



RPO

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION - GATEWAY DIVISION



Volume 32, Issue 1

Spring 2024

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Jimmy Ables, Superintendent, Gateway Division

Winter is gone, Spring is here and many model railroaders will turn their attention to their lawns, gardens, sports, vacations, and such. I'll begrudgingly attend to the flower beds and mow the yard. Beyond that, I plan work on getting my basement ready to build my model railroad empire. What's your plan?

Volunteers

I always like to pass along thanks to those members who step forward and take on key positions within the Division. This time I want to thank Greg Gramlich for volunteering to take over as Publicity Chair. Greg has some great ideas on how we can improve outreach at model train shows we participate in. As we approach each of the major train shows Greg will be looking for volunteers to man our table.

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Cover Photo: Cars spotted at the gravel plant on John Peluso's Frisco Eastern Division Cuba Sub. See more photos of his layout in this issue. Photo: Jeff Cooper

From the Superintendent's Desk (continued from page 1)

As many of you know, Brad Joseph, MMR has taken over the role of Fall Meet Chair. Brad is working hard to make this year's Fall Meet more successful than last years. Brad urgently needs someone to help coordinate volunteers for the Fall Meet. If interested, please contact Brad or me.

Speaking of volunteers, we still have some positions open. We're looking for a Holiday Party Coordinator; Assistant Clerk to backup Jeff; an Operations Coordinator in Illinois, and a Presentation Chair to organize presentations at our monthly meetings and quarterly workshops.

Quarterly Workshops

We've been holding quarterly workshops the 2nd month of each quarter for a year now. We've held workshops on structure building, decaling, and tree-making. Attendance is usually no more than 12. Our upcoming workshop in May is on airbrushing. I'd like to get your thoughts on the workshops. Are we hitting the mark or do we need to go in a different direction? Please send any comments or thoughts to me at jim.d.ables@gmail.com. We'd appreciate your feedback.

Presentations

We're having a hard time getting folks to sign up to do presentations at monthly meetings and lead workshops. One of the key benefits of membership and coming to meetings is to learn from others. A lot of people say they don't have anything worth presenting. Well, I beg to differ. If you've built models or a layout, I bet you can teach us all something. There are many aspects to this hobby:

Layout design	Layout construction
Track laying	Electrical
Scenery	Model construction
Painting	Decaling
Operations	And a lot more

Some copout saying they don't know how to put a presentation together. That's not an excuse as all you have to do is ask for help.

Several of us are well-versed in putting together presentations so all you need do is ask. Pictures and videos help you tell the story and again if you need help with either of these there of folks who can help you out. Bottom line everyone has something to offer. Share your knowledge.

I'd like to get your thoughts on the workshops. Are we hitting the mark or do we need to go in a different direction? Please send any comments or thoughts to me at jim.d.ables@gmail.com. We'd appreciate your feedback.

Mid-Continent Region Annual Convention

This year's Mid-Continent Region convention is being held at the Ramada Midtown Conference Center, 2503 S. Locust Street, Grand Island, NE from June 13 through 15. You can get more information at <http://www.mcor-nmra.org/Conventions/2024>.

The Gateway Division is the largest Divisions in MCoR in membership and geographic area. We need more members to become active at the MCoR level and voice their opinions about what MCoR should be doing for us.

I plan to attend, and I hope to see a good turnout from our Division.

That's a wrap for this issue. Please be safe and don't overdo it with lawns and gardens and don't forget you've got a layout needs attention to.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting, workshop, or train show.

Warmest Regards,

Jim Ables
Superintendent, Gateway Division

Director's Reflections: Plausible Rationalizations

By David C. Lowell, Director, Gateway Division, Mid-continent Region

In our endeavors to recreate the prototype in our hobby world we can get caught up in the pursuit of perfection. While wanting to improve our skills and learn new techniques is a good thing, we should not, however, overlook the forest for the trees. Meaning, we are model railroaders, rail enthusiast, railfans, collectors because that is our hobby. A hobby is something we do for fun. Therefore, we need to be mindful not to take a pursuit we are doing for fun and relaxation and turn it into a chore or a quest.

I had originally drafted this column after the news that Allen McClelland of V&O fame had passed last fall. It got pushed for various reasons. Reading all the tributes to him in the model railroad press put me in the mood to reflect on his series of articles that originally appeared in RMC in the 1960s and were packaged into a book in the mid-80s that espoused his theory on model railroading and presented the pictures to back it up. For those of you who may not be familiar with Allen, he was a pioneering model railroader who lived by the motto "close is good enough." He built two vast empires on this basis. Providing enough quality detail that the observer's eye and brain filled in the rest. He also utilized the technique of off-the-layout connections. The world is not flat with hard edges so why should our model railroads be? Technically a model railroad is, but he softened the physical edges with a plausible rationalization to make it closer to reality. That brings me to my point.

We do this for fun. We all do it at whatever level we are happy with and brings us joy and fulfillment. Obviously, our time, skill, patience and funds all have an impact to what extent we can pursue our dreams. That is where plausible rationalizations come into play. Plausible rationalizations can help to span some of the gaps created by what time, skill, patience or funds that we may or may not have at our disposal. That is to say, if you veer from the prototype think through a reason why your detour may be. Then, if asked why you are not prototypical to the rivet count, you can respond with your tale. And as a rule, railroaders seem to like to tell stories so we can emulate that as well. Actually, your deviation from the standard is supported by prototype railroads examples. As much as we all like to think that the railroads were standardized and static in their appearance and operations nothing could be further from the truth. Within their own existence, they were actually constantly in a state of flux.

***We do this for fun.
We all do it at
whatever level we
are happy with
and brings us joy
and fulfillment.***

On occasion, it may have been a case of an independently minded shop foreman who decided the company paint scheme needed updating and he was going to show his skill to the big boys by giving them an example. Also, remember many railroads repaired foreign road cars in their shops. The ATSF in Barstow, CA may not have had a gallon of TP&W green on the shelf. Thus, when they completed a repair, they slapped on any green they had, or maybe whatever color was in the paint gun. Figuring the home road can make it pretty later, we got it fixed, hit our quota to keep the foreman off our backs, and the car back in revenue service. A similar situation could have occurred for numbering or lettering stencils. Johnny Dumbnuts Sr. didn't want to walk to the other side of the shop for the right size stencil so he grabbed one off the bench close by that was handy from another repair and used it.

These examples give us incredible license to justify almost anything we might choose to do, or accidentally did. Yet another way to make a plausible rationalization is to take advantage of the term proto-freelance. This is something I have embraced whole heartedly. As you painfully know, I model the Chicago and Illinois Midland Railway (CIM). However, I call my railroad the Chicago & Illinois Midland Railroad. This small change in the name gives me all the freedom I need to do whatever I want. And I do. I do try to make some RPM (Railroad Prototype Models). Even with those, there can be limitations of skill, information or time that leave the model short of exact. Oh well. Then there are the filler projects that give the general appearance but have a had a few liberties embraced.

I recently decided to experiment with signaling. The real CIM used ABS block signaling. For those not familiar with this it is a simple block detection system that was overlaid on top of time table & train order (TT&TO) operations. ABS identified if the next block was occupied by track detection circuits. Think of it as belt and suspenders. It allowed the CIM to have more and shorter blocks with sidings closer together so they could have a denser traffic pattern.

I found at Model Railroad Control Systems, <https://www.modelrailroadcontrolsystems.com/> PC board signals. Twelve signals for \$16.00 vs brass signals that start at \$40 or \$50 bucks each. Up close they don't look prototypical. Popped on the pike, camouflaged with some weeds and brush and blended into the scene the glowing LEDs give a close enough illusion of signals. And they work!

So, put on your thinking caps and come up with a some spin or even a wild tale and then do a project. Enjoy your hobby through the magic of plausible rationalizations.

I will always be available, as well as the great team of officers we have, to receive any comments or suggestions you may have. You can reach me at LowellCoMotive@gmail.com

Happy Rails!

David C. Lowell

Director, Gateway Division, Mid-Continent Region, National Model Railroad Association



**An empty string of
hoppers wait for their
next load of gravel
from the quarry at
Lattimore Materials
Company at
Stringtown,
Oklahoma**

Photo by Jeff Cooper

Upcoming Gateway Division Events



May 4, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Hands-on Workshop

West Alton City Hall
111 Richard Drive, West Alton, MO

June 17, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Member Meeting with Presentation

VFW Post 805
223 West 1st Street, O'Fallon, IL

July 15, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Member Meeting with Presentation

Trinity Lutheran Church
14088 Clayton Road, Town and Country, MO

August 17, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Hands-on Workshop

West Alton City Hall
111 Richard Drive, West Alton, MO

September 16, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Member Meeting with Presentation

Trinity Lutheran Church
14088 Clayton Road, Town and Country, MO

October 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Member Meeting with Presentation

VFW Post 805
223 West 1st Street, O'Fallon, IL

November 2, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

Fall Meet

VFW Post 5691
1234 Vandalia St, Collinsville, IL

December 16, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

Member Meeting with Presentation

VFW Post 805
223 West 1st Street, O'Fallon, IL

**HELP
WANTED!**

Presentations Chair: Coordinate presentations for the monthly membership meetings and quarterly hands-on workshops.

Operations Assistant (Illinois): Coordinate operating sessions on member layouts located on the Illinois side of the river.

Holiday Party Coordinator: Organize the annual Division holiday party to take place in November.

Assistant Clerk: Assist with reviewing agendas and minutes, take meeting minutes if Clerk is absent, and assist with proofreading the RPO.

Upcoming Events

May 11, 2024, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: After the Storm Train Show: Arnold Eagles Hall, 1725 Jeffco Blvd., Arnold, MO

May 18, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: 1st Train Show and Swap Meet: St. Libory American Legion Post 683, 7236 State Route 15, St. Libory, IL

May 25, 2024, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Patriotic Theme Train Day: Daniel Boone Library, 300 Clarkson Road, Ellisville, MO

June 8, 2024, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: 9th Annual AHRR Train Show: American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue, Greenville, IL

June 13-15, 2024: Grand Island Express, NMRA Mid-Continent Region Convention: Ramada Midtown Conference Center, 2503 S, Locust Street, Grand Island, NE

June 29, 2024 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Steam Locomotive Theme Train Day: Eureka Library, 500 Workman Road, Eureka, MO

July 19-20, 2024, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.: 2024 St. Louis Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet: Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL

July 20, 2024 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Train Day at the Fenton Library: Meramec Valley Branch, 1501 San Simeon Way, Fenton, MO

August 4-11, 2024: The Surfliner in Long Beach: 2024 NMRA National Convention: Westin Long Beach Hotel, 333 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA





NMRA Gateway Division
Hands-On Workshop

How to Airbrush

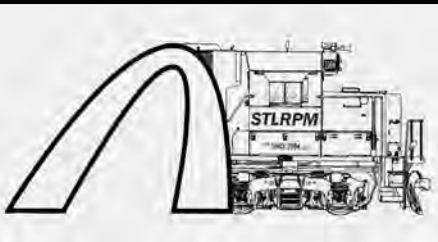
Saturday
May 4th, 9:30 a.m.

West Alton City Hall
111 Richard Drive, West Alton, MO

FREE!

All tools and supplies provided!

It's a "HANDS-ON" workshop so
you get to learn to airbrush by
actually using an airbrush!



ST. LOUIS RAILROAD PROTOTYPE MODELERS MEET

JULY 19 - 20, 2024

Gateway Convention Center, 1 Gateway Center Drive, Collinsville, IL

St. Louis RPM is ALL ABOUT YOUR MODELS!

BRING YOUR MODELS, finished or in-progress, for display and discussion.

This is a modelers event! Bring your models of all scales, gauges, and sizes from all eras, finished or in-progress. Attendees will bring over **5000** models, displayed on **100** tables, for display and discussion. Bring **YOURS** and be part of the fun. Locomotives, structures freight cars, dioramas and vehicles are all welcome. There are no contests. The purpose of our event is to teach, learn, grow and meet your fellow modelers from around the U.S. Display space is free!

- 38,000 + sq. ft
- 5,000 + models
- Vendor Tables
- Historical Societies
- Learning Stations
- Educational Clinics
- Door Prizes

2024 RPM Theme

Introducing "One for the Ages - The Art of Aging Your Models to Your Era" in 2024. This year's theme focuses on helping you learn to weather your models to match your era through a variety of mediums and by different masters in the hobby. A good portion of our clinics will be given on the topics of using oil paints, pan pastels, airbrushing, and dry brushing with acrylic paints by modelers who have been doing these techniques for years. Many of these modelers have written articles, books, and produced videos on these topics and will teach you their tips and techniques.



Co-sponsored by:
The Gateway Division





Central Indiana Division
of the
National Model Railroad Association
presents the 2024



FRANKLIN TRAIN SHOW

Saturday, Aug. 3rd, 10am to 4pm

Sunday, Aug. 4th, 10am to 3pm

**Four buildings filled with vendors
and portable layouts**

**One building for demonstrations
both days**



Admission: \$7.00 per Adult

(Kids under 16 free with parents)

(\$5.00 with proof of current NMRA membership with card)

JOHNSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

250 Fairground St., Franklin, IN • Check in at Farm Bureau Building

Show Features:

- Operating Layouts
- Dealer Tables
- Manufacturers
- Free Parking
- Displays
- Demo's
- Door Prizes
- Food

★ Popular Vote Contest ★

Bring what you are working on



***Check out our website at
<http://www.cidnmra.org>***

For information contact Michael Roderick at (317) 833-3556 or FranklinTrainShow@gmail.com

NOTE: The next CID train show is at Danville, IN on November 23, 2024

Achievement Program Update: Life-Like and “Like In Life”

By Dave Ackmann, Achievement Program Chair, Gateway Division

As I was driving to the March, 2024, meeting of the Gateway Division, I was reflecting on the progress that one of our members, Greg Gramlich, was making toward the Achievement Program Certificate as a Master Builder of Prototype Models (by the time you read this, Greg will have submitted his “Statement of Qualification”, or “SOQ”; the paperwork which starts the ball rolling toward receiving the award). His Arkansas lumber mill is something to behold, a truly life-like representation. And I started musing on the word “life-like”.

Like life, “life-like”, as it applies to model railroading, runs a broad spectrum. Some of us are rail-fans or historians. Some of us try to duplicate a life-like replica of a real place at an exact date in time. Others freelance and build scenes around structures and scenery available commercially; kit-bashed or scratch-built, and still more decorate their layouts using Plasticville or Life-Like accessories which were first purchased when we all were very young. But why do we model the way we each choose to do?

It occurred to me that those of us who model attempt to duplicate what we “Like In Life”. Fond memories of places and times inspire our creative skills. My first clinic was on how I created Billboards from styrene, a fun project of something I liked seeing in real life, and I now have over 80 custom billboards on the layout or in storage. Those of you who have seen a recent clinic of mine know that I also like structures, curved forms and 3D printing, and I have a backlog of projects I want to build while some of the prototype buildings are still standing, or are at least documented in books (including a frozen custard stand in Florissant which once sold A&W root beer, and was the location of my first paying job). If the structures are deemed worthy of Merit Awards, then so much the better. But I think I chose these objects to model because I like them in real life.



The NMRA Achievement Program (AP) exists to challenge our members to explore modeling both inside and outside of our comfort zones and to recognize our successes in doing so. Those of us who receive Achievement Awards grow in the process and are committed to helping others along their own paths. Perhaps when you plan your next project, consider what you like in life and then share your experience along the way in a short presentation, clinic or AP contest. And if you would like some companionship along the way, just ask.

Photo Tour of John Peluso's Frisco Eastern Division Cuba Sub

Layout Description from the Gateway 2022 National Convention Time Table
Photos by Jeff Cooper



The "Frisco Lines" HO scale layout is a freelance/prototype of the St. Louis San Francisco RR Eastern Division from St. Louis to Springfield, Missouri during the 1950's - 1960's era. The Frisco Lines is a 16-ft by 30-ft linear double-deck layout. The lower level height is 43-inches and the upper level is 62-inches. A 32-inch radius helix at a 1.7% grade connects the two levels. A 8-track double ended yard and engine terminal facility serves the layout. The layout design operates as a point-to-point. The minimum curve radius is 30-inches and increases to 36-inches. Turnout sizes are #6 in yards and industry sidings and #8 on the mainlines. Layout control is DCC and uses CVP command control with wireless throttles. It takes seven operators to run the layout, utilizing a dispatcher, two yard crews, and four road crews. Crews use radios to communicate verbal authority to move trains during an operating session. A four position car forwarding system is utilized and changed after each session. A set-out and pick-up slot box is used for the cards.















All Aboard the Grand Island Express

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division



The 2024 Mid-Continent Region Convention, The Grand Island Express, will be held June 13th through 15th at the Ramada Midtown Conference Center in Grand Island, Nebraska. Plans for

a great itinerary are well underway and will include clinics and presentations, a contest room with NMRA judging, layout tours, prototype activities, a train show, banquet, door prizes, and activities for your significant other. Discounted rooms at the Ramada Midtown are available through May 13th so go ahead and make those reservations now. The regional convention is a great way to soak up model and prototype railroading fun and knowledge, and to meet some great folks in the region. And if all of that wasn't enough, the Grand Island area has attractions and activities to explore on your own that will satisfy almost any interest. Reserve your spot on the Grand Island Express and we look forward to seeing you in mid-June.

• Clinics

- Contest Room with NMRA Judging
- Model Showcase
 - Layout Tours
- Prototype Activities
 - Train Show
 - Banquet
 - Door Prizes
- Events for Your Significant Other

Contest Categories

Models

- Steam Locomotives
- Diesel and Other Locomotives
- Passenger Cars
- Freight Cars
- Caboose
- Non-revenue Cars
- Traction
- Structures
- Display

Modules

- Individuals
- Groups

Model Showcase

Photos

- Model: Black & White
- Model: Color
- Prototype: Black & White
- Prototype: Color

Pass Contest

The list of rail related activities was compiled from the list and information from the 2024 Mid-continent Region Convention website: <https://www.mcor-nmra.org/Conventions/2024/>

The list of area attractions was compiled from the list and information from the Grand Island Tourism website: <https://visitgrandisland.com/>

Grand Island Area Rail Activities



Grand Island, Nebraska CB&Q Depot

Creative Commons CC0 License, Photo in Pubic Domain, Photo by Ammodramus, 4-1-2015

Grand Island

Stuhr Museum: 200 acre living history museum including a re-created railroad town and train exhibit

Train Watching: Watch BNSF and UP rail action at the Grand Island flyover where each railroad runs 50 to 75 trains per day

Grand Island CB&Q Station: Renovated depot with reception hall and model railroad exhibit

Belvidere

Covered Train Viewing Platform: View trains passing along the Marysville double track subdivision. Site includes old depot and wooden boxcar

North Platte

Golden Spike Tower and Visitor Center:

Get a birdseye view of the world's largest classification yard with both open air and enclosed observation decks.

Cody Park Railroad Museum: See UP Challenger #3977 and UP DD40 #6922, long with passenger cars and a caboose. Railroad artifacts are housed in the depot.

Hastings

CB&Q Station: Renovated depot with commercial businesses and a stop for Amtrak

Hastings Museum: Multifaceted museum with HO scale modular layout on the second floor

Kearny

Trails and Rails Museum: Restored depot with UP steam locomotive on display

Train Watching: UP triple track mainline with over 100 trains passing through each day

Fairbury

Rock Island Depot

Museum: Tour this former depot and division headquarters. Museum includes railroad artifacts and a model railroad exhibit.

Red Cloud

CB&Q Station: Restored depot part of the Willa Cather building tour, includes the exhibit "The Burlington Railroad: Colonizing Cather's Wild Land"

Holdrege

CB&Q Station: Restored depot with commercial businesses and a stop for Amtrak,

Nebraska Prairie Museum: Indoor cultural museum of prairie life with HO and G Scale model railroads

Minden

Pioneer Village: Former Lowell CB&Q depot and water tank, CB&Q 4-6-0 loco #967, a saddle tank 0-4-0 42" gauge steam loco, a B&M narrow gauge caboose, and a horse drawn streetcar.

Grand Island Area Attractions

Roadside Attractions

Coney Island: Lunch counter open since 1933

Stolley Park Railroad:

Take a ride around Stolley Park on this "life-size garden train"

Kensinger Service and Supply: a full service gas station open since 1936

Fred's Flying Circus: Stop along Fourth Street and enjoy the flying cartoon cars.

Scenic By-ways

Lincoln Highway Historic Byway: Explore the historic sites along the Lincoln Highway

Loups Rivers Scenic Byway: Follow beautiful scenery through the river valleys into the Sandhills

Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway: a 272 mile byway that cuts through the heart of the Sandhills

Golf

Centura Hills Golf Club

Fonner View Golf Course

Indianhead Golf Club

Jackrabbit Run Golf Course

Riverside Golf Club

Wood River Golf Course



Stuhr Museum, Grand Island, Nebraska

Creative Commons, Photo by Visit Grand Island, 12-2-2016, Free use with attribution
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Grand_Island_NE_Wikivoyage_banner.jpg

Arts

Crane Trust Gallery: beautiful work by regional artists and photographers with Nebraska ties and subjects.

Grand Island Little Theater: The musical *Jersey Boys*, the *Story of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons*, will be performing June 12th—16th

Studio 10 Art Gallery: offers artwork of regional and national artists in all media as well as handcrafted jewelry, cards, pottery and a myriad of unique gifts

Nature

Crane Trust Nature Center: trails along the river, a butterfly garden, bison herd, and art gallery

Derr Prairie: 2,800 acre prairie with trails

Gjerloff Prairie: 390 acre riverfront prairie with trails and education center

Mormon Island: recreation area with camping, kayaking, fishing, and swimming

Sherman Ranch: 650 acre prairie along the Platte River

Museums

Stuhr Museum: 200 acre living history museum including a re-created pioneer town

Raising Nebraska: 25,000 sq ft interactive experience showing how food goes from farm to table

Cairo Roots Museum: History of northwestern Hall County with large photographic negative collection

Hastings Museum: an array of exhibits, a planetarium, and a theater

Shopping

The Railside District: Shops, boutiques, and much more in downtown Grand Island

Merchandise Mile: National retail chains and restaurants on Highway 281

Western Wear: Local merchants with the best western wear selection

Long Last!

We have a date & venue!



MID CONTINENT REGIONAL ANNUAL CONVENTION

Thursday, Friday, Saturday

**June 13th, 14th, 15th
2024**

Location:

**Ramada Midtown Conference Center
2503 S. Locust Street
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308)384-1330**

They are accepting reservations now. (to get "block price" of \$147.00 plus tax, no later than May 13th) We have a block of rooms.

Activities:

**Clinics
Contest Room w/NMRA judging
Layout Tours
Spouses Events
Prototype Activities
Train Show
Door Prizes
Banquet, Saturday Evening**

**Registration forms and vendor registration forms to follow.
Registrar ... Whit Johnson, email: steam2856@gmail.com**



Grand Island Express 2024 NMRA Mid-Continent Region Convention

Hosted by

Platte Valley Division

June 13-15, 2024

Ramada Midtown Conference Center

2503 S Locust Street

Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

(308) 385-1330

Registration Form

Name of Primary Registration: _____ NMRA# _____
NMRA Membership Required to Enter Model Contest

Spouse's Name (if attending) _____
(Spouse will receive a complimentary pass for admission to Train Show, Contest Room, Clinics. The Banquet is an additional \$35.00)

Names of other Registrants: _____
Extra fare events (if any) must be purchased for each person attending those events.

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Registration Fee (NMRA Membership number required for reduced registration fee)

NMRA Member \$120.00 - per person, includes banquet _____ # of persons x \$120.00 = \$ _____

Non-member - \$130.00 per person, includes banquet _____ # of persons x \$130.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL REGISTRATION \$ _____

Banquet expected to be two (2) meat buffet.

Vendor Tables/Spaces Train Show Friday, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Train Show is open to the public, each attendee \$5.00 each/day

Tables \$25.00 each 8' x 2'-6" _____ # of tables x \$25.00 = \$ _____

Vendor pass does not allow attendance to the convention functions.

(Vendor spouses will receive complimentary pass to attend and help at "train show" and "spouse activities" only.

Vendors wishing to attend Banquet: \$35.00 each person _____ # of persons x \$35.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL VENDOR REGISTRATION COST \$ _____

Vendor Attendee Names: _____

Send Completed Registration Form & Payment to:

Whit Johnson, Registrar
1117 E. 16th Street South
Newton, Iowa 50208
steam2856@gmail.com

Make check payable to:
(MCoR) Mid-Continent Region of NMRA
Information: Whit Johnson, Registrar at email or
telephone, evenings only please, cell (815)342-0301



RAMADA
Ramada Midtown Conference Center

Ask for MCoR Group Rate,
\$147.00, includes breakfast
To register on line:

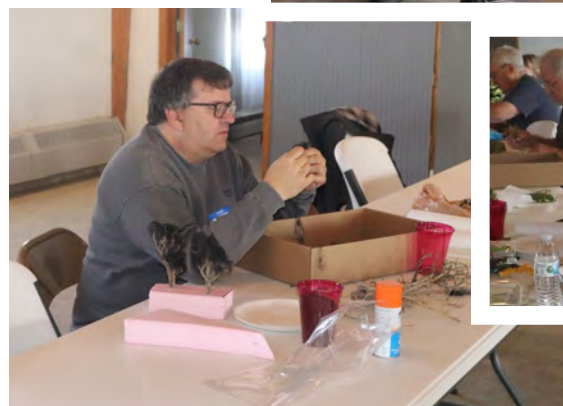
[Hotel Registration Here](#)

Amenities:
Pool, Exercise Room
Billiards, Ping-pong

Hands-on Workshop: Making Trees with Greg Gramlich

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

On February 24, 2024, the Gateway Division held its first Hands-on Workshop of the year. Greg Gramlich conducted the workshop on making trees. The workshop covered making various types of trees from a large variety of natural and man-made materials. Instruction covered a wide array of armatures, branches, and foliage. Participants were able to experiment on their own and gain knowledge from their fellow participants. This is the second making trees workshop conducted by the Division as scheduling issues in 2023 resulted in many participants having to miss the activity. Thanks to Willie Richter and the City of West Alton, Missouri for the use of their facility. The Division would like to hear from you on the content of future Hands-on Workshops. Please e-mail Superintendent Jim Ables at jim.d.ables@gmail.com with your thoughts and suggestions for future workshops.



AP Certificates and Merit Awards

By Dan Knipp, Gateway Division Presentations Chair

Dave Ackmann, the Gateway Division Achievement Program Chair had a busy evening at the April 15, 2024 member meeting handing out awards and achievement certificates. Two Division members received merit awards for eight models judged at the Division's Fall Meet in November 2023. Additionally, two Division members met the requirements for a total of three Achievement Program Certificates.

If you are interested in learning more about the Achievement Program or working towards your certificates as part of a work group, please contact Dave Ackmann at Ackmanns@charter.net.

The Division will be holding the next Fall Meet on November 2, 2024, so get those models ready to show off and also judged for AP Merit Awards if you so choose!



Greg Gramlich (left) receives his Association Volunteer and Master Car Builder Achievement Program certificates from Dave Ackmann, the Gateway Division AP Chair (right). Greg also received 4 merit awards for cars at the November 2023 Gateway Division Fall Meet.



Glenn Koproske (left) receives his Association Volunteer Achievement Program certificate from Dave Ackmann, the Gateway Division AP Chair (right).



David Lowell (left) receives his 4 Merit Awards for structures at the November 2023 Fall Meet from Dave Ackmann, the Gateway Division AP Chair (right).

Paint and Weather Flatcar Decks

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division



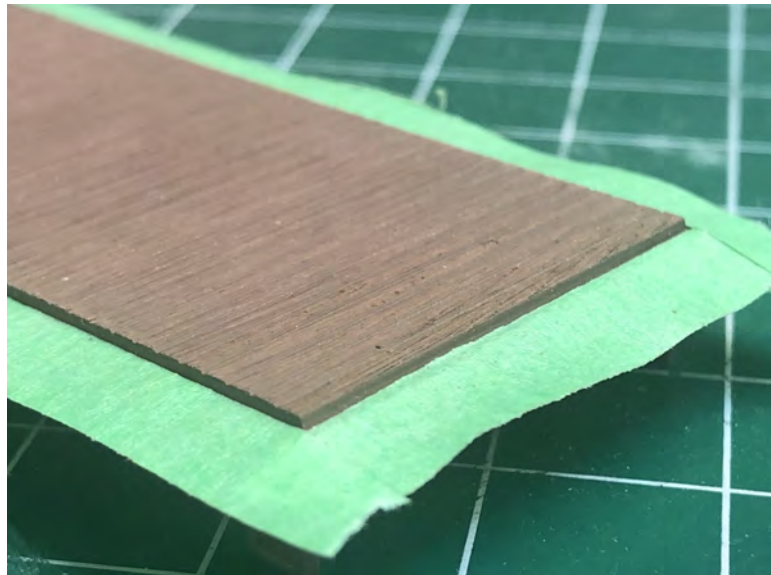
If you are like me, then you like putting together freight car kits. It's even better if it is a shake-the-box kit that you can dress up into a respectable model at a lower cost. As it seems kits are no longer in fashion, you can find all sorts of unbuilt kits (and assembled models if you desire) at swap meets and train shows for a decent price. You can take these new found treasures and shake the box or you can detail them to whatever degree suits your interest.

For my purposes, I like a decent looking car but it doesn't have to be superdetailed to ride the rails. Sometimes I choose to do minor upgrades and other times it's new stirrups, grabs, cut levers, and the sort.

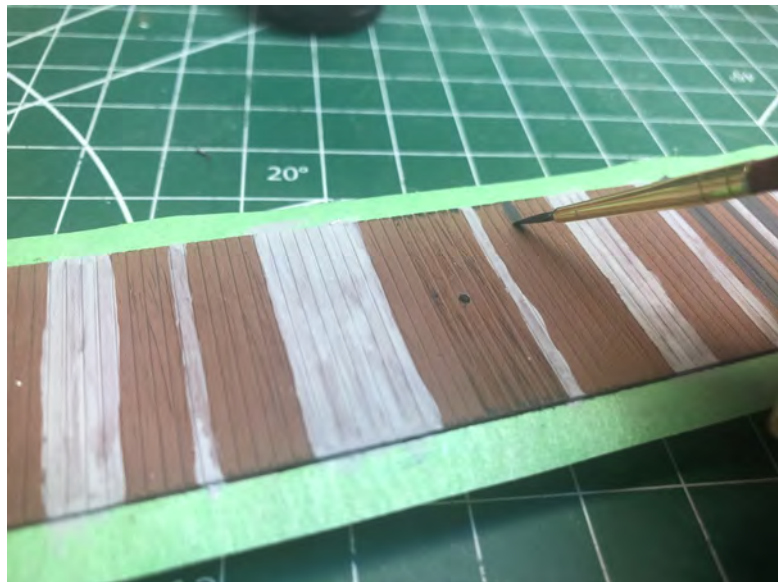
For these flatcars, I was more interested in getting a couple kits assembled with an upgraded deck. I also wanted to try replacing the brake wheel stand that really looks too heavy and thick on this car.

What follows is how I upgraded the appearance of the flatcar decks and brake wheel on an Athearn 40-ft shake the box flatcar kit. I don't claim the kits are prototypically accurate or that the brake wheel upgrade is 100% spot on. What I do claim is that you can have some fun over the course of an evening making an inexpensive kit look better, have fun doing it, and not cost yourself a fortune in the process.

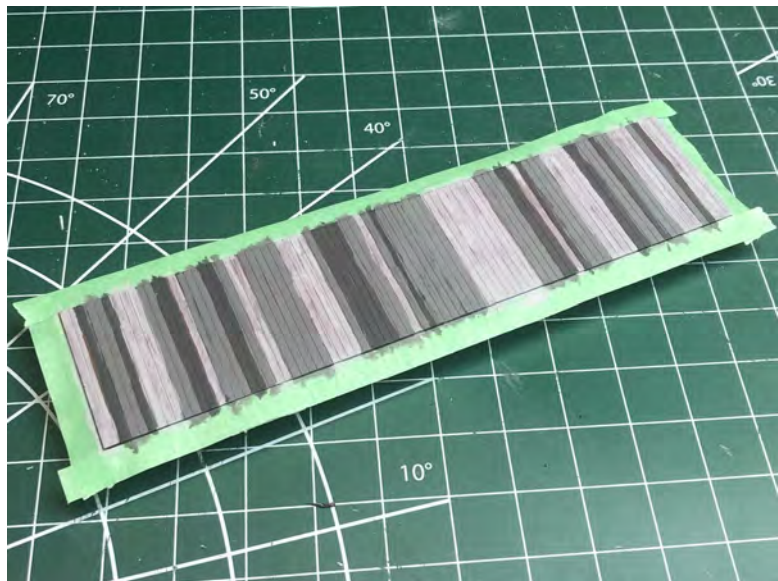
Step 1: First, remove the brake wheel stand. Then take a razor saw and drag across the deck to give the boards a little more grain and a little more depth for the painting and weathering. I then mask off the deck leaving the edges and ends of the deck boards exposed.



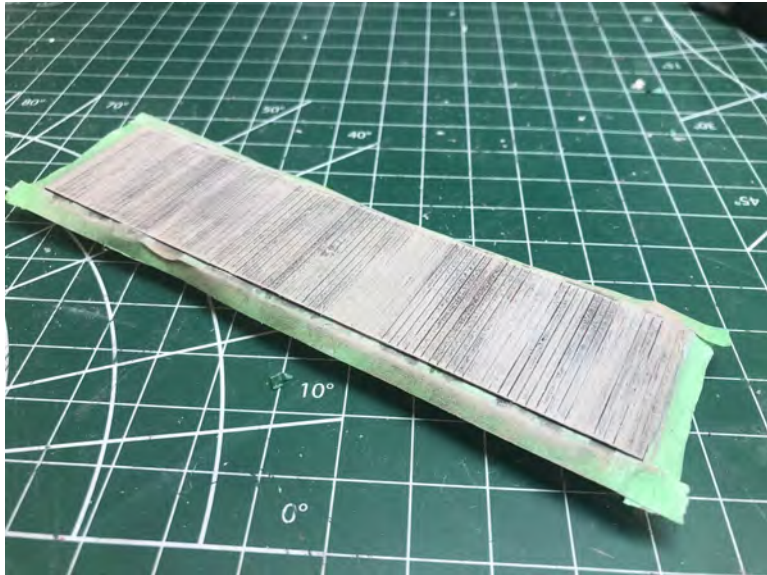
Step 2: I paint each board in random shades of gray (and tan if you want) acrylic paint. Whatever you have on hand is fine. You don't have to be perfect with this step as following steps will blend any waviness in your paint lines. I also group boards together with the same color to make the process go faster. Don't forget to paint the edges and ends of the boards.



Step 3: How the deck appears after I finish randomly painting the boards. Also note that this method does not require the paint to fully cover the color underneath.



Step 4: Dry brush a light gray color over the entire deck to blend the colors together and take away the starkness of the various colors of paint. Once dry, seal the deck with your choice of clear matte paint. I used Krylon matte finish.



Step 5: Once the clear coat has dried, I then brushed the deck with a mixture of India ink and alcohol. I repeat this step until I am happy with the results.



Step 6: I further weathered the decks by applying various shades of chalks with foam cosmetic wedges. I then sealed the deck one more time with the Krylon clear matte and let it dry.



Step 7: Once the last clear coat dried, I installed the new brake wheel. This brake wheel is the Tichy #3003 Vertical Brake Staff.



Step 8: I painted the brake wheel, staff, and bracket in a color that matched "close enough" to the body color of the flatcar. In this picture you can see the new Tichy brake on the left compared to the stock, molded on brake stand with brake wheel attached on the right.



Photo Tour of Rene LaVoise's Sedalia & Warsaw

Layout Description from the Gateway 2022 National Convention Time Table
Photos by Jeff Cooper

This HO scale layout represents the Missouri Pacific branchline in western Missouri. It extends 43 miles from the connection with the Missouri Pacific at Sedalia to the Osage River at Warsaw. There are four intermediate stations on the layout: from north to south they are: Mora, Cole Camp, Tahoma, and Lincoln.









Station to Station: Marion, Illinois

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

Station to Station is a regular feature that highlights depots and stations in the Gateway Division whether they still exist or have since faded into history.



This depot sits alongside the Chicago, Paducah & Memphis/Chicago & Eastern Illinois/Missouri Pacific/Union Pacific tracks in Marion, Illinois. The Chicago, Paducah & Memphis arrived in Marion from Effingham in 1895. The C&EI acquired the CP&M in 1899 and began extending the line south towards Thebes, Illinois; however, there was a problem in Marion. The Illinois Central already had east to west tracks in Marion and did not feel any urgency to allow a competitor to cross their line. Legend has it that in 1903, the

C&EI, frustrated by IC's refusal to let them cross, bought off the guards one night and built a crossing so that they could continue their journey southward.

The original depot for the line was located north of the Illinois Central crossing as that is as far as the line ran until the C&EI built their midnight crossing. Once the tracks were extended, the C&EI built their new 26-ft by 106-ft brick depot, the one pictured here, sometime between 1903 and 1908. The C&EI moved the

original depot across the tracks from their new depot to be used as a telegraph office for railroad personnel. The old depot was later demolished.

At one time, four passenger trains per day, including overnight service to Chicago, stopped in Marion. Passenger service out of the Marion depot began falling off in the mid-1920's resulting in 2 trains per day being discontinued. Years later, passenger service was

relegated to a single Budd Rail Diesel Car named the "Meadowlark." It was discontinued in 1961 which ended all passenger service in and out of Marion.

As passenger service ended, the C&E converted the depot into a freight house until it was finally vacated after the Missouri Pacific took over. MP sold the depot in 1976 to the Marion Lions Club for \$750 but leased them the land upon which the depot stood. The Lions Club rehabilitated the building for its own use, as well as renting office space for another business. According to property tax records, the land underneath the depot is no longer owned by the railroad. The depot is still in use today for commercial purposes.

Sources of information about the depot:
<https://www.mihp.org/2012/12/cei-railroad-depot/>

<https://www.lionsclubmarionil.com/history-of-marion-club.html>



Structural Elements: Hazel Ridge Road Timber Overpass, Gallatin County, IL

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

Structural Elements is a regular feature where we will examine both rail and non-rail structures and scenes to bring attention to the details that you can incorporate into your models and layout.

Mundane details tend to be overlooked as our eyes are looking for the unusual or interesting.

Through this feature, we want to highlight the ordinary and often overlooked details.

The Hazel Ridge Road timber overpass, located in the extreme northwest part of Gallatin County, Illinois once carried Hazel Ridge Road across the Big Four/ New York Central/Penn Central/Conrail/Southern railroad. Hazel Ridge Road intersected with US Route 45 at a point 4/10ths of a mile south of the US 45 and Illinois 141 intersection. As another point of reference, the overpass is across US 45 from the Hazel Ridge Church.

While the railroad was abandoned in the mid-1980's, the timber overpass continued to serve vehicle traffic into the late 20-teens. The overpass was still in use in 2018 but had been taken out of service sometime between 2018 and 2022. The bridge is structurally deficient and appears that both repairs and replacement are cost prohibitive for this country road. Today, the site is overgrown and unless you know where it is or are paying close attention as you travel along US 45, you are likely to miss it all together after the leaves reappear in the Spring.





The eastern abutment undercut by erosion



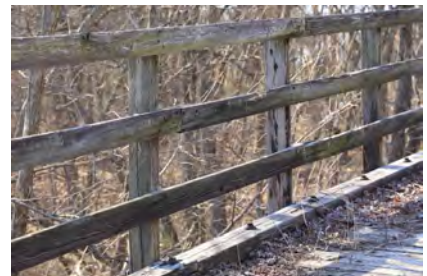
Closeup of the footings supporting the bents



The bents meet the stringers underneath



Diagonal bracing between the first and second bents



Left: One of the four bents

Middle: Closeup of the joint and hardware at the point where the diagonal bracing meets the bent

Above: Closeup of the bridge railing and bolt details

Editor's Observations: Productive Procrastination

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

Staring at a blank column is much like staring at a fresh sheet of styrene. Nothing is going to become of it unless you do something with it. That sounds pretty straightforward, but ultimately it is easier said than done. Sometimes nothing becomes of the blank slate due to family or work commitments. Maybe health issues have become front and center and other things have to be delayed. Maybe you've lost interest in the project and need a fresh challenge. Maybe you are simply procrastinating. If it is the latter, is it regular old run of the mill procrastination or is it "productive" procrastination? What is productive procrastination you ask? Well, I first heard the phrase a few weeks ago during a online photography video in which the photographer was commenting on people taking more time to plan their photography pursuits than getting outside and actually shooting photos. These photographers were doing research on locations, trails, weather, and every possible detail that just kept going on and on; however, the photographers never found the time to actually take the photos. I thought to myself, boy, that sounds familiar in many of my stalled projects, from model railroading to photography to working on the house (I am still investigating the best way using the best materials with the best design to remodel my bathroom yet make it cost effective). So, I looked it up online to find out more about this new-fangled type of procrastination. Apparently, the phrase "productive procrastination" has been around for a while and somehow, even though I've been doing it and doing it very well, I was unaware that someone took the time to give it a name.

According to what I found with my favorite search engine, rambox.app defines productive procrastination as "putting off tasks in favor of other activities that are still productive but not necessarily what you should be doing now." In terms of model railroading, this can present itself as research. I can't start building my layout until I know much more about the specific branchline/specific towns/specific buildings in that town/exact consists, etc.... This is not a criticism of researching and learning all of that information. But if you aren't actually building a layout because you've been researching every single nuance of your chosen interest for the past 5 years, are you ever going to build that layout? Some people are content with the knowledge aspect of railroads and really don't care if they build a model. Others aren't concerned with strict prototype practices and build whatever they like. Others fall somewhere else in the spectrum. That's OK. There are darn few wrong ways to enjoy this hobby. The purpose of me talking about productive procrastination is just to make it top of mind to see if you see yourself in those words. I know I do. I'm not building a layout right now because the building where the layout will live needs plumbing, electrical, and HVAC work (not to mention be de-junked). I also need to design said layout which means I need to narrow down my modeling aspirations. So, I will ask myself again why I am not building a layout? It is because I am putting off de-junking the space and working on the infrastructure. Ahhhh. There it is. Procrastination. But wait, while I am putting off working on the infrastructure, I am researching what I want to model, getting track charts, digging up Sanborn maps, saving old photos found on the internet....you know, being productive. I'm not

***rambox.app defines
productive procrastination
as "putting off tasks in
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but not necessarily what
you should be doing now."***

wasting time. I'm researching and you can't build a layout without research....but I'm not actually delaying building the layout, I'm delaying the infrastructure work. So that little lie I keep telling myself inside my head that I am not building that layout but I am being productive with research is masking the reality. I'm not building the layout because I am putting off working on the space.

A close cousin to productive procrastination is paralysis by analysis. I am guilty of this, too. It looks a lot like procrastination but it really isn't. According to fastercapital.com, many people use paralysis by analysis interchangeably with productive procrastination, but they really are not the same. Paralysis by analysis results from having too many options or having something too complex. Procrastination on the other hand is delaying taking action even when you know what needs to be done. Here's what paralysis by analysis looks like in my modeling world: I am wanting to work on a Shell gas station that was once located in Patoka, Illinois. I have the photos I've taken. I have photos from the internet, both aerial and street level. I even saw a photo of a float in a parade that was built by the gas station owners and it had two gas pumps on it and everything was decked out Shell red and yellow. What am I hung up on? I've been researching trying to figure out what other products or services were being sold/provided out of the attached structure. With paralysis by analysis, you typically don't take action because you are afraid of making a mistake or the project is so complex that you cannot move forward. With productive procrastination, you are delaying a project and rationalizing the delay by telling yourself that it is OK because you are being productive doing these other things while you are getting ready to do what you really want (or need) to do. In this case, I am stuck because I can't figure out what else was housed in this building. The gas station and repair bay are readily evident. But then there is this attached structure that housed a couple of other things. Could there have been a diner and/or a little market? Maybe they sold auto and farm implement parts. Maybe they sold used cars. The way the add-on looks, there were two other lines of business attached to this gas station. I know I shouldn't be hung up on this but it has stopped me from progressing. Heck, there may be a few people who will know if I got it wrong, but the vast majority will not. So, I just need to get over it, build the building with whatever I decide to do with the attached structure, and then sit back and admire my handiwork. If the information ever surfaces down the road I can always go back and update it if I want.

According to fastercapital.com, you can overcome paralysis by analysis by setting clear goals and priorities. You can also break down complex decisions into smaller, more manageable pieces and to focus on the most important factors. In my case with the Shell station, the most important factor is to build a reasonable facsimile of the actual station. Signs and details can be changed later, if need be. Their recommendation to overcome procrastination is to develop good habits and routines, set aside specific times for the task you want to accomplish, and to eliminate distractions like television or surfing the internet. I will add more to that to address the "productive" part of productive procrastination. While I feel like doing all this research on which elements and details to include in my next layout is productive, it really isn't at this stage of the game for me. I need to be working on the infrastructure so that I can build that dream layout. What is the point of doing all of this layout planning (being "productive") if I never get the building in shape to house the layout? The layout will never get built is that answer.

Much like I am no longer looking at a blank column to complete because I got to work, it is time for me to get to work on getting things ready for that future layout that I keep researching while getting hung up on which businesses to include in the gas station model. Now having given myself a pep talk, will I go get busy doing something? Maybe tomorrow. The new episode of Top Chef is on tonight. Hmmmm. That doesn't seem productive but it has procrastination written all over it.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2024

Call to Order

Superintendent Jimmy Ables called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Etiquette

Mr. Ables welcomed in-person and Zoom attendees. Mr. Ables reminded all participants to silence their cell phones, speak one at a time, limit side conversations, and state their name when speaking. Zoom attendees were reminded to mute their lines. Finally, Mr. Ables noted that the business meeting is being recorded.

New Members/Visitors Recognition

Mr. Ables asked if there were any new members or visitors attending the meeting. There was one visitor.

Minutes from the December 18, 2023 Meeting

Mr. Ables presented the minutes from the December 18, 2023 meeting. There were no questions or corrections.

The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Financial Reports

Bill Levin presented the December financial report. Mr. Levin reported the Division ended the year with a loss for the year of \$454 which was better than projected. He also noted that we are getting a better handle on recurring expenses. The bank account ended the year with a balance of \$25,261.56.

2024 Budget

Mr. Levin presented the draft budget for 2024. We are projecting an approximate loss of \$1,000 for the upcoming year. A new line item, Directors and Officers liability insurance costing \$500 per year is contributing to the projected loss. Mr. Levin reported that the budget will be finalized and brought to an upcoming meeting. A member asked about any costs associated with the 2024 Christmas Party. Mr. Ables noted that there was not a holiday party in 2023 as no one stepped up to volunteer to make the arrangements. It is scheduled for the 3rd Monday in November this year; however, if no one volunteers to chair the event, there will not be a holiday party again in 2024. A member asked for an explanation of Directors and Officers liability insurance. Mr. Levin explained that it protects the officers and directors of the division in the event of a lawsuit. These days many lawsuits are not legitimate but officers and directors would still have to hire attorneys to fight the lawsuit whether it is valid or not. The insurance covers the attorney costs, as well as other costs associated with lawsuits and other issues related to the officers and directors. NMRA National has general liability insurance that extends to the Divisions but their D&O coverage does not; therefore, it is necessary for the Divisions to procure their own policy.

Wheel Sets and Gauges

Mr. Levin reported that the Division is out of wheelsets to sell to members. The last order to restock the wheelsets was 3 to 4 years ago so it has taken a while to sell the last order. Mr. Levin has a few NMRA gauges available if anyone would like to make a purchase. The members were then polled to see if there was any interest in restocking the wheelsets. Mr. Levin noted that the Division selling prices is close to what they can be purchased for online.

Bob Miller motioned that the Division stop purchasing wheelsets for resale. Walter Beckman seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Next Hands-on Workshop

Mr. Ables reported the next Hands-on Workshop will be on February 24, 2024 and the topic will be making trees. Greg Gramlich will lead the workshop and there is no cost to attend. Anyone interested in attending should e-mail Mr. Gramlich to sign up as we need a list of who to expect so that if the weather turns off bad we can send out updates. A member questioned if the topic is being repeated. Mr. Ables noted that we are re-doing the workshop as the previous one was lightly attended due to scheduling conflicts.

Suggestions for Topics for Future Hands-on Workshops

Mr. Ables asked members to provide suggestions for future topics for the hands-on workshops so that we are providing subject matter that interests our members. Members suggested airbrushing, JMRI, and assembling donated kits.

Open Positions

Mr. Ables reported on the open positions in the Division and requested volunteers to help out. The positions are Assistant Clerk, Publicity Chair which consists of organizing our presence at select train shows, posting to the Division Facebook account, and assisting with the Fall Meet, Assistant Operations Coordinator for Illinois, and Holiday Party Chair to organize the one-time per year holiday party in November. Mr. Ables noted that members will receive credits towards the Achievement Program Volunteer Certificate for helping out in any of these positions.

AP Updates

Dave Ackmann reported on Greg Gramlich receiving certificates for Structures and Scenery and Glenn Koproske receiving his certificate for Scenery. Mr. Ackmann noted that these members received help from members inside and outside the Division as they worked towards their certificates and it was all because of connections made at our Division events. Mr. Ackmann also noted that Mr. Koproske asked for input on a structure that had not merited. Mr. Ackmann provided him information on the judging matrix, things that judges look for, and tips for completing paperwork. Mr. Ackmann closed with offering to assist any member who has questions about the AP or who is interested in becoming an evaluator.

Fall Meet

Brad Joseph asked to provide an update on the 2024 Fall Meet. Mr. Joseph reported that the primary goal is to increase attendance at the meet. His priorities are marketing, streamlining the contest room, coming up with some unique awards, developing a timetable, providing Q&A and demonstration tables, and providing family activities. Mr. Joseph and members discussed ideas to streamline the contest room whereby e-mails would be sent to contest entrants prior to meets to ensure they were ready to go first thing in the morning, to automate that process with spreadsheets, and to count ballots as they come in. Mr. Joseph closed with requests for volunteers to help out with the Fall Meet.

Club Updates

Brian Post reported that the National Narrow Gauge Convention will be in Collinsville in 2025 and they are in need of volunteers and layouts for tours. Anyone who is interested in helping out can contact Mr. Post.

Glenn Koproske reported that there were four N scale layouts at the Great Train Show. The Boeing group is shutting down their layout so the Mississippi Valley N-Scalers may be adding some new modules to their layout and some new members to their organization.

Bob Miller reported that the next work session for the Jefferson County layout will be at his house at 1 p.m. on January 21, 2024.

Membership Update

Glenn Koproske, Membership Chair, reported that National no longer tracks "Re-rail" members. He also noted that National is getting new members assigned to the Region but not always the Division. Finally, he noted that National does not capture data for date of birth (info is optional by members), so we do not have a complete understanding of our age demographics.

"Ask Us Anything"

Mr. Ables reported that a new agenda item will appear at future meetings whereby members can ask anyone in attendance for help or ideas on any topics related to model and prototype railroads.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Ables announced upcoming events:

January 27 and 28, 2024, Great Train Show, St. Charles Convention Center,
St. Charles, MO; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

February 24, 2024, Pacific Eagles Train Show, 707 West Congress Street, Pacific, MO; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

March 9, 2024, Boeing Employees' Railroad Club - St. Louis Railroad Swap Meet, Greensfelder Recreation Complex at Queeny Park; 550 Wiedman Road, Ballwin, MO; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

March 10, 2024, Springfield Train Fair, Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds,
Springfield, IL; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Earlybird entrance at 9 a.m. for additional cost.

Other Business/Announcements

There were no other items of business or announcements.

50/50 Drawing

Walter Beckman won the 50/50 drawing.

Presentation

January Presentation: Dave Ackmann presented an update to his 3D printing "Generator" software. In 2022, Dave introduced his "Generator" software, a personal computer program that creates custom 3D models for basic structural components. Walls, roofing, windows, and more are created on demand without having to learn Computer Aided Design (CAD). This new clinic covered what Dave created in the ensuing 18 months: rafters, arched roofing, trestle bents, awnings, shutters, staircases, railings, balconies, billboard framing, and so much more.

Next Meetings/Events

Mr. Ables announced that the following upcoming Division events:

February 24, 2024: Hands-on Workshop, Making Trees with Greg Gramlich, West Alton City Hall,
111 Richard Drive, West Alton, MO, 9:30 a.m.

March 18, 2024: Membership Meeting with Presentation: Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road, Town and Country, MO, 7 p.m.

Adjourn

Mr. Ables adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Cooper, Clerk, Gateway Division

Meeting Minutes for March 18, 2024

Call to Order

Superintendent Jimmy Ables called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

Meeting Etiquette

Mr. Ables welcomed in-person and Zoom attendees. Mr. Ables reminded all participants to silence their cell phones, speak one at a time, limit side conversations, and state their name when speaking. Zoom attendees were reminded to mute their lines. Finally, Mr. Ables noted that the business meeting is being recorded.

New Members/Visitors Recognition

Mr. Ables asked if there were any new members or visitors attending the meeting. There was one visitor.

Minutes from the January 15, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Ables presented the minutes from the January 15, 2024 meeting. There were no questions or corrections.

The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Financial Reports

Bill Levin presented the January and February financial reports. Mr. Levin reported the Division paid the \$531 annual premium of the Directors and Officers Liability Insurance policy in January and there was only interest revenue in February. The ending cash balances for January and February were \$24,712.15 and \$24,720.93 respectively. The March financial statement will have a new line that reports the amount invested CD's in the Schwab brokerage account. A member asked if we would consider accepting credit cards at the fall meet. At this time, the entrance fee will remain cash only as the experience with taking cards via cell phone has been spotty.

AP Update

Dave Ackmann presented Glenn Koproske with his AP certificate for Association Volunteer and Greg Gramlich certificates for Cars and Association Volunteer. Mr. Ackmann presented Merit Awards to Greg Gramlich for several cars and David Lowell for multiple structures from the 2023 Fall Meet.

Club Updates

Carl Wessel reported that the Mexico, MO club has been working since last May to replace the entire layout electrical system. Operations should resume in June or July.

Glenn Koproske reported that Mississippi Valley N-Scalers had 60 T-Track modules at the Springfield train show. Mr. Koproske further reported that the organizers of the Springfield train show sold more tables this year than last year.

Bob Miller reported that the Jefferson County layout has been undergoing a module conversion to decrease the amount of time it takes to set up the layout.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Ables announced upcoming events:

March 22, 2024, National Museum of Transportation EVENING Model Train Swap Meet, Earl C. Lindburg Automobile Center, Upper Parking Lot Entrance #2, 2933 Barrett Station Road, Kirkwood, MO; 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

April 13, 2024, 4th Sons of the American Legion Spring Train Show,

Dupo American Legion Post #485, 200 South 5th Street, Dupo, IL; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

April 27, 2024, Iron Spike 8th Anniversary Train Show, City Auditorium, 211 High Street, Washington, MO; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Other Business/Announcements

Mr. Ables reported that American Model Builders closed up their operations and donated a large amount of items to the Division. Mr. Ables thanked Willie Richter, David Lowell, Walter Beckman, and John Kelly for assisting him with loading up the donated items. They are in storage and will be cataloged.

Mr. Ables reported that Greg Gramlich agreed to volunteer as the Publicity Chair for the Division and thanked him for his willingness to do so.

A member reported that Channel 9 is showing a series on scenic railroads across the country and that the series is available on DVD.

A member reported that the Mid-Continent Regional Convention will be in Grand Island, NE in June. They are in need of presenters and attendees. As a side note there is a spectacular western history museum at Grand Island.

Greg Gramlich reported that the next operations session on his layout is scheduled for 4/27 and members are encouraged to sign up.

50/50 Drawing

Tom Gaffuri won the 50/50 drawing.

Presentation

March Presentation: Edward M. Kohler of the Sunrise Trail Division presented:

"A Visit to Cass West Virginia - The Community." Many of us have ridden the Cass Scenic Railroad located in West Virginia and revel in its' steam powered geared locomotives. But how many of us have explored the history and structures of the community that developed hand and hand with the mill and the railroad? This 156 panel presentation attempts to fill that knowledge gap. The handout was e-mailed to all Division members with the meeting announcement.

Next Meetings/Events

Mr. Ables announced that the following upcoming Division events:

April 15, 2024: Membership Meeting with Presentation: VFW Post 805,
223 West 1st Street, O'Fallon, IL, 7 p.m.

May 18, 2024: Hand-on Workshop: West Alton City Hall, 111 Richard Drive,
West Alton, MO, 9:30 a.m.

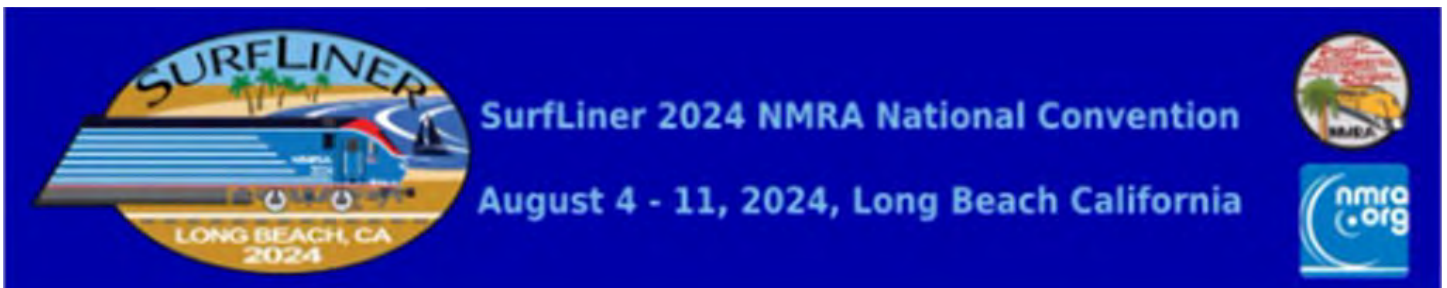
June 17, 2024: Membership Meeting with Presentation: VFW Post 805,
223 West 1st Street, O'Fallon, IL, 7 p.m.

Adjourn

Mr. Ables adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Cooper, Clerk, Gateway Division





**Spring 2024:
Volume 32, Number 1**

The RPO is the official publication of the Gateway Division of the National Model Railroad Association

Editor: Jeff Cooper

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Articles may be submitted as handwritten, typed, plain unformatted text on paper, USB flash drive, or via email to the editor. Photo submissions may be made as digital files or as prints. Submissions can be e-mailed to the editor at:

rpoeditor@outlook.com

If your submission will be by a method other than e-mail, please contact Jeff Cooper at 618-889-8907 by call or text.

Submission deadlines:

Spring: April 1
Summer: July 1
Fall: October 1
Winter: January 1

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www.gatewaynmra.org

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Mascoutah, IL

Assistant Superintendent

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St. Louis, MO

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Jeff Cooper
Marion, IL

Paymaster (Treasurer)

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Chesterfield, MO

Division Director

David Lowell
St. Louis, MO

Past-Superintendent

Willie Richter
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Contests

Chris Oestreich

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Brad Joseph, MMR

IT

Willie Richter

Layout Tours

Dave Roeder, MMR

Membership

Glenn Koproske

Operations

Greg Gramlich

Publicity

Greg Gramlich

Webmaster

Richard Schumacher

Share Your Talents!

Do you have some photos of your layout or of your latest project (whether they are finished or not)? Do you belong to a club? Why not submit information and photos of what your group has accomplished? How about some vintage or current railfan photos? Have you told others how you handle operations on your layout? Why don't you show off your latest structure? Can others learn from how you weather freight cars or locomotives? Are you good at scenery or painting backdrops? Are you a grizzled veteran of the model railroading hobby? Share your lessons learned. Are you new to the hobby? Write an article about how you became interested in the hobby and what you hope to accomplish. We will help you write the article and even take photos if you want us to. We want to highlight the great work of the Gateway Division members. Send your photos, articles, outlines, or ideas to me at rpoeditor@outlook.com.

Club Directory



Mississippi Valley N Scalpers

The **Mississippi Valley N Scalpers** LLC model railroad club was founded in April of 1990. It is

the oldest exclusive N scale club in the St. Louis Metro area. The club owns both fixed and modular (NTRAK and T-TRAK) layouts. Their members come from both sides of the Mississippi river. They share a common love of model railroading and a sincere interest in sharing their knowledge and expertise with fellow members. If you would like to join, you can attend a meeting or visit <http://mvns.railfan.net/> for more information.



The **Big Bend Railroad Club** is a 2-Rail O Scale model railroad club that started in 1938 and is located at the Frisco depot at 8833 Big Bend Boulevard in Webster Groves, MO. The club

operates for the public on the first Tuesday of the month (Except holidays) from 7:00 PM until around 8:30 PM, with extra nights in December, and other days for special occasions. They meet each Tuesday at the station. The public is welcome to drop by on any Tuesday evening and have a look around, but be aware that there may not be any activity on the layout other than the ongoing repair work. For more information, visit <http://www.bigbendrclub.org>



The **Mudhens** are a club promoting narrow gauge railroading modeled in HO scale. They are dedicated to high quality modeling, improving skills,

and enhancing others enjoyment of model railroading. New members and visitors are always welcome. A featured sectional group of tables exists in St. Louis, MO and consists of an eight-table loop plus one table for connecting a branch line. Other fine modular and sectional groups exist in Arizona, Illinois, Texas, and Colorado. If you are interested in learning more about The Mudhens or becoming a member, visit <https://www.themudhens.org/>



Do you like to operate, collect, or just want to learn more about Lionel and other types of O-Gauge Model Trains? The **Lionel Railroad Club of St. Louis** may be the club for you! The Club has two portable layouts that they display at various

venues throughout the year. As a member you can work on and operate your trains on any of these layouts. Membership benefits also include access to train related DVDs, books, and magazines, programs on railroads of today and yesterday, and exclusive club products such as die cast vehicles, shirts, hats, mugs, and Club Lionel Licensed Cars. For more information visit <http://www.lionelrrclubstl.com>



Gateway Free-Mo is a group of model railroaders in the Midwest centered around the St. Louis, MO area (100-200 mile radius). The group consists of

model railroaders that are interested in prototypical modeling using the Free-Mo modular concept to build, assemble, and operate a model railroad. Midwest railroad prototypes, such as MP, RI SLSF, Wabash, C&NW, L&N, and GM&O, as well as the modern empires such as NS, UP, and BNSF are emphasized and Midwest scenes are featured on the layout. The group has a Facebook Group called Gateway Free-Mo. For more information, contact Ricky Keil at 314-591-0152, message through the Facebook Group or e-mail rkeil6721@hotmail.com



The **St. Louis Live Steamers** is an organization interested in the construction of large scale model railroads, in steam railroad history and operations, and in steam technology generally. The SLLS seeks to share these interests with

the general public and provide opportunities in the community for everyone to learn about steam railroad history and technology. Their trains are 1/8 scale, also known as 1.5 inches to the foot. The rails are spaced 7.5 inches apart and a section of the railroad has an additional rail spacing of 4.75 inches to accommodate one-inch scale equipment.

For more information visit <http://www.stlouislivesteamers.org/>

Club Directory



The purpose of the **St. Charles Model Railroad Club** is to enjoy the hobby of Model Railroading in a group setting and promoting the hobby to the general public. It is their goal to enhance the enjoyment of the hobby for the members through the discussion of history and current events in the hobby, through the study of prototype railroads so that the members may apply that knowledge to their modeling, and to provide a forum where new ideas and techniques in modeling may be explored. The current club layout is the traditional permanent type. For more information visit <https://www.stcharlesrailroadclub.org/>.



The **Gateway Garden Railroad Club** continues to grow and includes the entire St. Louis area. There are even several out-of-town members. The club participates in many shows and special events each year. Also, the club currently maintains the

Large Scale Railroad that is suspended from the ceiling in the crossover from the garage entrance to Children's Hospital on Kingshighway in St. Louis. All big train enthusiasts are encouraged to join: Collectors, rivet counters, garden railroaders, indoor railroaders, live steamers, etc. We are an equal opportunity club; just bring your love of big trains. For more information visit <http://ggrrc.com/>.



The **Metro East Model Railroad Club** is located in Glen Carbon, IL. The HO scale layout is 18'6" wide by 27'6" long and has roughly 1000' of track on several levels. It includes a freight yard, a passenger yard, and a staging yard. The upper level features a depiction of the Glen Carbon area in the 1940's. The lower levels feature the club's fictitious 'Glen Carbon Central' Railroad, a large steel mill, and a coal mine. The club holds regular business meetings in the Glen Carbon Library on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. In addition, work/play sessions are held every non-1st Thursday at 6:30 p.m. For more information visit <http://www.trainweb.org/memrc/>.



The **Jefferson County and Southern Model Railroad Club** is an HO scale model railroad club that models the Bonne Terre Railroad (Missouri-Illinois/Missouri Pacific). The club's display layout is a 14-by-44-foot section of a larger layout. It features a dual main line and Jefferson County and Ozark-type scenery. They typically have monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Modelers interested in joining may become provisional members for a year and then may be promoted to club member. For more information, check out the club Facebook page. Those interested in joining can send an email to Bob Miller at bobnjoanstimo@gmail.com.

K-10's Model Trains Maryville, Illinois

K-10's Model Trains is a hobby shop with a 60' x 81' layout attached to the shop. The purpose of the layout is to demonstrate new products and techniques. The layout room includes a dispatcher and observation platform that is handicapped accessible. The layout includes three major railroads (ATSF, UP & SP) that all interchange with each other, two short lines, and five major industries. Adult train running will start at 7 p.m. every Thursday night with the third Thursday night being "OPS" night. Saturday adult volunteer train running will start about 1 p.m. 2023 Sunday Kids Train Running is TBA depending on better local Covid and Flu conditions. For more information visit <https://www.k-10smodeltrains.com/>

Don't see your club listed? Send us your club information to rpoeditor@outlook.com and we will include it in the next issue!

Local Hobby Shop Directory

Castle Trains and Treasures

4782 Old Jacksonville Road
Springfield, IL 62711
(217) 793-0407

Mark Twain Hobby Center

2793 W Clay Street
St. Charles, MO 63301
(636) 946-2816
hobby1.com

Red Board Hobbies

2331 Old Collinsville Rd #C
Belleville, IL 62221
(618) 233-3618
redboardhobbies.com

Checkered Flag Hobby Country

3847 Lemay Ferry Road
St. Louis, MO 63125
(314) 843-7800
checkeredflaghobby.com

Meadow Ridge Trains & Hobbies

520 E State Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 395-4910
Follow on Facebook

Rodney's Trains & Toys

9622 Gravois Road
St. Louis, MO 63123
(314) 638-8250
Follow on Facebook

Chuck's Depot

1913 West Rendleman
Marion, IL 62959
(618) 993-9179

Please Support Your Hobby Shop

Don't see your shop listed?
Send us your information to
rpoeditor@outlook.com and
we will include it in the next
issue!

Shop Local

Schaefer's Hobby Shop

11659 Gravois Road
St. Louis, MO 63126
(314) 729-7077
schaeferhobby.com

Frisco Train & Toy Store

24 Front Street
Valley Park, MO 63088
(636) 529-1660
friscotrainstore.com

Switch Stand Train Shop

9120 Lackland Road
Overland, MO 63114
(314) 733-1029
switchstandtrainshop.com

K-10's Model Trains

19 Schiber Court
Maryville, IL 62062
(618) 288-9720
k-10smodeltrains.com

Neal's N-Gauging Trains

100 W Main Street
Staunton, IL 62088
(618) 635-2525
nealsngauge.com

TAG Trains

Flora, IL
Visit tagtrains.net or follow
on Facebook to see their
train show schedule or to
submit an inquiry

Mainline Model Railroad Products

2436 Denver Drive
Springfield, IL 62702
(217) 679-1945
Follow on Facebook

North Central Hobbies

9630 Lackland Road
Overland, MO 63114
(314) 426-0031
nchobby.net

Train Town

9832 Manchester Road
St. Louis, MO 63119
(314) 716-2755
Follow on Facebook