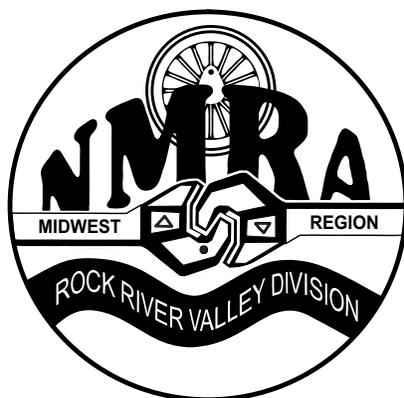


MODEL RAILROADERS

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

F L I M Z I E



Volume 43

Number 2

Winter 2010

17TH ANNUAL SHOW & DISPLAY HAS COME AND GONE

Frank McCabe, MVM Train Show Coordinator.

For the 17th year in a row, the Rock River Valley Division put on the Model Train Show at Midway Village Museum, held November 6 and 7, 2010. This year's show presented both challenges and opportunities, but was considered successful overall, with an increase in attendance to 685 for the two day event, compared with 549 for 2009.

Here are some details:

On the positive side, we were able to use the large (5000 sq ft.) exhibit space in the new addition to the MVM. This allowed for most all of the layouts to be in the same room, which was a first for the event. In addition, we had the best representation of layouts ever, with the addition of a large N Scale layout and the return of the Stateline S Gaugers, joining the G, O, HO and Z layouts. The "Beaver Valley Lines", outdoor riding railroad assured our attendees of plenty of entertainment and activity. RRVD members were located in the Lake View room along with two smaller layouts in HO and O Tinsplate. Another popular event was the NRHS Slide Show which was "standing room only" for a number of the periodic presentations. Finally, the most popular activity seemed to be the Young Engineers Program, which benefited from having exclusive use of the Courtyard Room right off the main exhibit room. The number of participants in the program set a one day record, with over 120 kits being

built on Saturday alone and another large number on Sunday.

The negatives for this year included, once again, a dearth of publicity in the newspaper and other media, despite increased publicity efforts on the part of both MVM and the RRVD. In addition, we had to work around the previously scheduled Church service on Sunday which was located in one-third of the Lakeview Room and two Train Show "sponsors" (a travel agent and heating/cooling company), secured by MVM, also had exhibits in prime locations that had little apparent relationship to model trains.

The week following conclusion of the event, MVM and RRVD officials did an assessment and concluded that space for future Train Shows would be much harder to come by, as the Museum continues to add more permanent exhibits (including one scheduled for the large new space) and focuses on larger "interpretive events", such as WWII Days. This, combined with the fact that our Train Show attendance numbers have been, for the most part, steadily declining for a number of years, resulted in MVM's recommendation to eliminate future RRVD Train Shows at the Museum.

This recommendation was put to a vote of the RRVD BOD members on November 15 and the motion was passed unanimously. However, the

Board certainly had mixed emotions about the decision, as we believe those who have attended the shows thoroughly enjoyed them, and it was 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. But, given the various future constraints and challenges, we believe this is the right time to discontinue it and "go out on top" rather than potentially compromise the quality of the event.

Obviously, the RRVD highly values our relationship with MVM and intends to keep all of our other functions at the facility, as scheduled.

In closing, I would like to add my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has participated in and/or attended the MVM Train Show over the past 17 years, as it has been a great run.

We couldn't have done it without you.

Thanks again to all!

MERRY CHRISTMAS



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Trainfest 2010 Bus Trip

By Tom Maladecki

The RRVD bus trip to Trainfest 2010 in Milwaukee on Saturday, November 13th was a sell-out once again. We departed the Clock Tower on time at 7:30 AM with 44 on board, picked up nine more fest-goers in Beloit, then headed for the expo center at the Wisconsin state fairgrounds. This year we rode on Rockford Charter Coach. There was no degradation in the quality of the motor coach or the service.

Ray Dyreson kept the trip fun. Most of us seemed to have a good time working on Ray's infamous annual Trainfest Trivia Test. Of course, there was some good-natured grumbling about the obscure questions. For example - -

19 The Rockford Limited

A) was to have been Amtrak's daily Chicago train

B) was operated by the Galena & Chicago Union RR

C) was operated by the Illinois Iowa & Minnesota RR

D) began passenger service in 1950

Everyone's a winner, it's just that folks with the highest number of correct answers [Clarence Welte, Frank McCabe, and Gary Loiselle] got first choice from the carton of candy and crackers. By the way, the highest number of correct answers was 11 out of 20... a 55% on your RRVDSTAT!

We arrived at Trainfest just about as it opened at 9AM. The

bus parked nearby and we got into the building quickly.

Trainfest was fantastic. If you have not been there, you really do have to go some time soon. If you haven't been there in a while, you should go again. I could be off by a few, but I counted 77 layouts, 13 groups, 22 displays, 65 manufacturers, and 44 vendors. There were people demonstrating their modeling skills as well as clinics by expert modelers and several manufacturers. The vendors were selling most everything related to our train hobby. I did leave a few dollars behind, but I have some wonderful treasures! Layouts were of every scale and persuasion. All of the layouts were good, and some were of extremely fine quality. I really did not have time to fully explore everything in the six short hours that we were there. I was happy that I did get to visit with a few modeler friends who I had not seen in a while.

The bus departed at 3PM. Like Ray says, "everyone was too tired or too broke to go on." We were at Beloit shortly after 4PM and we got to the Clock Tower about 4:45... almost on the advertised!

Trainfest 2011 is November 12th and 13th. Next year's trip will be Nov. 12, 2011. Mark your calendar and ride with us. The bus is comfortable. The price is unbeatable. And, the companionship is incomparable.

A big thank you to Ray Dyreson for another fine job as coordinator of the trip.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

January 9th, 2011

Locomotive Service - Enter a model of a structure that is used to service a locomotive. Steam or diesel, any size or shape. It can be as simple as a small shovel fed coaling stop to a huge diesel shop with overhead crane interior detail.

February 6th, 2011

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 6th, 2011

Passenger Railroad Stations, Depots - Again, any size or scale, as large as the Union Station in Chicago to as small as a rural, seldom used, whistle stop on a branch line.

May 1st, 2011

Open Loads - Kit build, Kitbash or Scratchbuild a model of a railroad car that is carrying an open load., any size, any scale, any gauge. The car can be built of any material, wood, plastic, cardstock or whatever you prefer.

Photo Contests - This year, this month, we will also have photo contests. There will be separate judging for prototype railroad and model railroad photos.

**September 24 & 25, 2011
Layout Tour**

By Tom Maladecki

RRVD will host a super-sized layout tour on Saturday, September 24, 2011 and on Sunday, September 25, 2011.

We invite all layout owners in the RRVD geographic area to open their railroads. There are absolutely no restrictions as to scale, gage, condition, size, location, era, degree of completion, etc. If you have one, just let us know where it is and what days it will be open.

We will invite all of the people in our RRVD geographic area to come and see the layouts that we have here. Furthermore, we will invite the people who live in the geographic areas of our neighboring NMRA Midwest Region divisions to attend.

In addition, we are considering having layouts open for operation on Friday, September 23, 2011. Let us know if you think this is a good idea, and if your railroad could be open for operation.

We are thinking about having entrance points... locations east, west, north, and south where attendees could pick up maps. Let us know if you could be an entrance point.

Have your layout open, or help

in the planning. Contact Charlie Wickhorst, 4834 Danforth Drive, Rockford IL 61114

**RRVD Website
By Tom Maladecki**

Our website is
www.RRVD-NMRA.com

The first page of the Rock River Valley Division website (the home page) has summary information about RRVD and NMRA and the names and emails of the officers... the kind of stuff I used to put on page 2 of each FLIMZIE. It takes a moment for the RRVD logo and the FM Trainmaster to load. Under the FM Trainmaster you can choose "home", "events" (RRVD schedule), "photos", "newsletter"(the FLIMZIE), and "organizations" (links to NMRA and other websites).

If you have not looked at the RRVD website, I'd suggest you do so soon.

**2011 Clinics update
By Jim McQueeny**

The clinics for the January 2011 Division meet will be presented by Rich Mahaney. He will present "Hazardous Materials for Model Railroaders" and "Quick Industries" or "Junctions, Diamonds and Interchanges".

The February meet will have "An introduction to S

Scale" presented by our division supervisor John Mann, MMR.

I have had confirmation from Andy Sperandio, Executive Editor, of Model Railroader Magazine that he offered to be at our March meet. Andy is planning a presentation on "Freight Yard Design and Operations".

For April this year I am planning a "Modeling with the Masters" meet. After the initial business meeting you will have an opportunity to sit with many of the modelers in our division to learn, or remember, how to do it! View techniques for ballasting track, powdered chalk weathering, building pipe loads and other modeling secrets.

A clinic for the meet in May has yet to be determined.

Answers: From page 4

- #1. Dennis Blunt, first Editor, is the one who named our newsletter the FLIMZIE.
- #2. Chicago & Northwestern crews called train orders "flimzies" because of the flimsy paper that they were typed on. Using a manual typewriter, the train orders were typed with multiple carbon copies in various colors for everyone's records. So FLIMZIE seemed an appropriate name.
You know you're getting older when you remember carbon paper! Or manual typewriters! Also, back then, there were no copier machines or printers.
- #3. Dennis Blunt credit's the late Al Freeze, a local model railroader who worked for the CNW in Rockford. Al supplied actual CNW train orders... "flimzies." By the way, Al's son Rick continues the model railroad tradition, and does a fine job of it!
- #4. Those earliest FLIMZIEs were 8 1/2" high by 7" wide, half the size of the current FLIMZIE.
- #5. Light green paper was used because it was similar to the green color of actual train orders ... "flimzies."

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WHEEL REPORT
Odds and ends and sundry commentary

by Tom Maladecki

October Meet. I had a great time at the October 3rd Meet. I got to see many of my RRVD friends. Sorry I missed you if I didn't have a chance to say hello. Thanks for the doughnut, Larry. Our guest clinicians, Greg and Jeremy Zurek, told us about their ZNN Models structures and how they build them. It was hard to believe their buildings are made of paper. Their presentation was quite informative. Gary Loiselle built a couple of 45 degree corner fixtures using their technique and I look forward to trying out the one that he gave to Charlie Wickhorst. And, as a final item, a lot of you visited my Chicago, Malady Bay and Pacific railroad. Thanks for coming to see it. Charlie had volunteered to have his layout open and suggested that the Malady Bay also be open since we're only two blocks apart. Hope you liked what you saw.

About RRVD Meets. As usual, I expect to be in Florida all of this "Winter." Therefore, I will not attend any of the rest of this season's RRVD Meets at Midway Village. That is unfortunate. I really do miss the camaraderie and information sharing of our RRVD Meets. There is a whole lot less NMRA activity in Florida... just quarterly regional meetings. Moreover, the quality of our RRVD programs is unsurpassed. I'm envious of all of you. You've really got something special here. Don't miss those RRVD Meets.

November Train Show. Once more, it was nice to see so many old friends at the Train Show at Midway Village and Museum. It is too bad the museum has trouble getting media coverage because it really is a nice little show. It is pure profit for the museum; so, the more numbers of general public attend, the better it is for them. RRVD gets nothing monetary for putting on the show. In fact, it costs RRVD money. Every car kit given away costs RRVD \$5-\$6 each.

About The FLIMZIE. Ron Anderson is doing a good job as

FLIMZIE editor. However, Ron needs your input. I know all too well that the editor is always looking for material to publish. Otherwise, he has to create content! Please, if you have any urge to do something about model railroading ... stories, news items, photos, etc. ... do it and send it to Ron.

Ron has considerable support from his son Jim, proprietor of MIC Graphics. Jim finalizes and prints the FLIMZIE, including the imprinting of your address. Ron and Jim have the FLIMZIE at the quality level that I expect.

By the way, there is an electronic version of the FLIMZIE. It is at "newsletter" of our website www.RRVD-NMRA.com

FLIMZIE Trivia Test. (Inspired by the infamous Trainfest Trivia Test.)

#1. Who named our newsletter the FLIMZIE?

#2. Why is our newsletter called FLIMZIE?

#3. Who was the local model railroader credited with the name FLIMZIE?

#4. What was the physical size of the earliest FLIMZIEs in the 1970s and early 1980s?

#5. Why were the FLIMZIEs in the 1990s and early 2000s green?

Answers: on page 3

A Final Thought. As I finish this Wheel Report it is almost mid-November. December 25th seems relatively far away. However, the weather has turned cold so that kind of gets me into the Christmas spirit. Well, at least it got me to wear long pants and regular shoes with socks. I'm getting things in Rockford ready for winter and assembling stuff that needs to be packed for the trip south... getting everything ready for the 1300 mile migration to Florida. In case you didn't notice, there are only two seasons for this snowbird - - "Summer" in Rockford, IL and "Winter" in Zephyrhills, FL.

For those of you who regard model railroading as a winter hobby, it's time to do more than just think about our hobby. Unearth the layout and dust off the work bench. Check out the magazines and catalogs, then jot down a few wish list items for Santa. Making that wish list applies to all of us because the jolly old elf will soon be arriving with those goodies that every good model railroader simply must have. Christmas is a wonderful time for us all to enjoy. I hope that you and yours have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I Wish You And Yours The Happiest Of Holidays.

Happy modeling,



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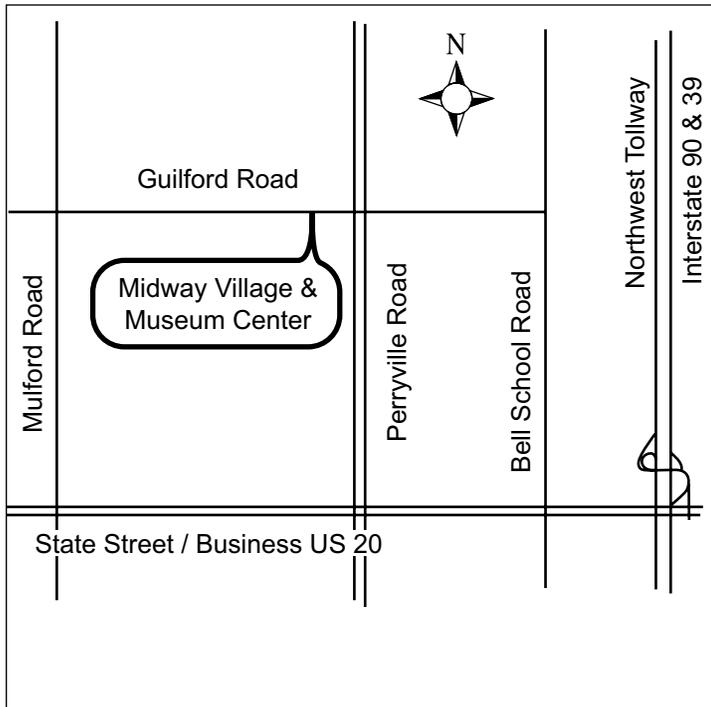
Time to get model railroading. By the time this is read the November Midway Village show will be over and the annual

Milwaukee Train Fest will be history. Hope everyone is enjoying the new season of RRVD monthly meets. The board tries to make them interesting and enjoyable. Hard to believe but Christmas is just around the corner so start your want list now. December is

the garage sale so bring you list along cause you never know what might be for sale.

Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
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 1:00pm

Flimzie input Deadlines

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Spring issue Feb 10th
Summer issue May 10th



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