

**MODEL RAILROADERS**  
National Model Railroad Association, Midwest Region, Rock River Valley Division

**F L I M Z I E**



Volume 45

Number 1

Fall 2012

***SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT***  
by John Mann

I hope everyone had a fun summer. I look forward to seeing some of your summer activities at the September and October meetings.

We will be meeting at Midway Village again this year. The following dates have been approved. September 9, 2012; October 7, 2012; November 4, 2012; December 2, 2012; January 6, 2013; February 3, 2013; April 7, 2013 and May 6, 2013. We will not meet at Midway Village in March 2013 because of a scheduling conflict. The annual show and sale will probably be in March.

We are planning a small layout exhibit in November. In my opinion, we need to promote small layouts that beginners can envision in their own homes. How about layouts that are not budget killers but ones that prove that model railroading can be fun and affordable? We have a tentative date and location and are investigating layouts in many different sizes. This will be a free event with no vendors and there will be some space for our old division layout.

The NMRA National is developing an ambitious training program. Jim Six of the MWR Michiana division is heading it. There will be only one representative per division at this point. Our "volunteer" is Tom McCabe. This will initially be a Yahoo group. More information will be forthcoming.

See you in September.



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

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**New Site for Board Meetings**

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

	Enclosed Amt of Annual Dues*
Regular Membership	\$66.00
Family Member (Spouse or Minor Child of Member)	\$9.00
Student Member (Under 25 Years)	\$32.00
No Scale Rails & NMRA Bulletin Membership	\$44.00
Sustaining Member (Club/Business)	\$110.00
Midwest Region Waybill Subscription	\$6.00

(NOTE: Life Membership No Longer Available)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\*as of 1/22/2012

The new site for meetings of the RRVD Board of Directors will be at the Westminster Presbyterian Church at 2821 N. Bell School Road in Rockford. The church has a distinctive green roof and is located at the southeast corner of Bell School and Spring Creek roads. Please note that sections of Spring Creek Road in that area have been renamed Olde Creek Road. Enter through the main door of the church building.

Board meetings are held the third Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. Current scheduled 2012 BoD meetings are: September 17, October 15, and November 19. The 2013 meetings are: January 21, February 18, March 18, April 15, May 20, and June 17.

RRVD NMRA members are always welcome at our BOD meetings.

# **ALL ABOARD FOR TRAIN FEST 2012**

**Ray Dyreson, Trip Chairperson**

On Saturday, November 10th, RRVD is again chartering a bus to Trainfest in Milwaukee. Trainfest is the biggest train show in the Midwest, if not the country. If you've never been to Trainfest and are interested in model trains, you need to go. If you went to previous Trainfests but didn't go in the last few years, you need to go again. Come with us on the RRVD bus. There will be fun, prizes, and friendship.

So join us for a fascinating day of model railroad fun. And, it sure is relaxing to ride back home after a long day of walking through Trainfest, sharing your new treasures, watching new videos, or just napping.

Cost for the bus trip and TRAINFEST admission will be \$25 for those 15 or older and \$15 for those under 15. With fuel prices, parking, and the admission charges, \$25 is a really great price!

Our bus will leave the Clock Tower's lot promptly at 7:30 A.M. so plan to be at the bus by 7:15AM. If there is any interest, we will again make a brief stop at around 8:00 AM in the Beloit Menard's south parking lot, along Milwaukee Road (return about 4:00 PM)

We should arrive at Trainfest about 9 AM, just as Trainfest opens. We will depart Trainfest at 3:00 PM in order to arrive back in Beloit about 4 PM and the Clock Tower in Rockford at about 4:30 PM.

For those early risers who want to gather for breakfast beforehand, you may want to join us at 6:00 AM at Denny's Restaurant on East State Street (west of the Clock Tower; just west of The Machine Shed

restaurant, and east of The Texas Roadhouse. We should be done in time to meet the bus at 7:15 AM.

Of course you will have to endure the now infamous Trainfest Trivia Test during our ride to Milwaukee, but this is a trip you should not miss. Only 56 seats are available. Once folks figure out what it would cost to do the trip alone (what with the price of gas, admission, the parking fee, and the drudgery of driving) and I'm sure the seats will sell out fast!

Please fill in the registration form and send it soon. Don't forget, seating is limited to the first 56 people to register. Note that the money collected will include both the round trip bus fare and your admission ticket to Trainfest.

If you have any questions about the trip, contact Ray Dyreson at 815-335-7046 or RayDyr@aol.com.

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## **TRAINFEST 2012 BUS TRIP REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here \_\_\_ for Beloit Depart/Return

Mail to:

No. of Tickets \_\_\_ x \$25.00\* ea. = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ray Dyreson

No. of Tickets \_\_\_ x \$15.00\* ea (14 & under) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 307

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Winnebago, IL 61088

Make checks payable to: RRVD

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

*by Jim Saska*

On the weekend of the Second and the Third of this past June, the Rock River Valley Division of the NMRA did something that they've never done before. That is, a number of their members hosted all-day open houses to showcase their wonderful layouts to the general public. I took the opportunity to take a road trip from Woodstock to see a number of these wonderful creations and took my friend, Pete Gill, along. Pete is not a model railroader, but he has an appreciation for model railroads and some of the skills and talent needed to construct one. He certainly gained even more insight by the end of our trip. I thought it might be interesting for our Flimzie audience and division to read an "outsider's" perspective on our division and model railroading in general. You'll find Pete's article on page 7.

Although I had previously visited most of the layouts that I saw on that Saturday, the thing that really made the biggest impact on me was the opportunity to interact one-on-one with the layout owner and hear him talk about the various aspects of his layout. I learned a lot during that Saturday such as using red and green push pins with your manual switch stands to let you know at a glance which direction (mainline or sidetrack) they are set to,



that the best color to paint layout fascia is black because it directs the eye to the layout scene and doesn't distract like other colors do, and using black sandpaper to make roads. Although the division usually arranges to have one or two members' layouts open after our meets, they can sometimes get a little crowded. You might also not have as much of a chance to converse one-on-one with the owner since he may be busy with other visitors or, perhaps, working to resolve some issue getting his trains to work properly. This wasn't my experience that weekend as Pete and I were either the only ones visiting a layout or maybe only others. Thank you again to all who hosted these open houses,

## ***RRVD Meet Format***

*by Tom Maladecki*

Here is a summary of the format of our typical RRVD Meets: Our regular monthly Meets at MWV officially start at 1:00 PM. The doors open at about 12:30 PM so we can set up and socialize. We start off with a short business meeting. That is followed by clinic presentations on topics related to the railroad hobby. Usually there are two clinics, with a break between them. Brief descriptions of the expected clinics are published in the FLIMZIE. There is usually a popular vote contest for some category of train modeling at each regular Meet. The FLIMZIE has a contest schedule. There is also space set aside at the Meet for displays of railroad hobby items. A self-guided layout tour to one or more area pikes follows the end of this Meet and layout maps will be provided during the Meet.

The annual "swap meet" will be held Dec. 2 from 1-3 p.m. at MWV. A donation of \$2 is requested.

## **2012-13 RRVD MEETS**

Sept 9, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2 (Garage Sale), Jan 6 2013, Feb 3, April 7, May 5, June 2.

## **2012-13 RRVD BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS**

Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec TBA, Jan 21 2013, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15, May 20, Jun 17

## **Midwest Rail Junction New Location**

In August, Midwest Rail Junction moved to the Edgebrook Shopping Center in Rockford. Edgebrook is located at the northeast corner of Highcrest and Alpine roads. Their new address is 1611 N Alpine Road, Suite 131, Rockford, IL. That is in the indent just to the right of the hardware store. Their phone number is 815-963-0200 and their website is [midwestrailjunction.com](http://midwestrailjunction.com). Hours are 9-5:30 Monday-Saturday. Midwest Rail Junction is still exclusively a model railroad hobby shop. Stop by and say hello to the owner, Scott Matejka.

**RRVD Clinic & Contest Schedule 2012-13  
Jim McQueeny**

There has been a lot of railroad activity by some of our members this summer and they would like to share it with the rest of us. Therefore, we will be doing a “show and tell” event at our first two division meets in September and October.

There will be model, prototype and convention presentations at these meets. The November and December meets will have other activities, and after we have final dates set, I will announce the plans for these two months, as well as our 2013 meets.

I hope everyone has had a great summer as we are looking forward to another event filled Rock River Valley Division season.

There will not be regular meets with model contests in September, November, December or March because we have scheduled other events at that time. Talk to our Division Achievement Program Chairman about having your model Merit Judged toward the NMRA Certificates.

**Here is the schedule for the modeling contests for the 2012-2013 season:**

**October 2012**

On Line Structures – On line structures are served by a railroad siding to it. Examples of on line structures include a creamery, brewery, stock pen, packing house and LTL distribution warehouse.

**January 2013**

Locomotive Service – Enter a model of a structure that is used to service a locomotive. These can be for steam or diesel engines, 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 2013**

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.

**April 2013**

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 2013**

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 wood, plastic, cardstock or whatever material you prefer.

Open Load Photo Contests –We will also have photo contests. There will be separate judging for prototype railroad and model railroad photos of cars with open loads

## **Planning for the Future**

*by Barb Rothwell*

*(Reprinted with author's permission from July/August 2012 issue of the Bad Order)*

Another summer is now upon us and the time for thinking ahead and planning for the eventual time when we need to reduce our inventory of trains is ripe. It is not always fun to think about this but our years do not go on forever.

I have assembled the following list of questions to ask yourself to that can help guide you in this planning process.

1. What do you have right now?

Do you have an inventory?

2. What do you plan to do if you move to a smaller/larger space?

How much stuff can you take to your new place?

Is there a common area that can be used?

Is there a local model club you could join and bring some of your inventory along?

3. What items have sentimental value or collector value?

Would your children appreciate some of their family history for use or display?

Which of your collection(s) of goodies is really worth far more than what you paid?

4. What items do you want to pass along to family members?

Has the love of model trains been passed on to the next generation, or skipped a generation? Remember there is always time to start an interest or fan a spark.

5. What items do you want to pass along to youth groups or other groups, friends or division members? (remember the tax deduction)

In order for your hobby to continue to grow, we need the involvement of the next generation as well as those who may have had the interest and lost track of it because of their busy schedules. You never know where you may find someone that once spent many hours dreaming up track plans but never got around to laying track.

You may have a few models that you remember other people admiring from afar and if you need to weed your stock, scale down, or find new homes, this may be the time to consider gift giving.

Many clubs have their own layouts or youth groups that would love to have additions.

To Download an inventory sheet please go to our website located at <http://rrvd-nmra>.

## **Rockford Area Layout Tour Week End- An “Outsider’s” Point of View**

**By Peter Gill, Woodstock  
Special to the Flimzie**

When my friend, Jim Saska, asked me to attend a tour of model railroads in the Rockford area on June second, I thought it might be an interesting way to spend the day. I didn't have a model railroad of my own, but I had seen Jim's layout. In fact, I had helped him in a few small ways with his track.

So it was from a novice's perspective that I visited the homes of people like Don Oleson, John Swanson, Joe Whinnery, Charlie Wickhorst, Rich Woock, Tom Maladecki and Dennis Blunt. I had seen people cut mountains from styrofoam, turn sedom plants into trees, and asphalt roads out of black sandpaper. But I hadn't understood the complexity of some of the layouts. There were train schedule boards which allowed for the operation of several trains running on a dozen tracks to move around a basement layout simultaneously. Wires and switches were hidden behind skirts made from rolls of landscape fiber. Lighting was strategically placed to accent the tracks as well as the backgrounds.

What impressed me the most was the illusion of depth that some created by painting small churches, farms and houses surrounded by mountains on the walls behind the track. Some used N-scale trains behind the HO-scale to simulate distance.

Others excelled at creating an impressive vertical landscape, limiting the steep grades to roads while track grades remained more gradual. It was fascinating to hear how ripples in the rock were created by using pieces of rolled-up paper, and small shards of metal were placed in gondola cars to look like train cars filled with scrap.

Much of the beauty was in the detail. One had to look closely to see a bear sneaking up on a hunter in the woods just beyond the curve in the train track. People left their personal marks on the layouts, such as a model restaurant named after someone's daughter or a factory based on a hobbyist's former job. Tom Maladecki's elephant (which worked for peanuts) was hidden within several different layouts.

The fact that club members shared their knowledge and experience with others was evident. It was neat to see where someone's expertise on a specific element was evident on another's track layout. We looked closely to see individual bricks colored on buildings – a reflection of Dennis Blunt's work. We noticed the crushed autos in open train cars designed by Charlie Wickhorst in several different homes.

It was very apparent each and every model railroader had a very unique love of their hobby. But in the end, it didn't matter if one person wanted an exact replica of a train line in a specific city, or if they mixed 1950's era miniatures with those from the 1990's. What mattered is that each of these people enjoyed their hobby enough to put the time and energy into not only their own layouts, but their friend's layouts too.

The sharing of knowledge, tips, and tools was as important as the sharing of the love of trains and modeling. That was as evident as it was impressive.



**RRVD  
Open House  
Layout Tour Weekend  
June 2-3, 2012**



*Pictures courtesy of Pete Gill*



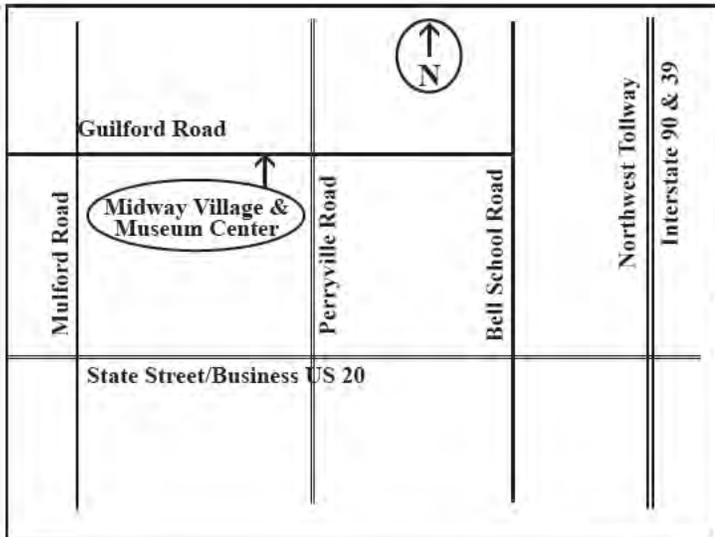


**CABOOSE**  
*Doug Loy*

Guilty! Do you feel it? I am asking this because how many of us have some model railroading equipment that we have been hanging on for way too long. These extra pieces can be track, rolling stock, and, well, whatever. I know you think that someday you will use this or that. Come on, when will “someday” come? Think of all the extra space you could have or some extra money (to purchase more models!). Think how you would feel if you tell your significant other, “I got rid of some things today!” If you do, let me know, and I could take it off your hands.

The new season of RRVD is about to start, and as always, let your board of directors know about anything that you would especially like to see or hear. Remember that the division is yours, and not the BOD’s. We do it for you! As you most likely read in the previous Flimzie, I am now Show & Sale chairman. It is going to be a learning curve time for me so please be patient. It will be hard to fill John Mann’s shoes. I don’t know the size for one thing. If you would like to make the show better, please let me know, and I will try to at least keep the show as good as it has been.

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



**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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