

MODEL RAILROADERS

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

FLIMZIE



Volume 46

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Fall 2013

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT **by Tom McCabe**

Hello, everyone! I hope you had a great summer and got a chance to do some rail-fanning of some current lines. Or perhaps you went searching for out-of-operation ones, like me. However, with historical rail-fanning, some trips you will find absolutely nothing. Even trying to find a right of way is difficult. But most of the time, one does find some surprises.

On a recent trip to find the west portal of Winston Tunnel, I learned that there is a trail to it. It is a very long hike, however. On this trip, I went about halfway and gave up because I didn't know how far it was. After doing some research on the Internet, I found out there is a shortcut if you know where to look. Another surprise to me on the trip was an extended version Milwaukee Road Caboose at Pearl Lake. The Milwaukee Road only had two of them. One of the cabooses is at the railway museum in Union, but I had no idea that this other one still existed.

To prepare for one of these trips can be as simple or as complex as you want. I try to keep a railroad atlas and a road atlas in my truck. The railroad atlas shows all the right of ways that have existed but doesn't show any roads. The road atlas is very detailed, and, if the two are combined, you should be able to find a route. Those are the basics. I have gone as far as to include aerial photos that the U.S. government took in the late 30s and early 40s. These are available on the University of Illinois website. I also print out satellite photos from Google Earth to compare to the aerial photos. Sometimes, I use Sanborn Insurance maps. These maps are very detailed, but not every town has one. Also, often, the railroads were outside town limits and won't be on the map. And of course, the best option is the ICC Valuation maps each railroad created. The best source for these is the National Archives in College Park, Maryland just outside Washington D.C. The detail is marvelous, but you have to go to the archives or have a researcher get them for you. Beware: they are expensive to obtain that way. To get copies or scans, you'll pay by the foot. But you don't have to go all the way to D.C. Just find an old right of way and follow it.

Let me close with one bit of division business. If you are an NMRA member in good standing and are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please contact me. We will be looking for new officers come April.

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 re-named 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

RRVD clinics for 2013-2014

Jim McQueeney

The clinics for 2013 are finalized. I will have the 2014 schedule for the next Flimzie after I have signed up some of the clinicians.

This year, as usual, we will have our show and tell for the September meet. The presentation will be by our Division Superintendant, Tom McCabe.

The October meet will have a presentation on “Layout Design and Operational Schemes of the Hoosit Tunnel and Talula Railroad” by Jack Brand.

November will have a return visit by the Drozdaks—Ingrid Drozdak, the “Tree Lady,” and her husband, John. No topic for their clinic has been announced yet.

I have also received confirmation from Bob Storozuk of the Milwaukee Railroad Historical Society that he will be able to return in 2014 for another presentation. Bob has done a couple of wonderful presentations for us before, including one this past April.



RRVD Meet Format
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.

2013-14 RRVD MEETS

The RRVD regular meeting schedule for the 2013-2014 season has been announced. The following are the meeting dates: Sept 8, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1, Jan 4, Feb 2, Apr 6, May 4. The doors will open at 12:30 pm and the meetings start promptly at 1pm at Midway Village & Museum Center.

2013-14 RRVD BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18, Dec (TBA), Jan 20, Feb 17,
 Mar 17, Apr 21, May 19.
 (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.....July 10th
Winter issue.....Nov 10th
Spring issue.....Feb 10th
Summer issue.....May 10th

Community of Modelers

Jim Saska

Recently, some fellow railroad modelers came over to my house to work on my layout. We spent an enjoyable day together, each of us working on a small project. As fun as model railroading is by yourself, it is much more enjoyable to do with others.

There are many skills involved with the hobby—architect, carpenter, electrician, artist, operator, etc. It is hard to be good at every single aspect. Watching others and learning from them can help improve your own skills. Although I feel that my knowledge level of scenery and model-building are my model-railroading strengths, I learned a lot from my friends.

I feel the hobby was meant to be shared. Model railroading is a community. That's one of the reasons to belong to a great group of model railroaders, such as the RRVD of the NMRA. Hopefully, one day, I will be able to pass along some of the knowledge I've learned to others in our community.

Also, if you would like to contribute to the Flimzie, please send your articles and/or pictures. We'd be glad to use them in an upcoming issue.



The new 2013-14 RRVD Season is here....



clinics, model contests, fellowship, layout tours, prototype information, show and sale....



Come and join us for some model railroading fun!



CABOOSE

Doug Loy

September is almost here. That means the start of another year of RRVD meets. The first meet is our annual show and tell, so if you did anything that you might want to share with us, bring it in! Beginning this year, there will be a two-tier meet fee. Becoming a NMRA member will allow you to enter at no charge, while non-members will be charged \$3.00. Becoming a member will pay for itself!

The final accounting for the 2013 show & sale is finished. The event was successful, so the show & sale will again be held next year. Date to be announced.



2013 Trainfest

Ray Dyreson

The 2013 Trainfest bus trip will be on Saturday November 9. Depart from Clock Tower east lot at 7:30 am with a second pickup stop in Beloit at Menards front lot at 7:45. Cost remains at \$25 for NMRA members and is \$30 for non-NMRA members. A signup page will be available on the website rrvd-nmra.com or email Ray Dyreson at RayDyr@aol.com