



The Rock River Valley Division, RRVD, is a local division of the Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association, NMRA. The RRVD serves the NMRA members in areas of Green and Rock Counties of Wisconsin and Boone, Jo Davies, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties in Illinois. The RRVD holds monthly meets typically the first Sunday afternoon of each month, September through May, in Rockford at the Midway Village & Museum Center, 6799 Guilford Road, Rockford. The RRVD also hosts an annual Model Train Show & Sale usually the last weekend in March.

Visit our website at: rrvd-nmra.com

Facebook: Rock River Valley Division

Editor: Ken Reinert

Superintendent: Tyrone Johnsen

Assistant Superintendent: G. Jay Kabitzke

Chief Clerk: Ken Peterson

Paymaster: E. Ken Mosny, Jr.

Reflections

We started 2015 with a great program in January by the Communication Director of UTLX. Bruce Winslow brought with him Bill Hansen a retired Product Director.



Their combined 84 years of experience added to the great audio, visual, and video presentations. The first portion was a presentation that covered the evolution of petroleum transport, the railroad tank car, and the Union Tank Lines. Everyone was so engaged and involved in open discussion with Bruce and Bill, our meet ran longer and we delayed one program until the following month. A seventeen minute video of the construction of a modern tank car in the newest UTLX production facility was most interesting. Bill also touched on the wealth of

information that is available on the UTLX website: **UTLX.com** which includes history, photographs, and information on UTLX tank cars.



UTLX very generously contributed the door prizes. Seated in front is Bruce Winslow, UTLX Communications Director and John Swanson the winner of a UTLX ethanol tank car in a presentation case. Standing in the front row center is Charlie Wickhorst winner of the book John D. Rockefeller's "Secret Weapon" and Bill Hansen, retired UTLX Product Director. Surrounding them are the lucky twelve RRVD attendees with their handsome UTLX caps.

The model contest was won by a Great Northern 2-8-8-0 steam locomotive which Tyrone Johnsen had kitbashed from Rivarossi

locomotives back in 1970 and had given a presentation on locomotive weathering to the RRVD back in the 1970s. Model displays did not end with the locomotives but included many tank cars.



Tom McCabe displayed both standard and narrow gauge cars. In this case the unique, and ahead of its time, UTLX Van Dyke frameless tank cars are shown with trucks allowing operation on standard or narrow gauge track.

The program also included Modeling Tips by a number of RRVD members. Tyrone Johnsen stressed the importance of checking three areas: wheel gauge, coupler height, and car weight all following NMRA standards and recommended practices.



Tyrone stresses these checks will help your rolling equipment to operate more reliably.



Dennis Blunt shared tips for your Walthers cars. Eliminating interference between wheels and body was one specific area.

A snow storm kept some from attending but those who attended had another fine meet.

Our meet in February was hampered with a far more severe snow storm. Our primary speaker Dr. Gregg Condon, MMR gave a wonderful presentation on what he called "Micro Scenes."



Gregg brought along a couple of examples of his "Micro Scenes."



Gregg Condon also showed a 16mm movie taken by his uncle back in the 1950s when steam powered Milwaukee Road and Illinois Central trains.

Although the snow storm kept most at home we did have a great meet and even a couple of first time attendees.



We had another fine number of quality structures on display.



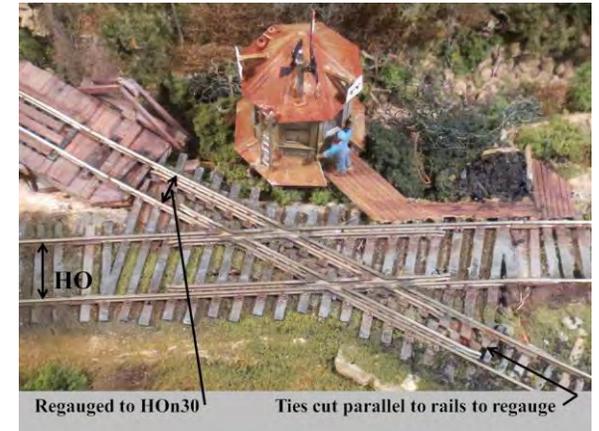
First time attendee, Jacob Wain, won the popular vote for off line structures. Jacob displayed an N Scale barn with corn field creatively made of tooth picks.



The meet concluded with a short tip including a video on the use of a helper locomotive pushing a steam powered coal train up a grade as the

first of our new series to "Enhance Your Model Railroad Running Experience."

The March meeting unlike the past two meetings did not start with a snow storm, but a cool sunny day and was reflected by the large number of attendees. John Mann presented a detailed history of the Gogebic Range iron mines in Northern Michigan. He showed various slides depicting mining techniques names, and pictures of numerous mines that were in the region as well as the railroads which served them. Facts such as years of operation and tons shipped were also given.



A second presentation was given by Tyrone Johnsen who discussed modifying commercial track work such as turnouts, crossings etc. to fit custom locations.

Ken Mosny completed the presentations on the use of the NMRA gauge for track work construction. He showed slides of its use

checking track gauge, flange clearance, guard rail positioning, frog clearance, and switch point alignment with the techniques he uses when hand laying track on his layout. With his excellent instructions everyone in the division should now have perfect track work.



The meet's model contest was for engine service structure. The contest was won by Tyrone Johnsen for his engine house with full interior details including coke bottles.

The meet was followed by tours to Charlie Wickhorst's and Jim Baker's individual layouts.



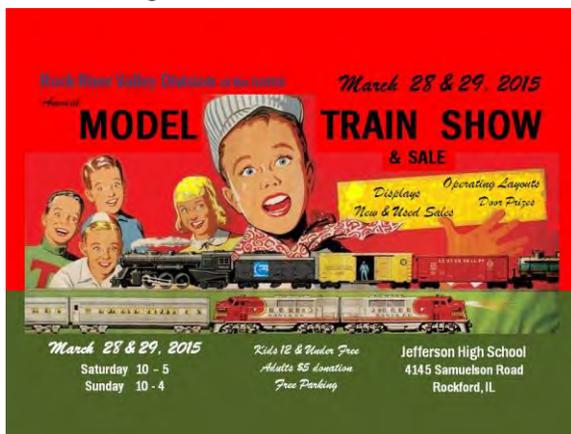
Jim Baker wearing cap shows the control board on his New York Central inspired layout.



Charlie Wickhorst explains his scenery techniques.

Annual RRVD Model Train Show & Sale

Remember to mark your calendars for our annual show and sale which is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday 28 – 29 March 2015 at Jefferson High School in Rockford.



Our annual RRVD Model Train Show & Sale is a huge undertaking. **We need your help Friday evening during set up, during the show, and after for takedown.** Whenever and however you are willing and able to help, it will be appreciated. Contact Doug Loy.

Annual Meeting and Officer Elections April 12th

By Tyrone Johnsen Superintendent

Our annual meeting and election of officers will occur at the April meet. We hope to minimize the time spent during the meet as we have more great programs for you including Randy Garnhart's slide presentations on the CGW. So, I will first give you a synopsis of the RRVD activities, then the slate of officers as known at the time of publication.

The RRVD obtained 501(c)7 status and filed the necessary annual reporting with the IRS; and reestablished our Not For Profit status with the State of Illinois and filed the necessary annual reports. RRVD Superintendent Tyrone Johnsen attended all Midwest Region Board meetings representing the RRVD. The RRVD has hosted monthly meets for division attendees and has held monthly board meetings toward the proper running of the RRVD. Financially the RRVD remains stable with a comfortable reserve. Our mission is to bring useful and

interesting programs and host appropriate events for the RRVD membership.

The four RRVD officers: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Clerk, and Paymaster are elected annually by the RRVD membership. Last year all four officers were newly elected but the transition was smooth due to the assistance of the former officers and board. Nominating Chairman Gary Loiselle reports that the same four officers have confirmed their willingness to serve another year if elected.

These four officers are primarily advised and monitored by three directors: Charles Wickhorst, John Mann, and Don Brindle chosen by Tyrone Johnsen for their experience, knowledge, involvement, and independence. Running of the RRVD is done by a number of board members who have volunteered to fill the necessary tasks required. The RRVD takes many volunteers to make it a success and bring you the events and programs we offer. Consider offering to help in whatever capacity that you have knowledge and interest.

Modeling Tips with Ken Mosny

Making Flat Wire Steps

Most stirrup steps on freight cars are flat stock a few inches wide and around ½ inch thick. Often 0.020' wire is used because it is easy to

drill a round hole and stick the wire into the car body even though a flat step looks better. Car bodies can be thin and a 0.020-0.025" hole is about the largest hole I can easily drill without breaking out the side of the car. You can buy 0.030" wide flat strip stock to make steps, but how do you drill a 0.030" diameter hole in a 0.030" thick car side to anchor it? The solution is to make a flat step with round anchor prongs. It's easy and here's how.



1. Anneal a 3/4" long area on the end of a 0.022" brass wire by heating to red heat and allowing to air cool. I use an alcohol flame because it is cooler than a torch which can melt the wire instantly, but you can use a torch with care. The flattening process will severely work harden the typical hard drawn brass wire we buy. It becomes so brittle that it will break when bent sharply if not annealed.



2. Using a steel block, steel anvil and small hammer, flatten the desired length of the wire to about 0.010" thick to 0.030" wide leaving a part of the end of the wire round. You can use just a hammer and anvil, but the steel block allows more control over the width and makes a sharper transition from round to flat. You really don't need to measure the flat width and thickness as this is about the limit a small hammer will flatten the work hardened wire and you will get the feel after making a few.



3. Polish the flattened wire.



4. Bend the wire to shape cut to length.



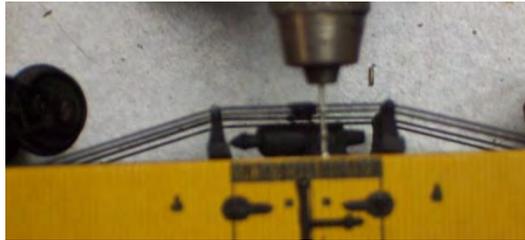
- 5. If desired, file the side of the flat to round transition taper for a better fit into the body.



- 6. Measure the leg spacing for the holes.



- 7. Transfer the spacing to the car body by pricking the hole locations.



- 8. Drill the holes carefully. These are 0.025" holes in a 0.040" wood body.



- 9. Insert the step into the holes.



- 10. Now, all that is left is to paint the steps.



Upcoming Events

Remember to mark your calendar for:

RRVD Annual Model Train Show & Sale 28-29 March 2015

RRVD Meet 12 April 2015

Midwest Region Convention, Lake Shore Limited, 17-19 April 2015

RRVD Meet hosting the SCWD 3 May 2015

NMRA National Convention, Portland Daylight Express, 23-29 August 2015

