

FLIMZIE

***The Newsletter of the Rock River Valley Division
Midwest Region, National Model Railroad Association***



Summer 2020

Volume 54, Number 1

BREAKING NEWS

*At the June 17, 2020 RRVD Board of Directors meeting (via Zoom) we made decisions about near future Division meetings and activities. As of the meeting the **FLIMZIE** was ready for publication, but I held off publishing it pending Board actions at the meeting. Following are my accounts of what we plan on doing, which actions resulted in this unique **FLIMZIE** with two first pages.*

Tom Maladecki, Editor

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June Junket via Zoom

Sunday, June 28, 2020 at 1:00 pm RRVD will conduct a “junket” via Zoom. This will be a Zoom trip to Northern Illinois Historical Railway Association in Argyle, IL. The Argyle club has a scenic 20' x 50' HO scale layout in the Paulson Agricultural Museum. The 45 minute visit will see the HO layout plus learn a smidgen about the Ag museum. If you have not downloaded the free Zoom software yet, you will have to do that prior to this junket.

This will be the Division’s first venture with a Zoom event. We hope it goes well. Ken Mosny talks a bit about Zoom webinar-type events in his **Message from the Superintendent** column. At the end of the June junket you will be asked to take a trial vote. That vote will allow us to judge the viability of Zoom for future voting. Ω

September Meet via Zoom, Maybe Live?

We still don’t know if the September 13th Meet will be an actual live occurrence. We want everyone to stay safe and healthy. However, either way, we do know that it will be broadcast on Zoom. If it is live, we hope you will enjoy actually attending. We don’t have specifics about clinics yet, but we’re working on it. A lot of technical items have to be worked out on how we’re going to transmit on Zoom, but we’re working on that too.

The Sept. Meet may or may not be the “Annual Meeting”. There are still questions on the feasibility. Otherwise, the October 4th Meet could be the “Annual Meeting”. We will give you as much notice as possible. Ω

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First Meet - September ?

Message from the Superintendent

by Ken Mosny, Superintendent, RRVD

We had a busy winter season visiting public locations with *eight* train shows. We showed at Nicholas Conservatory in Rockford over the holidays, Capron Lions Park in Capron on 12/14, Katie's Cup in Rockford on 12/14, Winnebago Library in Winnebago on 11/22-11/23, District One Police Station in Rockford on 11/16, Discovery Center in Rockford on 11/10-11/11 and Midway Village in Rockford on 10/19 & 11/3. **WOW!** Many thanks to everyone who helped especially to James Devoe who was at almost all of them.

A new program this year is a youth model railroad program. The brainchild of Ron Johnson, the kick off meeting 2/16 at the Discovery Center with a small group of children and parents was very successful. The kids

played with trains they and we brought and we talked a lot. A hit was a mini kid centered scenery clinic where the kids spent about an hour building and decorating an eight inch square bit of scenery with pink foam, plaster cloth, paint and ground foam. Who said only God can make a tree? You can too with polyfiber, glue, a stick, black spray paint, hair spray and ground foam! We want to make the kid's program a regular feature and are currently looking for a home to meet in. It is important to realize that this will be a parent driven program. Unfortunately, the NMRA has just released an official "at risk persons" (legal speak for youth, mostly) policy statement which appears to make sponsorship of such programs by the RRVD not possible. You can see the policy at https://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/nmraorg/bod/EHB/nmra_at_risk_persons_policy.pdf.

On a personal level, my winter has been busy working on two NMRA Achievement Program Awards. These are *Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical* and *Model Railroad Engineer – Civil*. The reason I am doing these at the same time is that there is a lot of common effort between them so they are naturals to do together. Both require a track plan and working examples of track-work, for example. If you already have an operating layout with the required features, most of electrical achievement award is documentation of your system. Mine is about 20 pages of schematics and computer routines. On the plus side, it got me to write down what I did so I don't have to keep figuring it out over and over. I did find some mistakes, kinks, and added "enhancements",

though. I am finished with the civil engineer award qualifications except for grading and ballasting 50 feet of HO track. Ugh, that is scenery-not my strong point.

Of course, on everyone's mind is the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on public events as we hunker down. Essentially all of our hobby conventions and meetings are being canceled or postponed to an uncertain future date. The Midwest Region *Peoria Rocket*, along with about all other NMRA and historical association conventions, and the NMRA Gateway 2020 Conventions will not happen. The RRVD has canceled all gathering events until at least August with after that in doubt. So much for the bad news. The April, May and June RRVD Board of Directors meeting were Zoom meetings, and we will continue with Zoom BOD meetings until further notice. The silver lining in the COVID 19 cloud may be this: many of us have, like it or not, are being exposed to the idea of internet gatherings including those featuring model railroading. One such internet method is Zoom. To participate on a zoom meeting, you need a computer, video camera, speaker, microphone, and broad band internet. You can also use a smart phone connected to wifi or the cellular data system. Most of us already have the hardware. You could also participate with a telephone by audio only. The cost is nothing for the participants. Only the host pays a fee.

The Central Indiana Division has been doing Saturday morning *Track Talk* sessions using Zoom. Meeting links are emailed to CID members weekly inviting them to join the 10am Saturday *Track Talk*. I

participated in one of these last month. The sessions last an hour or so with participation of 25-40 CID members so far. An agenda is set up in advance and any member can volunteer to present a topic. Topics include layout tours, product reviews and mini-clinics lasting 15 minutes or so each. Some presentations are live with others video. The Zoom meeting allows participants to watch, listen and, more importantly, ask questions or comment on what is being presented. This "audience participation" is the key to the Zoom format over just a "broadcast". We will be exploring using Zoom for our Meets next season and perhaps some summer Meets like *Track Talk*. Keep in mind, a Zoom Meet is not an either/or proposition. When the RRVD does resume in person Meets, we can still Zoom them to those who do not attend in person. This will expand the number of people who can participate beyond those just in the room and allow off site people to present topics, too. Sure, there will be bugs to work out, but model railroaders are natural problem solvers. I am excited about this technology because it can expand our reach to all corners of the RRVD. The RRVD will definitely be exploring this technology.

Until next time, stay safe and well.

Ken Mosny
RRVD Superintendent



Those We've Lost

IN MEMORIAM

by Gary Loiselle

Life has many bridges we all must cross.

Age and time add yet one more.

With feelings of joy and sense of loss,

We remember our friends who have crossed before.

Burns Darcie III 1943—2020



Burns, a member of Rock River Valley Div. most recently held the office of Paymaster, passed away on April 10, 2020, at age of 76.

“Burns will be missed. Our prayers and thoughts pour out to Linda. A memorial service will be held as soon as possible.” Ken Mosny

Obituary

Burns Darsie, III, 76, of Rockford, IL passed away peacefully from this life in the early afternoon of Friday, April 10, 2020. His loving wife Linda S. Darsie (née Vallee) was at his side as he lost his brief but intense battle with cancer.

Burns is also survived by his son, Burns Darsie IV; his daughter, Heather Ruth Darsie; and his brother, Hugh Harold Darsie.

Burns was born in Jersey City, NJ on June 4, 1943 to Burns Darsie, Jr. and Ruth (Goodrich) Darsie, both of whom predeceased him. The Darsie family moved to Rockford in 1953.

Burns was a graduate of Rockford East High School, Valparaiso University and St. John's University, where he earned his MBA degree. Burns was an Army Veteran. After his military service he was employed by the (then) Chase Manhattan Bank in New York City, NY for over 25 years. He met his wife-to-be on the Staten Island Ferry while they were commuting to their separate places of employment.

After moving his family to Rockford in 1991, Burns was employed in various endeavors until his retirement.

Burns led an active social life in Rockford and held memberships in the Lyran Society, the Rockford Burns

Club, the Beloit Rifle Club, the Living History Reenactment Association (for WWII reenactments) and the National Model Railroad Association (Rock River Valley Division). He was also an active member of his son's Cub Scout and Boy Scout groups.

Greg Anderson 1959—2020



“The Rockford O Scalers are very sorry to report the on passing of Greg Anderson, age 60, of Janesville, WI. on January 15, 2020 of natural causes.

“Greg lived his whole life in Janesville. He was an accomplished modeler in HO and 2-rail O Scale. He was a founding member of the Rockford O Scalers.

“Greg possessed a vast knowledge of the Milwaukee Road with special interest in their passenger train operations. In addition, the Chicago Northwestern and New York Central were other railroads he studied and modeled.” Frank McCabe

Obituary

Gregory E. Anderson, age 60, passed away unexpectedly in Janesville of natural causes on January 15, 2020. Born on May 25, 1959 in Janesville, to A. W. Anderson and Virginia (Loofboro) Anderson. He was a J. A. Craig High School alumni and majored in Communications at UW-Whitewater. He lived in Janesville, and was very active in the First Congregational Church and in two local model railroad clubs, the Wis-III HO Modular Railroad Group and the Rockford O Scalers Railroad Club. Greg will be especially remembered for his unselfish and giving character, as well as his dedication to service. He was a respected leader in the life of his church, including membership in their choir, past president of its Finance Ministry and in the Worship Design committee. He was active in the local meals-on-wheels and also mentored the homeless through a church program.

Survivors include brothers, James and Philip; Philip's wife Sherry and their children Vanja and Emily, whom he loved and adored; aunt Lillie Markham, uncle Winston Loofboro; and numerous close family members. Greg was preceded in death by his father and his mother

Memorial contributions are welcome c/o the First Congregational Church music scholarship program.

Mike Pollare 1938—2020



“I found this photo of Mike from the 2011 show at Jefferson. It might be the only one of him, and most people would recognize his display of UP power.” Joe Whinnery

“It is with a heavy heart that I announce that Mike Polare, a longtime RRVD member, passed away... Tuesday, June 9, 2020. An avid Union Pacific fan and former employee of the road, he relished in the story of his ride on a Big Boy in revenue service. He was also a regular attendee at meets and Thursday ROME0 breakfasts. He will be missed.” Ken Mosny

Obituary

Michael Eugene Pollare, 82, passed away at Alpine Fireside on June 9, 2020, after a lengthy battle from the

effects of a stroke he suffered in May 2016. He was born July 30, 1938 in Rockford, IL., the son of Michael and Margaret (Domino) Pollare. After graduating from Cheyenne High School in Cheyenne, WY, he worked for the Union Pacific railroad as a brakeman. While working there, he made a trip in the very famous "Big Boy" steam locomotive.

He belonged to the Wyoming National Guard and was honorably discharged before moving with his family to Rockford, IL. Michael was a proud merited deputy of the Winnebago County Sheriff's department for more than 30 years. He retired in 1993 and continued part time work in security at the Courthouse.

Mike was an avid Green Bay Packer fan. His passion and hobby was model trains. He enjoyed going to train shows, buying and selling trains, meeting his "train" buddies for breakfast and watching the trains at Rochelle's train hub. He met his significant other, Audrey Jansen in 1991. They enjoyed many years of traveling the United States to many different destinations.

He will be deeply missed by many. Survivors include his devoted partner, Audrey Jansen; daughters Lori Pollare, and Julie (Brian) McIntyre, son Jim Pollare of Windsor, CA; grandson Christopher (Kayla) Pollare; and great granddaughter Mya whom he adored. Also survived by sister Mary Frances Harris and her children; and the mother of his children Rosemary Corey. Predeceased by parents and brother Joseph Pollare.

Thank you to Alpine Fireside and all of his friends for

your love and support during these four years. Through his last years, those close to Michael admired him for his lack of self-pity and his grace and appreciation for others. He left with no false assurances, no failed promises and will be missed. Share a memory or online condolences, visit www.gracefh.com. In lieu of flowers, a college fund will be established for Mya. Ω

2021 Midwest Region Convention

RRVD still expects to be hosting the 2021 Midwest Region NMRA convention which will be called the “Rockford Railroad Convention”, a natural link to the 170th anniversary of the Galena and Chicago Union RR coming to Rockford in 1851.

As you can tell from the accompanying article, the convention is still in the planning stages. Everyone is encourage to share their ideas and assistance. Marty Hendrickx is Convention Chairperson and Don Brindle is the Registrar, but other jobs are available. If you have an area of interest or would like to be a committee member let Marty know. Contact him at 815 / 623-7326 or mhendrickx@charter.net Ω

2021 Convention

by Marty Hendrickx, Convention Chairperson

The 2021 convention committee has been busy planning the Midwest Region Convention and several important decisions were made by the Board of Directors.

The convention dates will be from May 20th through May 24th, 2021. These dates present the fewest possible conflicts with other events in the month of May. Also by the end of May, the weather should warm without a lot of humidity. We are planning outdoor activities so this was an additional consideration.

The convention will be held at the Rockford Holiday Inn at State Street and I-90. This hotel is undergoing a complete renovation currently and all of the rooms and common spaces will be completely redone by the time of our convention. This hotel was selected because of its convenient location, reasonable cost for both meeting and hotel rooms, and free parking. It also has banquet facilities on site and a full service restaurant and bar.

We are still working on the convention agenda but we do have a broad outline of the event.

Operation sessions on Thursday and Saturday night and Sunday afternoon.

Layout visits on Sunday and possibly Saturday night

A full day of clinics on Friday

Banquet on Friday night

A “Day at Illinois Railway Museum” on Saturday. This will include guided tours of their shops and facilities, the new Milwaukee Road RR and the Pullman Libraries, clinics and unlimited rides on the operating equipment. We are hoping the new Chicago & Northwestern Historical Society’s new library will be open at this time. Groundbreaking on this library is scheduled for this year.

Transportation from the Holiday Inn and lunch will be included in the fare.

We have tentative commitments from a number of clinicians who we expect to present a wide range of informative and interesting topics. We have also received agreement from some of the owners of some of the premier layouts in the area to be open for ops sessions and tours.

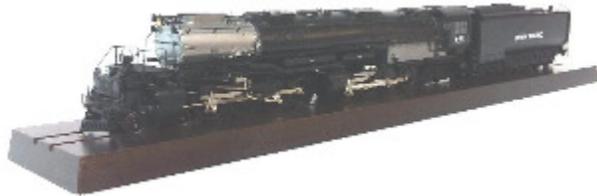
We are very optimistic about this event and look forward to it being a very enjoyable event.

(This article was provided by Marty back in February 2020. There have been no significant changes in the interim; however, as we all know by now things such as the Corona-19 pandemic can change things quickly. THM) Ω

For Sale

RRVD has the following items for sale. To buy them, contact Ken Mosny, kenmosny@comcast.net

HO Big Boy Locomotive



\$550.00 (offers considered)

You, too, can own an HO scale model of the iconic Union Pacific 4000 class 4-8-8-4 "Big Boy", so named when a worker at the Alco factory chalked those enduring words across the smokebox front. Arguably the most powerful steam locomotive type in the world, they were originally built with one purpose in mind - to roam the Wasatch range with ease. This gently used Trix model of UP 4013 in its magnificent wooden presentation case is equipped with DCC and sound. It is ready to roam your HO railroad, too. The sale of this locomotive is the result of the generosity of Steve Faivre and all proceeds of the sale go to the Rock River Valley Division.

Lionel SD-40 Locomotive



\$175.00 (offers considered)

This is a Lionel catalog number 6-18203 Canadian National SD-40 diesel locomotive with dual motors, Magne Traction, legacy AC drive, lights and horn. I believe it was first cataloged in 1989 and appears on the cover of that catalog. It appears to be in as new cosmetic condition, intact with instructions and original box. I have test run it. It is a little sluggish, but the lubricants are now probably 30 years old. It needs to be serviced if

you intend to operate it. All proceeds of the sale go to the Rock River Valley Division.

G-Gauge Track

The following G-gauge track items are being sold by the RRVD and all proceeds go to the Division. Offers considered.

Aristo-Craft track (new low prices)

\$25 Box of 12 pieces, curved, 4 foot circle, 45mm gauge brass track #ART-30100 in NOS condition.

\$25 Box of 12 pieces, curved, 5 foot circle, 45mm gauge brass track #ART-11500 new in shelf worn box.

LGB track (new low prices)

\$30 Box of 12 pieces, straight, 300mm long, 45mm gauge brass track #1000 new shelf worn box.

\$20 Box of 12 pieces, curved, 600mm radius, 45mm gauge brass track #11000 used shelf worn box.

\$20 Box of 12 pieces, curved, 600mm radius, 45mm gauge brass track #11000 used shelf worn box.

NOTE: 'For Sale' notices are also posted in the **FLIMZIE** for NMRA members on a space available basis. Contact the Editor or one of the RRVD Officers or Directors if you would like to have a 'For Sale' item in the **FLIMZIE**. A comprehensive summary of "Contact" information is at the last page of narrative in every FLIMZIE, just before

The Photo Section Ω

Wheel Report

Observations, Opinions and Comments from the Editor



by Tom Maladecki, Editor

No Future Meets or Events are currently scheduled.

RRVD is shut down because of Corona-19 and no future Meets or events are currently firmly scheduled. The semi-exception is the Midwest Region convention May 20-24, 2021. Even though the convention is a bit over 10 months away, it should be thought of as tentative since it could be canceled if Corona-19, or some such malady, continues to be a problem.

We hope to have a Meet in September, but at this time we cannot in good conscience schedule that Meet. We'll let you know otherwise. September through May, RRVD normally holds monthly Meets, typically the first Sunday of each month; however, there are no Meets currently scheduled. In addition, we do not have a meeting place. Midway Village is shut down and does not respond to

inquiries. A change of venue might be necessary if we go forward with reopening

Needless to say, no events are scheduled. Events un-planned include train shows, home layout tours, Trainfest, Discovery Center, District 1, Katie's Cup, and similar activities. We'll let you know if that changes.

Belt Tightening. The train show is RRVD's greatest source of revenue. When the March train show was cancelled, we did not take in at least \$1,000 in income as expected. Moreover, we lost over \$2,000 in expenses, primarily advertising, such as commercial ads and printing expenses. Therefore, the Board is taking some belt tightening measures. Aside from the Train Show the biggest annual expense is rental of a monthly Meet site. As I said before, a change of venue might be necessary. We'll let you know right away if any significant changes have to be made.

Keep Hobby Shops in mind. I got the following note from Ken and I think it's a great idea to keep our hobby shops in mind during the pandemic.

"Tom Bert recently brought to my attention that hobby shops are not necessarily closed. For example, Midwest Rail Junction in Rockford still open for business although the front door may be locked. Scott has not left the building. Give him a call at 815-963-0200 or <http://midwestrailjunction.com/> and he will mail you anything he has or can get. I am pretty sure other shops will do the same if there is someone to answer the phone."

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

August 1st for the Fall issue,
November 1st for the Winter issue,
February 1st for the Spring issue, and
May 1st 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* timely.

Editor Position. Please let me know if you are interested in being the Editor of the *FLIMZIE*. I am 1300 miles away in Florida because my body just can't take the harsh Stateline winters any more. When I took back the job with the Fall 2018 Issue I said I was sitting in as Editor of the *FLIMZIE* on an interim basis. I hoped that someone would take on the challenge of editing our newsletter by now. I hope that someone will because I'm not happy with my performance the past year. There were too many missed Issues. I will help you as much as I can as you learn the job.

I really do appreciate all of the effort of folks who furnish me with information for the *FLIMZIE*. You are the on-site eyes and ears for the Division newsletter, recording facts and details. A big Thank You to Joe Whinnery who has provide terrific photographs. And a big tip of the hat to Ken Mosny for all of the writings he provides. Ω

We are strong together

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. Following is contact information for our Officers, Directors and some other folks who make things happen:

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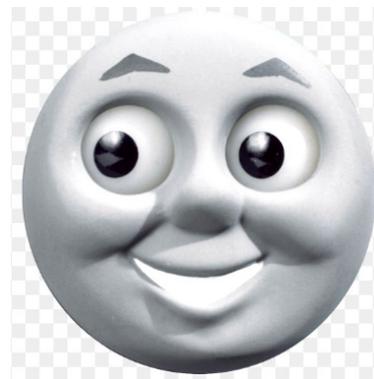
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The Photo Section (photographs by Joe Whinnery)

February 2020 Meet



Ken promoted the Train Show that didn't happen



Rich Mahaney travels to our Meets from Michigan to do his excellent clinic presentations for us. The purpose of his February clinic was getting us to see real items modelers could use on layouts. Thus a real brewery could be the inspiration to model grain elevators painted like beer bottles.



"Support" Industries

- Auto Industries – movement of new vehicles
- Mine Industries – lots of support
- Farm Equipment Industries – movement of new equipment
- Power Plant – coal car repair
- Rail car repair or service for the rail industries, car builders or for other plants/industries in town



The Feb. Meet layout tour visited State-Line S Gaugers in Loves Park



Discovery Center

James DeVoe seems to enjoy doing things for kids and families

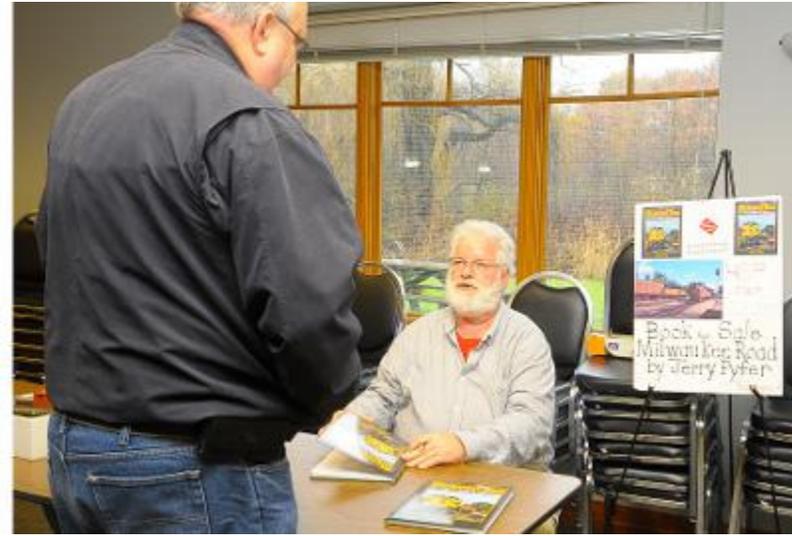


Garage Sale





Linda Darsie chats with Ray Dyreson at the Garage Sale



Jerry Pyfer talks about NWI NRHS at the Garage Sale

January 2020 Meet



Randy Garnhart sets up for his slide show at Jan. Meet



Ken Mosny got his Author AP certificate at Jan. Meet



John Mann MMR brought a beautiful S-scale display to Jan. Meet, he may have been trying to talk Doug Loy (left) into changing scales =>



Jan. Meet layout tour of Barry Betts' representation of the IC and CNW in Rockford. Ken gave Barry a package of KD couplers. Horn hook couplers are still at work on most of Barry's rolling stock.



Trainfest 2019



Ron Johnson chats with the MR staff



Tyrone Johnsen (left) at the GN historical society site



Ken Peterson views Andy Moniuszko's HO Tunkhannock Viaduct



Marty Hendrickx (right) at the NMRA location

November 2019 Meet



Gathering to be at one of the four round-robin "expert" clinics



Tom Maladecki (in Santa hair) doing a quick backdrop collage clinic



Voting on contest entries



Train Show at Midway Village, Nov. 2019



James DeVoe always has fun showing his Lionel portable layout



Tom Maladecki's G-gauge (1/29 scale) display



Charlie Wickhorst's winter layout generally draws attention



A portion of Gary Loiselle's exhibit at MWV train show



Exhibitors take a lunch break at MWV train show



The late Burns Darcie helps out at MWV train show



Burns Darcie watches Ron Johnson (hunt for a KD coupler spring?)

Halloween event at Midway Village, October 2019

(Halloween event photographs by Tom Maladecki)

