

# MODEL RAILROADERS

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

## F L I M Z I E



Volume 46

Number 4

Summer 2014

### ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT*** by Tyrone Johnsen

The April meeting included our annual NMRA Membership Meeting and board election. This year brought in a whole new slate of officers. The former officers deserve a big thank you for their years of service and time. Their efforts were necessary to hold our monthly meetings, the annual show, and many other activities.

I wish to introduce the other new officers and myself. All of us are long time model railroaders, although we haven't been too active in the local division administration. We have volunteered to serve in these positions in order to give the other officers a break and not have anyone getting burned out. It is our intention to continue the current programs and policies, but we'll always be looking for opportunities for growth and improvement. Your input is definitely valued.

I am Tyrone Johnsen, and I'll be serving as the new RRVD Superintendent. I've been an NMRA member since about 1970, serving in the Thousand Lakes Region before moving to Rockford in 1973. I have attended many NMRA nationals and various regional conventions over the years. I don't consider myself a rail fan, but I do have a great interest in earlier railroads up to the 1950s. I'm a member of various railroad historical societies and most active in the Great Northern Railway Historical Society, where you might have seen me at our booth at Trainfest and the Mad City Train Show. I contribute historical research papers to

the GNRHS and have given many presentations to the GNRHS and Burlington Railroad Historical Society, as well as to the Sunshine Modelers Prototype Seminars, the Railway Prototype Modelers, and the NMRA at all levels. I mainly model in HO and focus on Great Northern equipment in 1949-1950 era. I'm a retired engineer from Sundstrand and UTC and am married with two adult children.

Our other new officers are Assistant Superintendent Jay Kabitzke, Chief Clerk Ken Peterson, and Paymaster Ken Mosny, Jr.

As we head into summer and take a break from our monthly meets and, maybe even our modeling efforts, I want to remind you of the marvelous railway museum we have so close to us. The Illinois Railway Museum (IRM) is located approximately 20 miles east of Rockford just outside Union. The IRM has one of the greatest collections of equipment and perhaps the best collection of operating equipment in the world. There are also other worthwhile operating museums nearby. Just west of us, on the south side of Freeport, there is an operating Heisler locomotive and an opportunity to not only ride behind it, but even in the cab.

**RRVD Officers**

**Superintendent**

Tyrone Johnsen  
 2929 Panorama Drive  
 Rockford, IL 61109  
 815-397-9274  
 tyrone.johnsen@hotmail.com

**Asst. Superintendent**

Jay Kabitzke  
 6182 Siver hawk Court  
 Roscoe, IL 61073  
 815-957-4477  
 g\_kabitzke@yahoo.com

**Chief Clerk**

Ken Peterson  
 6000 B Primrose Place  
 Poplar Grove, IL  
 815-975-4897  
 poplarken@yahoo.com

**Paymaster**

Ken Mosny, Jr  
 4752 Stage Coach Trail  
 Rockford, IL 61101  
 815-965-4871  
 kenmosny@comcast.net

**Flimzie Editor**

Jim Saska  
 915-527-5224  
 trainman1964@sbcglobal.net

**RRVD Monthly Meetings**

The RRVD usually meets the first Sunday of the month from September through May at the Midway Museum and Village Center in Rockford, 6799 Perryville Road. Doors open at 12:30; meetings start at 1pm. Our next meeting will be Sept 7. Other dates are Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7, Jan 4, 2015, Feb 1, Mar1 or 8, Apr 12, May 3.

**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 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 Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Current scheduled 2014 BoD meetings are: June 18, Jul 16, Aug 20, Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Jan 21 2015, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20.

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

### Meet Our New Paymaster

Ken Mosny, Jr. is the Paymaster for the 2014-15 RRVD season. Ken has been a member of the NMRA on and off since about 1967 and a Rockford resident since 1970. His involvement with the Rockford area model railroaders began almost from the day he set foot in town. In the 1970s, he joined a Freeport modeling group and then later the RRVD, taking a break during the 1980s while his children were young.

Ken has been a model railroader from the time of his first Lionel set, which his grandchildren still operate. By age twelve or so, his intellectual curiosity took over. He figured out how to operate two Lionel trains on interconnected loops of track, which automatically stopped each other and threw the turnouts. The electrical switches were scavenged knife switches; the relays were made from tin cans, magnet wire, nail armatures, and wood blocks. It worked but looked like a control panel from Frankenstein's lab. His first scratch building project was an icing platform made from tongue depressors for his Lionel Automatic Milk Car. Ken adds that, "I idolized Frank Ellison's articles on 'The Art of Model Railroading.'" Ken's teen years transitioned him into HO scale, but his real break into scale model railroading came when he joined a residence hall model railroad club at the University of Illinois. It was there that he settled on modeling the 1880-1900 period, focusing on craftsman kits, scratchbuilding and tracklaying.

He likes to build as much as he can, primarily railroad models because they are not static. Ken adds, "You can do something with them. You can imagine and create a miniature transportation system with these models. This leads to all sorts of other good activities—operations, history, electronics, mechanics, and art to name a few." To Ken, model railroading is more of an art form than anything else.



New RRVD officers for 2014-Ken Peterson, Jay Kabitzke, Tyrone Johnsen & Ken Mosny, Jr. (Photo by Joe Whinnery)

### Ken Peterson, Clerk

Ken has been an armchair model railroader for over 50 years but a member of the NMRA for only a few years. He started his first N-scale layout 12 years ago before tearing it down and moving it to St. Louis. Once there, he rebuilt a larger version of his original layout. A move to Poplar Grove necessitated tearing this one down, moving it to his new home, and eventually adding on to the layout. Since then, he has built two other N-scale layouts. One of these goes to the March show and sale; the other is a bookshelf version of the Milwaukee Road Beer Line. Most recently, he has removed them to a bigger space in Roscoe. Ken plans on rebuilding a larger version of each one later this year after all his house projects are done. He also plans on building a Lionel layout for his granddaughter this winter. She calls him Grandpa Choo Choo. Ken adds, "Grandkids are the best."

***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.

<p style="text-align: center;"> <b>RRVD Meets - Location &amp; Time</b>                  Unless otherwise stated, RRVD Meets are held in the Lakeview Room at the Midway Village Museum Center the first Sunday of each month from September through May. 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.             </p>	<p> <b><u>Flimzie input Deadlines</u></b>                  Fall issue.....Jul 10th <b>*NEW DATE*</b>                  Winter issue.....Nov 10th                  Spring issue.....Feb 10th                  Summer issue.....May 10th             </p>
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April Contest Report

Jim McQueeney



The April model contest was Passenger Stations and Depots. There were a total of three entries. The model that received the most votes was the “Kimbell Depot” built by Dick Caudle. Dick received a gift certificate from a hobby shop for his work. The second most popular entry was Ken Reinert’s Rockville Depot model. *(Photo by Joe Whinnery)*



## Scenes from the 2014 Show and Sale

### June Junket

**When:** Saturday June 14th 10am-4pm

**What:** North Central O-Gaugers Model Railroad Club Inc.

A 12'x20' traveling layout and a 20'x45' permanent layout

**Where:** Located on the 2nd floor of the Fremont Public Library in Mundelein, Illinois

1170 N. Midlothian Road

Mundelein Il. 60060

[www.ncogtrains.com](http://www.ncogtrains.com)

Map available on their website

Make arrangements with your friends to carpool!



Best in Show contest winner  
*(photo by Joe Whinnery)*



Giving out door prizes to our guests  
*(photo by Joe Whinnery)*



John Swanson's truck display  
*(Photo by Joe Whinnery)*

*Waupaca Area Model  
Railroaders  
Waupaca, Wisconsin*

*Hosts the -----*



**25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL (FREE!)**

***STRAWBERRY FEST - TRAIN SHOW & MODEL CONTEST***

*In conjunction with the Waupaca Historical Society and Waupaca Area Chamber of Commerce*

**Saturday, June 21 - 10 AM to 5 PM - Sunday, June 22 - 10 AM to 3 PM**  
Waupaca Recreation Center, three blocks east of downtown at the intersection of School, State & Badger St

**Two Gyms – Of Railroading & Family Fun**

**Plus + The Demonstration Derby.** A continuous two-day opportunity to demonstrate your skills and/or watch other modelers work on a variety of projects: trains, cars, trucks, boats, buildings, scenery, trees and more. *Special Guests, Mark Lasee & Fred Furkus, both masterful modelers of highly detailed structures, sideline details and trains will be demonstrating their techniques and answering your questions.*

- **OPERATING MODEL RAILROAD LAYOUTS** including a Lego Layout
- **MODEL CONTEST (SATURDAY)** (trains, cars, trucks, ships, buildings, scenery) – Categories: Adult & junior (Rules at [www.wamrld.com](http://www.wamrld.com))
- **HOBBY SHOP DEALERS AND VENDORS**
- **SWAP MEET** (hobbyist sale tables)
- **KIDS RACE TRAINS WITH YOUR FRIENDS**
- **KIDS SWITCH TRAINS WITH CONDUCTOR CARLSON**
- **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE and CHUGGINGTON STATION FRIENDS** (Hands-on kids's Layout)
- **WAUPACA RAILROAD DEPOT OPEN HOUSE**
- **GREAT FOOD & STRAWBERRY SHORT CAKE**



**Saturday only 10 AM to 5 PM! Historic Soo Line Railroad Depot** – continuing to be restored will be open for visitors. North on State St, right on Mill St, and then left on Oak St just passed the railroad bridge on your left.

- For show information see our website: [www.wamrld.com](http://www.wamrld.com) or call -
- Train Show & tables call Dennis Cook (715) 824-2045 or email [Dennis@DFCook.com](mailto:Dennis@DFCook.com)
  - Model Contest: Dennis (above) or Eugene Much (920) 596-3484
  - Chamber of Commerce: call (715) 258-7343 or [www.WaupacaEvents.com](http://www.WaupacaEvents.com)





Chicago Northwestern Historical Society  
(Photo by Joe Whinnery)



Madison HO Track Display  
(Photo by Joe Whinnery)



One photograph is worth a thousand words  
(Photo by Joe Whinnery)



Jay Kabitze works on the Rockford Route  
(Photo by Joe Whinnery)



Ken Mosny Jr displays some modeling skills  
(Photo by Joe Whinnery)



Another Door Prize being awarded  
(Photo by Joe Whinnery)





## **CABOOSE**

*Doug Loy*

The 2014 March show and sale is now history. Although the final numbers are not yet available, it looks like the show and sale will once again end in the black. I hope everyone had a good time this year; we had some new vendors as well as previous vendors. 1600 adults and 417 children attended this year's show, which is about average. Next year, invite some of your friends and coworkers to join us and see what the "World's Greatest Hobby" is all about.

There were a lot of hungry folks at the show. The Jefferson High School Boosters served approximately 100 breakfasts, 60 chicken sandwiches, 125 pork chops, 200 hamburgers, and 300 hot dogs.

The most enjoyable portion of the show and sale are the door prizes. The look on the face of a child is something special when we give him a train set. We try to get pictures of this, and I hope they are available for everyone to see. Our show photographer, Joe Whinnery, took a lot of great shots, and I hope that you take time to look at them.

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered at the show and sale! We could not have done it without you. See you all next year!

**FLIMZIE**

**Tyrone Johnsen**

**2929 Panorama Drive**

**Rockford, IL 61109**

Postmaster: Forwarding Address Requested

