

FLIMZIE

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



March 2024 Volume 57, Number 7

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.

2024 BoD & Chairman Directory

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

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Director:

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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, 2024, for a Feb 1st, 2024, publication.

From the Superintendent By Marty Hendrickx

Hello all. Well, we have just experienced the mildest February and winter on record in Rockford. Hopefully that did not distract you from your modeling and layout operations of your railroads or projects. It is still chilly, but we have not had to deal with the snow and extremely low temperatures. This upcoming Sunday the 3rd of March the forecast is for the lower 70's. We will be opening the doors at Paulson's to keep the temperature inside from getting too hot!

Our annual Rock River Valley Train Show is just a few short weeks away on the weekend of March 16th and 17th and the excitement is building. We have a number of high-quality manufacturers, dealers and layouts that will be at our show and it should be an outstanding event! Please do whatever you can to promote this event. If you are on Facebook or Next-door, please do not hesitate to make a posting to tell your family, friends, and neighbors about our event. We will have posters and flyers at our Sunday, March 3rd meet, so pick up some and distribute them to your barber, local restaurant or wherever they have a community bulletin board. The yard signs are gone so we will have to get more for next year's show.

Now besides passing out our advertisements, we need whatever help you can contribute to the show. The greatest need is to help with setup and teardown, but we still have many other opportunities that do not require any strenuous effort. If you will not be at our March meet and want to help, please let Doug Loy, Ken Mosny or myself know what you would like to help with and we will get you set up.

A couple of other notes for future events:

- RRVD will still be having their joint meet with the Madison group on May 5th. There was some concern with the Regional Convention being from the 2nd through the 4th, that we would have to reschedule the meet. With Mother's Day on the following weekend, it would have pushed the meet out to the middle of May which was problematic.
- Our plan for the June Junket is to visit the Fox Valley Trolley Museum and the Valley Model Railroad Club which are both in S. Elgin about 5 minutes apart. Our plans are not complete for the junket as some details need to be worked out, but it will be either the 1st or 8th of June.

Our March meet will be our annual meeting so be sure to attend that meet because we will discuss the train show results, our financials and have election of officers for the 2024/2025 year.

As always please let me know your thoughts or concerns. I hope to see as many of you as possible at one of our upcoming events.

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

What Are Friends For? Chapter 29 Gary D. Loiselle

In chapter 28 I referred to John Swanson and Dennis Blunt. Both have been "published" in model railroad related magazines. As I perused my bookshelves, I have found several more RRVD 'friends', including myself, that have been featured in some way, shape or form.

Bill Lorence MMR had a construction article in the May 1985 issue of *Model Railroader* titled *WELTE LUMBER & MILLWORK*. **(Photo 1)** John Swanson of Freeport had an article in the January 2008 issue of *Scale Rails* titled *SCRAP LOADS*. **(Photo 2)** (*Scale Rails* is one of the several names the NMRA publication has gone by over the years.)

Joe Whinnery had an article in *Model Roader* in the September 2002 issue. **(Photo 3)** He was also featured in MR Trackside Photos column in the March 2010 issue. **(Photo 4)** (As an aside, Joe was also featured in an article in the Rockford Register Star April 12, 2015. **(Photo 5)** I have no photos of Joe as motorman on the Rockford Park District trolley.)

The March 2010 issue of MR was a triple for the RRVD. Number one was Joe, number two was Jim McQueeney, MMR. Jim had an article titled *BUILDING NARROW BENCHWORK ALONG A WALL*. **(Photo 6)** Number three from the RRVD was Dick Caudle. Dick's *Waukon, Mineral & Addison Railroad* was featured in the Trackside Photos column. **(Photo 7)** WAFF, the photo just happens to be taken by Joe Whinnery.

I have a limited quantity of photos from Dick's layout in my collection. Hindsight is 20-20. Fortunately, I was able to capture some of the evolution of the **WM & A**. One of my favorites is **Photo 8A**. This is a great picture for those of you in the early stages of building a layout or just adding on. You don't have to break the bank right off the bat. If you look close at the card stock mock-up building, there is a handwritten sign identifying this as Kapfer Grain Broker. (Another example of WAFF. We lost model railroader, Bill Kapfer in 2020.) **Photo 8B** is the "finished" replacement. **Photo 9** is somewhat of a work in progress. In the distance there is a couple of bridge crossings of the waterway. Closer on the left, card stock is in place for whatever industry will be there. The **WM & A** has a number of bridges. To be more exact . . . operating bridges. And to be even more exact, pneumatic operated bridges. There is an air compressor system that lifts or turns the bridges depending on its style. (**Photo 10**) I have included **Photo 11** for those of us that can not only appreciate operating bridges, but details, details, details. WAFF Gary

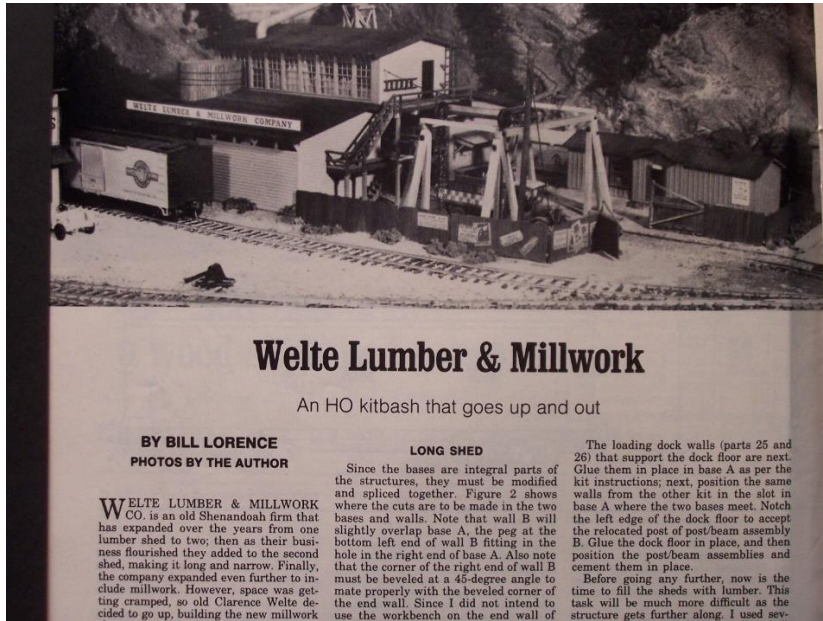


Photo 1



Photo 2

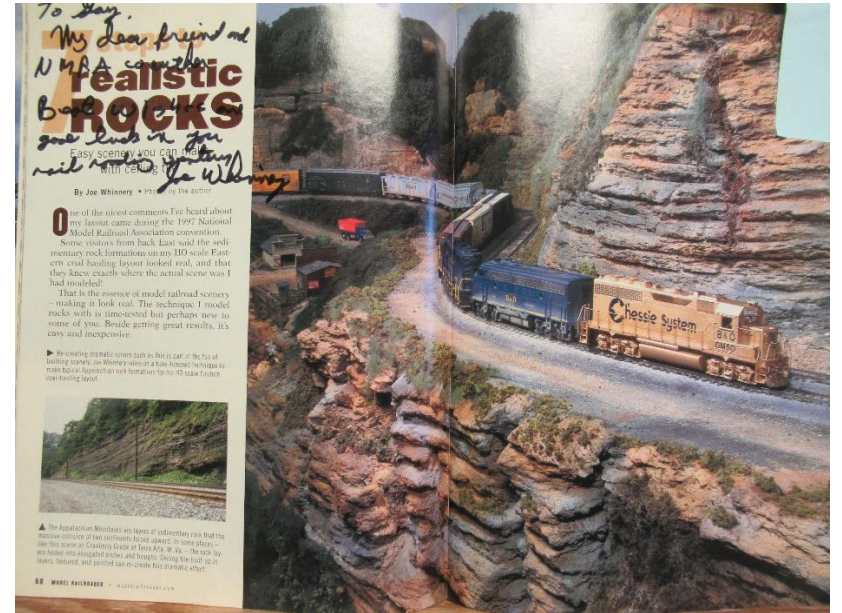


Photo 3

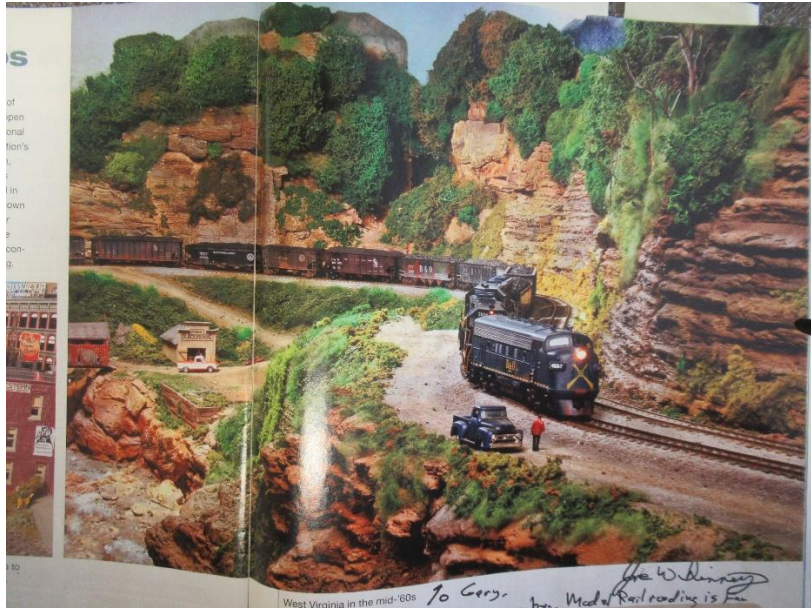


Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

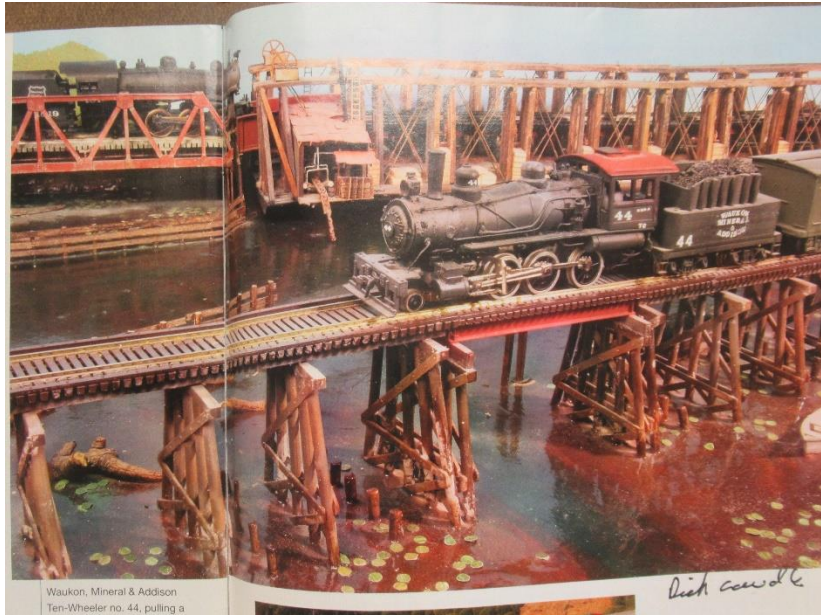


Photo 7



Photo 8B



Photo 8A



Photo 9

Photos From Last Month's Meet
By Joe Winnery

Imagine you are a kid in a candy store and can have all the candy you want. Now imagine you are a "grown up" railfan, and your desire is to see double headed steam in the transition time frame. Then, imagine your wife "FORCES" you to get in your time machine /airliner and fly with other rail fans to China in 2003,2004 and 2005 to see double headed steam in operation and more.

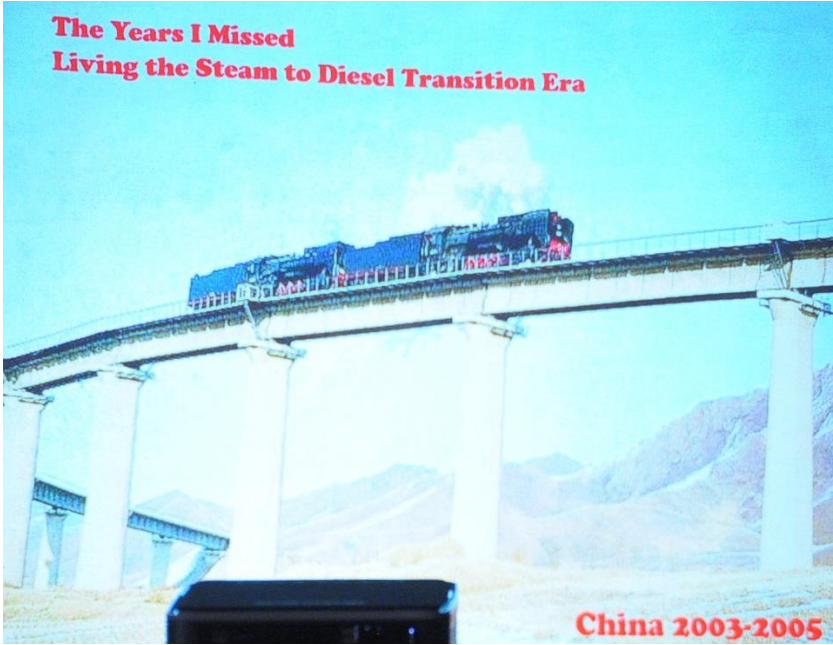
Our Feb clinician Ken Hoinacki is from SCWD Division and an engineer with Mid-Continent Rail Museum. He did his dream trip and got 30 minutes of time in the cab operating a Chinese steam locomotive. The steam, oil, and dust allowed him to float through the air and never touch the ground. Talk about a back in time experience! We can only imagine what that would be like. He also did a presentation on chasing Big Boy 4014, and the 150th Commemoration of the Golden Spike in May 2019. The following pictures show what you missed.



Photo 10



Photo 11



China, Photo 1



China, Photo 2



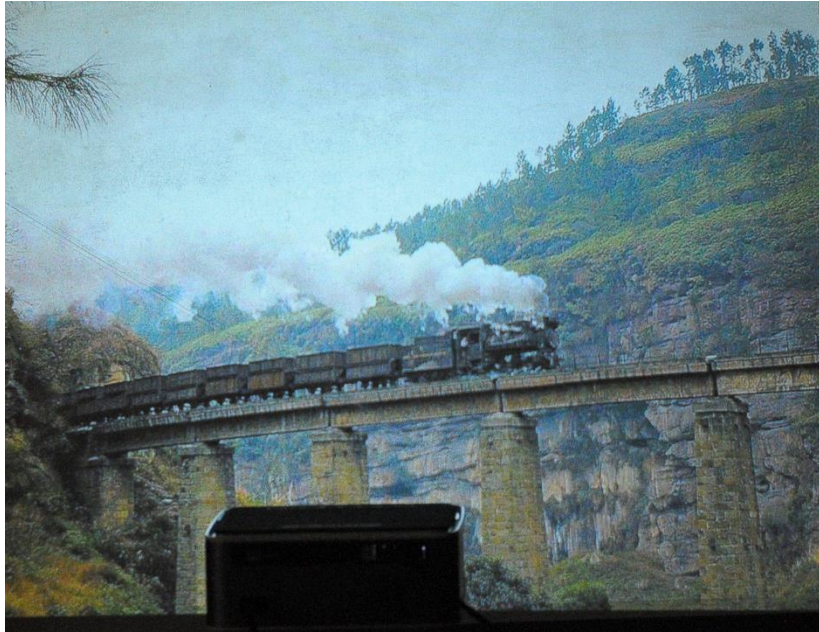
China, Photo 4



China, Photo 3



China, Photo 5



China, Photo 6



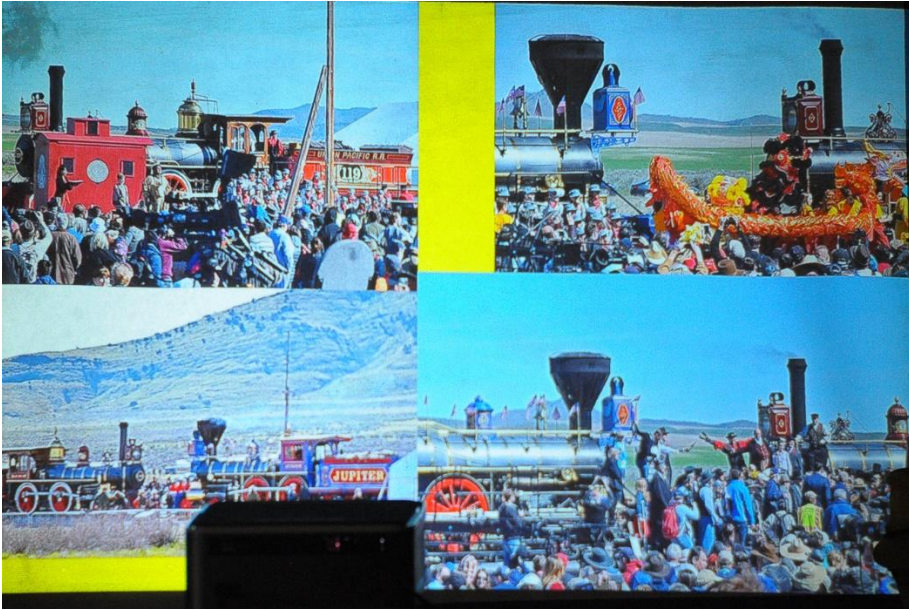
Chasing the Big Boy, Photo 1



China, Photo 7



Chasing the Big Boy, Photo 2



Commemorative Golden Spike



Contest Winner, Dave Hopper