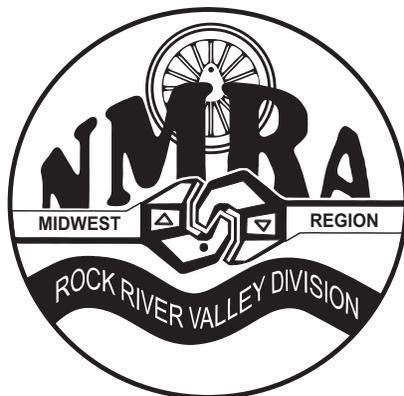


MODEL RAILROADERS

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

FLIMZIE



Volume 42

Number 2

Winter 2009

Superintendent's Report **John Mann**

November was Model Railroad month. We had several events already last month.

Ray Dyreson ran a fabulous excursion with a full bus to Trainfest this past weekend. Clarence Welte won the Trivia contest. A good time was had by all. Many goodies came back on the bus. Thanks Ray!

Frank McCabe was the chairman of the Midway Village Show. Attendance was down a bit, but everyone had a good time. Ralph Haynes was there with his "People Mover." For the first time we had volunteers staff a young engineer's program at this show. Some 90 boxcars were assembled. Frank, Ray Dyreson and others helped out with this. The newly revamped Rockford Route was present and ran flawlessly. Thanks to Dale Burge and all others who participated.

Since last time, Charlie Wickhorst has put together a committee to assess the options regarding the Video library. They have been hard at work. To aid them, there is a questionnaire in the Flimzie that the committee would appreciate our members filling out.

Local non-NMRA events included the S-Fest and a commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Milwaukee Road's Cherry mine disaster in Cherry, IL featuring Ray Tutaj's fabulous HO model of the mine. In addition, there will be several open houses nearby (Savannah, Freeport and Chana to name a few) in the near future.

Christmas is our "garage sale." Please bring your "white elephants."

We will have the Division's HO corner modules at the January Meet to help determine the direction we will be taking regarding them.

The Rockford Route is available for display. You can contact me at 815-332-2496 to request it. Please allow some lead time. The availability will depend on transportation and volunteers to man it.

I still need a Show and Sale chairman.

Until next time, keep training!

LET'S NOT FORGET THE DECEMBER 6th GARAGE SALE AT MIDWAY VILLAGE.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Model Railroad Month

Our club treasurer, Rich Woock, participated in Model Railroad month again this year. The new Beloit Public Library has several glassed-in display shelves. Rich volunteered to set up a display and was given four shelves. His display consisted of three HO dioramas as well as several Fairbanks Morse locomotives. The prototypes of these locomotives were assembled next door to the library.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Membership in the National Model Railroad Association

Member (with Magazine Subscription)

All Rights and Benefits; Includes NMRA Scale Rails magazine

Cost - \$58.00 (US) per year, 2 years for \$116.00 (US)

Member (No Subscription)

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Cost - \$39.00 (US) per year, 2 years for \$78.00 (US)

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The spouse or minor child of above member in good standing. Family Members have no vote and cannot hold an office at any level of the NMRA, and do not receive Scale Rails magazine. Family Members receive their own annual renewal notice and membership card.

Provide Family Member's name and date of birth in the comments box.

Cost - \$8.00 (US) per year per family member.

NOTE: If you are a new NMRA Member, please complete the Member application for yourself as a Member first. Then complete a separate Member application for each family Member. If you are a current NMRA Member adding a family membership, please complete the Member

application for the Family Member and note in the "Special Interests, Prototype & Modeling" section of the application your NMRA Member Number and Name for the Family Member to be Linked.

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Cost \$28.00 (US) per year.

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Mandatory for all group memberships such as Clubs, Associations, Corporations or other Businesses. Sustaining membership includes all the rights and privileges of membership including the "NMRA Scale Rails." The NMRA is a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit educational organization and your professional association as a sustaining member is tax deductible. Any individual may also support the NMRA as a sustaining member in which ½ the cost of membership is eligible as a tax-deductible donation.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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*as of 12/25/06

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**Midway Village
Train Show 2009**

For the 16th year in a row, the Rock River Valley Division put on the Model Train Show at Midway Village Museum, held November 7 and 8, 2009. This year's show was deemed successful, however, attendance was substantially down from last year and down significantly for the third year in a row. This year, we had 549 for the two day event, compared with 742 in 2008 and 1076 in 2007.

I believe there are four reasons for the poor attendance. The first was the great "Indian Summer" weather that we never received in October but decided to visit during the train show weekend. When the weather is as nice as it was, many people would rather do outdoors activities than be inside. The second factor was kind of a strange one, i.e. a "competing" train show, the "S Fest". This S Gauge only show moves locations every year and this year it just happened to be in Rockford on the same dates as the RRVD MWV show. It is difficult to tell how many people may have attended that show rather than ours, but it probably was a factor, to some extent. The third reason effecting attendance, of course, has to be the general state of the economy. With the worst recession in many years still upon us, it certainly could have affected people's decisions to spend money on admission to the show. However, I believe the biggest factor for the poor attendance was the almost total lack of publicity. In previous years, we had newspaper, radio and TV coverage of the event either prior to or during the

weekend. This year we had basically nothing. As I have said before, the major promotional effort lies with the museum and we will need to work with them to improve publicity if we are going to enjoy better attendance in the future.

The makeup of the show was similar to last year, but on the downside, the Stateline S Guagers were unable to participate this year as they were, of course, at "S Fest" and we were hoping to have a large N Scale modular layout, but they turned out to be "no-shows", the first time such a thing has occurred in the 16 years of doing the show.

But enough of the bad news! On the positive side, Ralph Haines once again set up the outside riding train, the "Beaver Valley Lines", much to the delight of both young and old.

Returning for the fourth year in a row were the Midwest Rails G Scale layout and the Lake County Society of Modular Engineer's HO Layout, both excellent and popular displays.

Once again we also had the Fever River HO module, which features quality bench work and an excellent level of completeness of scenery.

Also, a big crowd pleaser was the Peterson family Lionel layout which has many buttons to press that operates trains and accessories to delight our guests.

New this year was the RRVD sponsored "Young Engineers" program which allowed youngsters to build an HO Freight Car kit, test run it on the "Rockford Route" layout and then take it home with them. This activity was greatly enjoyed by the 90 kids that signed up!

In addition to the above, there was a Z scale layout, one "timesaver" layout, one small N scale layout, three additional Lionel layouts, and one O scale switching layout. Complementing the layouts in all of these different scales were the National Railway Historical Society's slide shows and display table, RRVD display, railroadiana display, Argyle Club display, American Freedom Train display, videos and of course, perhaps most importantly, RRVD members and other model train enthusiasts, providing static displays and demonstrating modeling techniques.

Even though we had a number of issues to deal with this year, The Midway Village Museum Model Train Show remains a great opportunity for us to introduce our hobby to the general public, as well as to current train enthusiasts, in a museum setting, at the beginning of the model railroading season. In addition, it supports the not-for-profit institution that is home to our monthly membership meets and Board of Directors meetings. In closing, I would like to thank everyone who participated, assisted, promoted, and attended our show.

We couldn't have done it without you.

Thanks again to all!

P.S. Next year's show is November 6 & 7, 2010!

Frank McCabe

Midway Village Museum
Train Show Coordinator

SIGHTS AT MIDWAY VILLAGE



Ralph Haynes on the Beaver Valley Lines



From the editor:
Our thanks to Joe Whinnery for these great photographs.

Model Contest Report

October 2009

Jim McQueeney

As we started another season of the regular Rock River Valley Division meets at Midway Village our model contest for October was Open Loads.

There were eighteen entries that ranged from single to multiple cars.

The entry that received the most popular vote at the contest was built by Charlie Wickhorst. Charlie received a gift certificate from a hobby shop for his work, congratulations Charlie.

The model that received the second highest number of votes was a tie, they were also built by Charlie

We have had a tremendous interest in the model contests and I hope it will continue.

The December meet will be our annual garage sale so there will not be a model contest until January 2010.

Contact the Editor
with your advertising inquiries!

Ron Anderson
crabbo@comcast.net

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ATTENTION

The Rock River Valley Division started a Video Library in January 2000. The Library now includes both video tapes and DVDs.

The Library is at a crucial point in it's history.

Do we continue The Library or abandon it?

We, the RRVD Library Committee, would like to know your wishes. At the January 3rd RRVD Meet there will be a ballot box for your vote on the future of The Library. Fill out the ballot at the Meet, or fill out and mail the ballot printed below, or let someone from the committee know your point of view.

Why is The Library at a crucial point?

First and foremost, no one volunteered to accept the vacant Librarian position and take care of the Library.

Historically, this is a very physical task. The Library has 131 tapes and 64 DVDs. They are stored in five plastic bins. The Librarian has to carry the heavy bins to and from each regular RRVD Meet. Then, there is the job of keeping track of who has borrowed tapes and DVDs. And, it can be an unpleasant chore to retrieve overdue videos!

Some suggest that a list of all tapes and DVDs in The Library may possibly be available to RRVD members so they could merely pick up and return their choices at the regular Meets. However, volunteers would still have to perform those revised Librarian tasks!

Second, there is a relatively low level of use of The Library. Some suggest that RRVD members are disinterest in The Library; hence, some conclude it should be discontinued. Others say the problem could be a combination of members not being aware of The Library plus it is not at every regular Meet.

Did you know that... for free... RRVD members can borrow as many videos as they want from one regular Meet to the next regular Meet... for one month... for FREE?

Third, many of the videos in The Library are VHS tapes. Most cannot be converted to DVDs due to copyrights. Some suggest that VHS tapes are ancient technology that should be sold or scrapped.

Please let us know your opinion at the January 3rd RRVD Meet. Interestingly, that will mark the 10th anniversary of The Library.

Please let us know what you think about The Library. Have a say.

Charlie Wickhorst,
Chairperson

Library Committee:
Doug Loy
Gary Loiselle
Tom Maladecki
Dennis Kern

Do we continue the RRVD Video Library or abandon it? YES, keep it NO, abandon it

Comments: _____

Send to: The Library, Charlie Wickhorst, 4834 Danforth Dr., Rockford, IL 61114

A NOTE FROM YOUR WEBMASTER.

Just in case you are not aware the Rock River Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association has a website. To those that do know about it great, I hope to see you often. There are several items on the website that should be helpful to you as you pursue this great hobby.

When you get to the website the first thing you will see is the Home Page. There you will find out who we are and a list of our elected officials. Under the RRVD Shield and a picture of the great Fairbanks Morse Trainmaster you will see a bar listing EVENTS, PHOTOS, NEWSLETTER and ORGANIZATIONS.

Click on EVENTS.

There you will find the dates for the RRVD monthly meets and the clinics and contests at each meet.

Click on the address shown and you will find a map showing you how to find the Midway village Museum where the meets are held.

Clink on "Train events in the MWR" and you will find Don Brindle's, the RRVD Archivist, list of events in the Midwest Region from September 2009 thru February 2010. When this list expires a new list will be posted.

After you have reviewed all of the information there and have marked you calendar for the events you want to attend click on PHOTOS.

Here you will see several small folders with captions below, click on the ones you would like to view and it

will open to some great pictures. Some are from RRVD events and others are photos of local layouts.

After you have enjoyed viewing the craftsmanship of our local modelers go back up to the top of the page and click "NEWSLETTER".

Here you will find a list of present and previous issues of the RRVD "Flimzie". Click on the issue you would like to view and it will appear complete and in living color. After you have caught up on all of the latest news go back to the home page and click on "ORGANIZATIONS".

Here you will find the address to the National Model Railroad Association, the NMRA Midwest Region and model railroad clubs in the RRVD area.

Now you are wondering how I get to this great web site. Well, there are a few ways to do that. You can go to rrvd-nmra.com, rrvd-nmra.net. You can also link through The NMRA site at nmra.org/regions&divisions/midwestregion/rockrivervalleydivision or from mwr-nmra.org/divisions/rockrivervalley. If you don't want to do all of that just go to your favorite search engine Google, Dogpile, etc. and type in rrvd, they will find it for you.

I invite you to visit the RRVD website soon and often things are changing all of the time. If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me at webmaster@rrvd.com.

Until next time, Happy Holidays and I will see you on the internet.

Webmaster Mike.

**CABOOSE
Doug Loy**



Christmas!

What a wonderful time of the year. This is when us model railroaders can go out and buy something we really need (or want) and justify it by saying that it is from Santa! Have you been enjoying the new season for the RRVD? Please let your BOD members know so that we can continue or improve your monthly meets. Don't forget that the December meet is the garage sale.

Where you can pick up really good deals if you are a buyer or unload your excess stuff if you are a seller!

This year at trainfest will hopefully be rewarding. By the time the FLIMZIE comes out trainfest will be over. I haven't been for a number of years, but I made a sincere effort to go this year. Hopefully I was able to obtain some needed goodies!

Have a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Remember that the light at the end of a tunnel, could be a train !

FLIMZIE

Ron Anderson

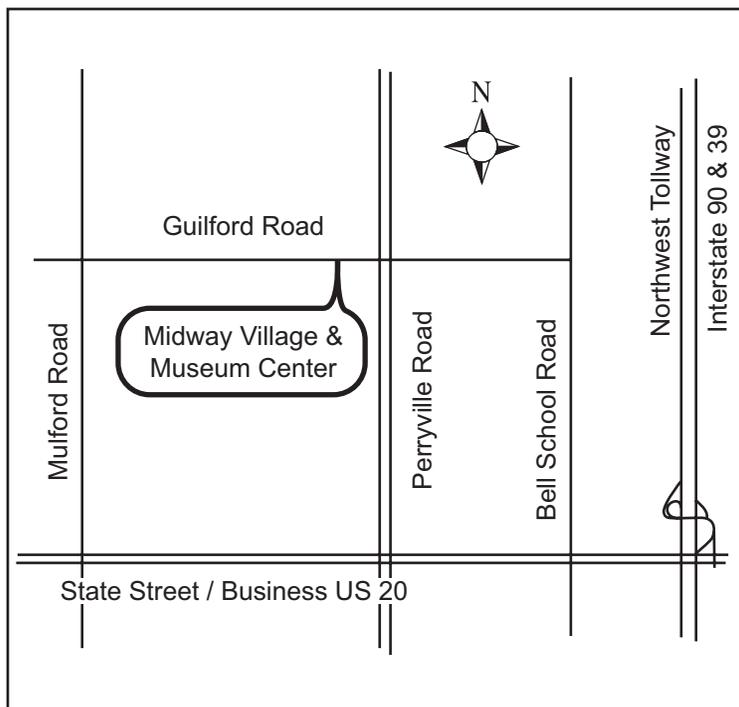
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**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



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

Deadlines

- Fall issue Aug 10th**
- Winter issue Nov 10th**
- Spring issue Feb 10th**
- Summer issue May 10th**