

# MODEL RAILROADERS

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

# FLIMZIE



Volume 45

Number 2

Winter 2012

## ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT*** by John Mann

Happy Holidays!

Aside from Christmas being my birthday, it is also the reason I'm a model railroader. My parents got me started with an American Flyer S Gauge North Coast Limited for my sixth birthday in 1957. I still have it. It was the start of a 55- year love affair with S Gauge and the CB&Q.

We had relatives on the South Side of Chicago, and we would cross the Q to get there. Occasionally, we would be stopped by the North Coast Ltd. It was fun to see "my train" on a real railroad. Passenger trains went through Berwyn at close to 80 mph, unlike the El, transfer runs on the Northwestern and Soo Line, or the interminable 150 car freights on the Great Western which were closer to my house.

Consider giving a trainset to someone this Christmas. Alternatively, put your old Lionel or Flyer set up around the Christmas tree. Help Santa out!

Just a reminder, we are again having our annual garage sale this December. Due to limited space, we will limit tables to one per person. Tables are free but we ask for a ten- percent of sales donation. Doors open at 12:30. There is a church service before our meet in our meeting room, so please be respectful. We reserve the right to allocate tables first to NMRA

members. This has not been a problem in the past, but we have come close.

Last but not least, we have been experimenting with an on-line version of the Flimzie. We are at the point where we will offer the print version only to NMRA members without email and the non-NMRA members who request it. There is a form you can cut out and send to our Webmaster Mike Schmitz. Postcard notification of meets will also henceforth be given only to those requesting it.

**I WANT A PRINTED NOTIFICATION OF THE  
ROCK RIVER VALLEY DIVISION MEETINGS  
(POSTCARDS) AND A PRINTED VERSION OF THE  
FLIMZIE!**

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Mike Schmitz, 4702 Black Oak Trail, Rockford, IL 61101.

**FLIMZIE - The NMRA Rock River Valley Division Newsletter**

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**RRVD Board Meetings**

The RRVD Board of Directors meet at the Westminster Presbyterian Church which is located at 2821 N. Bell School Road in Rockford. The church has a distinctive green roof and is located at the southeast corner of Bell School and Spring Creek roads. Please note that sections of Spring Creek Road in that area have been renamed Olde Creek Road. Enter through the main door of the church building.

Board meetings are held the third Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. The next scheduled 2012 BoD meeting will take place on November 19. The 2013 meetings are: January 21, February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, and June 17.

RRVD NMRA members are always welcome at our BOD meetings

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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

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## New RRVD logo clothing available

By Jim Baker, Company Store



After almost a year's worth of work, we are finally able to order clothing with the new Rock River Valley Division logo. The logo is embroidered on each item, not just printed. Therefore, it should survive many, many washings without fading. The new "standard" shirt is a white polo—or golf shirt if you prefer—with the logo on the left side. For a small additional charge, you may also have your name or initials embroidered on either the same side or on the right. If you were at the September meet, this shirt was modeled by Superintendent John Mann, Paymaster Rich Woock and myself.

The great news is that you don't have to get the "standard" shirt. If you were at the November meet, you might have noticed Chief Clerk Les Zimmerman wearing a long-sleeved blue denim shirt with the new logo. Anything from Daylight

Sales ([www.daylightsales.com](http://www.daylightsales.com)) which says "embroidered" may be ordered with our logo! This includes hats, tees, sweats, golf shirts of different colors, denim shirts, jackets, and even towels and bags. Their toll free order number is 888-557-9899.

There are two ways to order. You can deal with them yourself, or I am gathering information to place an order after the garage sale in December. The advantage in the mass order is a reduced shipping cost. Also, if you place the order with me, the cost for the "standard" shirt is \$18.00 for sizes through XL. It's \$2.00 per "X" after that, and another \$2.00 for "tall". The price of a polo shirt by yourself starts at \$31.99 with the same additional charges for larger sizes.

I will be set up to take orders during the Garage Sale on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. You may also email or call me, but, I will need the money before I will place your order. My phone number is 815-877-3390, or you can email me at [nycfan1@comcast.net](mailto:nycfan1@comcast.net).



*SS Badger Display at Trainfest  
(photo by Joe Whinnery)*

## *Trainfest Report*

*by Ray Dryerson*

On November tenth, an enthusiastic group of RRVD members got up early to ride the bus to Trainfest. About twenty of us got up early enough to enjoy a group breakfast at Denny's at six. Then we all gathered at the Clock Tower Inn to board the bus, which departed right on time at 7:30. The number of people riding on the bus was down slightly from last year. The bus stopped in Beloit to pick up seven members from above the border, and then it was off to Milwaukee. Midway to the show, I passed out the 2012 version of my now infamous "Trainfest Trivia Test". It is interesting to hear a once rowdy, noisy group go silent as they ponder the twenty questions. Occasionally, the silence is broken by a moan or chuckle as they encounter one of the more challenging—or dumber—questions. Then it was time to reveal the answers and count the scores. First place with thirteen correct answers was a tie between George Sorenson and Tom Maladecki. In second place with twelve correct answers was Jay Kabitzke. After that, scores ranged down to the very honest folks with as few as three correct. Prizes consisted of snacks to carry into Trainfest as fuel for the next six hours of intense railroading. While the "regular" folks had to pay for parking way out in the lot, we parked right next to the exhibitor entrance and were in the door and immediately at nine.

Trainfest is really three shows in one. It is billed as the largest operating model train show in the nation, so of course it has a lot of beautiful layouts. Then there are the selling vendors, displays from historical societies, clubs, etc. Then, in a separate section there were several rows of manufacturer booths. What a great place to

talk to the experts from Athearn, Kadee, Woodland Scenics, and other companies! This year, there was actually a new element that was introduced—live musical entertainment. A small stage was set up with hourly shows by Choo Choo Bob and the Holy Smokestacks, a nine-piece group from St Paul, Minnesota. Although aimed primarily at the younger audience—of which there were many—I saw many adults enjoying the show, too.

As I walked around the show and bumped into other bus trip members, I noticed how their shopping bags got fuller and their steps got shorter as we approached our departure time. Then it was back on the bus to head home. We were glad to be on the bus talking about our new purchases or settling into a nap rather than fighting the multi-lane traffic on the Interstate. Thanks to our driver and fellow RRVD member, Gary Cychosz, for getting us there and back on time. If you didn't go to Trainfest, you missed a great show. If you went but didn't take the RRVD bus, you missed a great ride.



*RRVD Members getting off the bus and heading into Trainfest 2012.  
Photo by Joe Whinnery*

**RRVD Clinics & Contests  
Jim McQueeny**

Another season of the Rock River Valley Division model contests got started with our October meeting at Midway Village. The model contest for October was On Line Structures.

There were five entries this year.

The voting by attendees resulted in a tie for first place. The entries that received the highest popular vote were the Ice House built by Ron Johnson and the Cudahey Packing built by Ken Mosny. Each received a gift certificate from a hobby shop for his work. Congratulations to them! Second place was also a tie, and those

models were built by Gary Loiselle and Bruce Giersch.

November's model contest was not a single model type but your favorite model. There were twelve entries in total. The first place from the popular vote was the Milwaukee S3 brought by Jay Kabitzke. Congratulations to Jay, who received a gift certificate from a hobby shop for his work. Second place was a tie and those models were built by Ken Mosney and Andy Spinelli.

The January 2013 division meet will have presentations of "Freight Cars and the Industries They Serve" presented by Randy Garnhart and "Working on the Rochelle Way Freight" presented by Gerry Piefer.

**Here is the schedule for the modeling contests for the 2012-2013 season:**

**January 2013**

Locomotive Service – Enter a model of a structure that is used to service a locomotive. These can be for steam or diesel engines, any size or shape. It can be as simple as a small shovel fed coaling stop to a huge diesel shop with overhead crane interior detail.

**February 2013**

Off Line Structures – Off line structures are not served by a railroad siding to the building. A small bakery, furniture store, and a large truck LTL distribution warehouse are just a few examples of off line structures.

**April 2013**

Passenger Railroad Stations, Depots – Again, any size or scale, as large as the Union Station in Chicago to as small as a rural, seldom used, whistle stop on a branch line.

**May 2013**

Open Loads – Kit build, Kitbash or Scratchbuild a model of a railroad car that is carrying an open load., any size, any scale, any gauge. The car can be built of wood, plastic, cardstock or whatever material you prefer.

Open Load Photo Contests –We will also have photo contests. There will be separate judging for prototype railroad and model railroad photos of cars with open loads

# The Central Indiana Division Presents MILEPOST 50

## 2013 Midwest Region Convention

### May 2-5, 2013

### Indianapolis, Indiana



**Layout Tours • Operating Sessions • Clinics • Contests • Displays  
Banquet • Women's Program • Sunday Train Show**

Banquet  
Keynote Speaker  
**Thomas Hoback**  
President & CEO  
The Indiana Rail Road Company



### Fantastic Clinics...

- John Munson** - Resin Casting
  - Ron King** - Scenery
  - Jim Six** - Photo backdrops Using Photoshop Elements
  - Mont Switzer** - Favorite Highway Vehicle Projects
- Plus many more educational clinics  
by local and regional modelers.

**• Non-Rail Program •**

Welcome Event Thursday Evening

Presentations include:  
Raptor Birds, Court Therapy Dogs,  
Gardening, Marriott Hotel Chef  
and a Dietitian.

Friday Evening Bingo  
Chair Massages, Craft project,  
Maps to shopping and attractions will  
be available.

### Layout Tours and Operating Sessions

Over 20 layouts will be open!



**Operating  
Sessions  
Thursday  
And  
Friday.**

Registration is just \$80 for NMRA  
Members on or before April 2, 2013.

See the CID Website for  
more information.  
<http://cid.railfan.net>  
Registration form on  
back side of this flyer.



Use code "MILEPOST 50" when making your reservation at any of these hotels

# RRVD goes to Trainfest 2012



*All photos courtesy of Joe Whinnery*

*Taking Ray's trivia test during the bus ride to the show....*



*...visiting Caboose Industries.....*



*...checking out the Athearn display...*



*...talking with Model Railroader's Jim Hediger...*





*... taking a closer look at the Great Northern Railroad*

## **CABOOSE**

**Doug Loy**

The model railroading season is now in full steam ahead. Glad to be back instead of summer time activities? Trainfest is past. Christmas is fast approaching. Is your list made yet? Do you get a Christmas gift for yourself? No returning it!

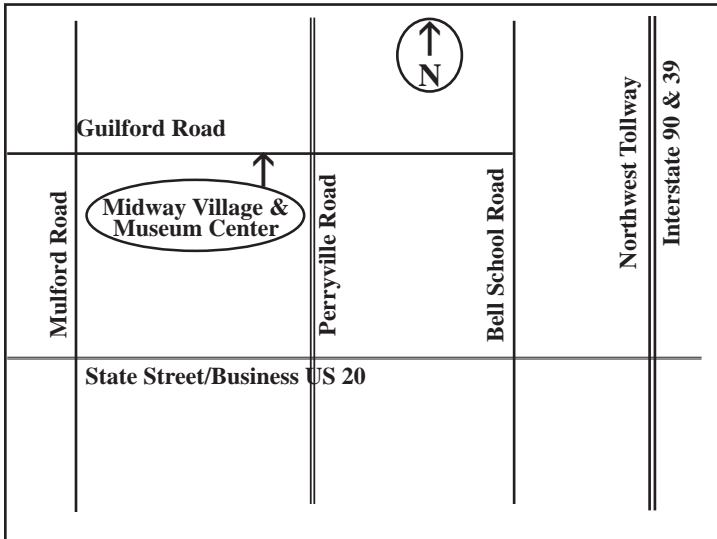
I went downstairs to my model railroad area and noticed my “reference” area. Do you have a place where you keep your “reference” magazines? (The ones that are kept just because you just know that one day, there will be an article that you may have to refer to.) Now be honest, how many time have you looked up those articles? I have noticed that,

at our train meets, more and more magazines are being offered for the free. I know that I have taken my share (I read them during lunch at work). These are magazines that I do not subscribe to, so I guess I’m just keeping up on what’s happening. Some of these magazines are 15 to 20 years old! Still, I enjoy reading about history!

As I write this, my mail just arrived with more reference magazines!

Have a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

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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**

