

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

F L I M Z I E



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Winter 2015

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
by Tyrone Johnsen

If you have attended our monthly meets in the past, I hope you have found them informative and enjoyable; if you have not joined us, we hope you will soon. This winter, we plan for the monthly meets to follow the same format as this past fall, but with more “mini” presentations. Although we will continue to include one full-length presentation as in the past, we are also utilizing a greater number of shorter programs covering a broader spectrum and interest at each meet. We will also try to include more panel-type discussions to offer you different approaches and points of view. There is usually more than one option that best fulfills every situ-



Dave Leider demonstrates his static grass technique at our September meet. *(photo by Joe Whinnery)*

ation. We hope you will always find some interesting tip or idea at each meet. Remember that in addition to the monthly contest, everyone is encouraged to bring their model railroad projects for display and to encourage discussion with others. These displays are not limited to the theme of the contests and can be either unfinished or finished. Many of us enjoy seeing a model or project under construction. Our meets try to appeal to our members and visitors' broad range of experiences and interests. Also, please let us know if there's any topic you'd like us to address. **Continued on page 3**

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

Tom Maladecki requested a presentation on how to make your own low-cost static grass applicator, and Ken Mosny complied with a short demonstration in October, including remove \$5 kits for interested attendees. This followed up David Leider's great presentation in September on the use of static grass to enhance your scene.

At the October meet, I organized a panel of four veteran model railroaders to share their various interests. Although all four shared an interest in the hobby, each disclosed some unique interests. I have posted some of the interesting photos they shared on our Facebook page. These include Frank McCabe's realistic Buick station wagon and impressive PRR streamline steam locomotive and Dennis Blunt's extensively kit-bashed gas electric train set and unique express reefers. Our Facebook page also includes additional photos of Ken Mosny's scratch-built and kit-built cars and Dennis's beautiful layout. One purpose of this panel was to encourage the audience to consider individual interests in the hobby, that we're not all the same when it comes to model railroading, and that modeling interests can change over time. I concluded the panel with a quote out of the NMRA President's column (October 2014 NMRA Magazine) on our need to get away from fixed ideas that everyone has to do or think the same as we might do – I think we all need work in this area.

The November meet featured weathering by Rob Manley and included an opportunity for attendees to try his techniques on models. A number participated by weathering their own cars, while others just observed. We had a great number of passenger cars entered in our contest, along with some additional display projects and models. Thanks to all who brought models to display.

December will be our annual swap meet. Feel free to bring some things to sell, as well as money for purchases. As always, the swap meet is an opportunity to socialize with other model railroaders.

On January 4, we will resume our normal monthly

meet format and there should be plenty of variety so that everyone will find something of interest and use. Finally, remember our annual show and sale will be held March 28 and 29. Mark those dates on your calendar and consider helping us to make it a success again.

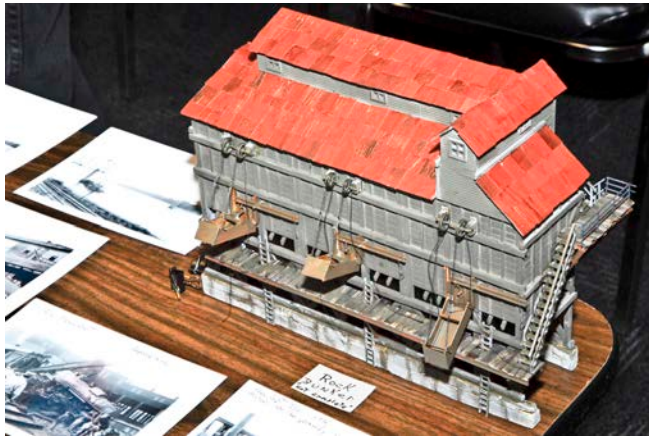


Rob Manley demonstrating his weathering techniques at November's Meet (photos by Joe Whinnery)



RRVD Meet Format

by Tom Maladecki



Model display at a recent RRVD meet (photo courtesy of Joe Whinnery)

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.



**DON'T FORGOT THE
SHOW & SALE COMING
UP SATURDAY & SUN-
DAY MARCH 28-29TH
2015**

2014-15 RRVD MEETS

Dec 7, Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1 or 8, Apr 12,
May 3

***2014-15 RRVD BOARD OF DIRECTOR
MEETINGS***

Jan 21, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20

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

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

December 7, 2014

Event: Annual Garage Sale. No contest.

January 4, 2015

Event: Presentation on the History of the Railroad Tank Car and the Union Tank Line by Bruce Winslow, UTLX Communications Director; plus additional model railroad tips, motive power contest, displays, door prizes, and layout tour following.

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: Presentation on making Mini Scenes by Gregg Condon, MRR; plus additional model railroad tips, displays, door prizes, and layout tour following.

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 1, 2015

Event: Presentation on Iron Ore Railroading in the Gogebic Range by John Mann, MRR, plus additional model railroad tips, displays, door prizes, and layout tour following.

Contest: *Locomotive servicing facilities*

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.*

THE ROUNDHOUSE CORNER

By Ken Reinert

My name is Ken Reinert, and I'm the author of a new column called "The Roundhouse Corner." The intent of this column is to provide information to members of the NMRA Rock Valley Division and others about fellow members. I intend to gather this knowledge by visiting members in their homes and conducting interviews with them, plus viewing their layouts.

My first interview is with Clarence Welte. He is presently serving the division as membership chairman. In this role, Clarence keeps track of the current members and reminds them when it's time to renew. Membership data is also provided to the board to let them know how the division is doing in terms of retention and attracting new members.

Clarence joined the NMRA in 1950 by sharing the membership cost of four dollars with his two brothers. He told me that, unlike many other members, he was always an HO scale modeler and did not enter the hobby through the toy train route.

Clarence's background is in carpentry and he worked with his father— a building contractor— who built the first subdivision in Boone County. Another job he held was working for the City of Rockford Planning Department, at which he was responsible for acquiring the land where the Metro Center was built. He had stints with the Boone County Conservation Department when it acquired land along a three mile stretch on the Kishwaukee River. Clarence is also proud of the ten years he was associated with Illinois Railway Museum as track foreman.

Visiting Clarence's railroad, the Kickapoo & Northern is like stepping back in time because of the steam-diesel transition and the age of his model equipment. Clarence still uses a Varney die cast F3 diesel engine given to him by his parents in 1950. The layout's equipment presents a history of models and manufacturers over the last 65 years. If anyone has questions about older HO equipment, Clarence is the one to ask. Likewise, he has intimate knowledge of the NMRA, since he served as Division Superintendent for the years 1984 through 1986. You might say Clarence is the model railroad and NMRA historian for the division.

His layout has more turnouts than I could count. Each one is powered by every type of switch machine manufactured. I told him I would have to study his layout for years in order to operate the railroad. He uses DC with block control, and electrical toggle switches are positioned on control panels with track diagrams located around the layout. Most mainline turnouts have two color track position signals powered by the switch machine contacts to help you navigate through the layout.

The basic layout structure is made of different types of sub-structures, plywood, Homosote, cork roadbed, spline roadbed, Celotex, and foam board. You may find others through

archeological investigation.

Clarence states that he is not a scenery man, but many areas of the layout are populated with structures he built in the early 1950s all the way to the present. He pointed out a few buildings built during his childhood and others that were contest winners. Clarence states that he mostly models using illustration board and wood, forsaking modern-day plastics. He even showed me model freight cars made from Swift & Co. with paper sides printed in the NMRA bulletin years ago.

The walls of the layout room are covered with awards he has won for his modeling, as well as memorabilia from old club layouts, special models from friends, and railroad artifacts. I was impressed with the equipment log he showed me; it keeps track of the number of cars and engines he has accumulated since 1950. Today he has over 75 engines and more than 400 freight and passenger cars. Would you believe he has most of the original boxes that the cars and locomotives came in?

As I said goodbye to Clarence, he mentioned that he was giving a presentation at a retirement home the next day on model railroading. I couldn't help but think that this man is truly dedicated to model railroading and the NMRA.



Hudson Streamline engine powering Milwaukee Road 1930's Hiawatha. *(photo courtesy of Ken Reinert)*



Beaver tail observation car from 1930's Milwaukee Road Hiawatha. *(photo courtesy of Ken Reinert)*



Clarence in front of display case exhibiting streamlined stainless steel Burlington E5 on lower shelf. *(Photo courtesy of Ken Reinert)*



Clarence's layout showing extensive trackwork. Notice the memorabilia on wall above layout. *(photo courtesy of Ken Reinert)*

2015 NMRA Midwest Region Spring Convention – the “Lake Shore Limited”

Convention Host: The Winnebagoland Division

Convention Location: Holiday Inn, Manitowoc, Wisconsin on April 17-19, 2015.

The convention will include:

- Friday Operating Session on nine different layouts.
- Rail clinics: Two clinics Friday night and 18 clinics Saturday morning and afternoon.
- Non-rail: Project Linus (three sewing machines provided – bring yours if you are able).
- Four Non-rail clinics Saturday
- Vendors and Swap Meet open Saturday
- Saturday evening banquet (buffet style)
- More than 14 layouts open for tours on Sunday
- NMRA judged model and photo contests.
- A Popular Vote model contest.
- Winnebagoland Division and Midwest Region Membership Meeting Saturday evening following the banquet speaker and MWR Board of Director’s meeting Sunday morning.
- Tour the Manitowoc Maritime Museum and the USS Cobia, a CATO-class WWII submarine. Cost is \$10 per person (with convention badge) any day of the convention. Pay directly at the Maritime Museum only if you go!

The Holiday Inn Manitowoc, 4601 Calumet Ave, Manitowoc, WI 54220; (920)682-6000, was completely remodel in 2014, is located off Interstate 43 and Hwy 151 with easy access to the operating session layouts and layout tours as well as a variety of nearby restaurants. A special discounted group room rate of \$99.00 (1-4 people per room) + tax/night. Guests should call the hotel direct at 920-682-6000 to make reservations. Please reference Group Code: National Model Railroad Association when making reservations. Reservations must be received by March 19, 2015 or Holiday Inn will not be able to guarantee the holding of these rooms.

Some other things to do during the convention:

Wisconsin Maritime Museum and USS Cobia tour: For more information about this visit their website at: www.wisconsinmaritime.org.

Kohler Design Center and Factory (Kohler is about 30 miles from Manitowoc). Visit their website at: www.us.kohler.com/us/Kohler-Design-Center.

Kohler Factory Tour: For more detailed information about the tour visit their website at: www.americanclubresort.com/activities/tours/kohler/factory.

Rahr West Art Museum: Admission is free. For more information about the Rahr West visit their website at: www.manitowoc.org/index.aspx?nid=1006

***For more detailed information about the convention and registration forms visit the Winnebagoland website at: <http://www.wld-nmra.com/?action=meets>



Model Display at one of our recent meets. (Photo by Joe Whinnery)

CABOOSE

Doug Loy

This is the Christmas issue of the *Flimzie*. The articles have to be submitted by early November, so it can be hard to remember the holiday season. I hope you have some goodies that you



would like to receive, or maybe something nice that you plan to give. With all that is happening in this crazy world, it's nice to have our hobby and be able to forget all our cares.

Our 2015 show and sale is scheduled for March, so sign-ups for volunteering will start at our next meet in January. The show is successful thanks to the many volunteers. More information will be shared when details are finalized. Speaking of 2015, it's hard to believe that it's approaching fast. Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

FLIMZIE

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