

FLIMZIE

The Newsletter of the Rock River Valley Division

Spring 2019

Volume 52, Number 3

RRVD 2018/2019 Season - - Calendar 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 more 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 usually follows the end of most Meets. Layout maps are provided at Meets.

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 28, 2019, Special Meet in Savanna. IL

May 5, 2019, Joint Meet with SCWD at MWV

Preview of 2019/2020 Season

These dates are not "official" for next season yet, but they are listed here for your planning purposes. Please watch for updates.

September 8, 2019*, Show & Tell Meet at MWV

October 6, 2019, Meet at MWV

November 2, 2019, MWV Train Show

November 3, 2019, Meet at MWV

November 9, 2019, Bus Trip To Trainfest in Milwaukee

December 1, 2019, Garage Sale Ω

* The Meet date shown is not the usual first Sunday of the month, probably to avoid a Holiday or a date conflict at MWV. Typically, the Meet date is moved to the second Sunday of the month.

Message From the Superintendent

by Ken Mosny, Superintendent, RRVD, MWR

At the Special Membership Meeting on January 6, 2019, the membership voted 25 to 12 to keep our monthly Meets open to attendance by nonmembers. I believe this 2 to 1 majority sends a strong message within our Division that our membership believes that the mission of the RRVD is to be as inclusive as possible when it comes to our local model railroad community. The RRVD Board of Directors has been discussing the temporary attendance policy adopted last September, and, as a result of this vote, the RRVD Board is expected to formally adopt substantially that policy as permanent. The purpose of this policy is to define exclusive "NMRA member only" activities as we understand them and separate them from the activities everyone can enjoy. We believe this keeps us within national nonmember participation guidelines. We have added a new page to our website to keep you informed of such policies. You can view this RRVD policy on the new "Organization" page of our website at <http://www.rrvd-nmra.com/organization.php>.

By now you should have received the mailing concerning a vote at the Annual RRVD Membership Meeting on April 7th to change our Constitution. One change is to provide a means to fill the past Superintendent vacant position on our Board of Directors. The other is to remove the power of the Superintendent to kill a motion that has a one vote

majority. The membership will vote on these changes at the annual meeting on April 7, 2019.

(Editor's Note: The "Organization" page of our RRVD website includes our Constitution, see <http://www.rrvd-nmra.com/organization.php>. THM)

I am excited about the Special Meet on April 28 at the Savanna Museum and Cultural Center. This museum and model railroad was completely off my radar until recently, but it will be on everyone's after April. We all saw the preview by Ron at the January meet. Watch for the details, but the plan is to meet in Rockford Sunday morning to drive down to Savanna with people sharing rides as they see fit. When we leave, we will be collecting money for a pizza lunch at the museum followed by a program on Savanna railroad history. Savanna was and is still a railroad hub with the crossing of the then Milwaukee Road and Burlington Route. Both railroads once had major facilities and yards there. After that will be tours of the huge HO scale railroad upstairs at the museum depicting Savanna past as well as a local home layout in Sabula, Iowa. I have seen both model railroads, and they are top notch.

Our program to bring model railroading to the public has been very successful this year. Kids love making the toy wooden trains. One young man at Katie's cup headed straight to the back of the room past the operating layouts, and he was very disappointed when he discovered that we were not doing it there. We will be

doing it at the Mach Show and Sale with 600 kits available. Discovery Center of Rockford is also doing it in conjunction with their interactive Thomas program January through May. We are already booking events for next fall and winter. Our name is getting out there. Time will tell if we are raising a good crop of new model railroaders.

Please volunteer when asked to help at our March Show and Sale. You are needed. Ray talked to the WISE division people at Trainfest last year and future Trainfests may be in jeopardy for lack of volunteer help. He was told that 1000 people volunteer in some way to pull Trainfest off, but ,unfortunately, fewer people are volunteering. This is not a problem unique to them, but to all social organizations. We don't need 1000 volunteers for the RRVD Show and Sale, but we do need you.

Ken Mosny
Superintendent, RRVD

kenmosny@comcast.net.

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

“We are strong together.”

Future Meets and Events

March 10th Meet

Clinics: 1st - Meet Marty Hendrickx from our Division, and the Asst. Superintendent. Marty will explain how you can use a cell phone as a DCC throttle for your layout.

2nd - David Phillips from the Northwest Illinois Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society (NWI-NRHS) will present: Passenger Service in Northern Illinois

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 in this **FLIMZIE**.

April 7th Meet

Clinics: 1st - Aaron Carlin from the Rockford Memorial Library will tell you and show you all about 3D-Printing.

2nd - Ron Johnson will show his film, “Operating Session”. The film describes operating a model railroad on the layouts of Dave Hopper, Harold Heeren, Bill Kirchmeyer and Gene Wheeler .

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. A supply of foot square foam blocks has been available at Meets.

April 28th Special Meet in Savanna

There will be a Special Meet on April 28th at the Savanna Museum and Cultural Center. See Ken Mosny's superb piece in **Message From the Superintendent**, above.

Dale Brown, Savanna Museum Vice President, says the museum will have tables set up with chairs in their main room downstairs for the meeting and lunch, and casual conversation. He asked for a head count as we get closer so they have an idea of what to set up for and expect, so let Ken Mosny know if you're going.

May 5th Meet

Clinics: Walter Gannon, a Belvidere artist, will describe and show you how he makes miniature creations of animals, flowers, structures and many other items entirely from paper. He's not a model railroader, but he understands the scales we use in modeling: Z, N, HO, O scales. Be prepared for a very interesting clinic. He may give away some of his structures in the right scale.

Remember that this May 5th Meet will be a joint meet with 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

Clinics

by Ron Johnson, Clinic Chair

(Editor's Note: Some of the clinic information that Ron provided was included in the March, April and May Meet clinic information, above. The remainder of Ron's submission is included in the following article. THM)

February 3rd Meet. David Nelson from the WISE Division (Milwaukee) presented two clinics: The Frugal Modeler, and Trackside Details. Thank you, Dave.

Future Meet. Randy Garnhart will present one of his very popular slide shows in November. More details later.

Show & Tell Meet: I am thinking about doing away with the "Show 'N Tell" in September. There seems to be little interest among a majority of the membership. However, if you're still interested in having the "Show 'N Tell" in Sept. please let me know. If there's enough people to make an interesting Meet, I will schedule it for the Sept. Meet. But I'm looking for at least ten to twenty people to make the clinic worthwhile to continue. Ω



The Caboose

by Doug Loy, Show and Sale Chair

The 2019 RRVD Show & Sale. The March 2019 Show and Sale is coming! The dates are March 30 & 31. March 29 is Friday for the set up. Please come and help. The set up time is 5:00 PM and lasts to approximately 8:00 on Friday. Don't feel guilty if you have not signed up, your help is still appreciated. On Sunday March 31 we tear down at 4:00 PM and we try to be out of the school by 6:00 PM so please come for the tear down also. Remember that a successful show and sale is because of YOU! If you are not a NMRA member you are still welcomed at the show and also our monthly Meets because model railroading is for everyone, THE WORLDS GREATEST HOBBY!.

I was reading the *NMRA Magazine*. I was reading the new issue of *NMRA Magazine*. I am a tool junkie and an article got me thinking, what five tools do I use the most? The five I use, in no particular order are needle nose pliers, my dual heat soldering gun, my Dremel hand grinder, and vise grips pliers. The first four were various gifts from my parents years ago. I would be interested in learning what five tools are your favorites. If you let me know I will get a list together for the members in some future column. Phone number is 815 / 765-3135 if you want to call for this survey.

Doug's email: delhoscl@yahoo.com,

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Being a Professional Model Railroader

by Joe Whinnery



Since 2000, I have been doing 1:1 railroading for the Rockford Park District, being the Motorman for Trolley Car 36. In November 2018, I got "promoted" to maintaining track and rolling stock of 6 layouts at Nicolas Conservatory along the Rock River and UP tracks. There are 6 G gauge displays with local landmarks for display. This is a 3 day a week job cleaning track and wheels. Not only is it cleaning, but has to be done by 9AM to be ready for the public. It is sort of like an operating session to get everything in working order with no problems.

That is the idea, but there are problems like dealing with heat and humidity, dead bugs and leaves creating electrical problems. Derailments are also a problem with said conditions. It is a Christmas time display, so there are some liberties on how things look. The cars have hook and loop couplers and grab irons taken off for reliability. Kadee knuckle couplers look nice, but they can open and create a wreck, and one may see it to clean it up. The 6 trains run over 350 feet of G brass track. Cars have large flanges to help keep the cars on track. Conditions can warp the wooden roadbed, and changes in vertical and horizontal track alignment can cause derailments, also bugs and leaves can cause derailments. As heavy as the cars are, they are still too light to stay on the tracks in places, so extra weight is needed.

There are 3 trolleys on reverse tracks, a larger upper loop with large wooden bridges, and a Thomas on a reversing section. Thomas and Percy are the worst

offenders for problems. Their flanges get caught in a gap from a straight section and curve section. To fill the gap, I used a Popsicle stick, Super Glue and Elmer's Wood glue. Having a working knowledge of problem solving helps on this display, just like problem solving on our home layouts. Using Kadee springs is just like at home. Run a piece of string through the spring and gently put it in the trucks. This avoids sending springs flying, never to be seen again.



I am up to my knees wearing waders in water to clean the tracks using a painter's flexible wand using 3M scrubbers and alcohol. I use Dremel tools with a wire brush, and a softer wheel to remove black crud, and bugs. This is 3 days a week which started the end of November, with Feb 17 the last day of operation. It will be taken down, and stored in the old Kmart on Riverside. I keep telling myself Model Railroading is Fun as I walk

over slippery round rocks underwater to get to the tracks. I even took some cars home to airbrush weathering on them.

Kids get a thrill out of seeing the trains, and with conjunction with the Rock River Valley Division, we might inspire some future modelers. It is nice to be a "Professional" model railroader and enjoy the hobby from a different point of view.



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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?)

(Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from the Winter issue because it is still a valid reason to join, THM) Ω

Wheel Report

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



3/2/2019 THM

It is 78 degrees and I'm sitting in my shorts with the windows and doors open. For you, it is 20 degrees outside and you're hunkered down in the basement playing with trains. For the past several weeks I have been either preparing for, or attending, the Florida Live Steamer's Winter Meet. The FLS Meet started in north-central Florida February 4th and visited 7 clubs, ending March 4th at our Central Pasco and Gulf Railroad. Thus, I'm at least a week late preparing this **FLIMZIE**.

If anyone wants to take on the challenge of editing our newsletter, please let me know I am 1300 miles away

and I have to rely upon folks who are there in the Stateline area to provide me with articles, information, and photos. 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. Otherwise, I continue to need people who are interested in being Reporters ... the on-site eyes and ears for the Division newsletter, recording information and events. Joe Whinnery gives me great photographs, and this month he even did a nice article.

April 28th Special Meet in Savanna

The Savanna Meet is mentioned a couple of times in this **FLIMZIE**. I hope you will attend it because it represents an experiment in reaching out to the far corners of our Division. If only a few people show up, it could be considered a failed experiment. Unfortunately, the departure details are not firmed up yet. Contact Ken Mosny for that information if you haven't received it as we get closer to April 28th. We expect to leave Rockford as a group at 10:00 AM; however, the departure site is not yet set. The target is arrival in Savanna about 11:30-11:45. At the time of leaving, pizza will be ordered for a lunch in Savanna. Money for lunch will be collected at the departure site. RRVD will provide a cooler full of beverages. The Meet will consist of a clinic and layout tours. A contest was suggested of Milwaukee and Burlington freight and passenger models. Maybe Milwaukee and Burlington prototype photos?

Let it be noted that I spelled Savanna correctly!

The 2019 RRVD Show & Sale.

I cannot understate the importance of the Show and Sale. It is the crown jewel in our presentation of the hobby to the outside world. It also provides the funds that keep our engine healthy and running well. The dates are March 30th & 31st. The location is Belvidere North High School. Pick up a handful of flyers and tell everyone you meet what a great train show it is.

Set up is Friday March 29th, 5:00 PM to approximately 8:00 PM. I hate to use the “V” word, but we need you to Volunteer to help... Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Changes.

There are no style changes in the format of this **FLIMZIE**.

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 simply prefer something they can pick up and read. The hardcopy **FLIMZIE** would be a newsletter type publication with minimal photos (which make printing expensive)... and require only one stamp. I will be making this proposal to the RRVD Board, so please provide your comments.

Vote at the April 7th NMRA Meeting.

NMRA members will be voting on two things prior to the regular Meet on April 7, 2019. First, they are being

asked to vote on changes to the Constitution. Second, NMRA members will vote for Officers and Directors for the coming season.

Ken Mosny's talked about the Constitution changes in his **Message From the Superintendent**, above. And, you were sent a mailing about the changes. If you are an NMRA member living in the RRVD area and you did not receive that mailing, contact one (or more) of the Officers or Directors.

Officers and Directors are extremely important to the Division. If you are an NMRA member in good standing, and you care about our Division, please consider running for one of the positions. Contact Gary Loiselle for more information.

Show & Tell Meet.

Ron Johnson said “I am thinking about doing away with the “Show 'N Tell” in September. There seems to be little interest among a majority of the membership.”

That came as quite a shock to me! I love going to our Show & Tell Meets! I have a great time presenting and I like to see what other people have been doing. And from what I observed last September, the majority of our membership seems to like Show & Tell Meets as well.

I don't know who Ron was talking to, but please send me your comments - - positive or negative.

This is cathartic. I've spent countless hours preparing Show & Tell presentations during the last 10 years, literally hours. I tried to make each one interesting and informative. I'd like to do it again, to share my experiences with you. I hope I have a chance to do that again. Please let me know what you think

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 because I need sufficient time to complete the **FLIMZIE**. 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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The Photo Section

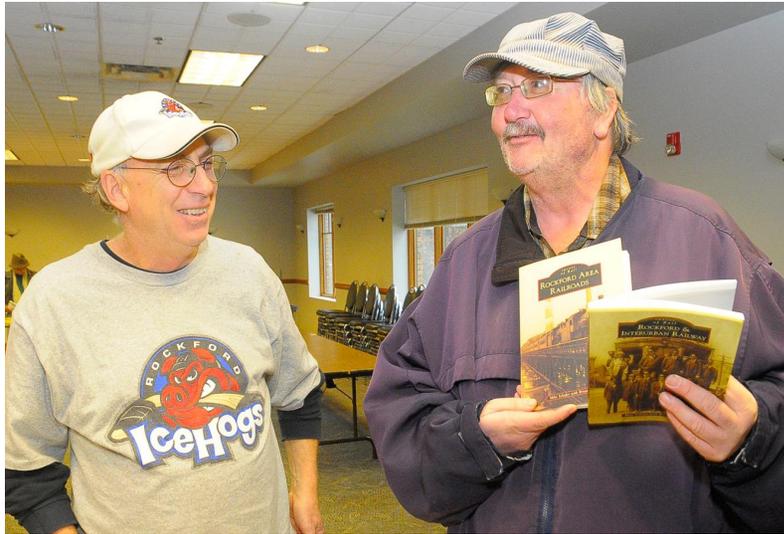
Following are photographs taken at various RRVD events. Joe Whinnery took the photos.

RRVD holiday display at the Nicholas Conservatory



December Meet (Garage Sale)





January Meet

Andy Moniuszko's HO model of Tunkhannock Viaduct at Nicholson, PA



February Meet

David Nelson from the Wise Division presented The Frugal Modeler and Trackside Details



Frugal open load

