

FLIMZIE

Fall 2018

Volume 52, Number 1

Who We Are

The Rock River Valley Division of the Midwest Region of the National Model Railroad Association includes Green and Rock Counties in Wisconsin as well as Boone, Carol, DeKalb, Jo Davies, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties in Illinois. RRVD holds monthly meetings, typically the first Sunday of each month, September through May, in the Lakeview Room at the Midway Village Museum Center (MWV) in Rockford, IL, 6799 Guilford Road.

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. The Meet starts with a short RRVD business meeting. Clinic presentations on topics related to the railroad hobby follow. Usually there are two clinics, with a break between them. At each regular Meet, there is a popular vote contest for some category of train modeling as well as door prizes for NMRA members in attendance. There are brief descriptions of the expected clinics and contests in the Meet coverage of this *FLIMZIE*. There is table space set aside at the Meets for displays of railroad hobby items. If table space is available, modelers may sell railroad hobby items (NMRA member preference). A self-guided layout tour to one or more area pikes follows the end of most Meets. Layout maps are provided at Meets. Ω

RRVD 2018/2019 Season's Calender of Events

September 9, 2018*, Show & Tell
Meet at MWV

October 7, 2018, Meet at MWV

October 20, 2018, Halloween Trick
or Treat event at MWV, Noon-6PM

November 3, 2018, MWV Train
Show

November 4, 2018, Meet at MWV

November 10, 2018, Bus Trip To
Trainfest in Milwaukee

November 17, 2018, District One
police station train event

December 1, 2018 thru mid January
2019, Nicholas Conservatory train
exhibit (RRVDNMRA on Facebook)

December 2, 2018, Garage Sale

December 15, 2018, Katie's Cup
train event

January 6, 2019, Meet at MWV

February 3, 2019, Meet at MWV

March 10, 2019*, Meet at MWV

March 30-31, 2019, Annual Train
Show at Belvidere North High School

April 7, 2019, Annual Meeting at
MWV

* Meet date is not the first Sunday of
the month.

May 5, 2019, Joint Meet with SCWD
at MWV Ω

September Meet (Show & Tell)

Ron Johnson, Clinic Chairperson, says folks are asked to prepare a short presentation (or verbal report) about model railroading things that you were involved with during the summer, or prototype railroad activities. Ron asks that you limit your presentation to ten minutes or less so more people can be involved. Everyone who presents a will be included in a special drawing which stands alone from the normal door prize drawing. Three prizes will be handed out. If you have further questions, please contact Ron (rondjohn@earthlink.net).

September 9th Contest: Passenger Cars Ω

Future Meets

October 7th

Clinic: Hazardous Materials for Model Railroaders - Rich Mahaney. Rich travels to our Meets from Gobles, Michigan to do his excellent clinic presentations for us. You don't want to miss this one!

Contest: Make a tree to see who can construct the best tree in any scale.

November 4th

Four Round Robin Clinics:

Keep Your Stuff Running -

Ken Mosny

Making Prairie Grass Out of Twine - James Devoe

Painting People - Jim McQueeny

LocoNet Throttles Using iPhones - Marty Hendrix

During the last model railroad year, one of the most popular meets was the one when we had four different clinics and people rotated through each clinic "round - robin". We will do this again Nov. 4th. The advantage of this method is that each clinic has a smaller group of people leaving a lot more room for discussion and getting "up close and personal".

Contest: A one square foot module containing a caboose used for a different purpose (as suggested by Rich Mahaney April 2018 clinic).

December 2nd

No Clinic or Contest in December - Garage Sale

January 6th

Clinics: Dave Nelson will do two clinics:

The Frugal Modeler

TrackSide Details

Contest: Best painted figure. Bruce Giersch to supply figure for contest at the November Meet.

February 3rd

Clinics:

The 'Construction' Phase -
David Duitsman

Designing Yards (tentative) -
Clarence Welte

Contest: A model, car, building,
module etc. which makes the best
use of lighting.

March 10th

Clinics: to be announced

Contest: A model or display with
some part utilizing automation.
Example wind mill, sawmill, carnival
ride or anything that moves. Use
your imagination.

April 7th

Clinics: to be announced

Contest: A one square foot module.
The modules will be displayed at the
MWR regional convention May 15-
19 in La Crosse, WI. The module
must contain a piece of track which
touches two sides of the module.
Bruce Giersch will supply foam
blocks in a few months preceding
this contest to give ample time to
complete the project.

May 5th

Clinics: to be announced.
Remember that this meet will include
members from the South Central
Wisconsin Division (SCWD or also
called "Madison").

Contest: A short video of your
railroad or a friend's. This is a new
type of contest which we never held
before. There are colleagues in our
group who have some video
experience. Ask Bruce Giersch to
help connect you with these
individuals for technical advice. Ω

Annual Train Show

The RRVD expects to hold its annual
Train Show and Sale on March 30
and 31, 2019 at Belvidere North
High School, pending Belvidere
Board of Education approval of the
dates. Watch for further updates. Ω

For Sale

Tearing down 10' x 14' HO layout.
Selling all track, buildings, engines
and cars. Call for more information.
Tom Harris / 815-227-4504 Ω

All Aboard For Trainfest 2018 Bus Trip

Sponsored by the Rock River Valley
Division - NMRA

On Saturday, November 10th, 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 for NMRA members at the same rate we have had for years.. The bus ride and Trainfest admission is \$32 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 Dairy Queen) 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, enroute 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 registration form (or provide comparable information) and mail it in soon. We used to fill the bus. Let's do it again!

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

RRVD Trainfest 2018 Bus Trip Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State and Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Check here ____ for Beloit
Depart/Return

Number of NMRA member
seats ____ X \$25.00 ea. = \$ _____

No. of non-NMRA member
seats ____ X \$32.00 ea. = \$ _____

No. of youth (14 and under)
seats ____ X \$15.00 ea. = \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to RRVD

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

From the Superintendent

by Bruce Giersch

I hope all had a great summer and experienced some railroading events, functions or destinations. Like me, maybe some of you were able to tackle a project or two on your layout or ticked off one of those items on your to-do-list for visiting a prototype railroad.

At this Septembers' Meet, we will be doing something a little different from our usual "Show & Tell" program, which would be presented by one or two members. This year we will have each "Show & Tell" presentation limited to about 10 minutes so that we can hear from more of our members. We would like to hear what you did this summer which relates to model railroading or prototype railroading. It does not have to be long, using some pictures or a video that gets right to the point of your presentation. Contact Ron Johnson so that he can put you in the schedule.

At the September Meet we will be taking names of members who need a name tag. This is at no cost to the members. See Ray Dyreson for your free name tag.

This year again we have a number of activities that the RRVD will be involved in. Those chairpersons coordinating these activities will be looking for our members to help out.

October 20th – Trick or Treat Event – Dick Caudle, Chair – Event takes place at Midway Village (2pm – 8pm)

and we again will be running the Rockford Route and giving out candy.

November 3rd – Train Day – Tom Maladecki, Chair – Event takes place at Midway Village. The Rockford Route will be there.

November 11th & 18th – Home Layout Tours – Ron Johnson, Chair – Ron is getting things organized to have members again open their layout to the public that register at Hobby Town on October 27th & 28th or at the Train Days event.

November 17th – Rockford Police District One Train day – James DeVoe, Chair – The Rockford Route will be there.

December 1st to Mid- January - Nicholas Conservatory Holiday Trains – Will be going on again this year starting on December 1st. The RRVD has again been asked to participate. The Rockford Route will be there along with tables set up with other railroading related items.

December 2nd – RRVD Garage Sale at Midway Village – Non-RRVD members will pay 20% of their sales to the Division, RRVD members will only pay 10%. So gather those items you no longer need or want and bring them to the sale.

December 15th – Katie's Cup – James DeVoe, Chair – More info on this soon.

So, if you some spare time, we could use your participation at some of these events. Chance to get out

there and meet the public and show / talk model railroading. Ω

Wheel Report

by Tom Maladecki

Observations from the Interim Editor

First and foremost, I am sitting in as Interim Editor of the **FLIMZIE**. I sincerely hope there is someone who wants to take on the challenge of editing our newsletter. Please let me know if you are interested in being the Editor of the **FLIMZIE**. I will help you as much as I can as you learn the job. It is unfair to RRVD for me to be trying to do this job when I'm 1300 miles away every winter.

As an alternative, would you be interested in being a Reporter for the **FLIMZIE**? You could be the on-site eyes and ears, recording information and events, taking photos. Please let me know if you are interested in being a Reporter for the **FLIMZIE**. My contact information follows:

tomalco@aol.com

June thru Mid-November:
Tom Maladecki
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Rockford, IL 61114-6243
815-877-3854

Mid-November thru May:
Tom Maladecki
37816 Cecil Lane
Zephyrhills, FL 33542-1809
813-788-5666

I do not do texts

Second, I want to thank Ken Reinert for doing such a good job of editing the **FLIMZIE**. Ken assumed the roll of the Editor with the Spring 2015 issue and did great with each issue. Ken did a terrific job of taking and posting many, many photos in each **FLIMZIE**. That is one area where it will be very difficult to replace Ken.

Déjà Vu. I think this is my fifth time as Editor of the **FLIMZIE**. It seems that each time has been to step in when the prior Editor departed. A lot has changed since my first efforts in the late 1970s. But, reminiscences will have to wait for a future issue. I have to get this issue out, like yesterday!

Changes. You will notice some style changes in the format of the **FLIMZIE**. I've always liked to get the calendar of events right up front where you can use it, then augment the list of events. What us folks ramble on about you can find after the useful information that you need. I didn't need to "augment the list of events" as much as I had expected because Bruce did a nice job of that in his Superintendent's report.

Your input. We have a lot of highly motivated hobbyist with extensive knowledge and experience in the modelers world. Any editor relies on the inputs of others to continue to bring interesting and informative tidbits. I would appreciate any and all articles of modeling that you may want to share. I will do my utmost to get them into the future issues. I'd really appreciate getting photos!

There are a lot of you modelers and

hobbyist out there who really have a wealth of experience. You might be able to assist someone else, resolve a problem, or eliminate difficulties they have or may have in the future. Please take a moment to write down your experiences and/or take some photos.

Deadlines. I am hereby establishing deadlines for input to the **FLIMZIE** of August 15th for the Fall issue, November 15th for the Winter issue, February 15th for the Spring issue, and May 15th for the Summer issue.

Please note these deadlines for articles and data for our quarterly newsletter because the Editor needs sufficient time to put our **FLIMZIE** out on time.

Omega. Omega (Ω) is the last letter of the Greek alphabet. Most of the time in English, omega is used as a symbol of the last, best, or final nature of something. As Editor of the **FLIMZIE**, I have used omega to denote the end of each piece of writing, just as every article in **Model Railroader** magazine ends with an MR and articles in **Railroad Model Craftsman** end with a RMC. Ω

RRVD Officers

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For Sale

Topside Creeper - regular price \$259.95 @ Micro Mark asking \$130.00 (see attached picture) Call Paul Willis / 815-209-5211



Small For Sale notices will be posted in the **FLIMZIE** for NMRA members on a space available basis. Ω

Materials For Modeling Glass Windows

By Ken Mosny

This article is prompted by a recent project to refurbish and detail an industrial building for the family of Jim Baker. The building in the photo, donated by Terry Pitcus already assembled, was almost wall to wall windows. I was tempted to call it "Photon Sales and Service", but I will let others decide what to name it.

Scrounging the material to glaze all of those windows in the model got me to thinking of materials I have used over the years for model windows. This may sound like a rather trivial topic for an article, but it emphasizes that there is no one ideal material for any particular application. All materials we use have advantages and disadvantages to be considered. Over the years I have used or heard of using mica, acetate, styrene, butyrate, and even real glass. Lets take a look at each of these for making for model windows for small scale models.

Mica may sound like a rather odd material for model windows. If you are not familiar with it, mica is a somewhat transparent mineral which can be separated or "cleaved" into thin sheets and can be bent within limits without breaking. Small areas are also very resistant to breaking if properly mounted. It is essentially chemically inert, scratch proof, weather proof, and has an unlimited shelf life. It is hard to cut to size. Most mica I have seen is not particularly flat and transparent, but

select sheets can make an acceptable small window. A big advantage is that, being a mineral, it can easily tolerate high temperatures like soldering. For example, mica can be used for window glazing in a metal frame that is soldered together. I once read an article in an old model magazine where mica was sandwiched between layers of brass sheets soldered together to form the sides of a passenger car. If you need a very robust model, say for outdoor display or use, soldered brass and mica windows might be worth considering.

Acetate is probably the oldest common material for making model windows having been around since the dawn of our hobby. It is cheap, easily cut, and commonly available in large sheets. Its biggest disadvantage is that acetate does not age well sometimes curling, cracking or yellowing. I think this depends on the quality of the original material. Being a plastic, it is easily scratched during cutting and hard to clean without scratching. Scratching, however, can be an advantage for ruling fine window mullions, for example. It will not take outdoor weathering well. If you want colored windows, though, acetate can be easily had in many colors such as for green clerestory windows or other colors for stained glass, for example. It is easily attached with common adhesives, but solvents like MEK and toluene will mar it if you get them on the surface.

Clear styrene, about 0.010" thick, is also cheap, easily cut, and commonly available in large sheets.

Its biggest advantage over acetate is that it ages much better. It is common from hobby suppliers thanks to Evergreen although I have not seen it in colored sheets. It does not outdoor weather well, either. It is easy to scratch like acetate. Be very careful with MEK. I have found that liquid solvents tend to wick out onto the surface at the edges of the window marring the appearance. You can use canopy cement to avoid this.

You are probably familiar with butyrate (actually cellulose acetate butyrate or CAB) without knowing what it is. It is the material often used for that clamshell clear plastic consumer packaging that we all struggle with to get open. It is tough, optically transparent, cheap, available in large sheets, ages well, easy to cut with scissors or hobby knife and more scratch resistant than acetate or styrene. 0.010" thick material is quite flat and resilient. It should have good weather resistance since it is used for the vacuum formed lighted signs all over the place but note that these are not transparent. I have not seen it in colored sheets for the hobbyist, although it can be colored. Its big advantage over acetate and styrene is that MEK and other common solvent cements we use do not mar it. Because of this, I cement it to styrene windows with MEK without the MEK marring the edges. Any MEK that does wick on the surface just evaporates. The MEK does not dissolve the butyrate to weld the joint so the joint to the styrene window is not as strong, but it is usually good enough. A stronger joint can be

made with contact cement if needed. I do not use CA because of the danger of fogging. Testor's canopy cement can also be used. An advantage to the MEK joint is that the window is easily popped out if needed. In general, I find butyrate the best all around material for model windows.

Now consider real glass. Nothing looks better. Microscope cover slip glass is very thin glass, as thin as 0.006", used to cover specimens for viewing under a microscope. It is not the much thicker glass slide under the specimen. This glass is thinner than the previous materials, but because it is rigid and flat, it looks much better. It is optically high quality glass. As real glass it is, of course, hard, scratch proof in ordinary handling, weatherproof, heat resistant for soldering and easy to handle without marring. It is cut to size by scratching with a carbide tipped scribe and breaking along the score line. Of course it can't be bent into a curved glass. The main problem is the available sheet size. The largest cover slip glass I have found is 25mm x 50mm, about 1in x 2in, which is a good size window in HO but limited in larger scales. I am sure these are cut from larger sheets from the glass manufacturer. Maybe making larger sheets available is something a larger hobby supplier like Walther's or Micromark could look into. A quick check on Ebay found 24mm x 50mm coverslips for around \$5.00 per 100 ppd. I have attached the glass with contact cement, but canopy cement or CA could probably be used. For a

window with interior detail, it can be easily inserted in the groove of a sash. If you are building a high end model using your best effort and skill, consider coverslip glass. Ω

