

FLIMZIE

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



Fall 2020

Volume 54, Number 2

First Meet - Sept. 13th

RRVD 2020/2021 Calender of Events

RRVD holds monthly Meets, typically the first Sunday of each month, September through May. In-person Meets are held in the Lakeview Room at the Midway Village Museum Center (MWV) in Rockford, IL, 6799 Guilford Road. Meets start at 1:00 PM and end at 3:00 PM. The Meets will also be broadcast on Zoom. Carona-19 concerns could cancel the In-person section of a Meet, however the Zoom section will occur. We will make

every effort to advise of such cancellations. With few exceptions, C-19 concerns have cancelled all other events.

Meets start with announcements followed by clinics on railroad related topics, usually two clinics. Typically, there is a popular vote contest for some category of train modeling as well as door prizes for NMRA members in attendance. Usually, a layout tour to area pikes follows the end of most Meets. Layout tours are expected to be via Zoom due to Carona-19 concerns.

Whether or not we have in-person Meets will be on a month-to-month basis.

September 13, 2020*, **Meet** via Zoom only

October 4, 2020, **Annual NMRA Meet** at MWV & Zoom

November 1, 2020, **Meet** at MWV & Zoom

December 6, 2020, **Meet** at MWV & Zoom

January 3, 2021, **Meet** at MWV & Zoom

February 7, 2021, **Meet** at MWV & Zoom

March 7, 2021, **Meet** at MWV & Zoom

April 11, 2021*, **Meet** at MWV & Zoom

May 2, 2021, **Meet** at MWV & Zoom

May 20-23, 2021, Midwest Region NMRA Convention at the Rockford Holiday Inn

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

Message from the Superintendent

by Ken Mosny, Superintendent, RRVD

As we plan the Fall Meet schedule there is a lot of uncertainty. We have signed a contract with Midway Village Museum for this season's Meet dates of 9/13 [no in-person Meet

9/13, only via Zoom, THM, Editor J, 10/4, 11/1, 12/6 for 2020 and 1/3, 2/7, 3/7, 4/11, 5/2 for 2021. Part of the agreement for a reduction in rent is that we will have to end our Meets by 3:00 so the meeting time will 1:00-3:00 sharp. When we do have in-person Meets, face coverings, properly covering the mouth and nose, will be required; so if you can't or don't want to do this, don't come. With the uncertainties of COVID, we can cancel the date 14 days prior for a rent refund. Otherwise, we pay the rent whether we have the Meet or not. Nevertheless, all Meets will be Zoomed so that those who want can watch from home. You will receive an email notice whether or not the Meet will be in person, or watch for a notification on the website. RRVD members will also receive the credentials for the Zoom meeting via email in the week before the Meet. Note that nonmembers will not receive these credentials for the Zoom logon. Our clinic chairperson, Ron Johnson, has some thoughts on the 9/13 Meet elsewhere in this issue.

Layout tours this Fall probably will be also be via Zoom. We need to sign up those interested in doing this. In order to do this, the layout host needs a camera and microphone connected to the internet. A smartphone and your home WIFI should work fine. The Division has a license for Zoom and you would share your layout with others via a Zoom meeting. Neat, huh?

Email has become a routine means of mass communication with our membership, but we still do not have email addresses for a significant number of our members. We have even tried to contact members by phone only to get a disconnected number. Please login and submit your updated contact information to the national NMRA via the website at

<https://www.nmra.org/members>.

It is best to keep your membership information, address, phone, email, etc, current on the national website because each

Division gets an update of this information monthly. Since this information comes from the "top down", telling us at the Division level only complicates matters and leads to errors. It is much more straightforward for you to login as an NMRA member on the website and update the information yourself. You could also telephone national, but the website is more efficient.

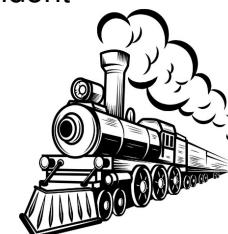
As you may have heard, Trainfest has been canceled this year, so there will, of course, be no trivia bus. Other train shows are in doubt, too. We thought we had a date and place for our own March Show and Sale, but with Fall high school sports being moved and compressed to Spring, the sports schedules are affecting school gymnasium availability in the Spring everywhere. This is really uncharted territory for all of us. Planning for a train show of our size is a 6 month process. If we can't get a date and venue commitment soon, we may have to scale back the size of the show or not have it. Our 'go for launch' is in October so a decision will have to be made soon.

We are hosting the Midwest Region Convention in the Spring, May 20-23, 2021, and we have an exciting program shaping up. Be sure to read Marty Hendrickx's report in this issue. Cross your fingers that COVID doesn't derail the weekend.

Be safe, stay healthy and we will see you next month.

Ken Mosny
RRVD Superintendent

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2021 Show & Sale

by Ken Mosny, RRVD Superintendent

Doug Loy, Show & Sale Chairperson called a few days ago with bad news about Belvidere schools.

As you may know, lots of Fall sports have been moved to the Spring with compressed schedules still to be determined. This puts the availability of the Belvidere North High School gym in doubt so we can't get a confirmed date and venue. We may not have one for a while. I see these choices:

1. Don't have a March show and sale at all. It may not be safe anyway or even allowed by authorities.
2. Forge ahead with the dates and hope for the best. Remember that Rockford school board wouldn't confirm the date until January in the past.
3. Find another venue assuming we can have a show. It is possible that the show could be smaller if the venue is smaller. Maybe a junior HS/middle school.

We have a lot to think about, vendor letters go out Oct/Nov. Ω

2020 Contests

as reported by Ray Dreson, Contest Chairperson

September contest is **Box Cars**.

October contest is **Flat Cars**.

November contest is **Off Line Structures**

Assuming the in-person on-site contests take place, winners will be selected by popular vote of the people attending. Ω

2021 Convention Report

by Marty Hendrickx, Convention Chairperson

The 2021 Convention Committee is optimistically proceeding with the assumption that our Covid-19 crisis will be resolved by next May. The dates for the "Rockford Railroad Convention" will be Thursday, May 20th through Sunday, May 23rd. We are asking everyone in the Rock River Valley Division to save these dates so they can attend as we are planning a fun-filled and interesting four days.

The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn at State Street and I-90 which was the location of our last convention. The hotel will be totally renovated by the time of the convention so all of the rooms should be totally upgraded for our convention. We will also be having our banquet at the Hoffman House which is located adjacent to the hotel. We have not finalized all of the details but all of the major events have been decided.

Thursday, May 20th we will have a hobo lunch at Rochelle Railroad Park and operation sessions in the evening.

Friday, May 21st we will be holding six clinics in the morning and nine in the afternoon with our banquet at the Hoffman House in the evening. Our featured speaker will be Simon Cordery who is a history professor and has studied and written extensively on Illinois Railroad history. He has published ***The Iron Road in the Prairie State, The Story of Illinois Railroading***. Dr. Cordery will have both interesting and amusing stories about the development of railroading in Illinois.

Saturday, 22nd will be a day at the Illinois Railway Museum. We will provide transportation to and from the hotel and IRM. If you have not been to the IRM recently, there are a lot of new attractions, the Milwaukee Road Museum, the Pullman Library and hopefully the CNW Museum will be open by then. In addition to

the usual diesel and electric equipment running, we are hopeful they will have steam operation on Saturday. We are also planning a non-rail event for spouses who do not want to go to the IRM. In the evening we plan to have several operation sessions in the Rockford area.

Sunday, May 23rd we will have both operation sessions and layout tours.

We intend to have the convention web site up and running within the next 60 days. It will have all of the details and schedules of our convention. So save the dates and be sure to let all of your friends and family know about our convention so they can come and participate in all of the fun and excitement.

Contact Marty at 815 / 623-7326 or mhendrickx@charter.net Ω

September 13, 2020 Meet

by Ron Johnson, Clinic Chairperson

[This is my 4th revision to this article, this last minute rev. is due to 8/19 Board meeting, so content is somewhat choppy THM, Editor]

Hello Fellow model railroaders -

I hope you are well and the Coronavirus has spared not only you, but all your family and your friends.

My wife and I are fine. No one in my immediate family has had the virus, but two of my wife's nieces and a nephew tested positive way back in March. All three are adults. Though they were very sick and miserable, they are doing fine now.

I was disappointed the Train Show at Belvidere North HS and the spring Meets had to be cancelled because of Covid-19. Probably most everyone in the Division is sorry, too.

So what to do?!

Well - cheer up!

Zoom is here!

The next Rock River Valley Division Meet will be SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th - 1 pm to about 3 pm ON ZOOM!

We are still in the working stages about how we will conduct the Meet and use Zoom, but we wanted to let you know the date for the Meet so you can put it on your calendar. We will keep you up to date, so watch for email messages and information on the Division website www.rrvd-nmra.com

Options:

A: Meets may be entirely via Zoom. At the 8/19 Board meeting it was decided the Sept. Meet will be only via Zoom.

B: Meets may be a "hybrid", both in-person at Midway Village and via Zoom. Many RRVD Board members lean toward "B" ("hybrid", both in-person and via Zoom) for October and beyond. Some people believe hybrid Meets could come later when we know more about conducting concurrent in-person and Zoom Meets. Let the Board know your opinion.

C: Meets could be held entirely in-person at MWV the way they were in the past. Meets are not expected to be "C", (entirely in-person) because people like us are in the C-19 most vulnerable age group.

Whether or not we have in-person Meets will be on a month-to-month basis.

Program at the September 13th Meet:

Clinic number one will be a session by Don Brindle on Atlas Track Planning Software for Layout Design, a demonstration of the Atlas Track Planning software (aka SCARM), as well as a brief overview of the XtrackCAD software.

Clinic number two will be a layout tour via video of Bruce Giersch's three rail O-scale layout. If I don't mind saying so myself, the video is somewhat unique. I think you will enjoy it. There's no narration except at the beginning with an interview of Bruce by Ken Mosny. Sound effects have been added with quick shots of virtually every structure on the layout and many shots of steam engines roaring around the layout and through Bruce's magnificent scenery. It is very realistic looking.

The first Meet in September is still open for change. Traditionally, the first Meet in September is a Show N' Tell program. If there are volunteers who wish to tell everyone about what they have been doing during our Covid-19 "hibernation", we will include them in the program and squeeze them in or simply drop something less important. Please contact me if you would like to participate in the Show N' Tell. I will need to know about how long you would like to present and if there are any visuals. We can work with you if you would like to show some visuals (pictures, a video, etc) using the Zoom format."

There will be a contest - Box Cars. We'll see how that works!

We intend to go on a virtual layout tour.

We plan to have a practice Zoom session Sept. 9th at 7 PM so you can learn how to use Zoom. Ken Mosny will be sending out email information concerning the Zoom practice as well as any revised information, with dates and times.

We will be able to see and talk with each other. We expect everyone will have a good time whichever way we decide will be the best way to conduct the Meet.

We sure hope you will join with us.

If you have not used Zoom - it is VERY easy to use. You can participate on a desktop computer, on an iPod and even on your smart phone. Heck, you can even use a telephone, but we

can't see you and you can't see us - unless you use a computer and then you might as well go on your computer.

Desktop computers seem to work best with the least problem.

This is how it works:

You will receive an INVITATION to join the Zoom meeting via eMail a few days before the Meet. It's a hyper link. You click on the link about twenty minutes before the Meet starts and WOO-LAW you're connected to the Zoom Meet IF. A Zoom app automatically goes to your applications folder - and that's pretty much it. Oh, we might have to explain where to unmute your speaker. But if you can use eMail, you can use Zoom.

If you have any questions or have a problem with making it work, call me or Ken Mosny and we will try and answer any questions. We are looking forward to seeing everyone even if is only digitally!

Contact Ron at 779 / 774 5431 rondjohn@earthlink.net Ω

2020-2021 Layout Tours

as reported by Ken Mosny, RRVD Superintendent

Bert Morris, Layout Tour Chairperson is working on virtual layout tours. I think it is probable that all layout tour will be virtual (Zoom only) for the foreseeable future. Ω

October 4, 2020 Meet

as reported by Ken Mosny, RRVD Superintendent

Remember that October is the annual NMRA meeting/elections, and that may be virtual, too (Zoom only). Ω

Those We've Lost

IN MEMORIUM

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.

Charles H. Wickhorst 1934 - 2020



"Charlie was a long time member of our Division always at our Meets. I can still hear him standing up at our Meets asking "Is anyone new here?" and then imploring them to stand up and introduce themselves. Charlie was our unofficial greeter at RRVD Meets always looking for a new face with a smile on his own. There is a new face in heaven today. Charlie passed last night at Presence Saint Anne Center in Rockford with Carol at his side. He will be missed." Ken Mosny

Obituary

Charles H. Wickhorst, 86, of Rockford, passed away June 24, 2020, at St. Anne Center with his wife, Carol, holding his hand. He died from complications of diabetes and Covid-19. Born April 3, 1934 in Oak Park, the son of George and Helen (Charles) Wickhorst. Charles married Carol Frey on March 23, 1963. He was a proud graduate and strong supporter of Bradley University and a longstanding member of Sigma Chi fraternity. Charles was also a 50+ year member of Westminster Presbyterian Church and a model railroader, belonging to the National Model Railroad Association and the local Rock River Valley Division.

We are so fortunate for the love, legacy and light he leaves us. His positive attitude and outlook on life was a joy to all who knew him. His friends were an important part of his life and the man he was reflected their best qualities. He touched so many lives and will be deeply missed.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; daughters, Janet (Wayne) Dalton of Richmond, VA and Susan (Peter) Morville of Ann Arbor, MI; grandchildren, Rhys Parker Dalton, Claire Alexandra Morville and Claudia Jordan Morville; sister, Carol Hawkins; and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his parents and sister, Diane Bishop. A special thank you to St. Anne Center for

their compassion and care.

A private family service took place at the Memorial Garden of Westminster Presbyterian Church. Due to Covid-19, a celebration of Charles' life for family and friends will be held at a later date. Charlie's final resting place is Westminster Presbyterian Church Columbarium. Memorials may be made to Westminster Presbyterian Church.



Eulogy

by Tom Maladecki

Writing about a friend who died is an awful job. Writing about a very special friend who died is a shattering experience. Charlie was like a brother to me and this is a daunting task. This article has taken weeks to write, with numerous starts and stops. And I shed some more tears. I hope you readers will allow me to go on a lot more than usual about what a special person Charlie is.

I don't remember exactly when and where we met. It was probably an RRVD meeting in the late 1970s. We went to Meets, Midwest Region conventions and to NMRA national conventions together. We attended them and then we started giving clinics at meetings and conventions. We traveled with each other across the country giving clinics. Memories flash back: taking a day to travel 100 miles as we watched the UP tracks for headlights, stopping at a restaurant in Nebraska and asking for "non smoking" then being shown to **the** non smoking table back in the bowels of the smoky joint - - good food though, and they offered ostrich eggs for breakfast! The "roach motel" in Minneapolis that got torn down just after the national. I think about 7 of us RRVD members did clinics at that national convention, I know Charlie, Gary Loiselle and I did. Encountered folks on the elevator there who were going to a transformers convention?! Or the time on the way to Indy that we were stopped by the Illinois State Police because Carol thought Charlie forgot his insulin.

Ken Mosny talked about Charlie as our unofficial greeter at RRVD Meets. That is a later day position that he assumed. That outgoing, friendly personality is something that made most folks fond of him for all of the years I knew him. Charlie was a pillar of the Division. In earlier years, when we were happy to have 10 people at a Meet, he was encouraging us as well as working to make RRVD better, and thrive. He was a Board of Directors member for as long as I can remember, served as Superintendent and chaired numerous committees. One of the most successful was as clinic chair, working with adjacent MWR Divisions to share clinics. It was a joy to see great clinics and fun to go to other Divisions to do clinics. Another that I really appreciated was Charlie's hosting sessions to fold, label, stamp and staple the **FLIMZIE** when we mailed a few hundred a month, or per quarter. Yep, Charlie was always giving of

himself for the benefit of RRVD.

And there were the Thursday get togethers. How many years did they go on? I think it started with going to Al Frese's for operating sessions back in the '70s. I don't even think the term "operating session" had come into vogue back then. That kind of evolved into work sessions at each others' layouts. How many layouts did we build? Or work on? Sadly, tear down? A whole lot can be accomplished when folks with different skills and knowledge get together. Charlie was well known for his open loads, something he collaborated closely on with Gary. I think everyone wanted a St. Charles pipe load. And to think, now there is a St. Charles watching over us.



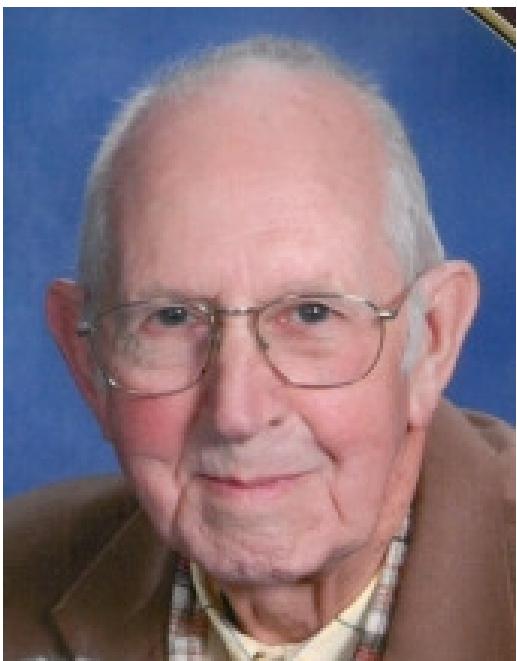
As a youngster, Charlie lived in Oak Park, IL and he liked trains. He talked of the IC and the Burlington but had a fondness for the Rock Island , the Santa Fe and the Pennsy, being a member of their historical societies. As I recall his grandfather (or was it his father?) was a metallurgist for the Pennsy. Similar to many of us, Charlie got hooked on the hobby with a trainset.

Just like me, it was an American Flyer set, in the 1940s. Flyer was more realistic looking than Lionel. Charlie switch to HO because he liked the detail and kits available for the cars and buildings. Until the end, he still had some vintage HO of his youth. Then came about a 20 year hiatus - - college, military, starting a family and jobs. In the early 1970s Charlie's parents came for a visit and brought all his model railroad stuff that he left at their house years earlier. And the rest is history! Charlie's layout on Danforth Drive was especially picturesque, with many nice scenes. It was called The Rockford Route, after the Chicago Milwaukee and Gary railroad, but featured primarily Santa Fe and Rock Island equipment. That layout was open many times for layout tours. I hope you got a chance to visit it We were working on his new layout in the duplex at Fairhaven when Charlie's health got worse. However, that layout was open once for an after Meet layout tour. I know Charlie was proud of the relatively quick progress on that layout. Heck, it even used that new fangled DCC!

Charlie, I will always admire your Can Do attitude. I certainly owe you a large share of thanks for being my friend.



Wilbert L. Kapfer 1930 - 2020



"It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that Bill Kapfer passed away Friday, July 3, 2020. Bill was an active long time model railroader in Rockford until his health deteriorated some years ago." Ken Mosny

Obituary

Wilbert "Bill" LeRoy Kapfer, 90, of Rockford, passed away on Friday, July 3, 2020. Bill was born on March 5, 1930 in Barton, WI, son of Lee and Elsie (Shultz) Kapfer. He married Betty Jean Woodford on September 5, 1949. She passed away in 1990. Bill later married Josephine Quist on October 19, 1991. She passed away in 2009. Bill was a founding member of Our Master's Methodist Church of Rockford and later attended

Roscoe United Methodist Church. He was employed with the U.S. Postal Service as a mail carrier for 30 years, retiring in December of 1988. Bill had a great passion for model railroading and was a member of the model railroad club in Rockford. He also enjoyed amateur photography in his spare time.

Surviving relatives include his children, Daryl (Becky) Kapfer, Terry (Karen) Kapfer and Sherry (Matthew) DeBuhr; step-children, Gordon (Stacy) Ricard III and JoAnn (Mark) Labiak; grandchildren, Michelle, Angela, William, Melissa, Scarlett, Andrea, Sawyer, Connor, Sara and Dana; many great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews and a special friend of over 30 years, Pastor Doug Bowden. Bill is predeceased by his first wife, Betty and second wife, Josephine; parents and 4 brothers, Lloyd, Bobby, Max and Dick. The family would like to give special thanks to Fairhaven and the 2nd floor medical staff for all of their kindness, care and compassion.

Visitation was at Fitzgerald Funeral Home & Crematory, Riverside Chapel. A private family funeral service was held by invitation only. Bill's final resting place is in Highland Garden of Memories, Belvidere, IL.

Remembrances

"I do not have photos of Bill, but a couple of comments. We joined a new church, and did not know anyone. I saw a familiar set of pork chop sideburns, and it was Bill. He was a founding member of the church, and lead us around to introduce us to various people. I would see him at assisted living, and he would still know me without me letting him know who I was." Joe Whinnery

"I was saddened to learn of Bill's passing a couple days ago and have been thinking about my best memories of him and our

common interests. One of the earliest was when I was a teenager and after meeting Bill through mutual model railroading and railfan acquaintances, I learned we both enjoyed taking train pictures. This allowed me the opportunity to share my high school photography class experience in helping Bill establish his own darkroom, after which we enjoyed hours of developing film and printing up quite a collection of 5x7's and 8x10's. And like so many other of Bill's friends, I also had the good fortune of operating on one of his layouts. That was always a good time, usually capped off at the end of the session with treats. We also liked operating other layouts of our mutual friends, both usually wanting to be the yardmaster or yard operating crew... sometimes I was lucky enough to share the job with Bill. My wife Heather and I were also quite pleased that Bill and Josephine took the time to visit us here when traveling through the area. This along with all my other memories of Bill leave me smiling inside and how noteworthy it is to think of how someone like Bill leaves an imprint on one's life. I am sorry that I cannot attend his visitation in person and pay my final respects. Bill was a kind and gentle man. I hope he is at peace and finds eternal rest. May God bless his soul and that of his family."

Michael Wysong

"Bill was wonderful man and a real gentleman. He and my dad Gordy were train friends for many years and I had the pleasure of operating on his Green Bay and Western layout as a kid. He was our mail carrier for many years and I always remember my mom inviting him for coffee and cookies on cold winter days. He'll be missed." Duncan Geddes

"Mr. Bill told me about the postal exam while I was laid off from the railroad. I retired 30 years later from there. One day, we clocked off and walked out together. A patron of his gave him a candy bar, which he in turn passed to me to give to my sons. As he pulled up to the same intersection he looked over to see

me munching away at that candy bar. I was hungry, he never let me forget it in his humorous manner. My Dad passed away in 1982, I looked upon Mr. Bill as my second Dad. Mr. Bill always had a kind word for you and a yummy for your dog. One day, I brought my sons to run on his railroad model. I introduced him as Mr. Kapfer. He told them to call him Bill. Wanting them to have more respect for him, I told them to call him Mr. Bill. He liked that. My wife Cindy and my family have been blessed to have called Mr. Bill our friend." Jerry Pyfer

"Bill was a great friend. I spent many years growing up around Bill and my dad, Al Frese, running Bill's railroad. Always had great stories. Miss him and all the train guys. I have the dairy on my R.R. from Bill's layout so I will Always remember Bill. R.I.P." Rick Frese Ω

Operating in the Covid-19 era

by Tom Maladecki

On Sunday, July 24, 2020 I operated on Robbie Kapala's relatively large N-scale BNSF Aurora Subdivision which is located near Poplar Grove, IL. The railroad has been open many times for layout tours for RRVD. It is a Class 1 modern era railroad (1995-present). On July 24th there were only five operators, plus Robbie. We all wore masks. The railroad is in an approximately 45 x 20 foot room inside of a pole barn so we were able to practice distancing.

Robbie made one major change in operations that day due to the limited number of operators. A normal crew is 10 people and we only had five (not counting Robbie as a crew member). Typically there are four through eastbound and westbound freights that block swap at Savanna, Rochelle and Eola (Chicago) and there are two long locals that work all the towns between Aurora and Savanna. There are also two extra locals

that run if they are needed (and they usually are needed). Instead of running those trains, eastbounds and westbounds were initiated at La Crosse and Chicago, respectively; and, once built, those trains were handed off to the next operator down the line. There were no road crews.

There are twelve towns on the railroad and five yards. We ran with five "positions": Chicago Yardmaster (combined Clyde Staging and Eola Yardmasters), Rochelle Yardmaster/Operator, Oregon Operator, Savanna Yardmaster, and North La Crosse Yardmaster. Typically there is an Oregon Turn that leaves twice from Rochelle and works Oregon, the Silica Sand Plant at Oregon, as well as the Mt. Morris branch line. Establishing the Oregon Operator position is the second change that Robbie made for this session.

I guess you could say there was a sixth position, Robbie acting as Dispatcher in a scaled-down way.

I told them I had not operated in the seven months I'd been in Florida and was probably rusty but I was given the Rochelle position, which I've worked several times in the past. Rochelle yard is single-ended, worked from the west end, and has five main tracks plus two tracks that contain a short run-around section. Nominal capacity is about 50 cars, but in a pinch 20 or so more cars can be stashed away for a short time. There are four industries on the south side of Rochelle and four on the north side. For this session, the Rochelle position also worked the two sites in Chana and the one in Steward.

Typically there is a Grain Turn that leaves Savanna, works all of the grain elevators, including Chana and Steward, and turns at Eola to return to Savanna. I'm not sure which eastbound usually works the rock quarry at Chana.

Normally the Oregon Turn crew starts out as the southbound Rockford Turn (timetable eastbound), out of Flagg Center.

They pull their train past the yard entrance and the Rochelle switcher pulls those cars into the yard while the Turn's engine reverses past the switch. Then the Rochelle switcher pushes the Oregon cars out onto the main and the Turn's crew backs onto their cars and heads for Oregon. For this session, the Oregon cars were simply blocked as westbound. Since the Turn was not going to end the session as a northbound Rockford train, I moved cuts of Rockford cars to Flagg Center when I worked Chana or worked the north side of Rochelle.

I used a BN GP9 as the yard switcher, but a BNSF GP38 was also in the yard. I used the GP38 to make trailing point set outs and pickups at three industries on the south side of Rochelle. That saved me from using the short run-around track with the GP9. There is a UP SW1500 stationed on the north side. It was used to do set outs and pickups, with the GP9 delivering and picking up cars. I had brought my own Digitrax throttles so I avoided some of the hassle of dialing up and dispatching the address of the engines to be used.

The hand-off of eastbounds and westbounds worked okay. At times their arrivals were almost simultaneous. That's understandable with Rochelle being near the middle of the action. Fortunately, the other folks were blocking the trains most of the time so there was not a lot of need to sort through "dogs and cats" to find Rochelle-bound cars. A memorable moment was as I was finishing a westbound on Track 2 when an eastbound came in on Track 1 and Robbie asked if a coal extra could come through. I'm not sure if he was pulling my chain because he saw my predicament, but I simply told him to give me a moment and it would be cleared up. It was.

Intermodal, Automotive, and Coal trains did run as unit trains that day. North La Crosse is basically a 10 track staging yard. There is only one industry, the brewery. The car cards get

checked off and cars that came in as westbound get sorted out to go eastbound. So Duncan Geddes, the person assigned the La Crosse position, had a little time to run unit trains to Chicago... and back. I think that Marty Hendrickx, the person assigned the Chicago position, also ran 1-2 unit trains.

It is only fair to mention that Dave Conrad was Oregon Operator and Scott Larson was Savanna Yardmaster.

I'm glad to report that safely operating a railroad is possible in the Covid-19 era. I hope you enjoyed reading about it.

Unfortunately I did not take any pictures on July 24th. If you want to see photos of Robbie's BNSF Aurora Subdivision, www.rockrail.org has at least 34 photos. The photo below is from the RockRail 2015 Invitational. Much of Eola is the right foreground, Savanna is the mid left, Oregon is the mid center, and Rochelle is the far right rear and center. Not seen are La Crosse, which would be off camera to the left and Clyde which would be off camera to the right.



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WE ARE STRONG TOGETHER

Wheel Report

Observations, Opinions and Comments from the Editor

by Tom Maladecki, Editor



End of the Markers

This has been a difficult **FLIMZIE** to write because I had to address the death of my very special friend, Charlie Wickhorst, my brother of different parents. I still cannot believe he is gone. The one quality that I really admired about Charlie was that no matter the adversity that fate threw at him, he never gave up. I think we can all use his example as we face the difficulties life hands us. Don't give up.

The **FLIMZIE** has reported on the passing of five local model railroaders in this issue and the prior issue. And I could go on about the loss of railroad hobby friends in the relatively recent past. I don't know about you, but it makes me take stock of the things that I have and assess what I really need. Just a thought that you too may want to ponder.

Future Meets and Events

Covid-19 has made planning anything difficult. RRVD activities are no exception. I was literally making changes to this issue of the **FLIMZIE** at the last minute! The officers and directors are making every effort to make decisions that keep you safe. And they are trying to work around problems that arise out of things associated with Covid-19. The site for the train show and sale springs to mind. The schools are adapting which makes a site for the show a predicament. A change of venue might be necessary. Emails will go out to all members on the email list to let you know what is happening and what changes were made. Make sure your email address is on our list. And, help out in other ways if you can. Make comments or suggestions to any of the board members and officers. A comprehensive summary of "Contact" information is at the last page of narrative in every FLIMZIE, usually just before **The Photo Section** (which is not in this issue).

October 4th Meet

October is "the annual" NMRA meeting. That means elections (OH NOoo, more elections). Contact Gary Loiselle if you want to run for office. Oh, in case you didn't hear, the Oct. Meet may be virtual (Zoom only). Stay tuned for future announcements.

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.

Changes to the *FLIMZIE*

The **FLIMZIE** keeps evolving. The Fall 2020 issue, Volume 54, Number 1, had an impromptu page 1 added at the last minute. I used a couple of vintage items on that page, a masthead from years ago and the Fairbanks-Morse Trainmaster image. Many years ago RRVD hosted a MWR convention and the factory tour was the FM plant in Beloit. At that time we also got permission to use the image of the FM H-24-66. I liked the look of the masthead and FM Trainmaster so I'm sticking with it.

A more subtle change may be the use of less "white space". We are not printing the **FLIMZIE** so it is set up to be read on a screen. The Winter 2018 issue, Volume 52, Number 2, shifted to a horizontal format. This issue reduces the size of the borders. We'll see how it reads on our website screen.

Keep Hobby Shops in mind.

Keep our hobby shops in mind during the pandemic.

Editor Position.

Please let me know if you are interested in being the Editor of the **FLIMZIE**. 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 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 continues to provide terrific photographs. And a big tip of the hat to Ken Mosny for all of the writings that he provides.

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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:

Superintendent

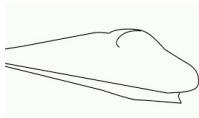
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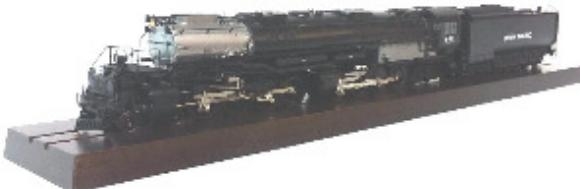
One last photo of Charlie

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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**. Ω