

MODEL RAILROADERS

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

FLIMZIE



Volume 47



Number 1



Fall 2014

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT by Tyrone Johnsen

You are cordially invited to our monthly meets, which all model railroaders will enjoy. We offer a broad spectrum of informative presentations on model railroading.

We will start our season this September with a presentation on scenery and the use of "static grass." David J. Leider, a Soo Line modeler and author of prototype history and modeling, will present some of his scenery techniques. Highlights from the Midwest Region convention and the NMRA convention will be presented, and there will be both model and prototype photograph contests. We encourage you to also bring your recent modeling projects for display. Your project displays are not limited to completed models and can be used for discussion as desired. As always, a self-guided layout tour follows the meeting. Subsequent monthly meets will include programs by both local and visiting modelers, presenting on a wide variety of topics related to model railroading. This will be followed by one or more self-guided layout tours of area layouts. Also, we are working on a series of mini-presentations titled "Enhance Your Model Railroad Running Experience." Panels and multiple speakers will be used to present differing ideas and techniques.

The December meet will be different as it is our annual swap meet. Next April, our meet will include the annual membership meeting and election of officers. Then in May, the RRVD will host the South Central Wisconsin Division of the NMRA. Cody Grivno, Model Railroader Associate Editor and namesake of Cody's Office, will give one of the presentations.

Don Brindle plans to continue publishing his Events booklet. Look for it at the September meet. Remember you can always consult our RRVD website at: <http://www.rrvd-nmra.com/>; and now we have added a Facebook page. You do not have to have a Facebook account to view it. Just click on the Facebook icon next to our logo on our webpage, and you will be taken right to the page. I use it to post some information on our activities and photos of model railroad layouts. I hope you like it! While on the Internet, why not check out the free online model railroad magazine? The web address is <http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/>. Now for a shameless plug; go to the May 2014 issue, <http://mrhpub.com/2014-05-may/land/#97>; starting on page 97, is an article on modeling the Illinois Railway Museum.

FLIMZIE - The NMRA Rock River Valley Division Newsletter

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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

Trolley Good Time

By Ken Mosny

On May 31 and June 1, the RRVD membership introduced the public to model railroading at the Rockford Park District Trolley Good Time event, which was held at the Riverview Ice House. Trolley Good Time is the annual kickoff for the Rockford Park District trolley and the Forest City Queen riverboat. The RRVD part of the show was organized by Clarence Welte, Jay Kabitzke, Jim Baker, Dick Caudle, and Ken Mosny. We operated the Rockford Route HO layout, introduced visitors to the history of railroads and interurbans in the area, showed them a 1917 Rockford area street atlas, allowed people to weather model railroad cars, and demonstrated ballasting as a scenery technique.

The Rockford Route was especially well-received by the younger members of the crowd. The public always loves



to see model trains in operation. As a public service, Gary Children displayed and distributed information for Operation Lifesaver. Joe Whinnery, a park district employee and RRVD member, actually operated trolley #36 for passengers. The event was a big success!

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.

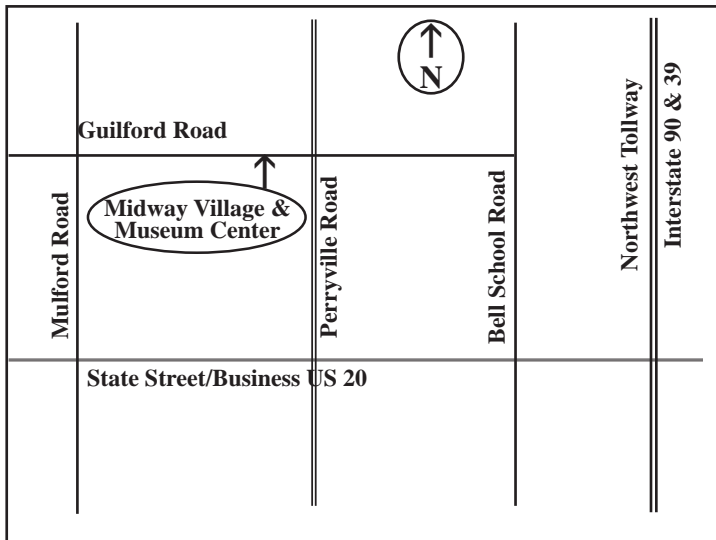


2014-15 RRVD MEETS

Sept 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1,
Mar 1 or 8, Apr 12, May 3

2014-15 RRVD BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 18,
Apr 15, May 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

RRVD Clinic & Contest Schedule 2014-15

Jim McQueeny

September 7, 2014

Event: We will start our season this September with a presentation on scenery and the use of “static grass.” David J. Leider, a Soo Line modeler and author of prototype history and modeling, will present some of his scenery techniques.

Contest: *At this year’s September meet we will have two different photo contests; one contest for photos of railroad models and the other contest for prototype railroad photos.*

October 5, 2014

Event: TBD

Contest: *On Line Structures – On line structures are served by a railroad siding to it. A creamery, brewery, stock pen, packing house and LTL distribution warehouse are just a few examples of on line structures.*

November 2, 2014

Event: TBD

Contest: *Passenger cars – Kit build, Kitbash or Scratchbuild a model of a railroad passenger car. The car can be any type from a basic 1800 baggage car to a streamlined, lightweight articulated diner lounge car. Any size car, scale, or gauge.*

December 7, 2014

Event: Annual Garage Sale. No contest.

January 4, 2015

Event: TBD

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, shove-fed coal steam engine, or a huge diesel engine.*

February 1, 2015

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.*

Not About The Money

By Tom Maladecki

At one of our previous RRVD Board meetings, the following question was asked, “What benefits do our NMRA members receive?” When it gets down to it, the only tangible benefit that ordinary members see is the monthly magazine. The RRVD board decided to give our NMRA members a benefit that our division could provide: free entry to our RRVD meets.

NMRA members get into the RRVD meets for free. If you are an NMRA member and you are not attending RRVD meets on a regular basis, you are missing out on free admission. That is a potential \$24 of your annual NMRA membership.

Non-NMRA members pay a three-dollar donation at RRVD meets. It is not about the money. RRVD doesn't get rich off of your meet fee. What RRVD wants is for you to be an NMRA member. The RRVD is willing to subsidize your NMRA membership.

Moreover, non-NMRA members pay an extra \$5 for the bus trip to Trainfest. At this point, you have potentially saved of \$29 of the cost of an NMRA membership.

We hoped this decision would also boast NMRA membership. Frankly, I am surprised that more area railroad modelers did not jump on this great deal.

Think about it. Tell a friend.

What is the Rock River Valley Division?

By Tom Maladecki

As I wrote the “Not About The Money” article, I had to fight to keep my own opinion out of the article about what the Rock River Valley Division is all about. Personally, I think the RRVD serves as an umbrella organization where any model railroader can meet peers living in the community.

I know that there are national NMRA members who advocate that division meetings should only be for NMRA members. RRVD was built on the opposite premise—to be inclusive, not exclusive. Some NMRA officials have used insurance coverage as leverage in an attempt to keep meetings restricted. Fortunately, the RRVD has continued to be available to the general public.

My opinion is, the RRVD is far from a formal organization that has officers, bylaws, and proper members. It is the stateline area people who are interested in trains. A gathering of folks who are NMRA members and those who are not. Those who are prototype modelers and those who are not. Those who are collectors of Lionel and Flyer and those who are not. Those who are owners of HO trains and equipment and those who are not.

The RRVD is folks who like trains. What do you think the RRVD is?

Guide for Lettering with Decal Alphabet Sets

By Ken Mosny

**RRVD Clinic & Contest Schedule 2014-15
(Continued)**

Lettering with decal alphabet sets is relatively easy to do. Decals usually come in sets, preprinted with arranged lettering for a specific herald or even a whole car. All you have to do is get a single decal in the correct position and level it. A little poking and prodding with a needle or the tip of a hobby blade will usually do the trick because the letters are already prearranged.

When lettering a line from an alphabet set, it is more difficult to keep the letters straight and level. Decaling the letterboard of a passenger car is not too difficult because the letterboard provides a built-in guide. The challenge is when you letter the side of car such as a boxcar or, in my case, a circus car with no guides. Just eyeballing won't cut it for most of us, and you can't mark guidelines on the side of the car. The trick is to provide a removable guide.

This circus car required three lines of text almost the entire length of the car. To provide a lettering guide, I taped a straight thin wire where I wanted the bottom of the line to be. Music wire, in 0.20" or 0.15" diameter dimensions and taped in place with Tamy tape, worked well for me. Music wire is very straight and tempered so it won't bend easily, but any fine straight wire will do. I have never had Tamy tape lift paint, and it held when it got wet. I was able to slide the edge of each letter under the wire and line the letters up quite easily. Usually, I rough placed a word at a time and then slid the letters around to get the spacing right. Using the wire as a guide, I was able to easily make the three lines of lettering straight and level along the entire car.

Give lettering a try. You'll be amazed at how easy it is to do.

March 1, 2015

Event: TBD

Contest: TBD

April 12, 2015

Event: Annual Meeting/Elections

Contest: *Model Passenger Depot Station –any size or scale. As large as Union Station in Chicago, or as small as a rural, seldom used, whistle stop on a branch line.*

May 3, 2015

Event: Joint meeting hosting SWCD

Contest: *Model Open load- a model of a railroad car that is carrying an open load. Any size, scale, or gauge. The car can be built of any material— wood, plastic, cardstock, whatever you prefer.*

Photo contest: One contest will be for photos of any type of railroad models, the other for photos of any type of prototype railroads.

More photos from Trolley Good Time Rockford Park District event



All Flimzie photos courtesy of Joe Whinnery

CABOOSE

Doug Loy

The new RRVD season is about to begin. To be honest, I have done very little model railroading this summer because of too many summer activities. At the last Board of Director meeting, there was a discussion as to what it's called that we actually go to the first Sunday of the month. We on the board cringe when people call it the monthly meeting. Model railroaders, this is an error. We have monthly *meets*. So when you talk about the monthly meets and see board members cringe when you say "meeting," this is why.



This a very short column because as I said earlier, I have not done much modeling this summer. Looking forward to a great upcoming year from the RRVD as the new slate of officers make changes. For one thing, we will no longer have clinics but presentations, although they are actually the same thing. See you all at the September meet!