerman, Clarence Welte, Charlie Wickhorst, Rick Frese, Dick Caudle, Joe Whinnery, Gene Wheeler, and Dan Webber. He also utilized the talents of a local model railroad designer/consultant in building his layout. Ron indicated that the biggest lesson he learned while building his layout was to make the aisles wide enough. Besides making the aisles wide enough, the most important piece of advice he would give to other modelers is to have fun. In the future, Ron would like to add a twenty-five foot track leading from his staging area, but Ron indicated he has yet to successfully negotiate this increase with his wife.

Ron became involved with the RRVD by discovering the group while looking on the Internet for a model railroad organization in Rockford. The aspects he enjoys the most about the RRVD are his interaction with the many members of the club, seeing other member's layouts, and the clinics that are offered at the meets.

Besides model railroading, Ron is interested in genealogy and has been working on tracing his mother's side of the family since 1976.

RRVD Clinic & Contest Schedule 2011-2012

by Jim McQueeney

Contests

The model contest for our January 2012 division meet was "Rescue the Rolling Stock". There were a total of two entries in the contest and the entry that received the most popular vote was a caboose cottage built by Ken Reinert. Ken received a gift certificate from a hobby shop for his work. Congratulations Ken! The model that received the second highest number of votes was a box car on a platform built by Gary Lo-iselle.

The model contest for the February 2012 meeting was "On Line Structures". There were a total of ten entries in this contest. The entry that received the most popular vote was the lumber yard module built by Bob and Mary Grigsby. They received a gift certificate from a hobby shop for their work. The model that received the second highest number of votes was the steel mill built by Jim Baker.

Jim hopes that the division will have continued interest in their model contests. The April contest will be the results of the division's scratch building project.



Bob and Mary Grigsby show off their winning entry "lumber yard module" in February's contest. (photo by Joe Whinnery)

Upcoming Meetings

The RRVD will not have a regular meeting at the Midway Museum Center in March. For those interested, we will be getting together with our friends at the Northern Illinois Historical Railway Association located in the Paulson Agricultural Museum on March 4 at 1pm. The museum's address is 6910 Belvidere Road, Argyle, IL. For a map to the museum, see our website located at <http://rrvd-nmra.com>.

On April 1, 2012, we will resume our normal monthly meet and have a presentation on "Basic Operations", an overview of operating your model railroad. Also, we will have a presentation on scratchbuilding shingles. We will also be holding elections for our new officers. Please submit nominations to Gary Loiselle.

We will be getting together again with our South Central Division friends in Madison on May 6 for our meeting. More details regarding this meeting will be forthcoming.

Also, don't forget our June Junket the weekend of June 2-3. There will be many RRVD member layouts open for visit. More details regarding this weekend will be announced in the near future. Stay tuned.



January's Contest winning entry "Cottage Caboose" by Ken Reinert(photo by Joe Whinnery)

RRVD BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

Mar 19, Apr 16, May 21, Jun 18, Jul 16

Jim McQueeny-Master Model Railroader!

Jim McQueeny was born in Chicago, Illinois and grew up in Elmwood Park. He has been involved in model railroading for over fifty years. Like many others, his first involvement came from a train set that he received as a Christmas present. That set soon expanded into a layout on plywood in his bedroom. The layout's track contained some fiber ties, brass Atlas sectional track, and a ground cover that consisted of coffee grounds and fabric dye-colored sawdust. The motive power for this first layout was rubber band drive diesels and steam engine kits that he had to rivet together. He still has the old steam engine kits, but the rivets have gotten too small to see.

After moving to West Dundee with his wife, Jim built two layouts. These layouts shared time with raising his four children and his other hobbies, including car, plane, and boat modeling. The second layout that Jim built there served as a terrific source of therapy after he crushed his right hand in a molding press.

In 2002, after moving to Rockford, Jim contacted the NMRA and soon received one of the RRVD post cards, highlighting the next division meeting at Midway Village. When he arrived for the meeting, he was warmly greeted by Charlie Wickhorst and saw two great layouts after the meeting. Jim says that he could not imagine a better NMRA division to belong to, especially because of the wonderful members. As time passed, he has become more involved in the RRVD and has participated in the NMRA Achievement program, as well.

Just over four years ago, long-time RRVD member, Gary Loiselle, gave him a copy of the requirements for the NMRA Golden Spike Certificate after Gary had visited Jim's current layout. Gary gave him those requirements twice before Jim actually did anything with them! After Jim earned the Golden Spike certificate, he was already well on his way to earning other certificates. Guess that helping with train shows and NMRA clinic presentations do pay off! He now has earned seven out of the eleven certificates and qualifies for the Master Model Railroader certificate. Jim finds it hard to believe that in an over 40-year-old division, he will be only one of three Master Model Railroaders in the Rockford area. Along with too many to name, he

wants to thank Master Model Railroaders and RRVD members, John Mann and Marion Brasher, for their guidance and encouragement.

He has been influenced in the hobby by many of the past and present pioneers such as John Allen, John Armstrong, Lynn Westcott, Malcolm Furlow, John Olson, George Sellios and Dave Frary. Their influence is reflected in his layout that has a Western style, rather than a flat Midwest look.

In conclusion, Jim feels that, regardless of level of ability and modeling interests a person possesses, model railroading is the world's greatest hobby.

CABOOSE

Doug Loy

2011 Trainfest is history. Another great time on the bus with Ray's trivia test.

Christmas and New Year's are gone, so now we can look forward to our show and sale in March.

For anyone who has built a layout, some basic tools are needed. Do you know what your basic tools are really used for? I saw these "uses" in an issue of Machine Design.

The drill press—tall, upright machine, useful for suddenly snatching that metal bar stock out of your hands. It'll smack you in the chest and fling your beer across the room, denting the freshly painted project, which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it!

Skill saw—portable cutting tool used to make lumber too short!

Pliers—used to round off bolt heads; sometimes used in the creation of blood blisters.

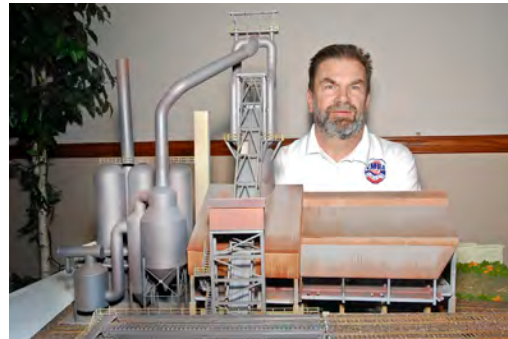
Belt sander—an electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

Finally, do you know what I really like about flyers and ads in the model railroad industry? They show you many things you never knew existed and get you thinking you just have to have it. Look for these at the show and sale. See you there!

More February Contest Photos(Courtesy of Joe Whinnery)



Gary Loiselle's boxcar with platform took 2nd place in the January contest "Rescue the Rolling Stock"



Jim Baker's Steel Mill took second place in the February contest "On-Line Structures"

January Open House Photos from Ron Johnson's Layout



Ron Johnson hosted the January open house. He took the background photographs himself. (Photo by Joe Whinnery)



Another view of Ron Johnson's Spokane, Portland & Seattle layout. (Photo by Joe Whinnery).

Special Announcement

The Rock River Valley Division of the NMRA would like to announce a layout tour of many of their division members' layouts on June 2nd and 3rd, 2012 from 9 am-5 pm each day.

Over 30 layouts will be open for viewing. The cost is free, compliments of their members. This is a rare opportunity to view many of our layouts. Some have been recognized nationally recently and many have been on the national layout tour.

We at the Rock River Valley Division are looking forward to having you visit us for the weekend.

The pick-up locations for maps of the tour will be on our web site.

For questions contact:

DickCaudle

(815) 874-76955

steamboat43@comcast.net

Charlie Wickhorst

(814) 877-7314

C.Wickhorst@comcast.net



Robbie Kapala also hosted an open house after the February meet. He models the BNSF around Rochelle (Photo by Joe Whinnery)

60 Seconds with Robbie Kapala

Robbie Kapala was born in Rockford, Illinois. He became interested in trains when he received a wooden train set on his third birthday. While growing up, Robbie received trains of every scale and his mother encouraged his interest by taking him to many local train shows.

After joining a group of N-Scalers at the local train show, Robbie settled on that scale for his layout and has been modeling it for the past ten years. The aspect of model railroading that Robbie enjoys the most is going to different layouts and running model trains like a real railroad.

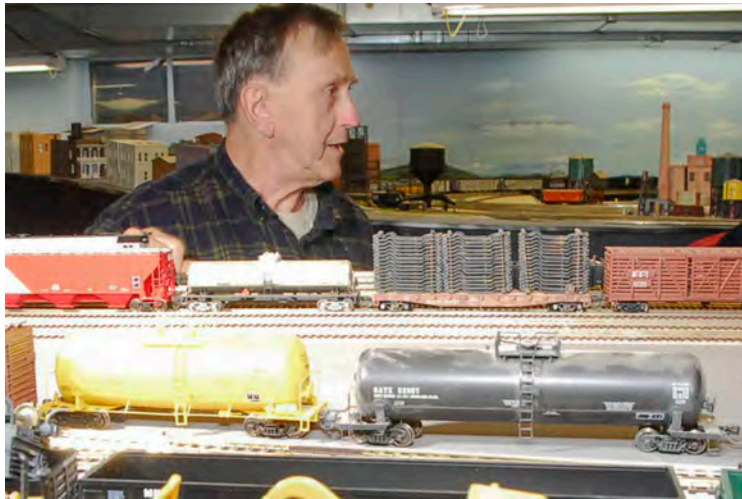
He also enjoys laying track which is his favorite part of building a layout. Robbie feels that the people who have influenced him the most as a model railroader are the members of the RRVD. He adds that they have made a bigger impact on his life than just model railroading.

Robbie became involved with the Rock River Valley Division when he was ten and started coming to the

monthly division meetings. During his first meeting, he remembers Charlie Wickhorst making him stand up and introduce himself to the group, as well as the “Tree Lady”, Ingrid Drosdek, giving a clinic on how to make trees. Robbie also fondly remembers the timesaver switching puzzle that Bill Rigby ran during the meetings. Bill convinced Robbie to try it out and in the process of doing so, caused Robbie’s interest in both model railroading and the RRVD to greatly increase.

The aspect Robbie enjoys most about the RRVD is getting together with other model railroaders and establishing relationships with them.

Robbie would like to encourage other model railroaders to share their ideas and help one another out in building their layouts. In his words, “everyone is good at different areas of model railroading”. Robbie’s future model railroading goal is to finish his current N scale layout which he has been building in a barn. Besides model railroading, Robbie is also interested in toy tractors.

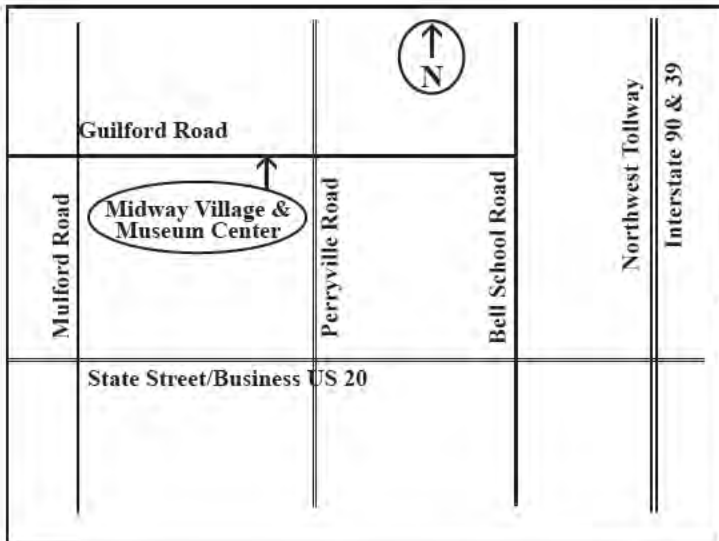


Bill Teeters opened up his Chicago Peoria & Western basement layout to the division after the February meeting. (Photos by Joe Whinnery)



**2011 Show and Sale Best Layout Contest Winners
(Photo courtesy of Joe Whinnery)**

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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 1:00 pm.

Flimzie input Deadlines

Fall issue.....Aug 10th

Winter issue.....Nov 10th

Spring issue.....Feb 10th

Summer issue.....May 10th



Postmaster: Forwarding Address Requested

