

FLIMZIE

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



Summer 2021

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In-Person Meets Are Scheduled for 2021/2022

The 2020/2021 season just ended. Covid-19 concerns forced us to have every one of our meetings solely via Zoom. All of the in-person sections of our Meets were canceled and we've had to miss the face-to-face comradery, so we've missed that spirit of friendship and community between fellow modelers. However, we intend to return to live meetings next season. Moreover, those in-person Meets will take place at a new location.

RRVD holds monthly Meets, typically the first Sunday of each month, September through May. Starting in September 2021

our live, in-person Meets will be held at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1829 North Rockton Avenue, Rockford, IL. The church is across the street from West Middle School. And the church has Wi-Fi, so simultaneous Zooming is possible. Please see Ken Mosny's brief description of the meeting room at Good Shepherd in his 'message from the Superintendent' on page 2. Monthly Meets officially start at 1:00 PM. The doors open at about 12:30 PM so we can set up and socialize as we have donuts and coffee. Non-NMRA members are always welcome at our meetings.

Thursday, June 10, 2021 is our annual Junket. This year we go to the Savanna Museum and Cultural Center. More information is on page 3; but, please note that it is on a THURSDAY and we will depart Good Shepherd's Burton Street parking lot promptly at 9:00 AM.

June 10, 2021, **Junket** to Savanna, IL

September 12, 2021*, **Meet** at Good Shepherd

October 2 & 3, 2021, Cherryvale Mall **Train Show**

October 10, 2021*, **Meet** at Good Shepherd

November 7, 2021, **Meet** at Good Shepherd

December 5, 2021, **Meet** at Good Shepherd (no "Garage Sale")

January 2, 2022, **Meet** at Good Shepherd

February 6, 2022, **Meet** at Good Shepherd

March 6, 2022, **Meet** at Good Shepherd

April 2 & 3, 2022, **Show & Sale** [tentative dates]

April 10, 2022*, **Annual Meet** at Good Shepherd

May 1, 2022, **Joint Meet** with SCWD

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

Our live, in-person Meets start with announcements followed by clinic presentations on topics related to the railroad modeling hobby. Typically there are two clinics, with a break between them. Based upon our experience with Zoom Meets we could periodically try “virtual” clinics, versus exclusively having live in-person clinics. At each regular Meet, there is a popular vote contest for some category of train modeling. The next **FLIMZIE** will include a synopsis of next season’s known expected clinics as well as a list of contests. Previously there were door prizes for NMRA members in attendance and this is expected to continue. Previously there was table space set aside at Meets for displays of contest entries and railroad hobby items. This is expected to go on at Good Shepherd. If additional table space is available, modelers may use tables to sell railroad hobby items (NMRA members have preference on table space). As in the past, a self-guided layout tour to one or more area pikes follows the end of most Meets, with layout maps provided at the Meet. We could try an occasional “virtual” layout tour.

Admission: NMRA members, free; nonmembers, \$5 donation Ω

Convention Canceled in 2021

The Midwest Region convention in Rockford is canceled. C-19 made the scheduling of sites impossible, despite looking many months out at the Fall of 2021. Cancellation was a consensus decision by MWR officials and RRVD representatives. Ω

Tentative dates of 2022 Train Show & Sale

April 2 & 3, 2022 are the tentative dates of the Show and Sale. C-19 is keeping the Belvidere school district from committing to firm dates for using the gym at Belvidere North High School next year. We’ll let you know as soon as we know more. Ω

Message from the Superintendent

by Ken Mosny, RRVD Superintendent

As I write this, the situation with COVID is looking up. We are anticipating a return to some degree of social normalcy this fall which includes in-person Meets. **Our Meet location will change for the 2020-2021.** It will be Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1829 North Rockton Avenue, Rockford IL which is across the street from West Middle School. It is a very nice facility with an elevator to the basement, where we’ll meet, for elderly and handicapped or to move displays and supplies. Instructions on where to go will be on the website. It has solid broadband WIFI so we have the opportunity of a blended program of virtual and live clinics.

Our Zoom program of remote Meets has been interesting. On the bright side, virtual Meets have allowed us to meet with fellow model railroaders all over the United States and beyond. I hope these relationships endure. Our February clinician was James Knabb from Texas and our layout tour hails from the Hobby Depot in Monroe, Wisconsin. For March, Bob Simmons from Dodge City, Kansas headed up the program. None of these regional or even national gatherings would be possible on a personal basis. Yours truly has/will present clinics for the CID track talk in Indiana and multidivisional Meets which have some attendees internationally. We’ve expanded our horizons many fold. Many thanks to Ron Johnson and Bert Morris who helped to organize our Zoom Meets. I would like to explore some kind of blended program of in person and virtual Meets for the future which can keep this nationwide experience going.

We did not have a train show this spring. We will have a small show this fall, October 2-3 in Cherryvale mall to help kick off the season. We have surveyed our show vendors and

enough of them have shown interest to make the show a break even on costs. We will plan our usual March Show and Sale in 2022 when things get back to normal.

On the personal modeling side, my 3d printer arrived at the end of January. In case you haven't noticed, 3d resin printers have dropped dramatically in price recently to under \$200 for an entry level model DLP printer with good resolution. Add another \$50-\$80 for some supplies like resin, chemicals, venting, gloves, post curing UV light, etc., and you can get into 3d printing for well under \$250. I think 3d printing is on the verge of going mainstream for scratch building especially if you need multiple parts, but it will take experience to see what they are suitable for and what they are not. My printer is a Voxelab Polaris for \$160. It can make a maximum 6 inch high part. More money generally seems to get you a larger part volume and faster print speed (mine will take typically 2-8 hours to print a part depending on size and settings), but I decided this is a place to start. I will use Autodesk Fusion 360 for the modeling software to create the parts. Autodesk offers a non commercial home/hobby license at no cost. It is a lot like Solidworks that I am familiar with from my career days so I can jump right in modeling parts. Fusion 360 is compatible with the freeware Chitubox slicing software that prepares the part model for printing. I am printing a number of parts, domes, stack, tender frame, step pilots end beams, driver centers, to name a few, for the hot project on my bench, a late nineteenth century 0-6-0 slope backed switcher using a venerable MDC 0-6-0 chassis and tender shell from my parts bin. I'm excited. I'll keep you updated on the trials and tribulations of 3d printing probably with a clinic or two.

Sadly, we lost James Devoe to COVID last fall. James was only one of the handful of RRVD members to be awarded the Lyle Fleener Award for service to the RRVD, in 2019. He

was a tireless stalwart of our community events for years and leaves a vast hole in our program.

In the meantime, stay safe, and please get vaccinated as soon as you can.

Ken Mosny, RRVD Superintendent Ω



June 10, 2021 Junket

by Ken Mosny but extensively edited by Tom Maladecki

We are going to the Savanna Museum and Cultural Center model railroad on Thursday, June 10th. If you missed the trip there in 2019, this is your chance to go - and to operate, not just look. The museum layout depicts the Milwaukee and Burlington that served Savanna in its heyday.

Be in the Burton Street parking lot of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (1829 N Rockton Ave), north of the church, by about 8:45 AM. We'll leave at 9:00 AM to be at the museum around 10:30 AM. Share rides as you see fit.

There will be a pizza lunch with chips and beverage at the museum. We'll collect \$7 each when we leave. Please have exact change. RSVP Ken Mosny at kenmosny@comcast.net prior to June 10th if you want the pizza lunch so we can plan accordingly.

It is not a requirement; but, bring Digitrax throttles (simplex or duplex) if you have them to operate the museum layout.

This will be a close-contact event. If you want to attend, please be fully vaccinated for Covid-19 before June 10th. Ω

Midwest Region Clinician Registry

by Ron Johnson, RRVD Clinic Chair

Calling on anyone who would like to be included in the Midwest Region Clinician Registry. Our Region is setting up a Clinician Registry so Clinic Chairpeople, like myself, have access to those with a model railroading skill who could present a clinic at a Division meet. If you are interested in being included, please send me an eMail at rondjohn@earthlink.net, with a brief description of your model railroading skill and phone number. Ω

Kids Korner

by Ken Mosny, RRVD Superintendent

Does anyone want to run Kid's Korner? As you probably know, NMRA divisions can no longer directly run youth oriented model railroad activities. That is NMRA policy, not anything that we initiated. This means that the RRVD Kid's Korner will no longer be at train shows. Individuals can, however, volunteer to do youth activities and the RRVD can donate funds or in-kind support to those people. The RRVD just cannot organize or control what they do or how they do it other than, of course, offer support. The RRVD wishes to donate all of the materials it has for the Kid's Korner to an individual or group who wish(es) to "take up the cause". We have the Kid's Korner arch sign, toy train tables, carpets and materials precut to assemble several hundred Thomas type wooden locomotives, boxcars, and caboose. They would be free to anyone or group willing to run the Kid's Korner. Ω

"I can live for two months on a good compliment."

Mark Twain

Indy Junction 2022

Three Regions Convention

The Three Regions Convention INDY JUNCTION 2022 will take place May 18-22, 2022 in Indianapolis, just under a year from now. Anyone can sign up to receive updated convention information on the webpage <https://www.indyjunction2022.org/> and the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/indyjunction2022>

NMRA's Midwest (MWR), North Central (NCR), and Mid-Central (MCR) regions bring to model railroaders Indy Junction 2022. And, the Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM) Conference has joined them to create a rare event. NMRA clinics will be primarily in the morning and most evenings with the afternoon available for layout visits and operating sessions. RPM clinics will be morning, afternoon, and some evenings. Attendees who do not wish to travel or operate can attend afternoon RPM clinics.

The RPM Conference has a 27 year history in Chicagoland and will be bringing the best features of those events to Indy. Presentations are the heart of RPM Conferences and there will be a full slate of 30+ presenters planned to run 3 to 4 at a time. This will be in addition to all the NMRA clinics. Attendees can attend all clinics on the same ticket. Convention participants will have access to all convention activities, with the single exception of the NMRA judged contests, which are open to NMRA members only. The RPM Conference will have an open model display room; a feature of all RPM events. In addition, the Modutrak display layout and other RPM Conference displays from RPM Chicagoland events will be present.

The convention will be held at the Indianapolis Marriott East Hotel and Convention Center. Hotel rates and reservations will be available in the near future. Ω

Those We've Lost

*Editor's preface: We've lost more of our friends since the last issue of the **FLIMZIE**. They are gone from our model railroading events, but not from our memories. THM*

*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.

James DeVoe 1943—2020



"It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of

James DeVoe. James passed away of COVID 19 this afternoon.

"James was, for years, the Chief Clerk of our division and an ardent promoter of our community events at Katie's Cup, the Nicholas Conservatory and the Discovery Center to name a few.

"James loved kids. It was a delight to see him talking with children whenever he exhibited his Lionel trains at these events.

"He was also a Master Gardener doing his best to better his west side neighborhood where he lived with Ann and his son. Always cheerful and upbeat, there is another smile in heaven today."

Ken Mosny, Superintendent RRVD, November 29, 2020



The following article was published on page 1 of the **Rockford Register Star** newspaper on December 2, 2020

James DeVoe, community advocate for Rockford's west side, dies after COVID-19 battle

Corina Curry *Rockford Register Star*

ROCKFORD — James DeVoe, a well-known community volunteer and advocate for the city's west side, has died from complications of COVID-19.

DeVoe helped found the West Gateway Coalition, an organization that works to empower residents in some of the city's poorest neighborhoods to address issues ranging from crime and blight to economic development.

Through the organization, and the federally funded Weed and Seed anti-crime initiative before that, DeVoe spent much of his retirement giving back to Ellis Heights, the neighborhood he had called home since the 1980s.

DeVoe died on Sunday. He was 72. "Every community group would be blessed to have someone as passionate and involved as Jim was," said Rockford Police Assistant Deputy Chief Kurt Whisenand.

Whisenand assumed command of the police department's District 1 headquarters on the city's west side earlier this year.

It wasn't long before he got to know DeVoe. DeVoe was at every monthly meeting, Whisenand said, until the group could no longer meet because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The veteran law enforcement officer said he could always count on DeVoe to ask the tough questions.

"He was a supporter of law enforcement and RPD, but he wasn't just a blind supporter," Whisenand said. "His support came at the price of us having to answer tough questions and

be held to a high standard."



James DeVoe, 72, of Rockford, left, died Sunday from complications of COVID-19. PHOTO PROVIDED

DeVoe was president of the West Gateway Coalition from 2012 to 2015. He was instrumental in the launch of Project 1013, an annual neighborhood cleanup project that brings hundred of volunteers together each summer to remove debris, pull weeds, trim trees, paint and spruce up whole city blocks.

Along with Rock Church, West Gateway Coalition has transformed more than 50 blocks in the past 10 years.

DeVoe retired from Newell Rubbermaid in Freeport in 2006. Shortly after that, he started building community gardens.

DeVoe wanted the gardens to be more than a food source and a fun activity. He would develop a curriculum for the gardens so he could share his green thumb with area children.

“Jim never gave up on his community,” Whisenand said. “He would never give up, and he would encourage others to never give up.”

DeVoe became a master gardener and built at least three “teaching” gardens on the city’s west side.

The coalition is working with Northwest Community Center to name the gardens there after DeVoe.



James DeVoe, right, was a certified master gardener who helped establish community gardens and teaching gardens on Rockford's west side. DeVoe died Sunday from complications from COVID-19. PHOTO PROVIDED

Robert Esmond met DeVoe when he moved to the city’s west side in 2014.

The two met at a West Gateway Coalition meeting and bonded over a shared passion for helping their neighbors.

“James always had a unique way of looking at things,” said Esmond, who is the current president of West Gateway. “You could always count on him for having a unique perspective that would make you think or come up with an idea to make something better.”

Esmond said DeVoe called him from the hospital and told him he didn’t think he was going to make it.

“He called me when he tested positive. That was probably about five or six days before he went to the hospital. It was probably another three days before he was on a ventilator,” Esmond said. “He knew he wasn’t in good shape.”

Esmond said he’ll miss his easygoing, down-to-earth friend.

“He’d ride shotgun with me as we drove my pickup truck through the neighborhood and pick up tires and look for streetlights that are out,” he said. “He was always up for doing that.”

Marion Brasher 1936—2021

“I am sorry to inform the members of the MWR that Marion Brasher, MMR and member of the Illinois Valley Division has passed away.

“Marion’s leadership was instrumental in the development of the Illinois Valley Division. He also mentored many modelers over the years. He was an excellent and prolific photographer, winning many awards at regional photo contests. As stated in his obituary, “He will be greatly missed in the model railroad community.”

Stephen Studley, Midwest Region President



MMR Marian Brasher is seen here judging models at our RRVD 2009 Midwest Region convention. *Joe Whinnery photo*

Obituary

Marion G. Brasher, 85, of Spring Valley, IL passed away at 1:15 PM on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at his home, following a three year illness.

The Mass of Christian Burial for Marion will be held Monday, March 15, at 11:00 AM at Nativity of Our Lord Parish (St. Anthony Church) in Spring Valley.

The Rev. Scott Potthoff will officiate. Burial will follow at Valley Memorial Park Cemetery. The visitation will be on Monday from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the church. The Barto Funeral Home, Spring Valley is assisting.

He was born on January 18, 1936 in Utah to Louise Jean Frecchio.

He was a member of Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Spring Valley. Marion graduated from Hall High School in 1953 and then Illinois State University. He worked part-time for the Rock Island Railroad during the summers and after college, he began his teaching career in Coal City. The following year, he came back to Spring Valley to teach at his alma-mater, Hall High School, where he was involved in coaching, yearbook, and numerous other activities for 32 years, until his retirement. After retiring, he opened the "Valley Roundhouse", his dream model train store. As a lifelong railroad enthusiast, he was a life member of the National Model Railroad Association, a Master Model Railroader, and he held many positions within the organization. He will be greatly missed in the model railroad community

He is survived by friends.

Marion was preceded in death by his mother, Louise Jean Teele; his stepfather, Harry Teele; and his stepbrother, Harry "Tiny" Teele.



A heart-wrenching photo - - the late Charlie Wickhorst and the late Marian Brasher, at our RRVD 2009 MWR convention.
Joe Whinnery photo

Eulogy

Marion was a good friend of RRVD, in so many ways. Marion was a fixture at our Meets, he probably attended more of our Meets than did lots of the NMRA members who actually live within our Division's borders. Many didn't know that Marion actually lived in nearby Illinois Valley Division area, and was active in IVD. Marion gave discounts to RRVD on hobby items for such things as door prizes, if he didn't donate items or gift certificates. Marian was at all of the MWR conventions that we sponsored, usually volunteering to judge contest models, and frequently winning in photo contests. I was lucky enough to occasionally be a fellow judge and experience his informed observations. He was a kind and gentle man who was glad to share his knowledge.

Marion's hobby shop, Valley Roundhouse (in Spring Valley, IL), was a joy to visit. Almost anything you wanted was there, and if it wasn't there, Marion would have it to you in a short time. He had a keen awareness of where all of his stock was, despite the seeming disarray. And, there is a nice model railroad in the basement. While, a few blocks away, Marion's personal layout in most of the basement of his home, is a fine example of the skills of a Master Model Railroader.



Marion G. Brasher, MMR No. 370

John Swanson 1937—2021



John standing within his UP/BNSF layout. *Tom Maladecki photo*

It is with profound sadness that I announce the passing of a longtime member of the RRVD, John Swanson of Beloit.

John's stature towered over us for many years at our Meets.

John had a passion for trucks. They were everywhere—hundreds of them. He was especially partial to grain trucks and elevators having scratchbuilt some fine examples for display with his trains filling the entire basement.

There will be private services only.

Ken Mosny, Superintendent RRVD

Obituary

John "Jack" Herbert Swanson, 83, of Beloit, Wisconsin, passed away on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at Riverside Terrace in Beloit.

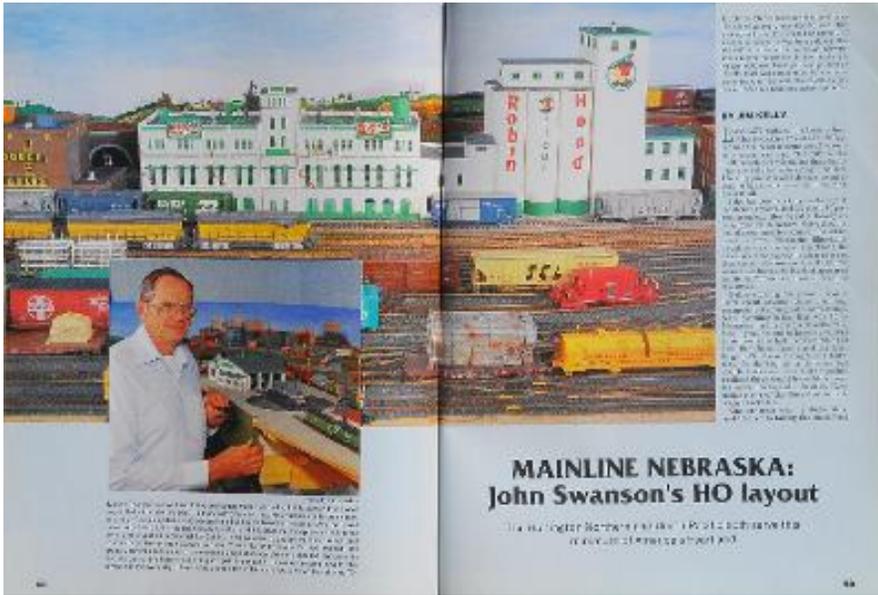
John was born on April 24, 1937 in Shullsburg, Wisconsin, the son of Herbert John and Florence Edith (Sherrill) Swanson. He graduated from Shullsburg High School in 1955. He then earned a bachelors degree in science and a bachelors degree in education from the University of Wisconsin Platteville. John later earned a masters degree from Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, Illinois. On June 11, 1966, John married Carmen Lou White at Christ Methodist Church in Beloit.

John served in the United States Army from 1960 to 1962. He taught at Milton High School for a few years and retired in 1996 from the Turner School District in Beloit after teaching for many years at Turner High School. John also worked for several years at Gensler Brothers at the Schlitz Factory in Milwaukee. He was a member of the Wisconsin Education Association, and enjoyed model railroading, travelling, building HO size trucks, and gardening.

John is survived by his wife, Carmen; sister, Lois Swanson; sister-in-law, Joetta (Theodore) Tweet; niece, Wendy (Bill) Lehman; nephew, Donald Tweet; great-nephews, Eric Tweet, and Andrew Tweet; good friend, Richard Woock; along with numerous other relatives, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; and brother-in-law, Gary Swanson.

A private family committal will take place at Eastlawn Cemetery in Beloit. Hansen-Gravitt Funeral Home, 424 Prospect Street, Beloit, Wisconsin 53511 is honored to be assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences can be shared at www.hansengravitt.com.

To send a flower arrangement or to plant trees in memory of John H. Swanson, visit the Hansen-Gravitt Sympathy Store.



John's 2nd layout was featured in the very first *Great Model Railroads* publication, Volume 1 Number 1, in 1991

Eulogy

It is difficult to put into words the sense of loss that I feel at the death of my long time friend John Swanson. It was a privilege to have known John and to have worked with him on so many modeling projects.

To be honest, I should have finished this *FLIMZIE* at least a month ago. Whenever I got to the point of eulogizing John, I got a mental block. Now that I've had to rewrite several parts of this newsletter (out of date), I'm going to press on as best I can. I hope you'll excuse my being verbose, but I hope you enjoy some of the reminiscences.

The late Ron Kiewel, the late Craig Turnquist and I met John in the '70s. We visited his first layout, which was something like a 4 x 8 oval that was overflowing with award quality HO locomotives and cars. In a few years John had an excellent HO layout going around the entire basement of his house. That layout featured highly detailed scenes, excellent scratch built and kit bashed structures, and a high level of scenery. By then, Terry Trank and Rob Marston had joined our Thursday night group, working on each others layouts. Our little group went on for about 40 years, with periodic additions and losses of people.

When John and Carmen decided to build a new house, it was designed the way a dedicated model railroader would do it. A ranch style, of course, with a 70' back wall and 30' wide. The stairway was moved to the center, with straight-in access to the back door and ample room for an around the wall layout. Do you remember John's 2nd layout on House Street with the mainline going through the edge of the stairway? The washer and dryer were moved to the first floor, kind of unique for that time period, with only the furnace, water heater and water softener taking up space in the basement. And, the basement was done an extra "block" or two deep (I forget exactly how much).

While the house was being built, John designed his ultimate layout to represent a double-track Union Pacific and a single track Burlington Northern (now Burlington Northern Santa Fe) in eastern Nebraska during the mid to modern diesel era.

The layout was begun in 1991. Before bench work was started we installed a blue-painted hardboard backdrop (e.g. "Masonite®") and blue hardboard cover over the railroad itself. In addition, the 120 volt layout wiring was installed along with many, many florescent lights.

The layout's bench work is built with 2 x 4 legs and L-girders, while the two peninsulas are of grid construction. Mainline

roadbed is spline topped with Homasote® (wall board made of recycled paper compressed under high temperature and pressure). Spline is a series of thin strips of wood glued together to form the sub-roadbed. Since the individual strips are thin, they can be bent to follow the curves the track will follow. Once the glue dries, the individual strips become one thick strip that is very strong. Spline is a great way to create flowing curves and dramatic scenery. The nature of spline creates natural easements in curves and elevation changes. When a strip of spline is bent, the tightest curve is always in the center with easements to both ends. A unique feature of the layout is the typical 3' depth, which was an easy reach for John's huge wingspan.

On his earlier layout John hand laid track, but the 70' x 30' around-the-wall layout with 570' of mainline made him conclude that we could either run trains or lay track. So, Atlas nickel silver code 100 track and switches were used for the majority of the trackwork. Most turnouts are hand thrown by Caboose Industries switch stands or by a linkage devised by Rich Woock. There are extensive storage tracks, as reverse loops, below the peninsulas as well as storage tracks along two walls below the layout. The BN peninsula was salvaged from the earlier layout, along with straight storage sections.

The railroad's electrical system uses 83 conventional blocks, excluding yards, capable of being powered by either of six GML hand held memory throttles. Terry Trank and I did the wiring. It is ample, heavy duty and orderly to provide years of hassle-free enjoyment.

John's real hobby enjoyment was in scratch building structures. He built structures that caught his eye when he was traveling. He took photos and got as many measurements as he could. Then he adapt the structures to the layout. For example, there are 12 grain elevators and feed mills. Most are built from

styrene and brass shapes, but other materials were used.

Many diesel locomotives are on the layout or in display cases. Most are "plastic" because so many highly detailed plastic models are now available. Some are extensively kit bashed or detailed plastic models that John painted in schemes of favorite railroads. I can still hear him lament the arrival of a plastic model soon after he completed a kit bash! Others are some brass diesels acquired over the years. The rolling stock is largely plastic kits; again, since so much is available in "plastic". However, some cars are brass, some are craftsman kits, some are kit bashed, and some cars are scratchbuilt.



John talks with Tom Maladecki as our Thursday night group visited John's layout in 2019. As it turns out, it was our final visit. *Steve Youngburg photo*

In recent years, highway trucks became a more important interest of John's, not just as part of the layout. Long ago, he carved the truck cabs from balsa. Later, cabs and components were cast resin using rubber molds of originals. The beds or trailers are made from basswood or plastic. A variety of commercial or cast wheels were used. Recently, cast resin

items were supplemented by purchased 3d printed items.

John was an unassuming guy with a remarkable layout. One of the finest anywhere. The three mainlines each make a loop of the entire basement on sweeping, broad-radius curves. Long trains are powered by 2-4 of today's diesel locomotives, or possibly 2-5 diesels of the 70's or 90's. Unit trains, double stacks and piggy backs, or general merchandise trains travel through fantastic scenery. Or the entire Santa Fe El Capitan sweeps majestically in and out of view. There are dozens of spectacular, highly detailed major structures that will have you gawking for a long time. In addition, there are countless excellent mini-scenes for you to view. I hope you didn't miss seeing John's layout if you had the opportunity.

Terry Pitkus 1940—2021



This has been a hard week. With a heavy heart I inform you of the passing of another of our railroading community. Terry Pitkus passed Wednesday afternoon, April 7, 2021 after a long illness. Terry usually attended our Meets rather in the background unless the subject of passenger rail to Rockford came up. A tireless advocate to get passenger rail service back to Rockford, he often worked with local community leaders and politicians to that end. Rest in peace, Terry You may view his obituary at <https://www.fitzgeraldfh.com/obituaries/Terry-C-Pitkus?obId=20710049#/obituaryInfo>

Ken Mosny, Superintendent RRVD

Obituary

Terry Charles Pitkus, 80, of Rockford, IL was called to eternal life on April 7, 2021 at OSF St. Anthony Medical Center after a courageous battle with diabetes, Parkinson's and heart disease. The son of Roy A. and D. Jeanne (Miners) Pitkus, he was born on April 24, 1940 in Rockford, IL.

He graduated from Harlem High School in 1958, where he was a member of the track, basketball, and football teams. An avid water skier, he performed with the Tommy Bartlett Show. After graduation he moved to Omaha, NE where he worked for Armour & Company and Western Electric. He attended Creighton University and served as a Special Deputy Sheriff with Douglas County in Nebraska. Terry moved back to Rockford in 1965 and worked at Chrysler as a supervisor in production control.

Terry eventually found his true vocation within the fire service. In 1966 he began serving as a volunteer firefighter with the Harlem-Roscoe Fire Department and eventually as an EMT—helping to establish the first paramedic service. Later he volunteered with the North Park Fire Department. Following his volunteer service, he took a position with the Office of the Illinois

State Fire Marshal as a Special Agent and Arson Investigator, and he remained in that position for 24 years until he retired.

Terry founded the Northern Illinois Fire Investigation Task Force; was a member of the International Association of Arson Investigators; served as the President of the Illinois Association of Arson Investigators; founded and hosted the annual Northern Illinois Arson Seminar; and was a Special Deputy with the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department. Terry was well-known among his fellow firefighters as "Pipes," as he was always recognized on scene puffing on his favorite pipe.

In his spare time Terry enjoyed model railroading, train watching and anything else related to trains. The Rochelle Railroad Park Webcam was always live streaming on his computer. He was very involved in the effort to bring rail service back to the Rockford area. He was a member of the North Western Illinois Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society and the Rock Valley Division of the National Model Railroad Association.

He was a man of faith and was an active member of the New Milford United Methodist Church.

Terry will be greatly missed by his daughters Andrea Pitkus of Middleton, WI; and Jill (Adam) Keck of Dubuque, IA; sister, Patricia (Walter "Red") Bainbridge of Rockford, IL; granddaughters Kailey Peterson, Alayna Peterson, and Brooklyn Keck of Dubuque, IA., and his special canine companion, Dewey. He was predeceased by his parents.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to Dawn Reed, Pr. Casey Fiut, Fr. Steven Lange, Edison Lim, MD, Pat Nicolosi, RN, Teresa Field, RN and all the health professionals who provided compassionate care for Terry in his final years, especially the last three months of his life. Special thanks to the first responders and Illinois Fire Chiefs Association for honoring Terry with their service at the visitation, funeral, and committal.

Walk-through visitation on Friday April 16, 2021 from 4:00-8:00pm with Fire Department Walk Through at 7:00pm at Fitzgerald Funeral Home and Crematory, Mulford Chapel, 1860 S. Mulford Rd., Rockford, IL 61108. Those attending services are required to wear masks and follow social distancing guidelines. Share online memories and condolences at www.fitzgeraldfh.com

Honorary Fire Service Funeral will be at Holy Family Catholic Church, 4401 Highcrest Road Rockford, IL 61107, on Saturday, April 17th at 12:30pm with Rev. William R. Wentink and Rev. Casey Fiut. Interment following the service at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Memorials in Terry's name may be made to Rock Valley Food Pantry, Harlem Roscoe Fire Department or Cherry Valley Fire Department.

John Burge 1934—2021

"It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of John Burge Saturday. John had a fine model railroad of the Clinchfield at his Belvidere home that many of us enjoyed."

Ken Mosny, Superintendent RRVD



Obituary

John L. Burge, 86, of Belvidere, IL, passed away May 15, 2021 at home. He was born December 19, 1934, in Vail, Iowa, son to Frank and Carrie (Read) Burge. He married Doris LaBuy in the Methodist Church in Belvidere on September 18, 1960. He was employed at Eagle Foods for 35 years. He was a member of Open Bible Church and Masonic Lodge in Belvidere. He enjoyed model railroading and was a member of the National Model Railroad Association.

John will be loved and dearly missed by his wife of 60 years, Doris; one son, Raymond Burge of LeClaire, Iowa; a sister, Eleanor Gauger of Wauwatosa, WI; and one brother, Frank Burge of Houston, Texas. He was preceded in death by one son, Dale, in 2016; his parents; brothers, Eldon, Norman; and one sister, Anna Hanson. In keeping with John's wishes, there will be a private military burial service. In lieu of flowers and cards, please consider donations to NorthernIllinoisHospice.org. To share a memory, please visit www.AndersonFCS.com.

Eulogy

John and his late son, Dale, built a really nice model railroad, primarily it is the Clinchfield Railroad but with Chesapeake and Ohio Railway action as well. Their layout has nice scenery, typical of Clinchfield country, coal country with lots of upgrades and downgrades; and, it functions smoothly. I really enjoyed operating on John's layout because of the relaxed atmosphere and the well-planned operating scheme. I told folks who asked about "how to" operate that they should attend one of John's sessions.

John was a consummate model railroad host who made everyone feel welcome.

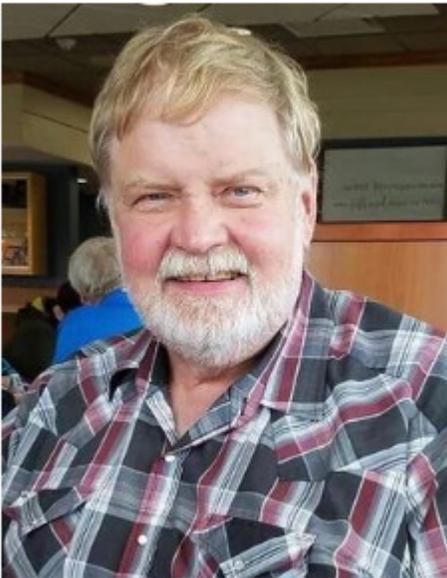


John Burge hosting a layout open house. *Joe Whinnery photo*

Rev. Robert Krueger 1952—2021

I regret to announce that I just found out Bob Kruger passed a few weeks ago. For those of you that went to Savanna, it was Bob's layout across the river in Sabula that we visited. I could not find any pictures of him or his layout, but it had a large number of FSM structures on it. He really enjoyed building them. I understand his death was unexpected. He went to sleep on the couch and did not wake up.

Ken Mosny, Superintendent RRVD



Rev. Robert L. "Bob" Krueger, age 68 of Sabula, passed away on Monday, March 29, 2021 at his home. A private family service will be held Thursday, April 1st at the Pape Funeral Home, Clinton. Burial will be in Sterling Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the family to be donated to a cause of their choice.

Pastor Bob, as he was known, was born in Paducah, Kentucky on October 21, 1952, the son of Marvin and Melva (Hilgeman) Krueger. He graduated from Flanagan High School in Flanagan, IL where he played football and wrestled. He graduated from Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, and received his Masters of Divinity from Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque. Bob married Marcella "Marty" Muller on May 24, 1975 in rural Holland, Iowa. Pastor Bob's first calling was to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Audubon, Iowa. He came to Calvary Lutheran Church in Sabula in 1981 and retired in 2014. His family and faith were everything to him. Bob was a talented model railroader. He spent many hours working on his personal railroad, as well as helping to build a model railroad at the Savanna Museum and Cultural Center. Bob could fix anything and loved to re-purpose items. He followed the Cubs, Bears, Bulls, Blackhawks, and the Illini.

Bob is survived by his wife, Marty; his children, Sandy (Jeff) Kreinbring of Solon, IA and Daniel (Kimberly) Krueger of Clinton, IA; and 5 grandchildren who adored him: Claire and Natalie Kreinbring; Kiara, Brynlee, and Kyler Krueger. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Railroad Modeler and Railfan Memorial

by Clarence Welte but edited/updated by Tom Maladecki

Editor's preface: A few months ago Clarence Welte sent me a short commemorative article with a list of modeling/railfan friends who we've known. The names of folks listed brought many pleasant memories to me; some, are people I haven't thought about in a while. Others brought a tear to my eye. If you are aware of anyone who should be included in this roster, please let me know. The following is what Clarence had to offer, edited as well as updated. THM

Now is a time to reflect upon those whom we have had the good fortune to know through our association in the model railroading and railfan community, and in particular the Rock River Valley Division, National Model Railroad Association.

Doug Andersen
Jim Baker
Don Bergman
Clarence Betts
Jack Brand
Marion Brasher MMR
Dale Burge
John Burge
Jack Church
Burns Darsie
James DeVoe
Bill Drexler
Dave Erlandson
Lyle Fleener
Bob Guinter
Stan Guyer
Russ Hansen
Bob Hedquisst
Bill Kapfer
Ron Kiewel
Bill Kirchmeyer

Ed Kruschke
Dick Lewis
Bill Liston
Charlie Martin MMR
Bill Mulford
Bob Ocain
Tom Opolomy
Terry Pitkus
Mike Pollare
Eldon Raasch
Bill Rigby
Hoyt Shaw
Jack Skubal
Bill Stewart
Roger Schmesert
Bob Suppinger
John Swanson
Craig Turnquist
Charlie Wickhorst
Fred Wilson
Tom Williams

Ω

“Don’t wait. The time will never be just right.”
Mark Twain

RRVD Chief Clerk Vacancy

by Tom Maladecki

James DeVoe was the Division's Chief Clerk. That position is usually called Secretary in most organizations. The primary duty is furnishing Minutes of our Board of Directors meetings. After a search, a new Chief Clerk was appointed, and eventually elected at our April "Annual Meeting". However he resigned shortly thereafter and eventually another person was appointed. However, he quickly resigned. So, if you have an interest in being the Division's Chief Clerk, secretary of the organization, please let Ken Mosny know at kenmosny@comcast.net or talk about it with any of the people listed on pages 20 and 21. Ω

Old Photo

by Steve Youngberg

There was a guy (Bob Anderson) that went around Rockford and the surrounding area taking photographs and today I was looking through some of his photos and found out that there used to be a watch tower in Rockford. I do remember the one that was over on the east side of 11th Street (Illinois Central) across from Rockford Standard furniture but I didn't know about this one. Although I knew two guys that said the Illinois Central had some type of crossing system between 8th Street and 11th Street where they used to pump the crossing gates down and had lanterns hung on the gate. I've never seen a picture of it but both my dad and Kathy's dad grew up over in that neighborhood and knew who the crossing guy was (complete with a little garden next to the crossing).

This one was identified as being on 5th Avenue which would have been Chicago Northwestern. I'm thinking the bridge in the

background could be Kishwaukee (?). The smokestacks in the background could have been from the power district. I'll have to refer to Barry Betts or Clarence Welte for corrections.



Ω

Facebook Administrator Needed

by Tom Maladecki

You may have noticed that our Rock River Valley Division page on Facebook has not been updated in a few months. That is because one of the many things that James DeVoe did for us was taking care of our Facebook page. However, he did not tell any of us what his password was, thus we can't get into it and it is not up to date.

Are you familiar with Facebook? If you are, we need you help. Please contact Ken Mosny at kenmosny@comcast.net or tell any of the people listed on pages 20 and 21 that you can help with our Facebook page. Ω



RockRail-21

by Tom Maladecki

The RockRail operating group will host an invitational gathering on the weekend of August 27-29. There will be operation sessions on Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning. The hotel will be the Radisson, located at 200 S. Bell School Road in Rockford.

RockRail is unique. It is not a club. It has no officers. No dues. No definitive territory. It is not a "division" of anything; however, there are similar 'operating' groups in various city areas (e.g. Minrail in the twin cities area and Amrail in the Chicago area). Interested in operating model railroads? "Join" RockRail while visiting their site www.rockrail.org The RockRail site is funded by the people who list their operation sessions. Ω

Cherryvale Mall Train Show

by Tom Maladecki

In his Superintendent's message Ken Mosny told you we will have a small show October 2nd and 3rd at Cherryvale Mall. We've been out of "show" business because of Covid 19 and this is a chance to ease back in. Cherryvale Mall is charging a fee for the floor space, and we'll have to rent tables; but, as Ken said, enough vendors had interest in buying tables that we should break even on cost.

There will be some tables for "display" of model railroad and train items or organization promotion, but space is very limited. Contact Ken quickly if you want to participate.

Cherryvale Mall's address is 7200 Harrison Avenue, at the intersection of S. Perryville Road. That is right off of the US-20 Bypass (which is also I-39), use Harrison West exits. Ω

Wheel Report

Observations, Opinions and Comments from the Editor

by Tom Maladecki

Railroad Modeler & Railfan Memorials

Six Obituaries! I do not apologize for using this much space. I feel it is important to celebrate those who have passed and their accomplishments in our hobby. It is difficult to memorialize them, but important that we do. And, take another look at the list of 42 people from our model railroading and railfan community. Did a shiver run up your spine when you read their name? Do you fondly remember them?

Like I said, if you are aware of anyone who should be included in this memorial roster, please let me know.

Keep Hobby Shops in mind.

Keep our hobby shops in mind. Stop and say "Hi"

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,

We need your input to keep the **FLIMZIE** interesting. Please provide your articles, photos and information. Make a note of the deadlines for articles and data for our quarterly newsletter because the Editor needs sufficient time to complete the **FLIMZIE** in a timely manner. 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. Following is contact information for our Officers, Directors and some other folks who make things happen in RRVD:

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Chief Clerk

VACANT

Since James DeVoe died we've had two Chief Clerks who've been appointed, served for a while, then resigned. If you're interested in being the secretary for our Division, let one of the Board members know. THM

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CORRECTION

Mon, Nov 30, 2020 7:49 pm: "Tom, My email address is wrong in the Flimzie.. It is delsclho@yahoo.com Doug Loy RRVD Show and Sale Chairman (815)765-3135"

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