

**MODEL RAILROADERS**  
National Model Railroad Association, Midwest Region, Rock River Valley Division

# F L I M Z I E



Volume 45

Number 3

Spring 2013

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
by John Mann

Snow and ice! Ah yes, the joys of winter in the Midwest. I was a victim of the recent ice storm as I fell on some ice in our church parking lot. I had surgery on February 14 to repair my broken ankle and will be off my feet for at least six weeks. Since I won't be able to drive, Tom McCabe, our assistant superintendent, will be filling in for me. Thanks, Tom!

It is not all bad as I have lots of model railroading projects to finish. The first one to work on finishing is my CB&Q wedge plow; I wish I had had it a week ago.

My main interest in model railroading has always been building models. It is kind of a disappearing art. Stripwood, decals, and detail parts are getting harder to find in local hobby shops. However, suppliers abound on the internet.

I have recently finished a GP-20, a GP-35, and a GP-9 in S Scale. I will be working on changing a GP-35 into a GP-30. I also have a 30-year-old polyurethane wood passenger car trainset that looks interesting, and I finally have some time.

My point is that this is a fantastic hobby. Don't wait for a broken ankle to enjoy it. It's time to get out some of the projects that have been sitting around. Try for forty-five minutes a day. You will be amazed at what you can accomplish.

John

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

### **RRVD Officers**

#### **Superintendent**

John Mann  
7303 Farmhome Ln  
Cherry Valley, IL 61016  
815-332-2496  
jjmannmmr@comcast.net

#### **Chief Clerk**

Les Zimmerman  
604 Oak Knolls Ave.  
Rockford, IL 61107  
815-394-1337  
zimmfair@aol.com

### **Flimzie Staff**

#### **Editor**

Jim Saska  
319 W. Calhoun St.  
Woodstock, IL 60098  
815-527-5224  
trainman1964@sbcglobal.net

#### **Asst. Superintendent**

Tom McCabe  
844 Ramona Terrace  
Machesney Park, IL 61115  
815-505-6313  
Pregn1@aol.com

#### **Paymaster**

Rich Wook  
2490 Austin Pl.  
Beloit, WI 53511-2325  
608-362-7875  
tokener@charter.net

#### **Mail Roster**

Mike Schmitz  
4702 Black Oak Trail  
Rockford, IL 61101  
262-751-0589  
webmaster@rrvd-nmra.com

### **RRVD Board Meetings**

The meetings of the RRVD Board of Directors are held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church 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. Current scheduled 20123 BoD meetings are: March 18, April 15, May 20, and June 17.

RRVD NMRA members are always welcome at our BOD meetings

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	

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

### **January Meeting**

The first RRVF meeting of 2013 was held on Sunday, January 6. Those in attendance had the opportunity to see two excellent presentations. Randy Garnhart started off the meeting with a slideshow presentation on "Freight Cars and the Industries They Serve."

Randy's presentation described several different types of industries commonly served by the railroad industry including stockyards, coal yards, and bulk oil. He also spoke about many different types of vintage and modern rail cars that would typically serve these industries. Randy shared many slides of these industries and the rail cars that served them with the group.

The second presentation, by Jerry Pyfer, was entitled "Working the Rochelle Patrol." Jerry shared his experience working for the Milwaukee Road Railroad, starting in 1971. He worked on the stretch of track known as the Rochelle Patrol, which went from Rochelle to Mendota. It received this moniker because it involved local switching of rail cars into and out of various industries in this area. Jerry told several stories about his experiences, including a look at a day in the life of a rail worker as they switched Rochelle industries, made a trip to Davis Junction, and finished up the day. The Patrol was the Milwaukee Road's switcher. Jerry was called for the Patrol on numerous occasions during his short seven-year Milwaukee Road career.

The Patrol worked most of the same industries served by the Burlington Northern via track rights agreements forged years ago between the Milwaukee and CB&Q. Jerry also spoke about the freight cars serving these industries. The Patrol had a nighttime version known as the 199 job, which received its name because the Milwaukee Road railroad was part of a three-way agreement to switch Del Monte's 199 warehouse. Jerry's presentation ended with a look at today's Rochelle.

Overall, it was an enjoyable afternoon of many railroad stories and some quality pictures of train equipment from years ago.



**Jerry Pyfer looking at a Milwaukee Road consist**  
*(Photo by Joe Whinnery)*

### **February Meeting**

Those who came to our February meeting saw two fine presentations; the Milwaukee Road Beer line by Ken Peterson and Converting Couplers by Gary Baker. Ken's presentation led off our meet. He described a line in Milwaukee serving over one hundred industries at its height. It was originally built in 1850 and was 6.29 miles long. It was named for three breweries that were served by the line-Pabst, Blatz and Schlitz. The Milwaukee Road manufactured its own boxcars, featuring a horizontal ribbed design. Engineers recommended this design due to its strength advantage over regular boxcar designs. Milwaukee Road manufactured over 3,000 boxcars the first year of production. In the second presentation, Gary Baker described the process of converting cars with horn hook style of couplers to the more prototypical-looking Kadee trucks and knuckle couplers.

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

### **Don't Cut That Wire**

By Joe Whinnery

Our hobby has isolated many of us from our family and friends. This is because they don't have the interest in model railroading we have and do not have a clue about our hobby or care to. It is just something that takes up space, time, and a lot of money. All of us will have to make that final switch list, and what will happen to our toys?

In a conversation with a model railroader, a deceased modeler's family did not have any idea what work he put into the layout and its potential worth. They do not know the difference between a Tyco and a Kato. The family members cut wires to disconnect control components. Unfortunately, the components were Digitrax throttles and power boosters, leaving only a few inches of wire attached to the connection. Cutting the wires instead of disconnecting the telephone, like connections greatly reduces the value of the components.

Family members may never gain an interest in our hobby. However, a little time spent educating them about what we have could be a help prevent devaluation of our train equipment after we are gone.

### **RRVD Meet Format**

by Tom Maladecki

Here is a summary of the format of our typical RRVD Meets: Our regular monthly Meets at MWV officially start at 1:00 PM. The doors open at about 12:30 PM so we can set up and socialize. We start off with a short business meeting. That is followed by clinic presentations on topics related to the railroad hobby. Usually there are two clinics, with a break between them. Brief descriptions of the expected clinics are published in the FLIMZIE. There is usually a popular vote contest for some category of train modeling at each regular Meet. The FLIMZIE has a contest schedule. There is also space set aside at the Meet for displays of railroad hobby items. A self-guided layout tour to one or more area pikes follows the end of this Meet and layout maps will be provided during the Meet.

### **2012-13 RRVD MEETS**

April 7, April 28, June 2.

### **2012-13 RRVD BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS**

Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20, Jun 17

Mulford Road	Guilford Road	Perryville Road	Bell School Road	Northwest Tollway	Interstate 90 & 39	<b>RRVD Meets - Location &amp; Time</b> 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.
	Midway Village & Museum Center					<b>Flimzie input Deadlines</b> <b>Fall issue.....Aug 10th</b> <b>Winter issue.....Nov 10th</b> <b>Spring issue.....Feb 10th</b> <b>Summer issue.....May 10th</b>

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

### **RRVD Clinic & Contest Schedule 2012-13**

**Jim McQueeny**

The model contest for our January division meet was “Engine Service.”  
The voting was canceled since there were no models to vote for. What happened?

The model contest for our February division meet was “Off-Line Structures.” There were six entries in this contest. The entry that received the most votes at the contest was the Junction Tavern built by Ken Mosny. Ken received a gift certificate for his winning entry. The model that received the second highest number of votes was the Woolfitt Gear Company built by Jim McQueeny.



I hope that we will have continued interest in our model contests. There will not be a regular meet in March because of our show and sale. Also, our May meeting has been moved to April 28th due to a conflict with the date of our regional convention in Indianapolis that same weekend. The April 7 and April 28 model contest and clinic details:

#### **April 7, 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. Our clinic will be presented by Bob Storozuk of the Milwaukee Road Historical Society. His topic will be the North Shore Line.

#### **April 28, 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. Rich Mahanney will return to present a clinic on a topic to be determined.

**Volunteer to help at our March show and sale – it doesn’t happen without help!**

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



**• 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.

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.

### 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.

### Layout Tours and Operating Sessions

Over 20 layouts will be open!



Operating  
Sessions  
Thursday  
And  
Friday.

Adjacent Hotel



### Convention Hotel



Celebrating  
50 Years

Adjacent Hotel



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

## **Train Crew Report**

Gary Loiselle was born in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. His family moved around while he was growing up, making stops in Tomah (through second grade) and Madison (third grade through high school). As a kid, Gary remembers owning a Lionel train set that included a Seaboard diesel switch engine, three to four cars, and a caboose. It was unfortunately sold at a yard sale. Providentially, Gary's wife gave him another trainset for Christmas one year. Forty years later, that Tyco steam locomotive sits on a shelf and watches Athearn, Kato, and Proto 2000 diesels travel around a 12 by 30-foot layout room.

As he recalls, the first time he became aware of the RRVD was through a train show held at the Kenrock Community Center in Rockford. Gary says what he likes the most about the RRVD is its members. In his opinion, an organization is only as good as its members, and the RRVD is second-to-none as far as its modeling talent. People who toured the RRVD layouts during the National Convention in Madison still talk about their great experience. The members of the RRVD continue to step up to make model railroading in this area "The World's Greatest Hobby."

The name of Gary's third layout is the "Overland Short Haul and Industrial Transfer Company." The company owns four decaled boxcars, whose car numbers correspond to the birthdates of Gary's four children. Gary feels that there isn't just one aspect of model railroading that he likes the best. His favorites include building structures, modeling open loads, and rail-fanning.

Gary feels he cannot signal out just one person who has made the greatest impact on him as a modeler. He says he has been influenced by every layout host or clinic presenter that has been willing to share his knowledge and expertise. In Gary's words, "There is nothing like copying a good idea." He also adds that if his wife hadn't given him a train set and endured forty years of train stuff, Gary would probably be a beer-drinking, whiskey-sipping golfer instead of an accomplished model railroader.

Gary says that each layout he's built has been a learning experience. He adds hindsight is twenty-twenty, as usual, and has a laundry list of things he could have been done differently. Gary feels he was able to solve one of his greatest frustrations when he added a first floor laundry and sewing room to the house. The old sewing area portion of the basement was converted to a freight yard that enabled Gary to eliminate his lower level staging area. This lower level area was only eight to ten inches below the upper level. In his words, "a big mistake, like building a ship in a bottle."

Gary's advice to other modelers would be to keep in mind that this is only a hobby. He feels that that the "Model Railroading is Fun" motto is great, and when the hobby stops being fun, it's time to start drinking beer, sipping whiskey, golfing, etc.

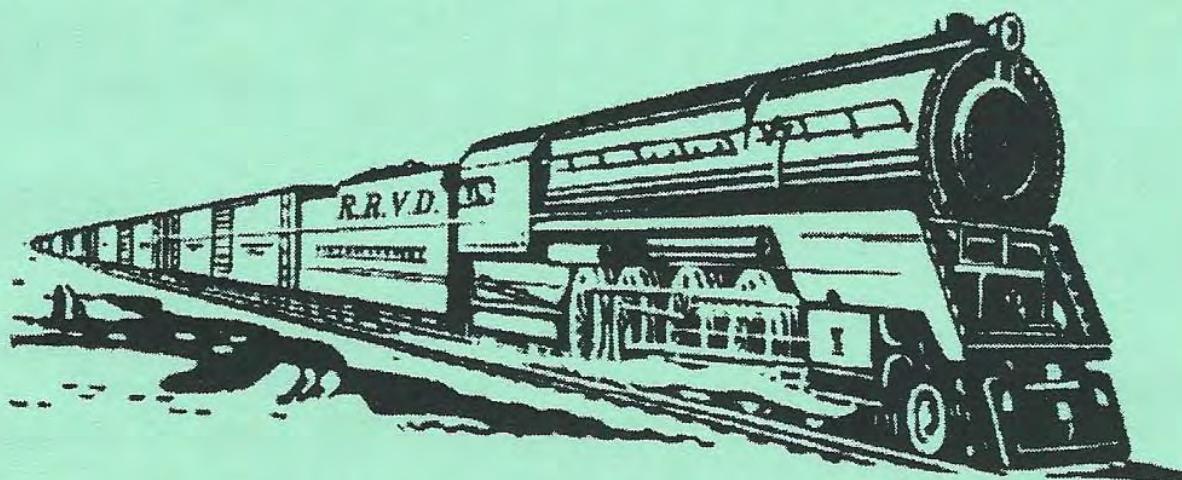
So what would he like to do in the future, as far as model railroading is concerned? Gary says this would generate another laundry list, but somewhere on that list he feels he would like to obtain two more AP Certificates to achieve the Master Model Railroader designation. Also on that list, finishing some of his projects he's started. In Gary's words "There is no future in saying I want to finish my layout."

To date, Gary has been to seventeen National NMRA Conventions. His favorite aspect of the conventions is the industrial tours that are offered. Gary did have an interesting experience at the 2011 convention in Sacramento, California. He had signed up for a tour at the W.P. Museum at Portola, California but didn't realize he had checked the box for "locomotive operation." Gary has the certificate and pictures to prove he had fifteen minutes at the controls of a GP-9 diesel.

Gary's other interests, if he hadn't gotten so involved with model railroading, would be woodworking and collecting antique tools.

ROCK RIVER VALLEY DIVISION  
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

# **MODEL RAILROAD SHOW & SALE**



**MARCH 23, 2013 10AM-5PM**

**MARCH 24, 2013 10AM-4PM**

**JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL**

**4145 SAMUELSON RD. ROCKFORD IL**

44,000 sq ft of layouts and displays

Vendors selling new & used model train items & railroad memorabilia

**only \$5 per person**

Children 12 & under, Scouts in uniform, and those with active military ID  
**--- FREE ---**

**DOOR PRIZES INCLUDING AN HO TRAINSET EVERY HOUR**

**Item 28**

**Minutes, Meeting of Board of Directors, Midwest Region, NMRA, March 11, 2012**

To:                   Board of Directors  
From:               Don Cook  
Date:               February 15, 2013  
Subject:           Election Committee Report

The results and the winners of the election are:

For President	Paul Mangan	88 Votes
For Vice-President	Mike Yurges	87 Votes
For Director-at-Large	Jim Allen	85 Votes
	David Leider	86 Votes
	Linda Sukup	77 Votes
Write-Ins		4 Votes

The ballots were counted on February 14<sup>th</sup> by Election Committee Members Don Cook and Bert Lattan. A total of 98 ballots were submitted. There were 88 valid ballots and 10 invalid ballots.

**CABOOSE**  
*Doug Loy*

Save the dates of March 23 and March 24 for our 2013 RRVD show and sale, our local show. I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year. Because there are many things to do and not enough time, my Caboose column is a short one this edition. See everyone at our show in March!

**FLIMZIE**

