

FLIMZIE

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



December 2023 Volume 57, Number 4

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 in September, 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.

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, no later than 10 days before the 1st of the month, i.e., Jan 21, 2022, for a Feb 1st 2023 publication.

From the Superintendent By Marty Hendrickx

Here it is the end of November and we are well into the holiday season. Thanksgiving was last week and I hope everyone had a chance to gather with family and friends to enjoy a meal and to spend some time with the special people in our lives. Before we know it, it will be Christmas and New Year's with all of the parties and gift giving. RRVD will be hosting our annual Holiday Dinner at Lino's again this year on January 7th at 5:00 PM. The RSVP's will be going out shortly and my hope is as many of you as possible will be attending. It is our chance to have a meal together and to socialize.

With the coming of winter many of us will be retreating to our hobby rooms to work on our layout or models or both. With the cold weather there is not much we can do outside except maybe clean the drive when it snows so we now have lots of free time to work on our great hobby. And this is a good thing as I have recently seen a several articles on how hobbies can benefit us. Some of the many benefits of model railroading are:

- Hobbies reduce stress and help lower our blood pressure. These are two things we hear on a regular basis we need to do to promote our good health and longevity.
- Hobbies give us an opportunity to socialize with likeminded individuals to share our common interest and share our expertise. Developing and maintaining friendships is another positive aspect in our lives.
- Hobbies promote intellectual development by adding new skills. Look at our great hobby of model railroading. The skills needed include carpentry, electrical/electronics, scenery, painting, operations, history.
- Hobbies foster a sense of accomplishment and self-worth when we complete a model or project. This is something that is sometime hard to accomplish in today's modern world with all of the competing things in our lives.

So the next time someone criticizes the time you devote to your hobby, tell them you are making an investment in your mental and physical health and developing new friendships and skills!

Speaking of developing new skills, our December meet at Paulson's Museum on December 3rd, will feature Tom Ose doing a clinic on Arduinos. You may ask what is an Arduino? It is a small, electronic, programmable controller that

will allow you to add animation and control to your model railroad. So come to our December meet and learn something new and a little bit challenging.

The Capron Lions Club will have a family orientated train show on Saturday December 9th at 305 E. North St. in Capron. This is a no charge event and is a good show to bring children and anyone else interested in seeing operating layouts. They usually have layouts from N to G to Lego so lots to see. The Lions have their canteen open serving brats, hot dogs and chili along with chips, soda and coffee.

So that's it for now. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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 occasionally, based on when I get content. This will be completely up to you.

What Are Friends For? Chapter 25 Gary D. Loielle

I thought I was done with water towers in Chapter 24. WELL! Let me add just one more. **(Photo 1)** I can only tell you that I saw it is somewhere in Wisconsin on one of our stay-off- the-Interstate trips. Based on the size of the pipe down the center, I assume it is a water tank, not just a decoration or advertisement. This is also an example of those things that you see and need to snap a picture. Some other examples from my collection: **Photo 2-** Propane tank in Chippewa Falls, WI. ; **Photo 3-**'Can of Chilli with Beans' along Interstate in Beloit, WI. ; **Photo 4-**'Beer Bottles' in Manitowoc, WI.; **Photo 5-**'Beer Cans' in La Crosse, WI.

I have a brewery on my layout, but I do not need large beer cans to identify it. **(Photo 6)** The sign *Leinenkugel's* is a copy of a logo on a piece of stationary sent to me in response to a request I made to the brewery for some kind of

signage. If I remember right, they said they really didn't have much to send me. Okay.

I'll come back to 'Leinies' in a later chapter. Right now I would like to get you thinking about details other water towers. I believe the subject in **Photo 7** is, or was somewhere in Rockford. My question is, "what in your scrap box can you use to replicate the large tank and smaller details to the side? (Think!)

While you're doing that.....here's something else. I will assume that many of you have been to Rochelle, IL. for a time of train watching at the railroad park and The Diamonds. (If not, you have to go) WAFF

After the UP and /or BNSF provide you with photo ops, look around. Across the street to the east there is a small power plant. What it does exactly, I can't say but there is "train load" of details. **Photo 8** is taken from south of the BNSF tracks looking north. The large silver horizontal tanks could be modified commercial kits, or, a rather easy scratch built project. The two black vertical cylinders behind the horizontal tanks look a whole lot like the black magic markers I still have in the back of junk drawer in the kitchen.

(Photo 9) is a shot looking East from the street in front of the Rail Road park. This white or silver tank is somewhat larger than the black ones. It kind of looks like a jumbo marker. In both cases, I should remind you to leave the caps on them. (WAFF) Gary

Postscript: I know I said I was done with water tanks or towers.... but....in searching through more slides and photos, I came across a picture that I shot in Duluth,MN. during the 2016 SOO Line convention. Someone there obviously wanted to outdo other buildings in the area. If one water tank is good, two must be better. **(Photo 10)**



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 5



Photo 4



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 9



Photo 8



Photo 10
