

MODEL RAILROADERS

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

FLIMZIE



Volume 45

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Summer 2013

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT by Tom McCabe

I would like to start by thanking all NMRA member and non-members for helping the RRVD to become one of the best divisions. There are a lot of people behind the scenes that don't get enough credit for the work they do.

I do want to apologize for the length of the business meeting in April. If this is the first time at the April meeting, it doesn't normally take as long. The amount of money being spent was quite large, and we needed your input.

Let's move on to being a member of the NMRA. If you're not already one, I would ask that you really consider becoming a member. I'm not going to get into the benefits; I think we have all read about them. Also, if you have something you are unhappy about concerning the division, talk with John Mann or myself. Let's see if something can be done about it.

I'd like to announce a new benefit for NMRA members at the division level. Starting with the first fall meeting, NMRA members in good standing will not have to pay the two-dollar meeting donation at the door. It's hard to find benefits to give at the division level, but the board of directors decided that this is one we can do.

Now for those of you who are not members, the donation at the door is going to go up to three dollars. If you attend all the meetings in one year, you would almost be better off joining the NMRA. The costs are very close.

Be sure to join us in June for the junket. I shouldn't say where we're going, so I'll keep it a surprise. Stay tuned for all the details.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please contact any board member, including myself. This is your division, and we are trying to provide you with what we think you want to do.

Have a great summer, and take lots of photos!

FLIMZIE - The NMRA Rock River Valley Division Newsletter

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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. See page 4 of Flimzie for BOD meeting schedule.

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

April Meeting

We started our annual business meeting off by electing a new Supervisor, Tom McCabe, and a new Assistant Superintendent, John Mann. Les Zimmerman was re-elected as Chief Clerk and Rich Woock as Paymaster. Congratulations guys! Next, the members passed an amended motion to donate \$2000 to the Kalmbach Memorial Library and \$2000 to the NMRA exhibit at the California State railroad museum. Finally, Bob Storozuk from the Milwaukee Road Historical Society, gave a presentation to the members on the “Last Days of the Northshore railroad.” This line ran both passenger and freight cars during its heyday and made seven roundtrips daily from Milwaukee to Chicago. The service ended just over fifty years ago on January 20, 1963.



Bob Storozuk w/his wife after his presentation on the Northshore railroad.

Photo by Joe Whinnery

May Meeting

Rich Mahaney presented a slideshow on “OMG” or “Did you see that?” Prototypical Accessories to Buildings and Communities for Model Railroaders. Rich provided the group with many ideas they could incorporate into their own layouts such as:

- Animals as statues or on top of buildings as advertisements
- Unique business names on signs such as Bimbo’s Pizza or Fireproof Hotel
- Board game pieces or Crackerjack toys on buildings
- Boats or cars cut in half and placed on buildings
- Vehicles on roofs or posts as advertisements
- Locomotives or train cars in parks
- Hot/Cold Water Towers on layout
- Containers of food of roofs of restaurants
- Tank cars to store fertilizer

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

June Junket-We'll be visiting the Kishwaukee Valley & Eakin Creek Model Railroad Club located at 13400 West Sun City Boulevard in Huntley, Illinois on Sunday June 2. For those that are interested in carpooling, we'll meet in the parking lot north of Sears in the Cherryvale shopping mall at 12:30pm. Hope to see you there!

2012-13 RRVD BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

June 17, July 15, Aug 19, Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18
 (Note: Dates subject to change)

					
Guilford Road				Northwest Tollway Interstate 90 & 39	
Mulford Road		Perryville Road	Bell School Road		
State Street/Business		US 20			

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

April and May 2013 Model Contest Report

By Jim McQueeny

The model contest category for our April division meet was “Stations and Depots,” and there were only two entries. The first place entry was the Springfield Avenue and West State Street Station by Clarence Welte. Coming in second was Portland Station built by Ron Johnson.

The contest category for our May meet was “Open Loads.” This contest category was divided into models and photographs. The entry that received the top popular vote for the models division was the circus car built by Ken Mosny. Congratulations, Ken! The model that received the second most votes was the steam donkey on a flat car built by Tyrone Johnson. The highest vote total for the photo contest went to Ernie Brose for his pulpwood load photos, and second place went to Barb Smith for her engine block picture.

We had a tremendous amount of interest in the past year’s model contests. I hope they will continue next year.

Enjoy your summer!



First Place entry in the Stations & Depots contest entered by Clarence Welte.

Photo by Joe Whinnery



Second Place entry was the Portland Station built by Ron Johnson.

Photo by Joe Whinnery

Train Crew Report

After our April 7th division meeting, we had the opportunity to visit Mike Covey's Pennsylvania Midland railroad. Mike was born in Macomb, Illinois but grew up in Bushnell and Jacksonville. He became interested in trains through his grandfather, who was a rail fan and lived in Pana, Illinois. Pana had three major railroads that traveled through the town at that time, but Mike credits hearing the Baltimore and Ohio's distinctive mournful sounding whistles for getting his railroad interest. The Flimzie caught up with Mike recently:

Flimzie: How did your railroad get its name?

Mike: I have an affinity for coal-hauling railroads, eastern scenery in general, and the B&O Railroad. While I wanted to have a railroad based on the M&K Junction at Rowelsburg, West Virginia, I also wanted to freelance, which would give me more flexibility with respect to equipment. After discarding what seemed like hundreds of names, I finally settled on Pennsylvania Midland.

Flimzie: What aspect about model railroading do you like best?

Mike: Without a doubt, the thing that appeals most to me is operation. Benchwork, building structures, wiring, scenery, DCC, and more are necessary things I have to do to support the purpose of the railroad. I enjoy running trains in a manner that is consistent with the prototype.



Photo by Joe Whinnery

I have this thing about hauling coal. I like watching long trains of hoppers snake their way through turnouts and curves as they head back into the "hollers" for another trainload of West Virginia bituminous.

Flimzie: Who has been the greatest influence on you as a model railroader?

Mike: I'm not sure I could name just one person. From Alan McClelland, I learned about the "beyond the basement" concept, walk around operation, and the "good enough" concept. Dennis Blunt gave me the idea of a large central yard where cars are interchanged with branch lines and other railroads. Bill Lorence showed me how it's possible to get a lot of railroad into a small space and have it look realistic. Dale Burge instructed me on how to install DCC decoders and speakers. Finally, I'm learning the basics of operation from Bill Kirchmeyer, Roger Ruschmeyer, Dick Caudle, and many others.

Flimzie: What lessons did you learn when you built your layout?

Mike: I learned early on that I didn't enjoy running a control panel—I wanted to run a train. I used command control starting with Keller Engineering back in the '80s and progressed to DCC via Digitrax. I also learned that I'm not very good at scenery. Also, I can't have too much staging. If my model railroad is going to hold my interest long term, it needs a defined purpose, a time frame, and a locale. Another word of advice—the hobby is best when shared. Finally, there isn't a "right way" to do model railroading. If you're having fun, you're doing it the right way.

Flimzie: What advice would you give to other model railroaders?

Mike: Have fun! I started with a 4 x 8 Lionel layout, and that center rail didn't bother me a bit. I had a milk car that, when I parked it on a special track and pushed a button, the milkman would unload cans of "milk." It didn't take long to figure out that, if I cranked up the transformer to the max before I pushed the unload button, he not only unloaded said cans, he did it in mach two speed. Can you say, "O gauge whiplash?"

Flimzie: Is there anything else that you haven't done in model railroading that you would like to do in the future?

Mike: I'd really like to get the scenery completed, incorporate JMRI for car forwarding, and have regular operating sessions.

Flimzie: How did you become involved with the RRVD?

Mike: I was invited to attend a Division meeting when they were still being held at the KenRock Community Center. Don Miller, Jack Skubel, and Gordon Geddes took me under their wing and helped me get started in the hobby. That was way back in 1975.

Flimzie: What do you like best about the RRVD?

Mike: The modelers in this division are not only friendly and welcoming but have reached out to kids, giving them encouragement and guidance. The leadership and board do an excellent job of keeping the hobby visible through the annual shows at Jefferson High School, Midway Village, and the Flimzie.

Flimzie: Have you been to any National Conventions? If so, what is your greatest memory involving a National Convention?

Mike: The first convention I attended was in Chicago in 1976. I got to meet Lynn Westcott and tour several great layouts. In recent years, I attended both of the recent conventions that were held in Milwaukee.

Flimzie: Other interests/hobbies?

Mike: In addition to model railroading, I enjoy travel, golf, and playing the piano.



Photo by Joe Whinnery



Trolley Display at April meeting

Photo by Joe Whinnery



Ken Mosny demonstrates some modeling skills at the show and sale in April.

Photo by Joe Whinnery



CABOOSE

Doug Loy

The 2013 Show and Sale is now history. My first stint as show chairman seemed to run smoothly. I've heard many positive comments and not much negative feedback. Hope everyone enjoyed the show and left some of their modeling money behind to keep the vendors happy! If anyone has any constructive criticism to make regarding the show and sale, please let the board of directors or me know. I have always been a worker on these projects, and it was hard to tell volunteers what to do and not just do it myself. I hope I wasn't a tyrannical boss.

I would like to personally thank the following people for all their help: Tom McCabe, Dick Caudle, Don Brindle, Les Zimmerman, Ray Dryeson, and the former show and sale chairman, John Mann. Finally, a big thank you to Mike Pollare, who got the flyers distributed. I hope that you can be counted on for the 2014 Show and Sale!

The RRVD meets are coming to an end, and the summer will soon be upon us. Get your cameras ready to take pictures of railroading and scenery that you may use. If you are not a NMRA member, please consider joining. You will certainly get back more than you put into the hobby. Have a safe and enjoyable summer, and I'll see everyone come September for the show and tell meet.

FLIMZIE

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