

FLIMZIE

The Newsletter of the Rock River Valley Division

Winter 2018/2019

Volume 52, Number 2

**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year to all**

RRVD 2018/2019 Season's Calender of Events

RRVD holds monthly Meets, 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. 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 announcements. 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. This **FLIMZIE** includes brief descriptions of the expected clinics and contests.

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 have preference). A self-guided layout tour to one or more area pikes follows the end of most Meets. Layout maps are provided at Meets.

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 / Holiday Dinner

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 NMRA Meeting at MWV

April ??, 2019, Anticipated Meet in Savannah. IL

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

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

Message From the Superintendent

by Ken Mosny, Superintendent, RRVD, MWR

By now, RRVD NMRA members should have received the member packet announcing the special membership meeting scheduled for 1:00 PM, Sunday, January 6, 2019, at Midway Village. You will vote on whether or not the Division will allow visitors to attend more than three meets before having to join the NMRA. This is an important decision shaping the future of the RRVD. As a member you have already read the member packet so I will not repeat the issues here. I encourage all members eligible to vote to come to the meeting, have your questions answered, voice your opinions and vote.

It is said of the five Ringling brothers that you couldn't beat them because there were too many of them. I have heard that they operated their circus as a simple partnership without a written contract. Undoubtedly, they had their disagreements, but once a vote was taken, all five were on board and worked together. They knew they were stronger together than separate. We are a strong division in the NMRA. We are strong together.

We have an exciting calendar shaping up this year to the point that we may have to turn away opportunities to engage with the public for lack of resources. When you are asked to help, please volunteer. By the time you read this, we will have finished the Halloween and

November Train Show events at Midway Village, and the Public Home Layout Tours will be under way. District One Rockford Police Train Show November 17 is a great way for the kids to see officers as friends. Katie's Cup Train Show on December 15 shows us in the Seventh Street area. Again, we will sponsor a holiday display in the lobby of the Nicholas Conservatory this year engaging thousands of people. New next year, we are partnering with the Discovery Center and their Thomas The Train exhibit January through May. We will have three weekends next winter and spring with operating trains, kid's wooden train assembly and historical displays.

The RRVD goes all the way west to the Mississippi River but over the years we always have had our meets in Rockford because most of our members live in the Rockford to Janesville corridor. This under-serves a large area of the RRVD. There are other active model railroad groups around the Division. The Stephenson Society of Model Trainmen (Freeport), Depot Stove Gang (Lena), Savannah Model Railroad Club (Savannah), Green County Model Railroaders (Monroe), and Blackhawk Model Railroad Club (Oregon) are some. How about an extra meet or two partnered with them in their area? Guy's out there, are you interested? Email me at kenmosny@comcast.net. Ω

“We are strong together.”

Future Meets and Events

Note that "Contact" information is at the last pages of narrative in this **FLIMZIE**, just before **The Photo Section**

December 2nd Garage Sale

Dec. 2nd is the annual RRVD Garage Sale at MWV. NMRA members have first choice at tables and will pay 10% of their sales to the Division. Non-NMRA members will pay 20%.

Take the train items you no longer use to the Garage Sale to sell, then buy a treasure or two.

Doors open at 1:00 PM for buying and swapping. There are no Clinics, Contests, or Layout Tours in December because it is the Garage Sale.

December 15th Katie's Cup Train Event

This is a community interaction event at Katie's Cup coffee shop, 502 7th Street, Rockford, Illinois 61104. Contact James DeVoe for more information.

January 6th Meet

NMRA members will vote on whether or not to allow non NMRA members to attend the monthly Meets. The formal NMRA voting will be restricted to only NMRA members. After the special NMRA meeting ends, a normal monthly Meet will start.

We have a real treat for the clinic in January. "Tunkhannock Viaduct, Nicholson, PA"



Andy Moniuszko will not only tell you all about the reinforced concrete structure and largest bridge of it's kind ever built when it went into service in 1915 on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, he will actually have a scale model of the bridge for you to see and touch and will move a model train across the bridge. The prototype bridge was 2375 feet long and 240 feet above Tunkhannock Creek. Andy's bridge isn't that long, but he will be putting his scale model of the bridge together before our meet begins.

The real bridge is pretty impressive. The model of the bridge is almost as impressive. The bridge was part of the NMRA Convention in Kansas City this past summer.

Last Moment Addition: Ron Atherton, from Savanna, IL will talk about our newly scheduled Meet in late April.

Contest: Best painted figure.

January 6th RRVD Holiday Dinner

The annual RRVD Holiday Dinner will be at 6 PM at Lino's Pizza and Italian Restaurant, 5611 E. State St., Rockford, IL 61108. There will be fun and cordiality along with the meal of Chicken Parmesan, Veal Parmesan, Chicken a la Lino, or Meatless Lasagna for \$25.00 per person. All community model railroaders are invited whether a member of the RRVD or not,

We will have our own room at Lino's if enough people sign up, so sign up soon.

John Mann is our liaison, but contact Ken Mosny for more information. Mail reservation (names and meal choices) with payment to Burns Darsie, Paymaster.

February 3rd Meet

Clinics: Dave Nelson will do two clinics: (1) The Frugal Modeler, and (2) Trackside Details

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

March 10th Meet

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.

March 30th & 31st Annual Train Show & Sale

The annual Train Show and Sale is March 30 and 31, 2019 at Belvidere North High School. See [The Caboose](#) article by Doug Loy.

April 7th Meet

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 provided a supply of foot square foam blocks to give ample time to complete the project.

May 5th Meet

Clinics: to be announced.

Remember that this Meet will include members from the South Central Wisconsin Division (SCWD or also identified as "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

"We are strong together."

Join NMRA for Free

by Ken Mosny, Superintendent

Want to join the RRVD? Just join the NMRA *FOR FREE* (and then some).

The Rock River Valley Division of the NMRA offers discounts for many of our activities to our members. Join the National Model Railroading Association, and you join the Rock River Valley Division automatically if you live within our boundaries.

Here is how to join the NMRA *FOR FREE*

1. Attend our nine monthly meets for free. Get information, contests, fellowship, home layout tours, one on one advice, coffee, donuts and more. **Save \$45.**
2. Take the November Trainfest bus trip to Milwaukee. Trainfest is one of the largest train shows in the world! **Save \$7**
3. Buy a swap table at our 35,000 sq. ft. March Show and Sale for the member cost. **Save \$15.**

That is a **\$67 savings!** Use these savings to invest in an annual basic \$47 NMRA membership. You still have \$20 left over to spend at our March Show and Sale. Better yet, skip your next McLunch. Take the \$20 and add that \$8 lunch money for our top notch monthly **NMRA Magazine** with your membership for only \$75 total. You can even join on a nine month introductory Rail Pass membership for only \$19.95 for greater savings.

You Can't Pass Up Such a Deal!
(Well, you could, but why would you?) Ω

RRVD Website and Facebook Page

by Ken Mosny, Superintendent

Our Rock River Valley Division, Midwest Region website (<http://www.rrvd-nmra.com>) and our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/RRVDNMRA>) are constantly updated by a small army of volunteers who feed the necessary information to our webmasters. Thank you. Ω

“The World’s Greatest Hobby on Tour”

by Martin Hendrickx, Assistant Superintendent

The “The World’s Greatest Hobby on Tour” will be at the Schaumburg Convention center on January 5th & 6th. Here is a link to the show <http://wghshow.com/sch2019/> and kids under 15 are admitted free with an adult. Ω

Discovery Center Volunteer Request

from James DeVoe, Chief Clerk:

Discovery Center Museum is hosting a temporary exhibition on Thomas the Tank from January 12-May 12, 2019. The Discovery Center requested volunteer help with train/track maintenance. The “job description” for this is primarily wheel cleaning, track cleaning, and starting the trains for the day. They would like to meet with interested volunteers to make sure they are a good fit. Any volunteers that would be doing this would need to go through our Rockford Park District volunteer

process (takes about 2 weeks for the background checks and paperwork to go through).

The exhibition is called Thomas & Friends: Explore the Rails. In the hands-on interactive exhibition, children can help Thomas and his friends solve a variety of challenges, from a simple sorting and shape identification to more complex engineering obstacles, such as completing a train track using track pieces with different levels of elevation. For those who may not be familiar, Thomas is a tank engine and the star of the popular animated television series on Nick Jr. Thomas is the # 1 blue engine, a cheeky little guy who often gets into scrapes, usually by being over-eager to do things best left to bigger and more sensible engines. Ω

The Caboose

by Doug Loy, Show and Sale Chairman

The 2019 RRVD Show & Sale. It is being announced that next year's Show & Sale will be on the weekend of March 29, 30, and 31, 2019. THE LOCATION HAS REMAINED THE SAME. The S & S will again be held at the Belvidere North High School at the corner of Beloit Road and Squaw Prairie Road. The address is 9393 Beloit Road. The entrance will be on Squaw Prairie Road. This is the same location as last year. There was a lot of positive feed back for this location. The Belvidere School District was happy with us and we were happy with them. Please spread the word for our 2019 Show & Sale. Sign up sheets will be available starting at the

January 2019 Meet and also the February and March Meets for all positions.

The Friday start for set-up is 5:00 PM and the Saturday start for set-up is 7:00 AM.

The January 6, 2019 Meet is going to be very important for the Division. As the Show & Sale chairman I know the show runs on volunteers that are either NMRA members or model railroaders who are nonmembers, I don't make a distinction. No matter which way you decide to vote remember we need volunteers to make the S & S a success.

This issue of the **FLIMZIE** is also the Christmas issue, thus I am wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Doug Loy
RRVD Show and Sale Chairman
815 / 765-3135
delhoscl@yahoo.com, Ω

Recycle Those Old Train Calendars

by Tom Maladecki, Editor

I like to recycle old train calendars... using calendars from the past for the current period. I get to see great old photos and I save \$12 - \$20 per calendar as well. There are two ways to recycle those old train calendars: (1) display the month that I like, or (2) use an entire year.

January 2019 starts on a Tuesday, so any calendar month that starts on a Tuesday will work for next January. The only hitch is if the one selected has 28 or 30 days, versus 31 days. Then too, I sometimes use trimmed sticky notes to add days or cover prominently displayed erroneous months and years.

Did you realize that the calendar year periodically repeats the exact same pattern of days and months? So, every so often we use the same calendar that was used 6, or 11, or X years ago. The most recent calendar years that 2019 exactly repeats are as follows:

2013
2002
1991
1985
1974 Ω

2018 RRVD Trainfest Bus Trip

by Ray Dyreson, Trainfest Bus Trip Chairman

On Saturday November 10th the RRVD Trainfest bus made its 26th annual journey from Rockford, IL to Trainfest in West Allis, WI. We had 34 riders including 12 who boarded at Beloit, WI. The mandatory and notorious Trainfest Trivia Test was taken by all riders on the way there. First place with an amazing 8 correct answers out of 20 questions was Greg Anderson. Second place was a tie between Burns Darsie and Ed Kleteka with a respectable 6 correct answers. After a day viewing the displays, talking to vendors and

manufacturers, and buying our new goodies, we boarded the bus again for a relaxing ride home. Thanks to all of you who rode with us . If you didn't, you missed an enjoyable trip. Ω

The Division Owns a Trailer

by Tom Maladecki, Editor

When the Division was told it had to remove The Rockford Route from the site at which it was housed, the Board of Directors contemplated alternatives. One option was to purchase a trailer. Long story short, we bought a 12-foot single-axle trailer to house the Rockford Route. Of course, what then followed was a need to find a location to park the trailer. But that's another story!

The Rockford Route is an HO scale layout that the Division owns. Hopefully, you've seen the approximately 4 x 8 foot layout at a show or display. It's been around for several years, but it has undergone numerous upgrades and transformations. The original design holds up well, with the layout breaking down into four roughly 2 x 4 foot sections, with two sections bolted together, face-to-face for transport. A number of containers carry the buildings plus the engines and cars. The reason I mention this is that the Division really needs someone to be the honcho for The Rockford Route. Someone who is familiar with setting it up and taking it down, who can be contacted to schedule showings, and who can assure that everything is running and presentable. If you want to do that, please contact Ken Mosny. Ω

Midway Village Train Show

by Tom Maladecki, MWV Train Show Chairman

The Train Show on November 3, 2018 at Midway Village Museum was a success. Thank you to all who participated. You made the show the success that it was. Attendance at this Train Show was 301 people. There was a steady stream of attendees most of the day, and the majority included kids. My impression was that the people attending the Train Show were having a good time. I heard no reports of any complaints from the general public. Take-down went swiftly and smoothly. The Train Show ended at 4PM and the last to depart was at about 5PM.

Midway Village Museum asked us to do a Train Show again next year, on Saturday, November 2, 2019. Ω

For Sale

4 x 8 HO Layouts. Anyone looking to get started in model railroading, but needing a layout should contact Dave Duitsman. Dave has two 4' x 8' HO scale layouts with folding legs that are free to hobbyists who would use them. Contact: Dave Duitsman at 815 / 979-3185

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

“We are strong together.”

Wheel Report

Observations, Opinions and Comments from the Editor
by Tom Maladecki, Editor

Editor Position. Once again, let me say I am sitting in as Editor of the **FLIMZIE** on an interim basis. During the winter I am 1300 miles away in Florida. My body just can't take the harsh Stateline winters any more. Actually, it's late November (my birthday, coincidentally), it is 75 degrees, I'm sitting in my shorts with the windows and doors open, and I'm quite happy to be in Florida! Anyway, I hope someone 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.

Again, let me say that as an alternative, we need people who are interested in being Reporters for the **FLIMZIE**. You could be the on-site eyes and ears for the Division newsletter, recording information and events. Joe Whinnery has stepped up to provide photographs. Thank you, Joe. Please let me know if you are interested in being a Reporter for the **FLIMZIE**.

Changes. You will notice ongoing style changes in the format of the **FLIMZIE**. The most noticeable change in this issue is a move to a horizontal format, hopefully making it easier to read what is on your screen. I'm still learning as I try to change my thinking from the old days when I was editing printed hardcopy. In recent issues done prior to my return, the horizontal format was used.

I didn't notice it until after viewing the last issue when it was already on line at our RRVD website. Scrolling up and down to read anything is not the best way to do it. Thoughts should have a natural flow, without interruption. Please feel free to comment on any and all changes, including changes you'd like to see.

Speaking of hardcopy, I've had a few inquiries about doing printed copies of the **FLIMZIE**. They come from members who either don't have a computer or who just prefer tactile, tangible documents that they can pick up and read. The hardcopy **FLIMZIE** would be a newsletter type publication with minimal photos and negligible other stuff that makes printing expensive... kind of like the **FLIMZIE** that is online, but without all of the photos. Care to comment on that possibility?

Your input. Let me say this once more: 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 to go with the articles. If you need help with photos, ask Joe Whinnery.

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.

Vote at the January NMRA Meeting. There will be a special meeting for NMRA members prior to the regular Meet on January 6, 2019. NMRA members are being asked to vote on excluding non NMRA members from our Meets. Please come to discuss this issue; and, most importantly, to vote on it.

Now, I will take my prerogative to make some editorial comments. And, these comments are solely my opinions on the matter. Simply stated, I do not see any good reason to exclude any model railroader from our Meets.

We've been an inclusive organization for over 50 years. Our Meets have been the place for model railroaders to meet other model railroaders as well as to get together and share information about the hobby.

About a dozen years ago, NMRA people at the national level espoused an idea which we refer to as "3 strikes and you're out". It advocated allowing non NMRA people to come to NMRA meetings three times in their lifetimes; and, if they then do not join NMRA, they are excluded from ever coming to an NMRA meeting... forever! The RRVD Board of Directors, as well as many other NMRA persons and groups, sought the reasoning behind "3 strikes and you're out" as well as clarification. Over the ensuing period we were provided rather specious information, so we continued moving forward, achieving while other Divisions were failing.

Recently, some people in the Division felt that “3 strikes and you’re out” applied to our monthly Meets; whereas, others felt it applied only to official NMRA meetings, such as our Annual meeting in April or the special meeting in January.

Three issues by the NMRA people at the national level seem to be the basis for dissent: IRS status, insurance, and benefits to members. (1) Review shows the IRS thing is not a valid issue for us. (2) We can purchase insurance to cover the potentials at Meets. Actually, we have done that. (3) As to benefits, many things were proposed (or attempted to be) to assure that nonmembers do not benefit free of charge; in simple terms, being sure nonmembers pay their way. Actually, we have now done that as well.

Nonmembers now pay \$5.00 to enter our Meets. It’s free to NMRA members. The admission got bumped up to \$5.00 to cover the per capita actual cost of putting on a Meet, making sure everyone pays their way.

I think all of us would like folks to want to become NMRA members. I don’t know the magic formula for making someone want to belong to NMRA. I do know that there must be at least 250,000 reasons that they don’t join. And the “3 strikes and you’re out” idea sure gives them a heck of a lot more reason not to join! Worse, they could become anti-NMRA.

Ken Mosny’s **Join NMRA for Free** article nicely tells you about one way that we’re trying to coax folks into wanting to become NMRA members. Moreover, it tells you what

RRVD is doing to keep you as an NMRA member. Think about it... if you come to Meets, ride the Trainfest bus, and/or have a sale table at S&S, your membership can be completely subsidized by the Division.

Oh, by the way, did you notice that NMRA members have preference on tables at various events. Also, only NMRA members get door prize tickets at Meets and they can have brief ‘For Sale’ ads in the **FLIMZIE**.

You know it probably took you more than three Meets to decide to join NMRA. Heck, it probably took some people three years to do it. It took me two Meets just to find out where the bathroom was! And, when I wanted to join, it was to join the RRVD. NMRA came along for the ride! If we give people enough incentive, put on a good program, and provide fellowship, folks will join.

What it boils down to is some people simply do not want non NMRA members at our Meets. Period. End of discussion. Others of us disagree.

What I have summarized is merely a smidgen of the hours of research and discussion that have gone on about this topic. A lot more could have been written. I hope you NMRA members have read the “packet” about the special membership meeting scheduled for January 6th and that you will ask for whatever information that you need before you vote.

We are all people who have fun with trains. Lets focus on the many, many railroad interests that make us strong together.

Deadlines. Deadlines for input to the *FLIMZIE* are:

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 make a note of these deadlines for articles and data for our quarterly newsletter because the Editor needs sufficient time to complete the *FLIMZIE* on time.

Seasons Greetings. May the blessing of this holiday season smile on you and yours. Have a very Merry Christmas... filled with lots of trains. May the New Year be happy and healthy for each of you. Travel safely.

Omega. The Greek symbol Omega (Ω) is used to denote the end of each *FLIMZIE* article or piece. Ω

RRVD Officers, Directors and Other Contacts

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.

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“We are strong together.”

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The Photo Section

Following are photographs taken at various RRVD events. Joe Whinnery took the photos.

September Meet (Show & Tell)

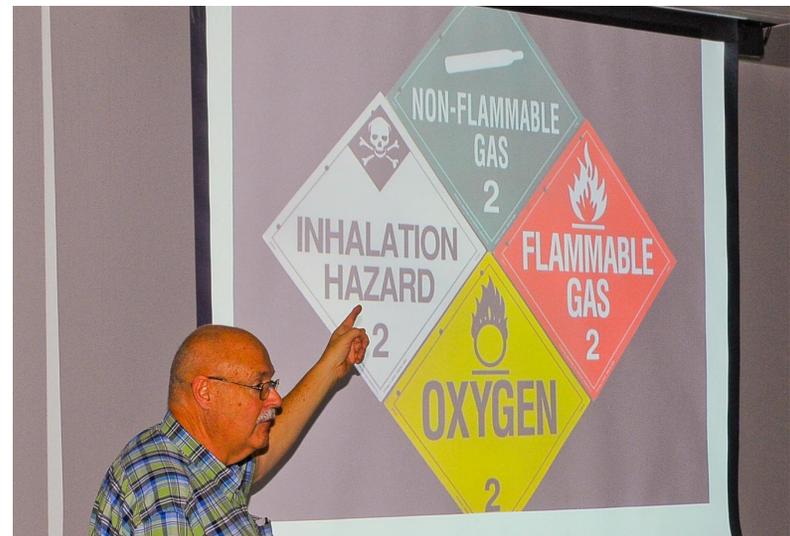




Charlie's layout after the September Meet



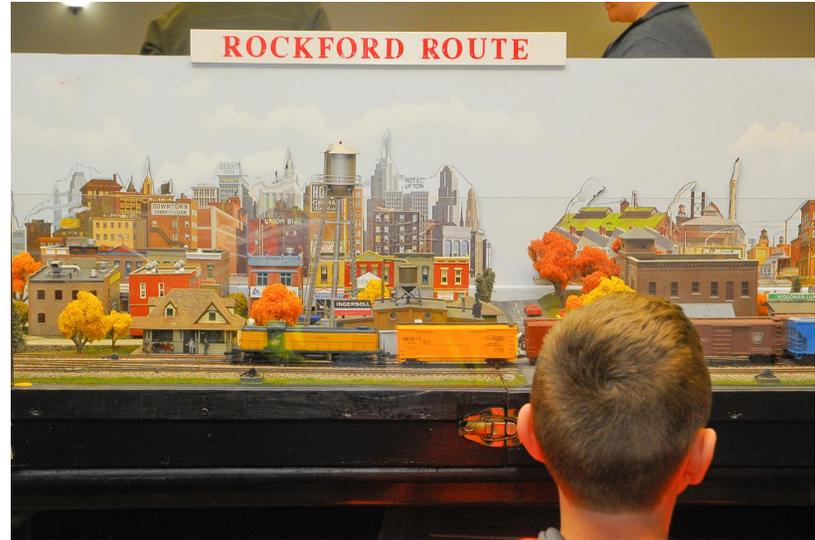
October Meet



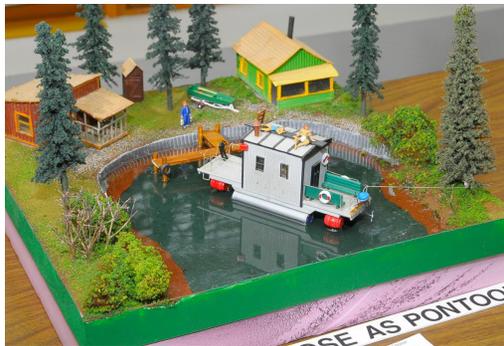
Midway Village Train Show



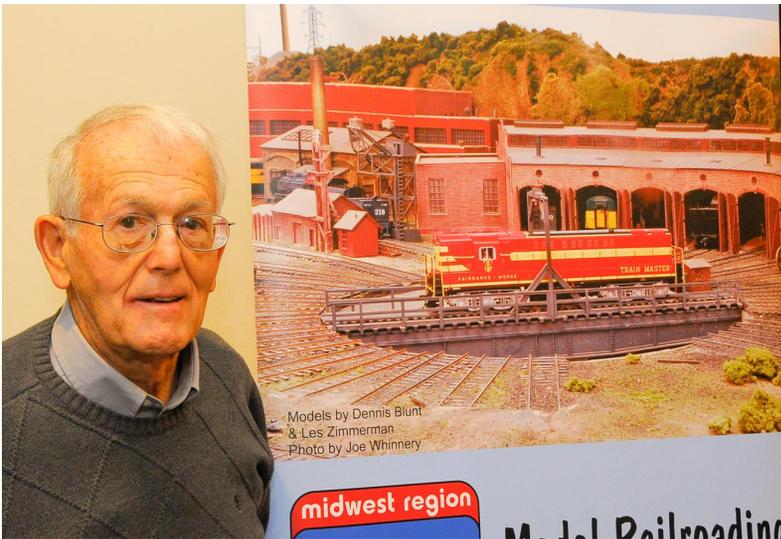




November Meet



Community interaction at Police District 1





Trainfest



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from the Editor**

