



THE RIVER ROUTE

METRO EAST MODEL RAILROAD

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Metro East Model Railroad Club was established as an HO scale club in Madison, IL, on September 8, 1991. The club became incorporated as a not-for-profit organization on the fifth of February the following year. Steven Bast Jr., Paul Knecht, John Ellebracht, Pat Hentz, and Randy Allard, were the officers who signed the articles of incorporation. The club records indicate that the list of charter members included John Brendel, Bob Harrison, Kevin Herr, Charles Miller, Les Noe, Dan Stojek, and Andy Wadlow, in addition to the officers already mentioned. The club began as this group of model railroad enthusiasts wanted to find a place where they could pursue their interests and build a model railroad layout. A small building located at 922 Iowa Street, Madison, Illinois, was rented and became the first "home" for the Metro East Model Railroad Club. The club's first layout was "semi-modular", consisting of sections bolted together. These sections were not built to standard module specifications however, so they could not easily be unbolted and connected with modules from other club's layouts.

After a couple years, the club was divided by financial difficulties and several members sold their interest in the club and began to look for a new home. In 1994, the Village of Glen Carbon offered these members the use of the lower floor of the old Firehouse and Village Hall which was also scheduled to be renovated. During the renovation, members met in the Community Room of the new Glen Carbon Municipal Center where they held meetings, planned the new layout, developed a new constitution and by-laws, updated their lapsed status as a not-for profit organization, established locomotive and rolling stock specifications. The lower floor renovation was completed in February, 1995, and the club began constructing a new layout.

