

# FLIMZIE



Volume 44

Number 2

Winter 2011

## ***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT***

*by John Mann*

I am writing this on Veterans' Day, 2011. I am reminded of the tremendous contribution American railroads made during World War II. In spite of the Great Depression, when many railroads had gone bankrupt, an incredible amount of men and material were moved during the war. The demand was so great that many locomotives, which had been on the scrap lines for years, were put back into service. Sadly, I think it also wore out the railroads and contributed to the decline of the industry in the following years. I don't think that effort could ever be duplicated.

However, this familiarity with railroads probably caused a lot of our fathers to buy train sets for we kids during the fifties, leading to an appreciation of railroads that is shared by us to this day in the form of the great hobby of model railroading. I remember the excitement I felt every Christmas, looking forward to some new rolling stock or model railroad accessory under the tree. There

were still many Class 1 railroads around, and it was the era of brightly decorated cars and locomotives. Burlington Chinese Red, SP Daylight, UP Yellow, and NYC Lightning Stripes {and the N&W Pocohantas Arrow-editor} are all examples that come to mind.

One could go to the local train station which seemed to always be open and hear the telegraph, see the people waiting for their train, and watch in anticipation for the next train to crest the horizon. There was a certain order to it; it seemed it was the way things had always been and always would be.

November is Model Railroad Month. Although the scene has changed, and railroads and model railroading are vastly different than what they used to be, I think we should take some time to share with someone younger what it was like and what it is like now.

## **2011 Trainfest Report**

*by Ray Dyreson*

On Saturday November 12th, the RRVD Trainfest bus traveled again to Milwaukee to make our annual visit to the biggest and best train show in the Midwest. This year's show didn't disappoint. Last year's attendance was a record 23,476 and the feeling I got from the size of the crowd and the crowded aisles at this year's show might top that. The 2011 show was chairman John Tew's twentieth year heading up the show and he proudly showed me the trophy which his club members had presented to him for this achievement. I asked John if he now planned to retire as chairman. He replied "I can't now since they gave me this nice trophy". John and his team deserve a big thank you for their hospitality and for putting on another great

show. The bus carried fifty-six RRVD folks who of course had to endure the traditional Trainfest Trivia test. This year's first place winner was Kenneth Reinert who got twelve answers correct out of twenty. Quite an accomplishment as I try to find the some of the most obscure questions imaginable. Tied for second place were Frank McCabe and Charlie Wickhorst with ten correct. Tyrone Johnson was third with nine right. Judging by the number of full shopping bags being carried off the bus I would say this was a successful trip. If you didn't ride with us this year talk to someone who did and see if you think you might want to join us next year.

**FLIMZIE - The NMRA Rock River Valley Division Newsletter**

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Membership Application  
National Model Railroad Association, Inc.  
4121 Cromwell Road  
Chattanooga, TN 37421

	Enclosed Amt of Annual Dues*
Regular Membership	\$58.00
Family Member (Spouse or Minor Child of Member)	\$8.00
Student Member (Under 25 Years)	\$24.00
No Scale Rails & NMRA Bulletin Membership	\$39.00
Sustaining Member (Club/Business)	\$97.00
Midwest Region Waybill Subscription	\$6.00

(NOTE: Life Membership No Longer Available)

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\*as of 12/25/06

**Railsplitter 2012**

Early registration is going on now for the Illinois Valley Division annual meet and convention on March 8-11 2012 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in downtown Springfield, Illinois.

More information about this event can be found online at the following website: [www.railsplitter2012.com](http://www.railsplitter2012.com)

**December Garage Sale**

Don't forget to come to the RRVD's annual garage sale on Sunday December 4. Bring any of your unwanted, gently used surplus train items to sell to others or purchase items from fellow modelers. Meet begins at 1pm at the Midway Village and Museum Center in Rockford.



*Jim McQueeney with his module at the Nov 2011 meet*



*Work cars contest entry at the November 2011 meet*



*Ingrid Drozdek giving a clinic presentation "How green is my thumb?" at the Nov meet.*



*An impressive bluff scene from Tom Maladecki's Chicago, Malady Bay and Pacific RR*

## **From the Dispatcher's Desk**

*by Jim Saska*

As I mentioned in the last issue, my family and I moved to Rockford in June of 2000 and had purchased a home with a basement. After several years of dreaming about my first layout, I finally had the space to build it. I knew I wanted a modular-style layout since that would be relatively easy to build and easy to move in case I ever needed to. I picked up an N scale model railroad book at a garage sale that summer, which described how to build the modules. However, I deviated somewhat from the description in the book. Although the process went relatively quickly, the bench-work went mostly empty for the next few years as I was unsure of what I wanted to model. Did I want to build a prototype layout or a free-lance model? Also, being a newcomer to the hobby, I didn't know much about the fellow hobbyists, and going to model train shows and open house layouts to get much-needed ideas and education. Along the way, I started to construct some buildings and train cars from simple kits and then expanded my skills by undertaking my first craftsman kit project—a twenty-one inch plate girder bridge. I eventually settled on concentrating on eastern railroads, particularly the Norfolk & Western and C&O, since those ran near my childhood home in Virginia. In the spring of 2006, as I was getting ready to start laying my track, a job loss led to a new job in downtown Chicago. My family moved from South Beloit to Woodstock to shorten my daily commute. Fortunately, I was able to take apart my bench-work and relocate it with me.

To be continued.



*Charlie Wickhorst standing next to his Chicago Milwaukee & Gary layout in the basement of his open house in November 2011*

## **Train Crew Report**

Charlie Wickhorst was born in 1934 in Oak Park, Illinois where he grew up and graduated from Oak Park High School. He graduated from Bradley University and served in the US Army for two years. Charlie credits his interest in trains from his grandfather who worked for the CB&Q railroad as a metallurgist. Charlie received his first train set when he was four years old. He built model airplanes as a grade schooler but tired of them due to their flimsy construction out of balsa wood and paper. Charlie got interested in HO scale model trains and considers himself more of a “builder rather than an operator”. He likes the hobby because of the flexibility in time and the different aspects of it which enables one to become skilled in many different areas such as carpentry, electronics, model building, operations, and so forth. Charlie first became involved with the RRVD through an advertisement in the Sunday paper for an RRVD train show in 1975 at the old post office in Rockford. He became more involved with the organization in the 1980s and served two terms as Superintendent during some challenging times for the organization. He remembers having to handprint all of the post cards for the monthly meets and delivering them to Clarence Welte to print off on Clarence's basement printer. Charlie feels that the most important aspect about the RRVD is the people who are involved with the organization and their willingness to help others with their layouts. He credits fellow RRVD members Tom Maladecki, Al Frieze, Dick Lindquist, Rich Woock, John Swanson and Gary Loiselle as people who have influenced him the most as a modeler. Charlie has attended several National NMRA conventions in Madison, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and Detroit, as well as Regional conventions in Denver and North Platte. He has given seminars in the conventions on Open Load modeling. Besides model railroading, Charlie is also interested in reading books about history, rail-fanning for open loads and watching football.

**RRVD Clinic & Contest Schedule 2011-2012**

**Jim McQueeney**

**Contests**

The model contest for our October 2011 division meet was "Off Line Structures". There were a total of four entries in the contest and the entry that received the most popular vote was a diner built by Charlie Wickhorst. Charlie received a gift certificate from a hobby shop for his work. Congratulations Charlie! There were two models that received the same exact number of votes that resulted in a tie for second place. These models were built by Ken Mosny and Jay Kabitzke.

The model contest for the November 2011 division meet was "Maintenance of Way". There were a total of eight entries in this contest. The entry that received the most popular vote was the track crew equipment built by Clarence Welte. Clarence received a gift certificate from a hobby shop for his work. Congratulations Clarence! The model that received the second highest number of votes was built by Ken Mosny.

Since the RRVD will have our annual garage sale in December, there will not be a model contest for that month. The model contest will resume in January of 2012 and the theme will be "Rescue the Rolling Stock".

Let's see what you can do!

**January 2012**

Rescue the Rolling Stock - As the railroads retired their rolling stock from revenue service they often put it to use for other purposes or sold it to private companies.

Box cars, Maintenance of Way cars and Caboose were taken off of the rails and used as storage buildings and offices. Flat cars were used as loading ramps at team tracks and industry sidings. Passenger cars were re-used as temporary and even permanent depots or whistle stop locations. Tank car tanks were removed from their frames and used for permanent liquid storage.

Model a car off of the rails for another purpose - use your imagination!

**February 2012**

On Line Structures - On line structures are served by a railroad siding to it. A creamery, brewery stock pen, packing house and LTL distribution warehouse are just a few examples of on line structures.

**April 2012**

To be announced

**Clinics**

The clinic for the January 2012 meet will be "Overview of the Western Fruit Express Company" and "Modeling the FGE/WFE/BRE Car Fleet". An overview of the company and the relationships to the refrigerated car companies, ice houses and related facilities, examples of car models and modifications to models.

In April 2012, we will have a presentation on "Basic Operations", an overview of operating your model railroad.



**RRVD MEETS**

Dec 4(Garage Sale), Jan 8 2012, Feb 5, April 1, May 6

**RRVD BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS**

Jan 16 2012, Feb 20, Mar 19, Apr 16, May 21, Jun 18, Jul 16

**Letter to RRVD**

*by Wayne Wesolowski*

To all my friends at RRVD,

I'm a long-time friend of the RRVD and avid reader of the Flimzie...mailed to me in Arizona. Miss the warm summer afternoons visiting with Bill Stewart at the Brass Whistle...we talked and talked. Reading about your activities brings back some of those good feelings. My nostalgia for Rockford was revived while I was recently reading the book Rockford Area Railroads, by Mike Schafer. I wish I had known about some of the back roads he describes down to the railroads."

You might share with some of the members that I was a consultant to Lionel Trains for their just released Lincoln Train Model and from that I'm working with Ford's Theater Washington DC on a Lincoln funeral exhibit. I brought my Lincoln train model to several of the RRVD shows including one where I had a kidney stone. Some fun. Those of you attending the upcoming MWR Spring meet in Springfield or just on vacation can see my Lincoln Train model on permanent display at the Historic Union Station 6th and Madison West of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

I'm still teaching Chemistry at the University of Arizona, but am doing a phased retirement with only part-time teaching. Working on two new books with Mary Cay and maybe some miniature pipe organ models...trains and pipe organs go together.

Hope all my railroading friends back in Illinois are doing well. Mary Cay and I wish you the best.

Happy rails,  
Wayne Wesolowski  
wesos@Q.com

**CABOOSE**

*Doug Loy*

Coupons! Do you use them? In times like these, it is nice to get a small break. I thought I was in heaven when I saw a coupon for a local hobby store. Ten dollars off any purchase over \$25. I didn't have anything particular in mind at that moment, but the coupon had no expiration date printed on it. When I got around to try to use it on a purchase, which was much more than the minimum \$25, the store would not honor it. I mentioned that no expiration date was on the coupon, but they still said no. Now, is that any way to treat a cash paying customer? Have a very Merry Christmas and watch those coupons!

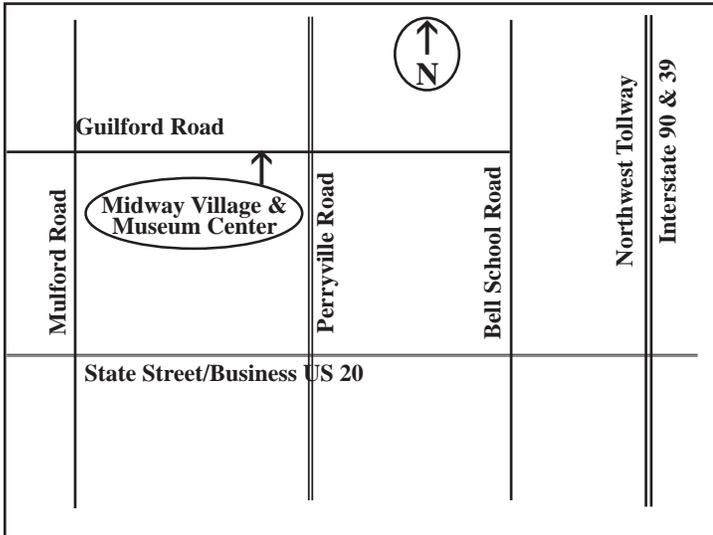


*Tom Maladecki explaining some of the nuances of his layout at his open house after the Nov meet*

## RRVD fun at the 2011 Trainfest



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**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.

**Flimzie input Deadlines**

**Fall issue.....Aug 10th**

**Winter issue.....Nov 10th**

**Spring issue.....Feb 10th**

**Summer issue.....May 10th**



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