

MODEL RAILROADERS

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

FLIMZIE



Volume 46

Number 2

Winter 2014

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT **by Tom McCabe**

Well winter is here again, and hopefully you are all working on your layouts and scratch-built projects. I have just started looking over the projects I have in progress and deciding which one to work on.



I once heard that a circle of track was not prototypical. Take a look at the photo above. The squashed oval in the middle is a railroad spur in Danville, IL. I believe that at one time this was a quarry. The track is still there but it hasn't had much maintenance lately. I think this would make an interesting layout. It has interchange traffic from two or three different railroads. There could be quarried material shipping out, along with heavy equipment brought in on flat cars. Perhaps a siding to serve a warehouse could be included or maybe a staging yard just off to the left of the crossing. The only structures on this spur are a couple of maintenance buildings, an office, and a loading tower. So what's my point? Sometimes a circle of track is fun to run trains on. (Continued on page 6)

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

October and November 2013 Model Contest Report

The model contest for our October division meet was "On Line Structures".

There were a total of three entries in the contest. The popular vote was a tie between Ken Mosny's L.O. Zell & Company and Tyrone Johnson's R.E.A. building. They both received a gift certificate from a hobby shop for their work. Congratulations Ken and Tyrone!

The model contest for November's division meet was "Open Loads". There were twelve entries in this contest. The entry that received the most votes was "a machine on a depressed flat car" 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 built by Ernie Brose.

Since the RRVD will have its garage sale in December, there will not be a contest. January's contest will be "Motive Power".

Lets see what you can do!

January 5, 2014

Event: Presentations on changing out railroad diamonds and operations around Rockford area.

Contest: *Motive Power* - Enter a model of a locomotive, steam or diesel, any size, scale or shape. It can be as simple as a small shovel fed coal steam engine or a huge diesel engine.

February 2, 2014

Event: TBD

Contest: *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.

March 22-23, 2014

Event: Show and Sale 2014.

April 6, 2014

Event: Presentations by Randy Garnhart and Gerry Pyfer

Contest: *Passenger Railroad Stations, Depots* - Any size or scale, from as large as Union Station in Chicago to as small as a rural, seldom used, whistle stop on a branch line.

May 4, 2014

Event: TBD

May 16-18, 2014

Non RRVD Sponsored Event: [RAIL FUN NMRA Midwest Region Spring Convention 2014](#), Schaumburg, IL

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: 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

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	 Midway Village & Museum Center	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

ELDEN RAASCH

By John Mann

My friend, Elden Raasch, died on September 17, 2013 at the age of 90. I met Elden through the NMRA RRVD around 1992. He was just getting interested in model railroading then. At the time, I knew he was a retired master mechanic for the Rockford Fire Department and he played the bugle in the Shriner's Drum & Bugle Corp.

Elden was a quiet guy, but people listened when he spoke. He was a person who never sought the limelight, but when something needed to be done, you could call on him. Nothing stopped him.

Another friend of mine, Dave Olson, enjoyed telling a story of him and Elden traveling down the road in Elden's motor home to a train show. Suddenly, there was a noise, and Elden pulled over. He put on his overalls, crawled under the motor home, and determined it was the water pump. He just happened to have a spare and proceeded to change out the water pump on the side of the road. When he was done, he took off his overalls, and got back into the motor home, went on to the show as if nothing had happened!

At one point the RRVD adopted a Rock Island 50' outside-braced automobile boxcar from a Rockford junkyard. The Illinois Railroad Museum became interested in the car, and it was moved to Union where it sat for a couple of years. We took on the restoration project, and Elden, despite his advanced age, spent many hours stripping, grinding, and painting "our" car.

He was very involved with the RRVD's HO modular layout and spent many hours in the basement of the old Brass Whistle, a long-time Rockford hobby shop that is no longer in existence. He became enamored with DCC and installed it on his own layout and, in the end, actually got the early version of DCC to work. He helped me with my layout during the NMRA convention in about 1995 when I had an open house.

Sadly, Elden suffered a stroke which greatly affected his eyesight but not his brain. He also lost his wife, Irene in his later years. They were married for 64 years. He is survived by his daughter, Nancy, her husband, and two grandsons, Andrew and Aaron.

So long my friend. I will miss you.

2013 Trainfest
Ray Dyreson

On November 9, a total of 41 RRVD members and friends boarded a bus to Trainfest in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Hopefully more of you will hear about the fun we had and decide to join us next year. When I started hosting this bus trip back in 1994, I had no idea I would still be doing it twenty years later. For that first trip, I thought we might need something to keep everyone awake and entertained, so I came up with the Terrible Trainfest Trivia Test. Its popularity surprised me, and it has become a tradition that I enjoy. I come up with a new one each year. This year's winner, with 11 correct answers out of 20, was Richard Bird. Close behind in second place with ten correct was Tyrone Johnsen. Of course the object is not to have the most correct but to have fun, which everyone seemed to have had.

We arrived at the 41st annual Trainfest show right as the doors opened. We didn't even have to wait to park the bus as John Tews, Trainfest's managing director, met us as we pulled in. We were able to exit the bus and enter immediately. Try to do that if you drive there yourself! The show was a wide-eyed surprise to the first timers and as expected for us old timers. I particularly enjoyed the chance to visit the manufacturer's booths, something you can't do at most other shows. This year, some of the regular vendors were not there, especially the smaller ones. I did manage to find a few items I needed, though, and judging by the crowds around some of the vendors, so did many others. Attendance has been over 25,000 the last three years, and it seemed just as busy this year. I did spend more time this year viewing the detail on some of the fine layouts rather than racing by them on the way to my next purchase. There was a lot to see, and before we knew it, it was time to leave. The ride back was quiet as the DVD on the bus didn't work, but half of us fell asleep anyway. If you traveled with us this year, I hope you enjoyed it and will join us again. If you weren't on the bus, consider trying it next year.



Superintendent's Report continued from page 1

And now, a political announcement. If you're not an NMRA member, please consider joining. Remember, the NMRA isn't the national headquarters, it's the local division's. If you like what we do in the Rock River Division, please join.

Everyone have a safe and happy holidays.



CABOOSE

Doug Loy

Nostalgia

Is nostalgia one reason we model-railroad? On my layout, I'm not modeling any certain time frame, but the steam era will dominate. This means I can include some older cinematic-themed buildings to fit with the time frame. What I am getting to is, when I saw the Bates Motel from the movie, *Psycho*, for sale, I knew I had to have it. This summer I ordered *The Munster's* 1313 Mockingbird Lane house.

Also, Christmas is coming, which means our garage sale on December 1. This is the place to get some very good deals on things such as trains, track, and scenery supplies! I'm sure everyone has some model railroad items on their Christmas wishlists.

