

Rock River Valley Division

NMRA – Midwest Region

Flimzie

Spring 2017

Ken Reinert, Editor

Vol 50 Issue 3



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, Carol, DeKalb 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 Museum Center. The meets start at 1:00 PM. The meets consist of various clinics on model railroading along with various model contests as well as door prizes for those in attendance. The RRVD also hosts an annual Model Train Show & Sale this year at Jefferson High School in Rockford on March 25 and 26. The dates for the spring meetings are:

March 12, 2017

April 2, 2017

May 7, 2017 a joint meet with SCWD (Wisconsin) at Rockford

Visit our website at: rrvd-nmra.com

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From the Superintendent

by Jay Kabitzke

Spring has sprung, we are into a very busy next few months in the RRVD. We have a "Show and Sale" in March, elections for new officers in April, and a Regional Convention in late April.

First is the "Show and Sale" at Jefferson High School March 25th and 26th. We can use help selling tickets, monitoring patrons, setting up tables, laying down power cords, and then the taking down on Sunday. At our next meeting, be sure to sign up to help. Working Friday and early Saturday morning before the show begins has a benefit. While you are assisting, you'll know what vendor has what you're looking for.

Next is the Regional Convention April 28-30, at the Holiday Inn on State St. My first experience with what the NMRA is all about was when I attended my first convention in Memphis, Tn. A convention can inspire you to make your modeling better, reset your goals in what you want to model, and share your ideas with others.

In my case I had no idea what railroad I wanted to model, what I wanted to model, or

how to go about doing it. After some clinics, I had some of those questions answered. The contest portion of the convention was an eye opener. The time that is devoted to making a model of a building, with details that are hand crafted was astonishing. A retired dentist who liked building locomotives won by building a NP Challenger. The runner-up was an IC 2-8-2. The guy who built it, created over 500 pieces. The water hatch on the tender opened on hinges and the cab had all sorts of plumbing and valves. He of course fired a similar engine before retiring which helped him recreate the engine.

I came away with a new love of modeling passenger trains from a modeler who built a model of the L&N Bluebird. All the cars were Walthers stamped kits with detailed interiors. I was surprised to learn that he sold it for \$500. By the way, this was in 1971, the first time I joined the NMRA.

So, if you haven't signed up for the convention and aren't a NMRA member yet, GET A SIX-MONTH PASS, and spend Saturday and Sunday with some accomplished modelers. Get inspired to build a railroad that is like no other. We have Cody Grivno and David Popp from "Model Railroader Magazine" doing clinics.

Our April meeting will be for the nomination and elections of officers. Contact Gary Loiselle if you'd like to run for an office. We still need

a Layout Tour Coordinator, a Chief Clerk, and a Contest Chairman.

I would also like to get some input about where we want to go for our rail junket in June; as well as setting up next year's meeting dates.

HELP WANTED

The board of directors needs to fill three positions for the following.

Chief Clerk-Duties include keeping minutes at board meetings, also serves as one of the four officers on the board.

Contest Chair Person-Duties include establishing theme for model contest held at our meets. Prints ballots and sign-up sheets for the contest. Counts contest ballots to determine winner. Procures gift certificates used for prizes. Certificates are paid for by the Division.

Layout Tour Coordinator-Contacts various members or clubs who are willing to open their layout for tours after meets. Issues maps with directions showing members how to travel to these layouts from Midway village.

The RRVD holds a board meeting at the Westminster Presbyterian Church located at the corner of Bell School Road and Spring Creek Road the third Wednesday of every month except December. NMRA members are welcome to attend. We always need more help. We meet in a room at the South corner of the building at 7:00 PM

Midwest Region Convention

The highlight for this year will be the Midwest NMRA Regional Convention which will be sponsored by the RRVD held right here in Rockford April 28, 29 and 30 at the Holiday Inn, 7550 East State Street. Ron Johnson has agreed to chair the event working with RRVD members Don Brindle, James Devoe, Bruce Giersch, Al Laseke, and Clarence Welte. These gentlemen need all the help they can get to assist with the various meetings and activities throughout the convention. At our March meet the committee will be there asking for volunteers for the various positions. Sign-up sheets for these positions will be made available. Ron and the convention committee will be present to answer any questions volunteers may have about the various jobs.

Full information about the convention and registration forms can be found on our web site rrvd-nmra.org and clicking the line [The RRVD is hosting the 2017 Midwest Convention, click to visit dedicated site!](#)

Remember to participate in the convention you must be a member of the NMRA. Non NMRA members may make use of the "RAILPASS" opportunity to join for a six-month initial plan. Forms will be available at the NMRA exhibit table at our meets. Encourage your modeling friends who want to attend the convention to avail themselves of this opportunity and join our modeling community.

Upcoming Contest Schedule

The following is a list of contests for the remainder of the 2016 – 2017 season. Remember that a Ten Dollar Gift Certificate to a regional hobby shop will be given to the winner of each contest as voted by each meet's attendees.

March: Freight and Passenger depots and station.

April: Maintenance and non-revenue equipment, snow plows, flangers, wreckers, weed sprayers, ballast cars, scale cars, cabooses, etc.

May: The joint meet with our Madison friends. Motive power, steam and diesel also a photo contest of motive power both prototype or model. Pictures are to be no bigger than 5 x 7 and no more than two per category. You can enter four, two prototype and two model.

Upcoming Clinics

by Ray Dyreson

March: Joe Whinnery will talk about getting your layout featured in a magazine and Aubrey Olson discusses Midwest short line railroads.

April: Gary Loiselle will give a clinic titled "Gondola Open Loads". The second clinic will be presented by Scott Matejka and Dan Weber of Midwest Rail Junction "Adding A DCC decoder to a DC Locomotive".

May: Jim McQueeney will give an overview of the Cumbres & Toltec Railroad for those who were born too late. The second clinic will be presented by Clarence Welte titled "Behind the scenes stories, pictures and videos of the

Illinois Railway Museum". It will include three major movies made there.

Just a reminder if anyone wants to share their modeling skills and railroad knowledge with other members of the Division can contact Ray in person at our meets or by e-mail raydyr@aol.com.

Annual March Show & Sale

By Doug Loy

Mark your calendars, 2017 Show & Sale is on March 25 & 26 (setup is on Friday March 24). We still need volunteers for the three days, the signup sheets will be at the March meet. Hope everyone can come out and enjoy model railroading with your friends and family. The entry fee is still \$5.00 for adults, 12 and under free, scout and military are also free with ID. Do not be afraid to invite friends. The RRVD show fee is still a great bargain. Go to the Milwaukee Train Fest or the Madison Show and see what you pay to enter as well as separate fee to park! Please consider joining the NMRA if you are not yet a member. While you may not agree with everything that the NMRA does, overall the organization is good for the hobby and YOU! The division lost another member last month, Stan Guyer. Hope everyone had a chance to know Stan, he was a great guy and model railroader! (See the following article... Ed).

Remember the dates, March 24 setup, 25, & 26 show! See all of you there.

Friends We Lost



Stanley Walter Guyer 1926—2017
Stanley Walter Guyer, 90, of Rockford died February 11, 2017, in OSF St. Anthony Medical Center. Born May 26, 1926, in Rockford, son of Jacob and Mary (Monvid) Guyer. United in marriage to Rose Marie Potter on December 22, 1945, in Chicago. Attended Rockford St. Stanislaus Grade School and graduated from East High School in 1943. Stan was an enthusiast of military aviation from an early age, particularly of the World War Era. He served for a time in the Illinois Reserve Militia - Company C Third Infantry 2RM. He was discharged February 26, 1947. Later served as a Captain in the Civil Air Patrol (Auxiliary of the United States Air Force) as fiscal officer, participating in search and rescue missions (61 Illinois Wing). Formerly employed with National Lock Co., in Rockford for 32 years in the engineering department as a product draftsman and lock analyst, later

employed with Winnebago County as a mapping technician, retiring in November 2000, after 13 years of employment. Stan enjoyed various hobbies. He loved model railroading, serving on the board of directors of the National Model Rail Road Association Rock River Valley Division in various positions for several years and enjoying the hobby with friends. Other interests included shooting sports. Member of Northern Illinois Rifle and Pistol Club for many years. He studied ancient Egyptian history and collected many replicated artifacts. Member of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church

Contest Entries

At every meet, we hold, the RRVD has a modeling contest with a selected theme. The winner receives a gift certificate to a regional hobby shop. Shown below are some of the entries for the January passenger train contest.



Clarence Welte's 1939 Hiawatha train



Ken Mosny's Overton coach



Jim McQueeney's circus wagon loads



Above Gary Loiselle discusses the finer points of background construction after his clinic.



Charlie Wickhorst's various entries



Ken Reinert's machine load



A module Gary constructed to demonstrate the use of a slim background models used in conjunction with photo flats to present a realistic scene.



Gary Loiselle's scratch built transformer

Clinics

The main purpose of the "Meets" is to provide modeling clinics. Clinicians share their talents to enhance our modeling skills or provide information on prototype subjects which can be a source of modeling inspiration.



Background scenery utilizing photos. Even the Soo Line box cars are photos placed on the background.

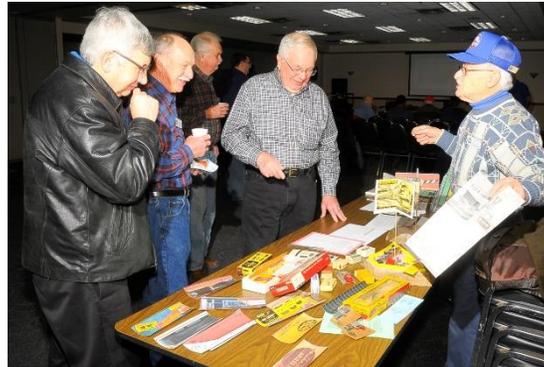
Odds and Ends

At many of the meets, members bring items to display or present ideas to those attending. Shown below are pictures of these activities.



Tom Maladecki is asking members to place model sunflowers on their layouts in honor of the ALS Association and our fellow member Jim Baker who suffers

from the disease. Superintendent Jay Kabitzke looks on.



Clarence Welte is trying to interest some members in building center pieces for the banquet tables at our Midwest Region Convention sponsored by the RRVD right here in Rockford honoring our 50th anniversary.



Clarence shows his collection of boxes and labels from the forties and fifties of companies no longer in existence. There is no truth to the rumor that Clarence was

born before the Golden Spike Ceremony at Promontory Utah in 1869.



An example of finished center piece.



Ray Dryeson exhibits collection of cast models made by Midgetoy right here in Rockford.

Layout Visits After Meets

After each meet held at Midway Village different members open their layouts for tours. Shown below are pictures from four different layouts.



Union Station on Dick Lindquist's O-Gauge Chicago, Burlington & Southern.



Dick discusses layout with visitors and his use of pneumatic switch control machines.

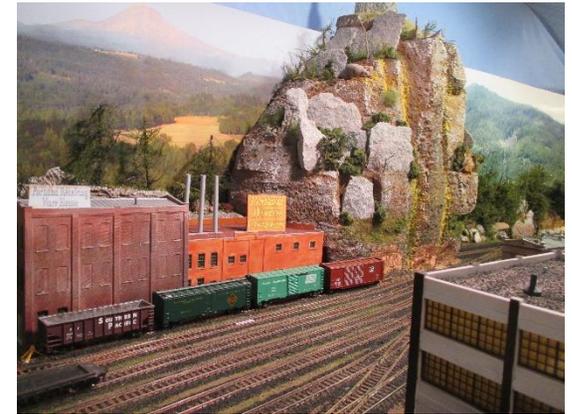


Some of Dick's locomotive roster



Switcher sits on a siding.

Another layout visited was Ron Johnson's HO-Gauge Spokane, Portland, & Seattle.



Shown above is a scene with the background scenery made from a photo taken by Ron in the Seattle region mountains and then blown up to provide a fitting background to the location Ron models.



Mainline with trestle in the background is in mountainous region on his layout.



Another trestle with photo background in the distance



City area on the Layout

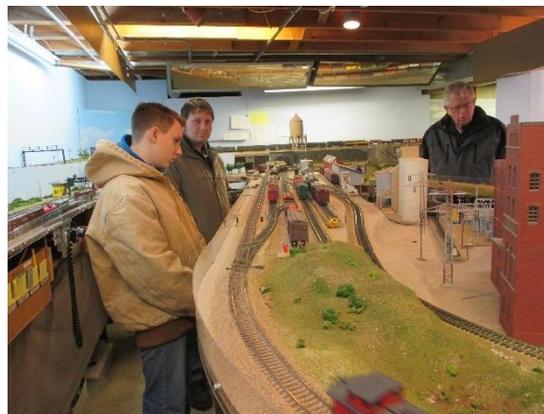


Ron Johnson railroad president

A visit to Eugene Wheeler's HO-Gauge CN&W was another of the layouts open after the meets.



Obviously, a C&NW modeler with the truck trailer and switcher painted in the green and yellow CN&W colors.



Rail-fans checking out the action.



Power plant ready to receive coal loads and granary loading cars for shipment



Railroad moving live stock in distinctive CN&W painted cars. How did the Great Northern car get there?

The last railroad on our tour is Harold Heeren's HO-Gauge Toledo, Peoria, & Western. Harold is heavy into operation and has acquired many kits to populate his railroad but has not had much spare

time to build them. He has nicely finished his layout room and provides the operating crew with a nice lounge area. A dispatcher office is also being completed.



Pictured above is Harold greeting visitors to his layout.



Pictured above shows the high level of finish of the layout room and benchwork. One can see the operation cards on the fascia.



Harold constructed a helix to move trains from one level to the other on the layout. You can see both levels in the background of this picture.

Around the Roundhouse Corner By Ken Reinert

It has been a few issues since I wrote my last column about visiting various member's layouts. This issue I am packing my bags and taking a trip to Florida. I know you are thinking "Florida is not in our region"! Well, one of our members, Tom Maladecki winters in Florida and invited us to visit his activity working on the 7-1/2-inch gauge Central Pasco & Gulf Railroad. (See the last issue of the "Flimzie"). Tom loves warm weather. Did you ever see him not wearing shorts? At the time of our visit the FLS (Florida Live Steam Association) was holding their convention at the railroad as can be seen on the entrance sign.



My wife and I and our friend met up with Tom at the railroad. We went to the office and signed a waiver in case of accident and received our passes to ride the railroad.



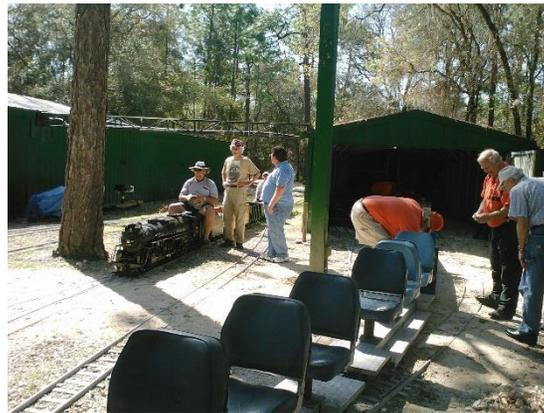
Tom in the office/club room holding track plan. Notice the designer shorts.

The plan for the day was to ride a train through the various routes the railroad had to offer. Tom planned to use the club owned work engine. There were many engines on the property but the majority are privately owned. Steam engines were also there from the FLS group. However, the small engine would start but not keep running. The club had just installed a new motor in the engine. Tom had run it out of fuel the previous day and it was having carburation problems. The engine would start but would not keep running. Just like the rest of us, when you want to show off your railroad something decides not to work properly.



Club members including Tom and myself watching a member fiddling with the carburetor. Some locomotives are powered by small gas engines which drive hydraulic pumps which in turn power hydraulic motors powering the wheels.

After all was said and done, we had to utilize a larger engine and assembled a short passenger train. For safety reasons, passenger cars are connected with link couplers with chains added to keep the cars from uncoupling on uneven track. Freight cars use knuckle couplers and some freight cars even had air brakes.

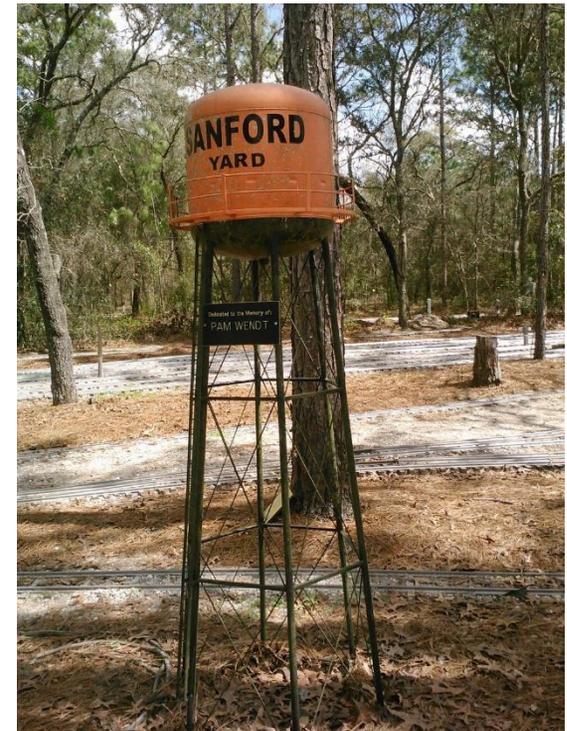


Tom readying our train. A steam engine is seen in the background.

Once we got under way, Tom (who is a certified engineer) took us on an hour and a half ride over the system. The railroad is signaled with most mainline switches electrically powered and controlled by the train engineer utilizing a toggle switch mounted on a post with signal indications showing the turnout position.



Our train with its big GE engine waiting for a train to clear the mainline so we could proceed and leave the Sanford Yard.



Tom took us all over the system. We made a stop at Dade City Station. It is here that the club sells tickets and boards passengers for birthday celebration trains and other passengers.



The railroad uses aluminum track that is fastened with stainless steel hex head screws and washers to treated wood 2x4's or more recently plastic 2x4's set narrow side up enabling ties to sit 3 1/2

inches into the ballast. Track is constructed in either 10ft or 15ft panels much like snap track. Work takes place under a special sheltered work area. It is then taken to the railroad construction area. Track is inspected before operation sessions and rotted ties replaced. Wood ties only last about three years in the Florida environment.



Visiting coal fired steam engine. Imagine how dirty your face must get after a day of railroading with all that coal smoke.

The club has a series of barns where members can rent space to store their trains and engines. One can see from the track diagrams following this article on the quantity private and club storage barns. As mentioned previously engines are hydraulically powered. In addition to gas powered prime movers many are battery powered to power the pumps.



Engine in storage barn



Refrigerator car caring potatoes



Tank Car



Open load with military vehicles

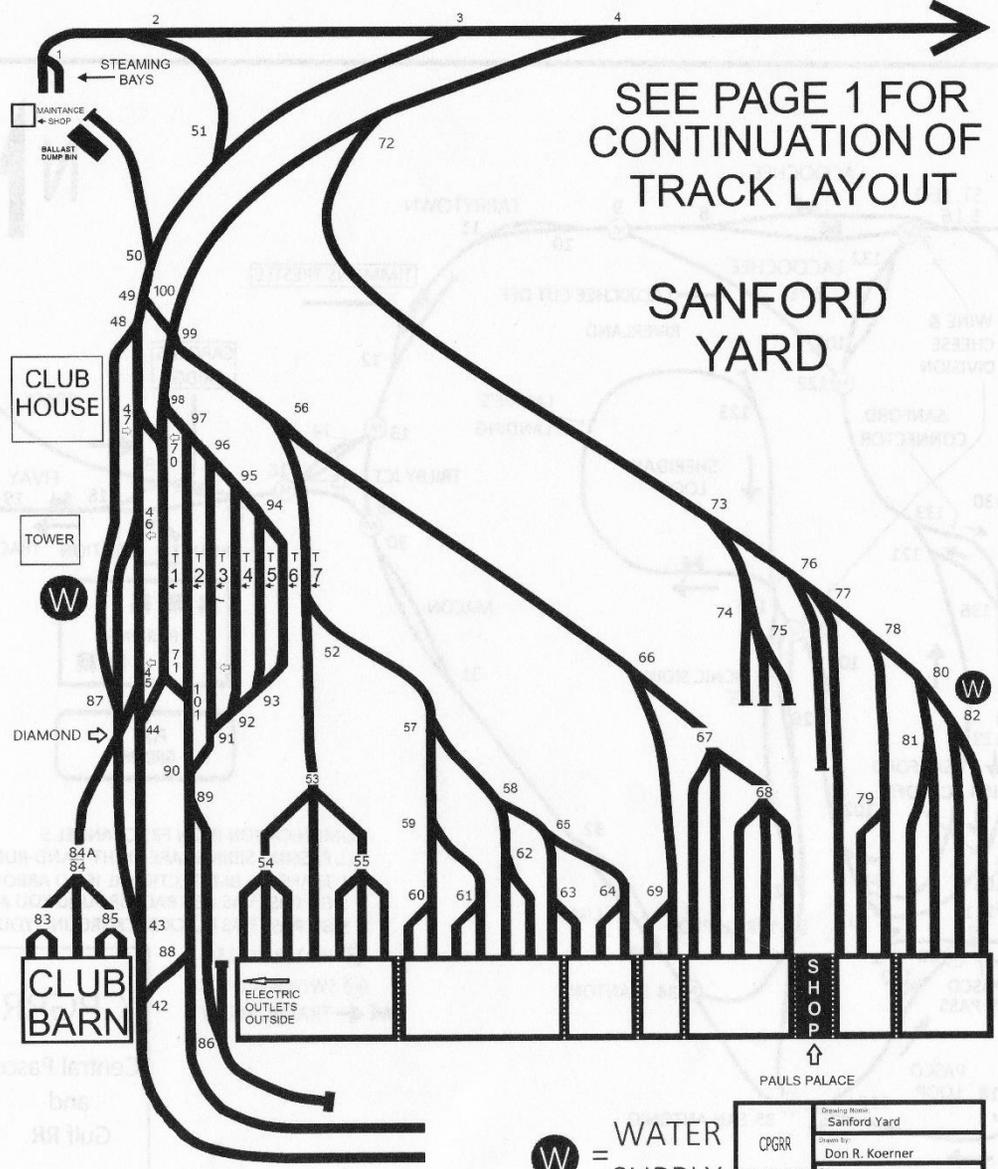


Freight parked in Sanford yard

I have attached two track layouts. One layout is for the mainline and the second shows the Sanford yard area. The diagrams also show switch controls and water spots plus other direction rules.

SEE PAGE 1 FOR
CONTINUATION OF
TRACK LAYOUT

SANFORD YARD



W = WATER SUPPLY

CPGRR	Drawing Name Sanford Yard
CENTRAL PASCO	Drawn by Don R. Koerner
AND	DATE 02/07/17
GULF RR	SCALE NOT TO SCALE
	PAGE Page 2 of 2