

# FLIMZIE

*The Newsletter of the Rock River Valley Division  
Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association*



**September 2023      Volume 57, Number 1**

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The Rock River Valley Division, RRVD, is a local division of the Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association, NMRA. The RRVD serves NMRA members in areas of Green and Rock Counties of Wisconsin, and Boone, Jo Davies, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, Carol, DeKalb and Winnebago counties in Illinois. The RRVD holds monthly meetings typically the first Sunday afternoon of each month, September through May. Starting on September 10, we will be meeting at the **Paulson's Agriculture Museum, 6950 Belvidere Rd, Caledonia, IL 61011**. The meetings consist of various clinics on model railroading, model contests, and drawings for door prizes for NMRA members. All are welcome. The meeting starts at 1:00 PM, and the doors open at 12:30 PM.

## **2023 BoD & Chairman Directory**

Please use the following address to contact the RRVD organization or any of the following officers:

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**Office Vacancies**

**Division Publicity Chairman.** This person would be responsible for contacting organizations (newspapers, local ad flyers, TV stations public announcements, magazines, etc.) that would publicize our meets, train shows, and other activities. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, contact Marty Hendrickx, 815-978-7326, [superintendent@rrvd-nmar.org](mailto:superintendent@rrvd-nmar.org).

**Flimzie Deadlines**

The Flimzie is published once per month on the first of the month. It will be placed on the RRVD website for anyone that wants to read it.

The content for the Flimzie comes from you, our readers. Please submit your articles, pictures and editorial comments to the Editor, Ken Peterson, [poplarken53@gmail.com](mailto:poplarken53@gmail.com), no later than 10 days before the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, i.e., Jan 21, 2022, for a Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 publication.

## From the Superintendent By Marty Hendrickx

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## From the Editor By Ken Peterson

Friends of the Flimzie, I need to point out that this publication is for you and by you. All the articles that appear here are written by members of the RRVD. If you don't submit articles for publishing, there is no content. When I took over as the editor, I wanted to change the Flimzie from a quarterly publication to a monthly one. Without articles from you, I may have to switch the Flimzie back to quarterly, or even once in a blue moon, based on when I get content. This will be completely up to you.

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## What Are Friends For? Chapter 20 Gary D. Loiselle

There is a definite advantage to writing material for the Flimzie. I have a chance to reflect on things in the past, and in some cases, I am nudged forward to finish a project or two. (Or three) And again, I am reminded of my connection with our RRVD friend Charlie Wickhorst. WAFF!

For example, Charlie and I attended the NMRA National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio in 2005. One of the industrial tours that we both went on made stops at a company that took rolls of steel and made pipes and The DUPPS Company that manufactures equipment for the rendering industry. Both companies had "open load" material. Go figure. We can look at the pipe stuff another time. The DUPPS load(s) are **B-I-G. (Photos A&B)** These machines are used at rendering plants to pulverize leftover parts to be used in fertilizer and other protein products.

The challenge to recreate a similar load didn't really plant the seed until Dave Hopper reminded me (several times) that his layout, the **Tomah, Onalaska, and Western RR.** has a packing plant that could use a "meat grinder" **(Photo C)**. The basic underbody frame for my first attempt was made with *Plastruct* shapes. With subsequent attempts, I used Evergreen styrene shapes **(Photo D)**. The end platforms and the vertical ends of the "machine" are also styrene. The mechanism stuff on the end platforms are a compilation of model ship parts from my scrap box **(Photo E)**.

There were two challenges with the center portion of the "machine". How to get a close representation of the shape and what to use for the shiny "skin" **(Photo F)**.

I tried creating the entire shape on my table saw with wood. Not the best. I then tried using PVC for the lower rounded half and wood cut to a taper for the upper part. Cutting round PVC lengthwise was a challenge which we can discuss another time.

After I had the body figured out, getting that nice shiny skin was next. I tried foil, thin styrene sheet plastic, light-weight metal and then.....sweet....I really mean sweet. In the process of getting an empty cookies package broken down for recycling, a thin, shiny surface popped out. My basic materials for this project now include a length of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " PVC, a strip of wood cut to a taper and length on my table saw, and an 'empty' package of *Chips Ahoy Thins* cookies **(Photo G)**.

My first completed "meat grinder" has now been delivered to Dave Hopper's **Tomah, Onalaska, and Western (Photo H)**. [Photographed on my layout.] The second completed is on my layout and the third is on Rick Frese' CNW layout in route to Quaker Oats Co. in Rockford **(Photo I)**.

### **WAFF? Gary**

Postscript: A detail that has stuck with me from my visit to DUPPS, not only do they manufacture new items, but they also recondition used stuff **(Photos J&K)**. If you are among those of us that can't pass up a good deal and have more than one (or two) of a particular car **(Photo L)**..Why not grime one up to return for repairs? **(Photo M)**



Photo A



Photo C



Photo B

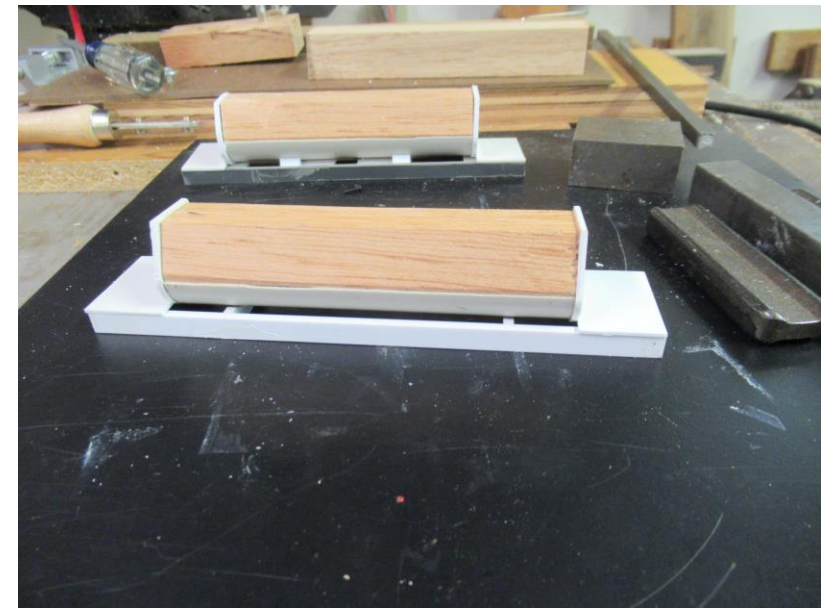


Photo D

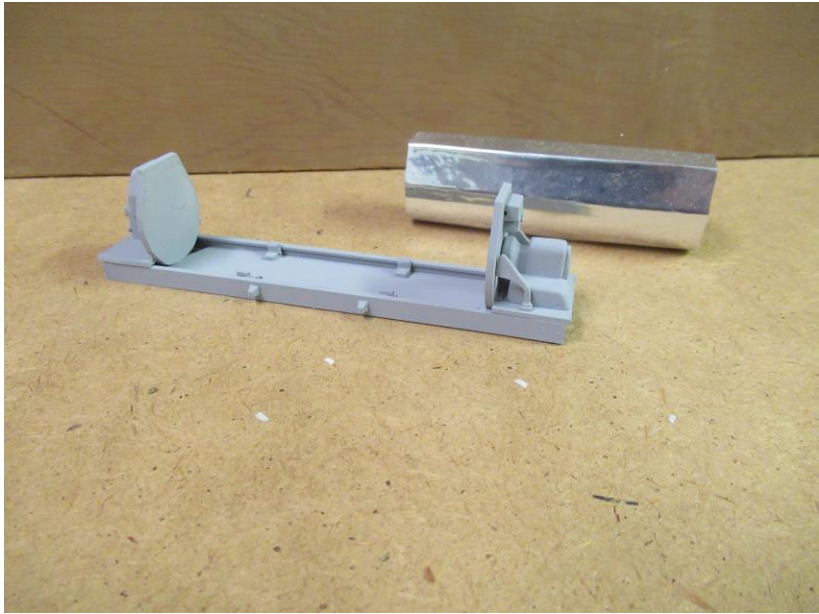


Photo E



Photo G



Photo F



Photo H



Photo I



Photo K



Photo J



Photo L



Photo M

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