



Vol 51 Issue 1

The Rock River Valley Division, RRVD, is a local division of the Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association, NMRA. The RRVD serves 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 a variety of model contests as well as door prizes for those in attendance. The RRVD will hold a train show at Midway Village on November 4, 2017 as well as our annual Train Show and Sale in the Spring of 2018. The date and venue for the Show and Sale will be announced as soon as they can be firmed up.

The dates for the fall meetings are: September 10, 2017- October 1, 2017- November 4, 2017 will be a Train Show at Midway Village Museum- December 3, 2017 Annual Garage Sale

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From the Superintendent by Bruce Giersch

Well summer is almost over; the kids are going back to school and we can all start thinking about model railroading again.

Our first 'Meet' for the 2017 / 2018 season is on Sunday, September 10th at 1PM. As usual, instead of clinics, a number of our members will present shows on what they did and saw as it relates to the 1:1 scale world of trains. These are always interesting and may inspire some of you to take these same trips in the future. This year for the September meet, we will also have two layouts open for touring. There will be a photo contest for all RRVD members. For the contest, bring in a 5 x 7 picture of you that involved touring or riding trains this past summer. Limit of two entries per member. Plan on joining us, have a donut, some coffee and sit back and relax.

We have some new chairmen for some of our RRVD activities. Please introduce yourself to the following chairmen so that they get to know who you are.

Ken Marshall has taken over as chairman for the Contests & Door Prizes at our monthly "meets."

Ron Johnson has taken over as chairman for the scheduling the clinics at each "meet."

Burt Morris has taken over as chairman for scheduling the layout tours, which we go see at the end of each "meet."

We should all thank them for stepping up and taking over these positions. In this Flimzie report will be a listing of all those that are chairmen for the various RRVD activities. This division needs volunteers like them to make things happen.

Speaking of things happening, Tom Maladecki is heading up the RRVD committee for the Midway Village Train Show on November 4th. November is Model Railroad month and this is a great place and time to show folks what model railroading is all about. See Tom's article on how you can help by bringing examples of model trains, buildings and dioramas to show the public. It is a one-day event but we all need to support this and give Tom a helping hand.

On the following Saturday, November 11th (Veterans' Day) is our annual bus trip to Trainfest in Milwaukee. Ray Dyreson has the information, so put it on your calendar and bring a friend, let's fill the bus.

In December is our annual "garage sale". I only mention this now so you can start looking through all your stuff to find things you don't need, want or have duplicates. How many of us have gone to a train show bought something we really want only to get home and find out we already have one or maybe two? Start putting that "stuff" aside now so you aren't waiting until the last minute.

Committee Chairpersons

Membership Chairman – Clarence Welte
Monthly Event Contests Chairperson – Ken Marshall (new)
Layout Tour Chairperson – Burt Morris (new)
Clinics Chairperson– Ron Johnson (new)
Publicity Chairman – Joe Whinnery
Trainfest Chairman – Ray Dyreson
Annual Train Show & Sale Chairman – Doug Loy

Committee Members

Registrar – Don Brindle
Electrician – Dick Caudle
Publicity – Ray Dyreson (asked Larry Ciche to help)
Building Floor Layout – Tom McCabe
Elections & Nominating Chairman– Gary Loiselle
Midway Village Train Show Chairman– Tom Maladecki
Midway Village Trick or Treat Event Chairman – Dick Caudle
Christmas Layouts in Stores Chairman – James Devoe
Flimzie Editor – Ken Reinert
Advancement Chair – Gary Loiselle

Members holding other division responsibilities

RRVD Archivist – Don Brindle
Audio / Visual Technicians – Don Brindle
Company Store – James DeVoe
Facebook – James DeVoe & Ken Marshall
BOD Meeting Site Coordination – Charlie Wickhorst
Auditor – Tom Maladecki
Library – Ron Johnson
Website / Internet & Flimzie Mailing List – Mike Schmitz
Photography and Publicity – Joe Whinnery

Upcoming Contest Schedule

The following is a list of contests for the 2017 – 2018 season to give everyone a head start to generate a contest winner. First prize includes a \$25 gift certificate to an area hobby shop. **(New this year.)**

September 10th: Photo contest of anything to do with a 1:1 railroading that was visited this summer. Entrant must be in the photo. There is a limit of two 5 x 7 picture be entrant.

October 1st: Model railroad diorama up to 2 x 4ft in size.

November: No contest but you can provide an exhibit for the Midway Village train show to be held November 4th (see article by Tom Maladecki).

January 7th: Off-line and on-line structures (Two contests due to no November contest). One entry per category.

February 4th: Freight cars and open loads. Two per entrant limit.

March 4th: Servicing facilities, engines, or RIP track. Could even be a car. Two per entrant limit.

April 1st: Funny car or oddball car. Example a car being used for something not originally designed. Use your imagination. Two per entrant.

May: Meet to be held in Madison we will update you as to what their contest will be.

Upcoming Clinics

By Ron Johnson

September 10th – Part One- How to Give a Clinic - Ron Johnson will explain how easy it is to do a clinic. See and learn and sign up to do a clinic.

Part Two-Did you do anything model railroading this summer? Or, did you see a real railroad (prototype) up close? Did you take any pictures? Would you share your experience with the rest of us? We call the first meet of the new model railroad year a “Show and Tell.” So, please share with us what you did this summer at our first meet September 10th. Call me at 815 633-3945 so you can insure a place on the program.

Tom Maladecki has a part of the program time for a presentation. I don't know the title of his “Show and Tell.” Come and be surprised!

ALL members will complete a short survey concerning what clinics they'd like to see and what they would like to do in the future for our division. The survey will be anonymous, but your name will be checked off when the survey has been completed.

October 1st-Part One-Tom Maladecki will do a presentation he calls “The Monday morning crew built a layout for Jim Baker's grandkids.” Jim's friends, the Monday morning crew, built a layout that they hoped Jim and his grandkids could enjoy during Jim's declining physical condition. It will include photos that Tom took at Jim's house from the

day the effort first started on Monday, August 8, 2016 through Monday, November 14, 2016 when Tom left for Florida. It will also include photos by Rick Frese and others. The presentation also includes layout efforts that were recently restarted. Members of the Monday morning crew will be asked to fill in with concepts and anecdotes.

Part Two

- How to Build a Backdrop - Tom Maladecki
- Open Loads Where's the Point - Gary Loiselle / Charles Wickhorst

November 4th (Saturday) - RRVD is holding a Train Show at Midway Village. We will not have regular meeting on Sunday November the 5th. Please see Tom Maladecki article about the show.

December 3rd-RRVD is holding their annual garage sale. Everyone is welcome to come and see what bargains can be had. Bring a friend. It is a good time to sell all those model railroad or prototype railroad items that you no longer need.

November 4th Midway Village Train Show

By Tom Maladecki

On Saturday, November 4, 2017 Rock River Valley Division will resume sponsoring a train show at Midway Village Museum. RRVD wants to do this event as a way of saying thank you to the museum for their many years of providing an excellent location for RRVD meetings.

RRVD will make no money from sponsoring the Train Show. Midway Village Museum will sell the admission tickets and they will keep all the money.

The show will be in the entire Lakeview Room, the same double room as our meetings, plus the alcove to the southwest. So, the L-shaped room will provide about 3600 square feet for the show. You are invited to be an exhibitor at the train show on Saturday, November 4, 2017. If you cannot exhibit, we would appreciate whatever volunteer help you can provide. If you have questions or comments, please contact me at

4657 Brougham Drive, Rockford, IL 61114-6243; or at TOMALCO@AOL.COM; or 815-877-3854.

Following is a summary of information about the show:

Date: Saturday, November 4, 2017

Times Open to the Public: 10am - 4pm

Ticket Prices: \$7 per adult, \$5 per child (3-17), free for children under 3, and free for museum members

Lakeview Room will be open for set-up on Friday 11/3/2017 9am - 5pm and Saturday 11/4/2017 7:30am - 10am.

Lakeview Room take-down is Saturday 11/4/2017 4pm - 7pm (we must clean up and have all items removed from the museum by 7pm).

Furnish to me your name (and helper's names), primary contact information (street address, phone number and/or email address), and a description of your exhibit. Since space is somewhat limited, please reply soon.

NOTE: There will be no selling at this train show, exhibits only!

COMING SOON TO A COMPUTER NEAR YOU

By Ken Marshall

We are working on setting up Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts for the RRVD.

The Twitter and Facebook accounts are intended to help us reach new audiences, drive more traffic to our website, bring more people to our events and ultimately bring more people into the hobby and members to the NMRA.

The YouTube account will allow us to create and share videos of member layouts, member interviews, RRVD events, etc. with anyone searching for

model train videos. This is yet another method of drawing interest to our hobby and the RRVD.

Stay tuned for further updates. We expect to have everything set up and connected soon. Once we do, we will do a demonstration at one of our Sunday Meets on how everything connects and how we intend to use it.

New NMRA Membership Benefit

By Ken Reinert

The RRVD will be adding a new benefit for NMRA members allowing them to place a small advertisement in the electronic edition of the "Flimzie."

A current NMRA member or family member of a deceased NMRA member can place a 20 - word advertisement in the "Flimzie" to sell or trade model railroad items or railroad artifacts. Non-railroad items cannot be advertised; for example, household appliances or furniture. The advertisement should contain a telephone number and/or e-mail address which will not be counted towards the 20- word limit.

The individual placing the advertisement must contact the "Flimzie" editor by e-mail to place the advertisement. The current editor is Ken Reinert at sewtrain@foxvalley.net. The advertisement will run for one issue. There are four issues of the "Flimzie" per year. Additional advertisements will require the "Flimzie" editor to be contacted each time an advertisement is to be placed.

The advertisements will be placed in the "Flimzie" under the heading "**SALE OR SWAP.**" See below for some early advertisements.

SALE OR SWAP

Mike Pollare's large collection of HO trains and tools on sale after the RRVD meet October 1st. Details and map next meet.

Submitted by Dennis Blunt for Audrey Jansen and Mike's daughter Julie

Free Seven half boards of foam insulation. Some people like to build the base for their layouts using foam board. These are full sized sheets cut in half the long way. Ron Johnson - 815 633-3945

Trick or Treat Event Midway Village

By Dick Caudle

The RRVD will once again participate in Midway Village Trick or Treat event. Various groups throughout the Rockford area set up exhibits in the Midway Village barn and pass out Trick or Treat candy. We set up the "Rockford Route" train layout. This event allows us to interface with the community and lets them know that our organization exists. This year's event will be held on October 28th. We always can use volunteers and from the members who participated in last year's event everyone had a good time. For information or to volunteer call Dick Caudle 815-874-7695.

Preparing and Decaling a Grooved Surface

By Ken Mosny

I still build a fair number of wood cars even though the hobby has largely shifted to using styrene for scratch building rolling stock. Wood boxcars usually have deeply grooved scribed siding. Wood structures are more common and present the same problem if they have grooved siding or heavily distressed surfaces. Decal setting solutions will not snug the decal film into deep grooves. The result is a silvery halo around the decal where the film spans the grooves. Even if the film is trimmed close to the printing, the halo is still visible within the spaces of the letters. In addition to this technique for hiding the halo, I will describe some additional methods which I have found to work well to hide decal film.

In HO scale, or probably any scale except large scales, wood grain on a non-weathered surface is so small as to be invisible so the surface is smooth except for the grooves. Granted, the grooves really are not to scale either. A typical 0.010" wide groove on the wood is nearly an HO scale inch wide! But scale grooves probably would be barely visible so our grooves and weathering distress are rarely to scale so that they can be seen. The challenge is to hide the decal film which bridges the grooves.

This decaling example will be a typical scribed wood boxcar, also this technique can be used on any grooved surface such as a structure. The first step is to prepare the surface for the effect that you want. In this case, the surface is to be smooth good condition wood siding. It is much easier to sand the sides of the car smooth without detail, so after building the basic box but before adding any detail such as grabs, doors, brake staff, sand the car with 200-300 grit wet/dry sandpaper on a sanding stick. This will leave a lot of fuzz and dust in the grooves, so thoroughly scrub out the grooves with a new toothbrush. An old toothbrush may be too limp to get down in the grooves.

Next, seal and sand the wood car. For sealer, I use a rattle can of clear gloss lacquer. Don't use too much. Spray just enough to soak in and leave a little gloss. Two light coats should do it. If the floor is removable, sealing the inside protects better from long term moisture. After the sealer is dry, sand the car lightly with a 600-grit wet/dry sandpaper stick to remove any fuzz and scrub out the grooves again with the toothbrush. When you are satisfied with the finish, add the doors, ladders, grabs, brackets and such. Spray on another light coat of sealer. Acrylic colors seem less likely to chip off metal parts such as grabs with the sealer as a primer. The wood doors need to be sealed anyway. Go over the surfaces and lightly scuff out any defects with your 600-grit stick or a fiberglass scratch brush. Brush out the grooves again. Rinse quickly in running water to get the debris off. A fiberglass brush will leave tiny shards all over that need to be rinsed off.

Spray on the color coat. I usually use water based acrylic paint, but solvent based enamel or lacquer is OK, too. It can be flat, gloss or in between. Airbrush on a light coat and dry. I usually force dry acrylic with a hair dryer which is why I like acrylic. Inspect for any errant fuzz and sand it off brushing the dust off with a soft brush. Airbrush on the final coat and allow to dry or use a hair dryer.

Up to this point, we have been doing pretty ordinary stuff for wood car finishing. Now for the magic. Spray on the decal base. The usual procedure is to use a clear gloss paint if the color finish is flat. Instead, I use Future floor finish (i.e.. acrylic floor wax) as a base for the decals

whether the color coat is flat or gloss. I understand the military miniature modelers discovered using Future. Future has some real advantages over paint. It is very thin-water thin-so it doesn't add much paint film thickness. More importantly, Solvaset, and probably other decal solvents, dissolve the Future and the decal film will blend into it. Future is like spraying water in an airbrush so it is easy to overdo it. I turn my regulator pressure down to the absolute minimum to spray and lightly mist on a couple of coats until I have a sheen as in *photo 1*. The future can be brushed on, but I recommend the airbrush. Let the Future dry a few hours.



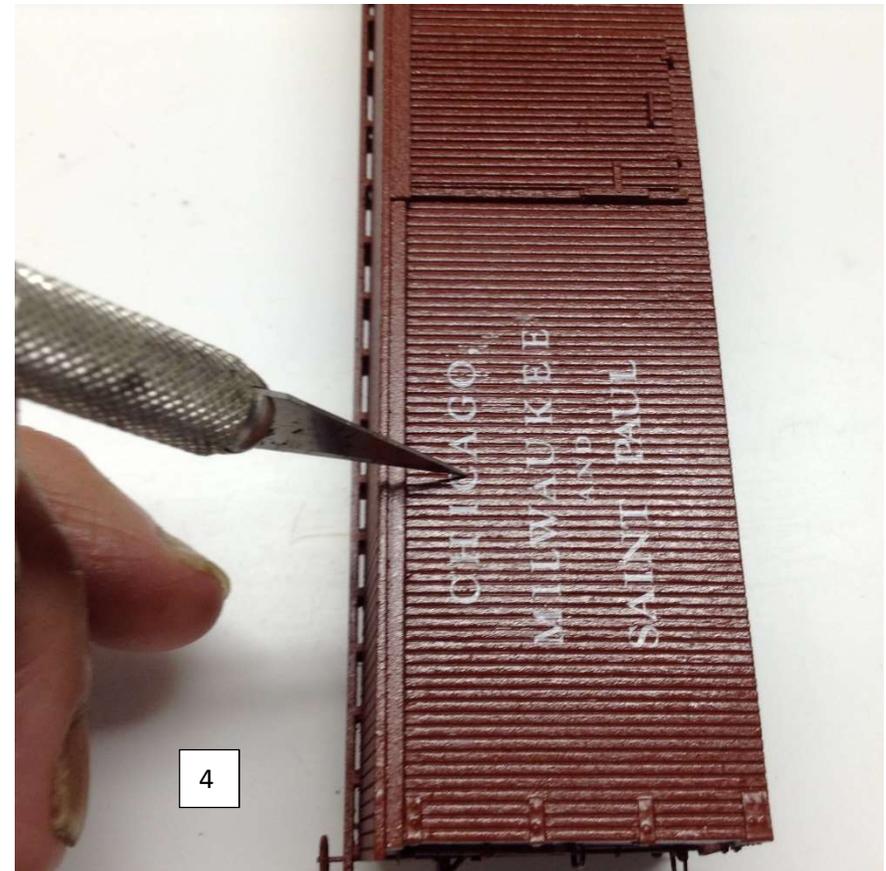
Next, trim and apply the decals. I don't usually soak the decals in water, but just dip them in water and lay them on the table in their own puddle. When they float off the paper, I slide, poke and prod them into position *photo 2*.



Do not apply Solvaset, yet. Let them dry as in *photo 3*.



less tedious than it sounds. Most of the slitting is just quick poking in and around the printing. It is not necessary to slit exactly up to the printing. I slit away from the printing as in *photo 4* constantly turning the model so I can draw the blade away from the printing. This is easier and has less chance of accidentally slicing the printing. Inside letters, it is usually good enough just to poke the silver places.

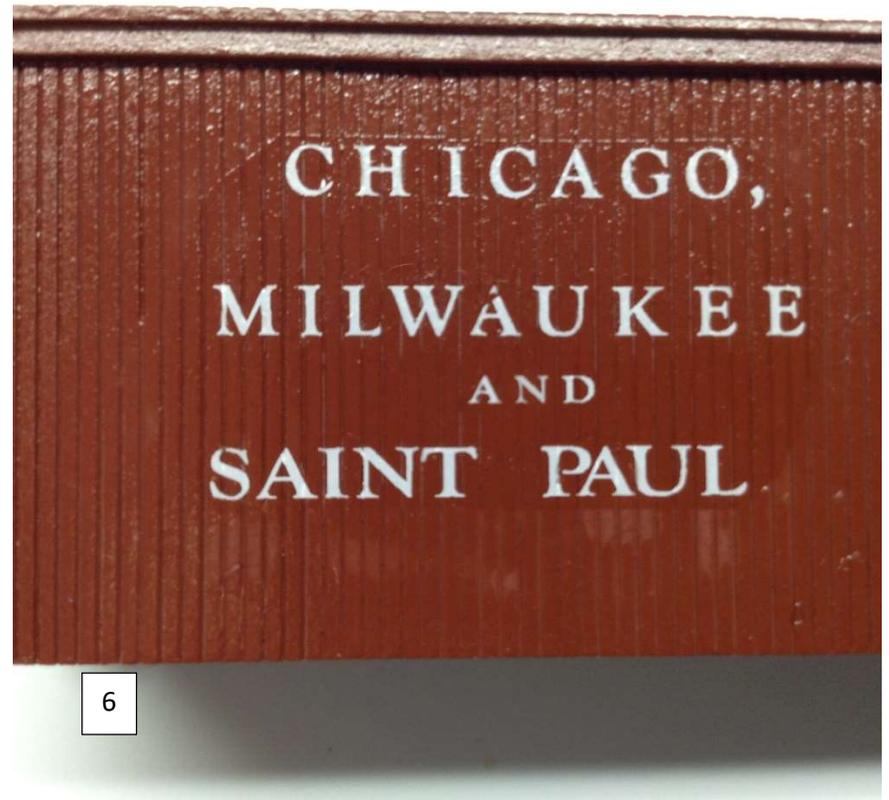


Now to address the "Halo". I have seen where modelers simply slit the film all the way and apply more solvent. Unfortunately, this results in gaps through the printing. Put on your Optivisor, put a new #11 blade in your hobby knife, and carefully slit the decal film where it bridges the grooves around all the printing but not through the printing. This is a lot

When you think you are done slitting and poking, apply some Solvaset and let it dry. I use Solvaset, so I can't comment on how well other solvents work. I prefer a glass bulb applicator like the old bottles as in *photo 5* rather than the brush in the new bottles because it is less likely to damage the decal.



You may see the Future turn milky from the Solvaset. Don't panic like I did the first time I saw this happen on my \$35 two weeks to build Westerfield kit. You can faintly see this milky appearance in *photo 6*. Wait, it will dry clear! Chances are you only did a 90% job at slitting and poking. Poke and slit some more where you see the film. Apply more Solvaset and let it dry. I usually have to poke and slit, apply Solvaset and dry at least three times before I am satisfied. Very tiny lettering like data is trimmed close before applying the decal and is only slit if a space bridges a groove.



The decal film disappears into the Future because the Future is partly dissolved by the Solvaset. When you are done poking and dissolving, it looks like *photo 7* with the film nearly invisible.



Lastly, spray with Testor's Dullcote. I have never been very satisfied with rattle can Dullcote. I thin Dullcote from the bottle 50/50 with lacquer thinner (very thin) and mist on light coats until the decal film is hidden. Be very careful not to spray on a coat too wet. A wet coat can dissolve the film at the grooves and make gaps in the printing. It is very difficult to get enough control with a rattle can to spray these mist coats which is why I use an airbrush.

If you see some bridged grooves after applying Dullcote, you can usually settle them in by slitting again and applying more Solvaset. See *photo 8* for the finished job.

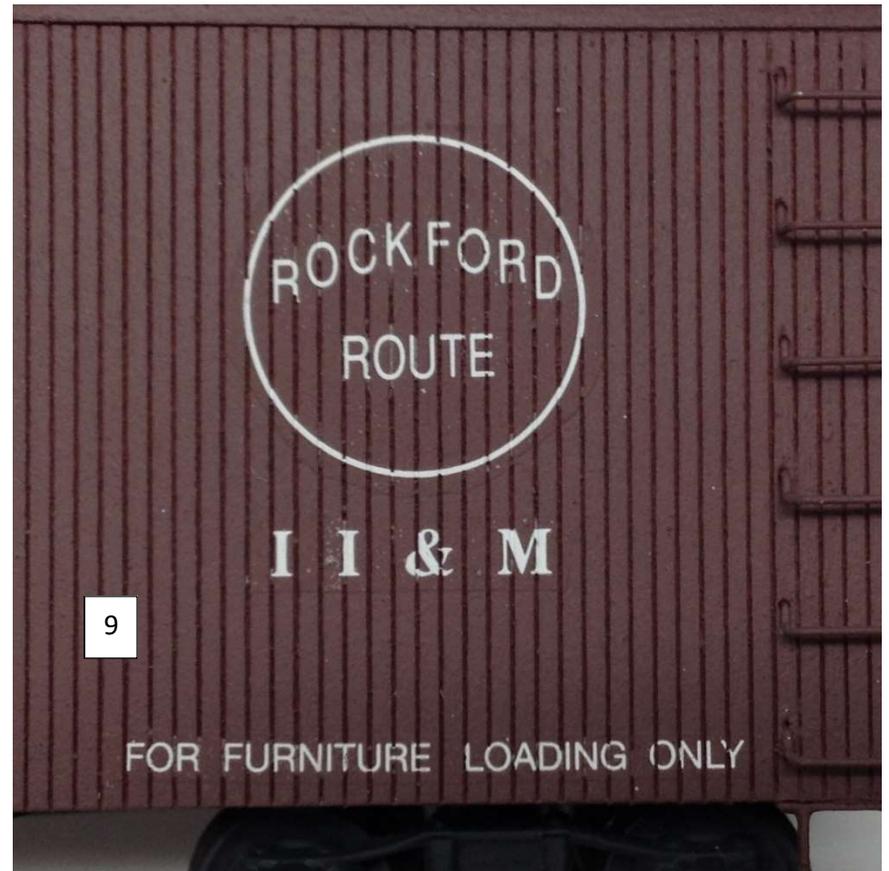


Photo 9 shows a CM&G Rockford Route herald on a deeply groove surface. Note some gaps where the Dullcote dissolved the film. Water based acrylic coating would probably solve this, but I have not tried it yet.



Since this article was written, it has come to my attention that S. C. Johnson has not marketed “Future” floor acrylic floor finish for a number of years. My bottle is many years old. After researching a substitute on the web, I found that S. C. Johnson now markets a product called “Pledge Floor Care Multi Surface Finish.” This is apparently the same product. It looks, smells and behaves the same as the old Future. I tested it on a model and the procedures described in this article worked fine. I bought mine at Walmart, but I’m sure it is widely available. Note that there is also “Pledge Floor Care Multi Surface Cleaner.” **Do not use the cleaner!** It took some digging to figure out the latest incarnation of “Future” because S. C. Johnson has over the years changed the name a couple of times on this product.

Here is a link to one of the blogs concerning “Pledge Floor Care Multi Surface Finish” <http://cs.trains.com/mrr/f/88/p/253187/2827893.aspx> In particular, read the post by Eric White. I would like to emphasize that the reason I like Future or Pledge Floor Care Multi Surface Finish over ordinary gloss finish enamel or lacquer is that the Solvaset dissolves the surface of the Pledge Floor Care Multi Surface Finish and decal film tends to melt into it.

ALL ABOARD FOR TRAINFEST

2017

BUS TRIP SPONSORED

BY THE ROCK RIVER VALLEY DIVISION - NMRA

On Saturday, November 11th, RRVD is again chartering a bus to Trainfest in Milwaukee. Trainfest is the biggest model train show in the Midwest, if not the country. If you have never been to Trainfest and are interested in model trains, you need to go. If you went to Trainfest years ago but haven't gone in the last few years, you need to go again. Come join us on the RRVD bus. Last year the bus was not full. If RRVD is to continue this traditional trip we need your participation. There will be fun, the trivia test, and friendship. Join us for a fascinating day of model railroading. Even though costs have gone up RRVD is holding prices at last year's rates. The bus ride and Trainfest admission is \$30 for non-NMRA members, \$25 for NMRA members and \$15 for those under 15 years of age. Our bus will depart Rockford from the CHERYVALE MALL southwest parking lot (near Taco Bell) promptly at 7:30 AM. Plan to be at the bus at 7:15 AM for boarding. For the early risers who want to gather for breakfast beforehand, you may join us at 6:00 AM at Denny's Restaurant on East State Street. We will be done in time to meet the bus at 7:15. For our more northerly riders we will make a pick-up stop in Beloit at 7:45 AM at the Menards south parking lot along Milwaukee Road. We should arrive at Trainfest about 9:00 AM, just as Trainfest opens. You won't have to wait in line either. You will exit the bus and walk right in through the exhibitor entrance. Look and shop until 3:00 PM when we will depart for home. Of course, in route to Milwaukee you will have to endure the now infamous Trainfest Trivia Test but the rest of the trip will be enjoyable. With the price of gas, parking fee and admission, time waiting in line and the drudgery of driving you can't beat this deal. Only 56 seats are available so fill out the attached registration form and mail it in soon.

If you have any question about the trip, call Ray Dyreson at 815-494-0205 or raydyr@aol.com -----

RRVD TRAINFEST 2017 BUS TRIP REGISTRATION FORM

Name

Address

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

Phone ____ - ____ - _____

Email _____

Check here ____ **for Beloit Depart/Return**

No. of non-NMRA member seats _____ **X \$30.00 ea. =**
\$ _____

No. of NMRA member seats _____ **X \$25.00 ea. =**
\$ _____

No. of youth tickets (14 & under) _____ **X \$15.00 ea. =**
\$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to RRVD

**Mail this form with payment to Ray Dyreson PO Box 307
Winnebago IL 61088**

June Junket

By Tom Maladecki

Almost every year, RRVD has a “June Junket” trip. Over the years, we’ve gone to many model railroads as well as to prototype sites. Most have been excellent, but this year was an exceptionally excellent experience.

Sunday, June 04, 2017 we drove down to Mike McBride’s Iron Cross layout in Dixon, IL. Yep, just one layout for us to see. All I can say is... ... WOW!

The Iron Cross features the Chicago & North Western and subsidiary Litchfield & Madison. However, it also includes Illinois Central, Illinois Terminal, Wabash, as well as Louisville & Nashville. The model railroad is based on the C&NW from Benld, IL to St. Louis, MO in the early 1950’s (the late steam / early diesel era). But, it also includes an imaginary segment of the C&NW toward Evansville, IL.

To do all of that railroading, Mike is building a multi-level layout in a 26 by 73 foot basement area. The basement was designed to have a model railroad in it, with a high ceiling and utilities clustered in the center of the area. Benchwork is cantilevered from the view block framework. Mike enjoys experimenting with construction techniques, incorporating the techniques that work for him. A perfectionist, he has been known to recreate areas more than once.

With multi-levels in a 1900 square foot area there is a heck of a lot of railroad to see. But you don’t see it all at once. The plain sky-blue view blocks go from floor to ceiling and the aisles flow along the tracks. Mike says about 1600 feet of track has been laid; but, far from complete. The track work is flawless with smooth transitions. Yards, towns, and industries are encountered at all elevations as you meander along the rail routes.

There is a lot scenery work required for a railroad of this size. Some scenery is well along and well done; while, in other areas, there were mock-ups and bare track work. The big city passenger terminal action

idea is outstanding. Oh, I picked up a valuable scenery tip. Mike used moss that he gathered in the nearby woods for a very good representation of swampy areas. And, the static grass areas looked good. The “completed” areas show that Mike has a good eye for scenery.

Engines and rolling stock were all correct for the 1950’s era being modeled. It all supports the concept of interaction and interchange between several railroads. And, everything looked right!

An illustration of Mike’s craftsmanship are the nicely recessed push-pull turnout controls, that work via electrical switches. They are always in the pushed in position when the turnout is in “normal” alignment. Maybe a small thing to some, but appreciated by operators.

Did I mention the railroadiana? Switch stands, cross bucks, speeders and more outside, and inside were signs, lanterns, and artifacts galore. It was like visiting a small railroad museum. And the bathroom plumbing! It’s like the backhead of a steam locomotive. Fascinating!

An eye-opener moment: I went thru the photos that I took at Mike’s layout, so I could give some to “FLIMZIE” Editor Ken Reinert for this article. I found that I took 139 photos! I could have easily taken twice as many. As it turns out, Ken had taken many photos of his own and didn’t need mine. [Ed.- Used some from Tom, James Devoe and myself]

All-in-all, it was a great visit to a good railroad. Mike is a nice person who is knowledgeable and who enjoys sharing with others.

I was lucky enough to be at Mike’s railroad the following week for an operating session. The Iron Cross uses Easy DCC. There was a crew of about 15 people performing various tasks. Nice people. I think everyone had a good time.

Hey, if you miss the 2018 June Junket... whatever it is... shame on you!



As soon as one pulls-up to Mikes house you know a railroad fan lives here.



Speeder in backyard he has five I believe. [ED.]



Mike has a complete wood and metal working shop in which he not only builds models but restores antique equipment for museums.



Mike standing by an antique coke machine where Coke costs a dime!



Clarence Welte entering layout room. Note oil can collection.



Card operating system racks.



A view of multi levels and beautiful finished fascia.



Picture of fascia with circular switch knob holes recessed in fascia.



North Western Freight Power.



Engine House with Locomotive Inside.



North Western Passenger Power.



Van Kaskia River Bridge



FM Unit



Mike showing a picture to Bruce of the exact prototype bridge modeled.



James DeVoe running train sees multi levels that still need scenery.



Bruce and Mike looking at reflective water of the model bridge



Large yard area, note view blocks to prevent seeing other parts of layout.



Prototype signs by model coal tower.



Clarence checking out yard- note multi-level track plan.



Industrial Complex



Staging Area



Scenic area on top level.



Reflection in water is amazing too bad no train is passing.



Who is the little boy in the background?



Ken Reinert pointing out moss gathered from a wooded area in Mike's backyard to use for a swampy area.



As Tom said which valve to turn to flush the toilet? It is the plumbing nightmare.



Pride of collection



Who knew they built locomotives so close to us?



What railroad historical society do you think Mike supports?



Collection of artifacts



I remember collecting these logo plates in cereal boxes when I was a kid. [Ed.]