



GATEWAY
ST. LOUIS

NMRA
MCoR

RPO

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION - GATEWAY DIVISION



Volume 32, Issue 3

Fall 2024

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Jim Ables, Superintendent, Gateway Division

Halloween is now behind us, so Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. Sorry, just getting ahead of the holidays. Speaking of holidays we're going to have a holiday party this year. We'll be at Crusoe's South, 5591 Oakville Shopping Center, St Louis, off Telegraph Rd. We'll start gathering around 6 pm. The party will be different from previous year's, everyone will order off the menu and pay their own way. The Division will take care of the gratuity. I hope you'll come out and bring your spouse or significant other. During the party we'll be presenting several significant awards. We'll be presenting two Life-Time Achievement Awards and we'll present our two newest Master Model Railroaders with their plaques and certificates. I hope you'll come out and join us.

Continued on Page 2

Table of Contents

Director's Reflections: Giving Thanks	3
Gateway Division Calendar	4
Upcoming Tour: Continental Fabricators	5
Upcoming 2024 Holiday Party	6
Upcoming Events	7
AP Update: The Delight is in the Details	8
Division Member Receives Two Awards	9
Help Wanted	9
Layout Tour: Litchfield Train Group	10
Joint Tour of Intramotev	19
St. Louis RPM Continues to Expand	24
Hands-on Workshop: Pan Pastels	29
Division Ops Session: K-10 Trains	31
Station to Station: Ullin, IL	34
Structural Elements: Murphysboro, IL	36
Editor's Observations: Thankful	39
Meeting Minutes	41
Division Officers and Chairs	45
Club Listings	46
Local Hobby Shop Directory	48

Cover Photo: A truck pulls away from the Maryville Farmers Cooperative as covered hoppers wait for their grain to be loaded on the Litchfield Train Group layout. See information and more photos of this great layout beginning on page 10. Photo by Jeff Cooper.

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

We're now into Fall so model railroading season has officially started. Get in your train room and get to work. I'm looking forward to getting started on a new layout and building some new structures with my 3D printer.

Speaking of Fall, the Fall Meet occurred November 2nd. Brad Joseph and team worked hard to put together the Fall Meet. Lots of changes occurred this year. David Lowell took over the contest room and he and Brad made some significant changes to the format that you probably saw the write-up in the Fall Meet Special Edition RPO. In addition, there were door prizes, raffles, lots of vendors, and modular layouts. Thanks to all the volunteers that made the Fall Meet a success.

Please take a moment at 11:00 am, November 11th to give thanks for the men and women who have served this country in peace and war throughout the centuries. If you know a veteran, thank them for their service.

On a more somber note, November 11th is Veteran's Day. At the 11th hour of the 11th day of November 1918 guns of World War 1 fell silent. President Woodrow Wilson designated November 11th of 1919 Armistice Day, Congress later changed it to Veterans Day, in honor the men and women who defended this country since it's beginnings. Please take a moment at 11:00 am, November 11th to give thanks for the men and women who have served this country in peace and war throughout the centuries. If you know a veteran, thank them for their service.

Greg Gramlich arranged for us to have a table at the December Great Train Show on December 8th & 9th. Greg is looking for volunteers to man the table on both days. We'll have morning and afternoon shifts. Contact Greg to volunteer, headbigbear@yahoo.com.

We don't have any presentations scheduled beyond November for our monthly meetings. Everyone in the Division has some level of knowledge or expertise they can share. Don't be shy, share what you know. If you need help putting together a presentation, contact me, I have a few decades of experience in putting together presentations for work and the Division. Dan Knipp is our presentation coordinator, 98dgk98@gmail.com.

As always, I want to thank the Division's volunteers. Board members can't do everything by themselves, it takes a team to make the Division run. I'd like to call out several of our essential volunteers.

Dan Knipp. Dan coordinates presentations for our monthly meetings. Dan pulls from Division members and outside sources to put together informative presentations.

Willie Richter. Willie took over Audiovisual when I became Superintendent. When you watch our meeting on Zoom it's Willie at the controls.

John Kelly. John is our assistant Paymaster. John works closely with Bill Levin in managing our finances and fills in for Bill when he's away.

It's these individuals along with the board who make the Division work. When you see Dan, Willie or John give them a pat on the back and say thank you.

Well, that wraps it up for this quarter. I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

Jimmy (Jim) Ables, Superintendent, Gateway Division

Director's Reflections: Giving Thanks

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

Well, as we approach the end of another trip around the sun, it seems that no sooner than Halloween landing in the rearview mirror, the very next day, if not sooner, it's like we are inundated with Thanksgiving Day and Christmas.

All kidding aside, as we move toward year end and Thanksgiving Day we should think about what we are thankful for. In our non-train lives we all have a multitude of bounty. I will leave each of you to ponder that for yourselves. Here, I will address the really important stuff like model railroading.

Let's start with one of the meeting venues we use. The VFW Hall in O'Fallon IL and by extension all veterans. As they saying goes all gave some and some gave all. We should be thankful to all veterans because their service to our country makes it possible for us to enjoy model railroading in a free country.

A second VFW Hall, in Collinsville, is where we were thankful for another Gateway Division (GWD) Fall Meet. This year was the second year back after the COVID hiatus. Even though we still had a few cob webs to shake out, the meet was still a success. We should all be thankful that Brad Joseph volunteered to lead this charge for us.

Thankful that the GWD is able to help the NMRA in our mission to promote model railroading by co-sponsoring the St. Louis Railroad Prototype Modelers (RPM) event, the premier RPM event in the country.

Thankful to all the officers, committee chairmen and committee members who give their time to keep this organization afloat so we can maximize our enjoyment from our hobby.

In closing I would like to say how thankful I am to be a member of the Gateway Division. It is because of the fellowship, support, mentoring, and opportunities afforded me here that have been able to complete my MMR.

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 **MMR #775**

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



In closing I would like to say how thankful I am to be a member of the Gateway Division. It is because of the fellowship, support, mentoring, and opportunities afforded me here that have been able to complete my MMR.

Upcoming Gateway Division Events



November 8, 2024, 3:45 p.m.

Joint Tour with NRHS of Continental Fabricators, Inc.

5601 W Park Avenue, St. Louis, MO

November 16, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Holiday Party

Crusoe's

5591 Oakville Shopping Center, St. Louis, MO

NEW TIME

NEW LOCATION

December 16, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Member Meeting

Oakville Elks Lodge

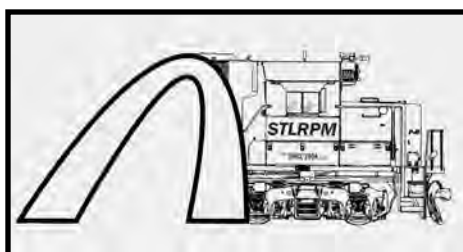
2726 Oakville Elks Lane, St. Louis. MO

July 14 - 19, 2025



Sheraton Hotel
21111 Haggerty Road
Novi, MI

July 24 - 26, 2025



**2025
STL RPM**

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

Sept 3 - 6, 2025



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

Coming Up: Continental Fabricators Tour

By Ron Gawedzinski, Activities Coordinator, Gateway Division

Arrangements have been made to have a Joint Group Gateway Division NMRA and St. Louis Chapter NRHS tour of:



Continental Fabricators
5601 W Park Avenue, St. Louis, MO

Friday, November 8, 2024, 3:45 PM to 5:30 PM

Continental Fabricators fabricates pressure vessels, towers, drums, etc. They also have **special expertise in fabricating, restoring and rehabbing steam locomotive boilers**. Presently, they are working on new additions to the pressure vessel, a 3-½ course boiler and smoke box of Pennsylvania Railroad's T1 # 5550 4-4-4 steam locomotive and also a new boiler for Gulf & Ohio RR No. 112, 2-truck 60-ton Shay built in 1923. In the past, they also completed 3 to 4 miniature boiler repairs for the Wabash, Frisco and Pacific RR, a new boiler for Mid-Continent Railway Museum former Chicago & NorthWestern #1385 4-6-0, restored a boiler for U.S. Sugar Co. 4-6-2 #148, and furnished a boiler course with fluesheet and smokebox for Grapevine Tourist Railroad #1344.

Safety Requirements: This is a tour of a fabrication shop under actual working conditions! **Safety is paramount!** A safety meeting will be scheduled before tour starts, usually 5-10 minutes prior. Safety requirements are as follows:

- **Safety goggles** – if you have them, bring them; regular eyeglasses with safety lens are acceptable.
- **Earplugs are suggested** as arc welding and other fabrication machinery can get loud.
- **Good pair of walking shoes.** Safety shoes are not required. **No open-toed shoes.**
- The facility is **NOT** ADA accessible in the shop areas as floor is rough and uneven. Floor is neither wheelchair nor walker friendly.
- **General Rules:** No high heels, no sandals or flip-flops, no weapons, no strollers, no back packs, duffel bags or cases. Shirts are required. Tour is conducted in a shop environment where dust, dirt and noise will be encountered. Dress appropriately.

We will be breaking into smaller groups and the tours will visit many interesting areas of the site. Photos and videos from a distance will be OK; **HOWEVER**, no close or detailed photos of anything in process (example -- partial welds, pieces not fit-up 100%, etc.)

NOTE: Attendance is limited to 30 people. Tour attendees must drive their cars to the tour site. You should **plan on arriving at the Tour Site at least 10 minutes before the tour start time.** Tour will start promptly. WE WILL NOT WAIT FOR LATECOMERS. Please Note, the tour is on a weekday, Friday, in the late afternoon so allow time for traffic.

More information will be coming later as to directions, parking, etc. Sign-up sheets will be available at upcoming meetings or you may contact Ron Gawedzinski, rwgawed@yahoo.com, or cellphone 214-675-6987.

Photo from Continental Fabricators, Inc. website
<https://confabinc.com/locomotives/>



2024 Gateway Division Holiday Party



Saturday, November 16th, 6 p.m.

**Crusoe's
5591 Oakville Shopping Center
St. Louis, MO**

After a several year absence, the Gateway Division Holiday Party is back!

**Join us for an evening of good food, good drinks,
good fellowship, and good times.**

Spouses/Significant Others are invited.

**You will pay for your food and drink and the Division will
pay for the gratuity.**

**We will be presenting two Henry “Hank” Kraichely Lifetime
Achievement Awards and also honoring the Division’s
newest Master Model Railroaders!**

Upcoming Events

Thanks to the Mississippi Valley N Scalers for Maintaing the Show Calendar

November 16, 2024 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.: **Dupo Train Show:** American Legion Hall, 200 South 5th Street, Dupo, IL

November 23-24, 2024 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: **TrainFest:** Baird Center, 400 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI

November 30, 2024 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: **Metro East Model Railroad Club Holiday Open House:** 180 Summit Street, Glen Carbon, IL

December 7, 2024 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: **Great St. Louis Christmas Train Show:** Sponsored by TCA Ozark Division Gateway Chapter, 4300 Hoffmeister Avenue, St. Louis, MO

December 7-8, 2024 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: **Great Train Show:** Gateway Center, One Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL

December 14, 2024 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: **Metro East Model Railroad Club Holiday Open House:** 180 Summit Street, Glen Carbon, IL

December 21, 2024 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: **Christmas Trains at Fenton Library:** Meramec Valley Branch, 1501 San Simeon Way, Fenton, MO

December 28, 2024 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: **Metro East Model Railroad Club Holiday Open House:** 180 Summit Street, Glen Carbon, IL

December 28, 2024 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: **After the Storm Train Show:** Arnold Eagles Club, 1725 Jeffco Blvd., Arnold, MO

December 28, 2024 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.: **Sierra Nevada & Indian River Railway Open House:** 248 Pardella, St. Louis, MO

January 4, 2025 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: **TrainFair 2025:** Sponsored by the St. Charles Model RR Club, St. Charles West High School, 3601 Droste Rd, St. Charles, MO

January 18, 2025 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.: **NMOT Model Train Swap Meet:** Earl C. Lindburg Automobile Center, Upper Parking Lot Entrance #2, 2933 Barrett Station Road, Kirkwood, MO

January 25 - 26, 2025 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: **Great Train Show:** St. Charles Convention Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, St. Charles, MO

Achievement Program Update: The Delight is in the Details

By Dave Ackmann, Achievement Program Chair, Gateway Division

"The Devil is in the Details" is an old phrase, and model railroaders considering participation in the NMRA Achievement Program know this full well. One of the five main categories in which contest points are awarded is devoted to "Details", and sometimes it is difficult for me to know what super details would be appropriate and where to find them. Maybe the same problem effects you. But rather than viewing detailing as a chore, sometimes details can be a delight.

Many of you know that I write software I call "Generators" to allow me and others to create custom 3D printed models of structure components (the software is available for free at <http://daackm.github.io>). Although I started out with programs to create walls, windows, roofing, wooden floors, and other large components, I find myself now attracted to creating detail parts. Although not a part of the Generator collection, I have recently created a bay window, A/C units, ice machines, and exterior gooseneck lamps; tiny things that cost me pennies to print as a 3D model, but would cost a fistful of dollars at a hobby shop, assuming I could even find them.



It didn't take much to create such models using my primary CAD software, TinkerCAD. The ice machine is just a pair of squashed cubes for the body and the compressor at the top. A triangular prism "hole" gave the main body chamber a slant, and two more rectangles created the lid and handle. Just 5 pieces. A bit of paint for the lid, a custom decal for the brand name and I was done. The gooseneck lamp is just a pair of cones for the shade (one for the physical part and another as a "hole" to recess the interior), plus three 90° "torus" parts for the support bends, some cylinders, a bit of paint, and voilà, done! I couldn't find any such non-operational gooseneck lamps on the Walther's web site, but now I have a stock for life.

The A/C units are just a stack of cones, chopped off at the top with a cube "hole" (as a novice 3D modeler, I tended to think mainly in terms of adding solid pieces, but "holes" in CAD can be your best friend). The bay window is just some rectangles with mitered edges then joined together before printing, and I didn't even need a drop of glue!

I've started a spreadsheet containing a list of other detail objects I want to create. Corner and street-side mailboxes are obvious choices, and planter boxes for flowers are also on the list; a newspaper rack, too. Stacked logs, a fire pit and a BBQ grill made the cut as well. I am sure there are many more, if I just keep my eyes open to the details in life.

If you have any details you have added to your models which you would like to share (3D printed or not), let me know. Details can be a delight.

A Very Special Congratulations to our friends Greg Gramlich and David Lowell on meeting the qualifications to receive their Master Model Railroader awards #773 and #775, respectively. If you have attended any of Greg's operating sessions, you will agree that details are everywhere, and a true delight to anyone's eyes. Greg and David will receive their plaques at the November banquet. Thanks, Greg and David, for letting me be a part of your AP journey.

Gateway Division Member Receives Awards

Gateway Division Member, Jeff Cooper, recently received two NMRA awards. The first was the NMRA President's Award for service to the division. Since 2017, the NMRA has honored its top division volunteers with this award. Only one person from each Region receives this recognition.

The second award is the Mid-Continent Region K.B. "Kenny" Johns Memorial Award. This award is given by the President of MCoR in recognition of outstanding service to the Mid-Continent Region and to the hobby of model railroading.

Jeff serves as the Clerk for the Gateway Division, as Secretary for the Mid-Continent Region, and editor of the Gateway Division newsletter, RPO. Congratulations, Jeff!



HELP WANTED!

Contact Jim Ables,
Superintendent at:
jim.d.ables@gmail.com if you
are interested in helping out.

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

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

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." – Winston Churchill

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart." – Elizabeth Andrew

Photo Tour of Lonnie Bathurst's Litchfield Train Group Layout

Layout Description from the Gateway 2022 National Convention Time Table and by Richard Schumacher on the Gateway Division Website. Photos by Jeff Cooper



The Litchfield Train Group's 55'x44' HO scale layout depicts the ever-gentle rolling countryside of Illinois from Centralia to Chicago. The scenery of the main room is set in the 50s/60s-era when steam engines were becoming extinct and diesel locomotives were gaining in popularity. The main room is completely scened with typical midwestern scenery with coal, grain, and freight car switching in five different areas along the mainline. The smaller room represents 70s-era Chicago and provides additional industry destinations including an old meatpacking plant and large gravel mining operation. Operators can stage up to 14 16-foot trains in the Chicago yard. The layout is capable of three teams of two operators on the mainline, while five other teams of two operators handle switching assignments.



















Joint Tour of Intramotev

By Ron Gawedzinski, Activities Coordinator, Gateway Division

On Thursday, August 22, 2024, a joint group of rail fans from the Gateway Division NMRA and the St. Louis Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society (NRHS) toured Intramotev Inc. Ken Vaughan of Intramotev acted as our tour guide and gave us an extensive tour of the site, providing excellent explanations of their operations each step of the way. Due to confidentiality issues, tour attendees were not allowed to take photos or video; however, Intramotev allowed Ron Gawedzinski to take photos. Company officials reviewed and approved the photos included with this article.

Intramotev is a startup company developing autonomous, battery-electric, self-propelled freight cars. It targets carload freight by retrofitting conventional equipment with autonomous, battery-electric propulsion systems that also can be operated by remote control, a railcar with the heart of a locomotive.

Intramotev has two primary products, TugVolt and ReVolt. TugVolt can provide three modes of operation. First, it can run in a train just like any other freight car. Second is point-to-point operation that combines conventional operation for the long-haul and autonomous or remote-control operation for short-haul regional and local delivery. Third is using it like an autonomous or remote-control locomotive in local service. ReVolt can recapture waste energy in traditional trains via regenerative braking and reduce locomotive diesel fuel consumption.

Ron Gawedzinski, Outside Activities Coordinator, Gateway Division NMRA and St. Louis Chapter NRHS arranged the tour.

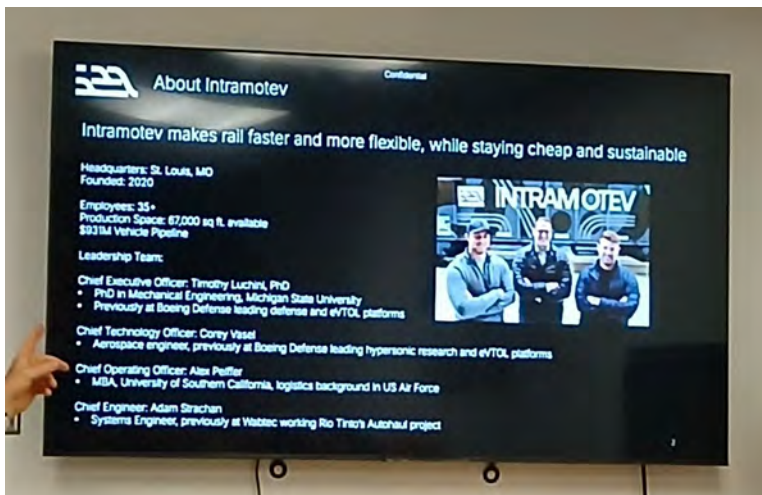


INTRAMOTEV

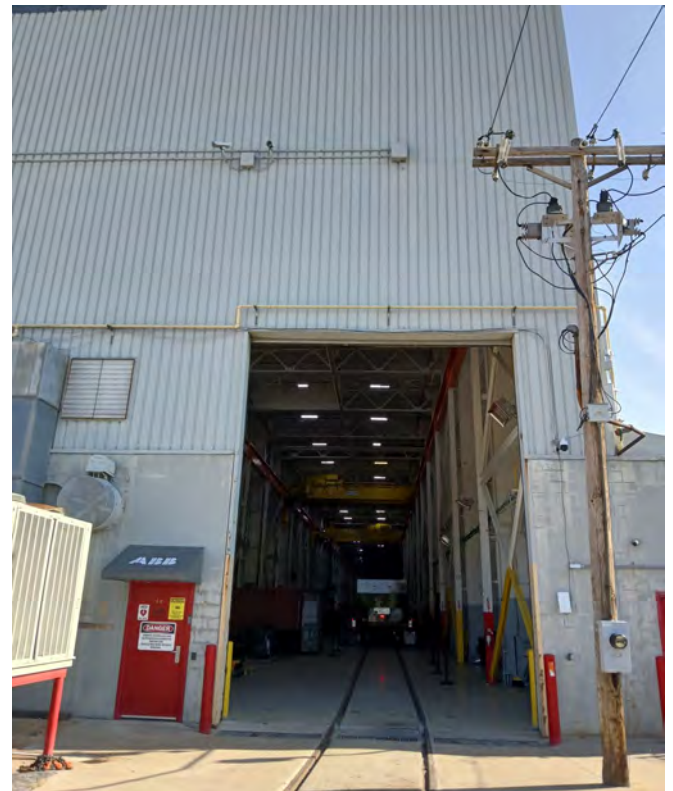
Rail.
Reborn.
Ready to Roll.



Ken Vaughan, Intramotev, on left, having safety meeting for tour attendees.



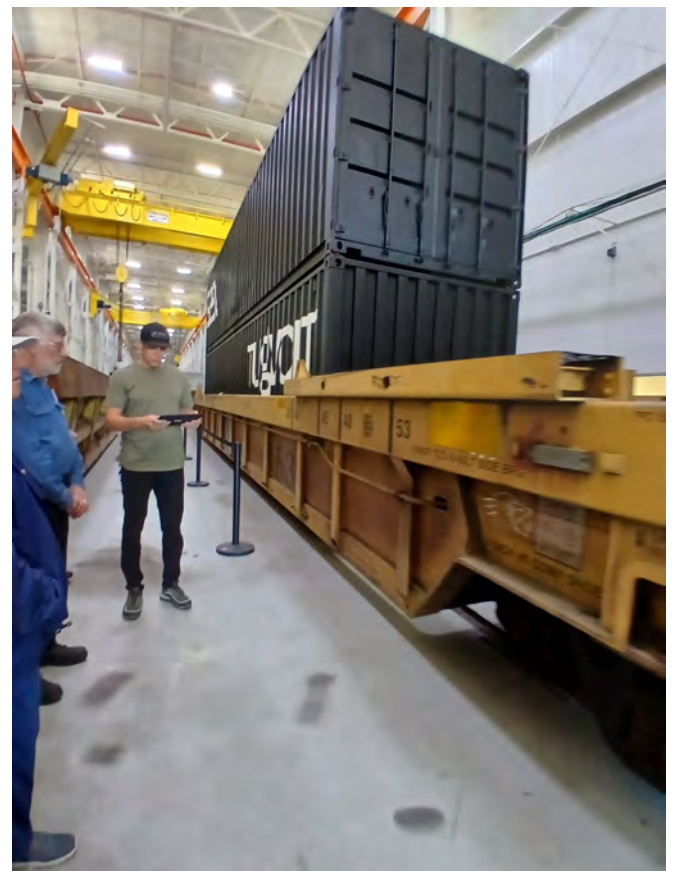
Ken explaining the Intramotev organization.



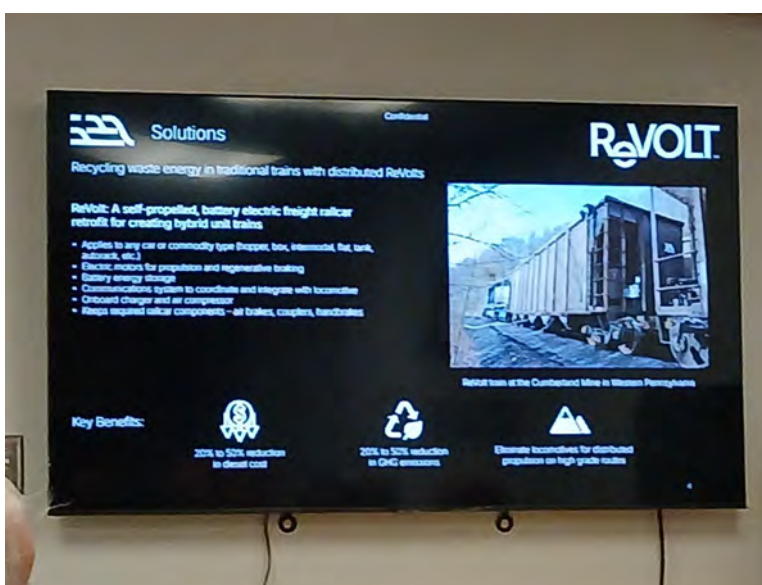
Entrance to Intramotev work site, formerly a vacant building of a manufacturer of large electrical transformers.



The TugVolt system explained.



Performing demonstration of TugVolt system.



The ReVolt system explained.



Ken provides additional information.



Test hopper.



An ore dump car to be used for testing.



Truck modifications explained.



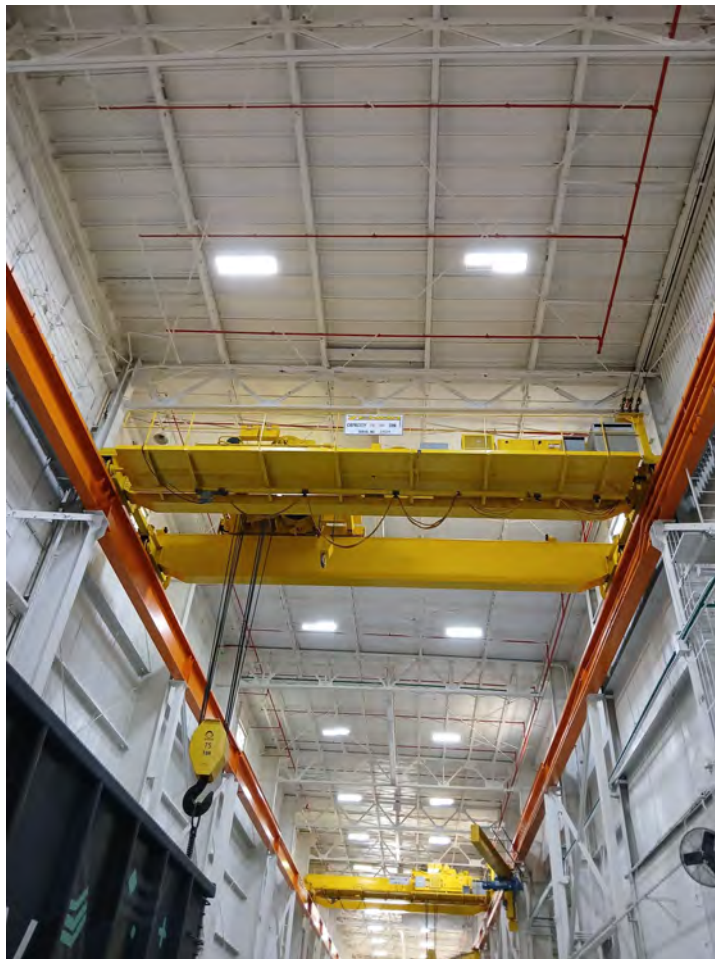
Specialized modifications being made to railcar.



Test hopper.



Another look at a test hopper.



Large, overhead cranes for moving railcars.



Ken provides more information about the technology on the test hopper.



Snow plow attachments.



Left:
Ken describes
additional technology.

Below:
Group photo of
Gateway Division
NMRA, St. Louis Chapter
of the National Railroad
Historical Society, and
Intramotev folks.



The St. Louis RPM Continues to Grow

By Lonnie Bathurst, Gateway Division Member with photos by Jeff Cooper

The 2024 St. Louis Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet came and went at the Gateway Center in Collinsville, Illinois on July 19th and 20th. The STL RPM is the largest annual RPM event in the U.S, and this year it did not disappoint. Attendance increased to an all time record of 950 attendees. They were treated to thousands of models, dozens of vendors, a multitude of clinics and presentations, multiple on-site layouts, and home layout tours and operating sessions.

Even with the record setting attendance, "success" is kind of defined like "beauty." It's in the eyes of the beholder. The question of how many attended and how much the STL RPM has grown is always a fun topic as we have grown so much in the past decade alone. And while growth in attendance is a fair question or topic, given the obvious growth at the STL RPM that has taken place and during a time that some other rail hobby related events in other parts of the country have lost attendance, we never define our success by its size.

The success of any RPM is at least partially measured by a post-conference review where attendees talk about the fun they had in seeing something new, meeting someone they were glad to meet, saw some models they learned from or simply enjoyed studying, gathered information they wanted, interacting with exhibitors, and, of course, buying something unique if they wanted to. At the end of the meet, we hope that they felt like the time, money, and effort they invested was not only worth it, but that they will come back with their friends.



Our goal is to try to attract the modeler who wants to grow in the prototype part of the hobby. If the RPM attracts them because of some aspect of the prototype world that did not appear prevalent at some rail event they had experienced before, great! That is what we want to have at the RPM for them. From the models that roll down the track, to structures on the sidelines, to vehicles and/or other detail parts, to a vast display of all aspects of the history that modelers seek out, we feel that success could, at least partially, be defined as being able to offer what the attendees want to find at our RPM event.

Our “not-so-secret-sauce” is to try to balance the focus on the models, clinic number and content (and learning stations), the kind, quality, and number of exhibitors, as well as, the time the exhibitors are available to meet with attendees, the variety of historical societies attending, along with some social events. The meet location, time of year, event facilities, favorable lodging is critical and works in favor of the overall success of the RPM. The home layout tours, operating sessions, and high quality operating layout(s) on the floor adds to the enticement. Once we have as many of those pieces in place that we struggle with and engage in planning for during the other 51 weeks of the year between our RPM events, we can take a deep breath and say “it’s about the models.”

The STLRPM is already on the books for 2025. Starting on Thursday, July 24th, there will be evening layout tours and then the two-day main event at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, Illinois starts on Friday, July 25th and continues on Saturday, July 26th. Stay tuned for exact times and details regarding all the events surrounding next year’s STLRPM. We are looking forward to another great year and we hope to see you there!



More Photos from the St. Louis RPM

Check out stlrpm.com for many more photos from this year, as well as from previous years.







Hands-on Workshop Recap: Weathering with Pan Pastels

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

On August 17, 2024, the Gateway Division held its Hands-on Workshop for weathering with Pan Pastels.

Attendees brought their own freight cars, locomotives, and structures to practice weathering with the Pan Pastels. Greg Gramlich led the session and discussed the weathering medium, how to apply them, and how to blend them in multiple layers to achieve various degrees of weathering.

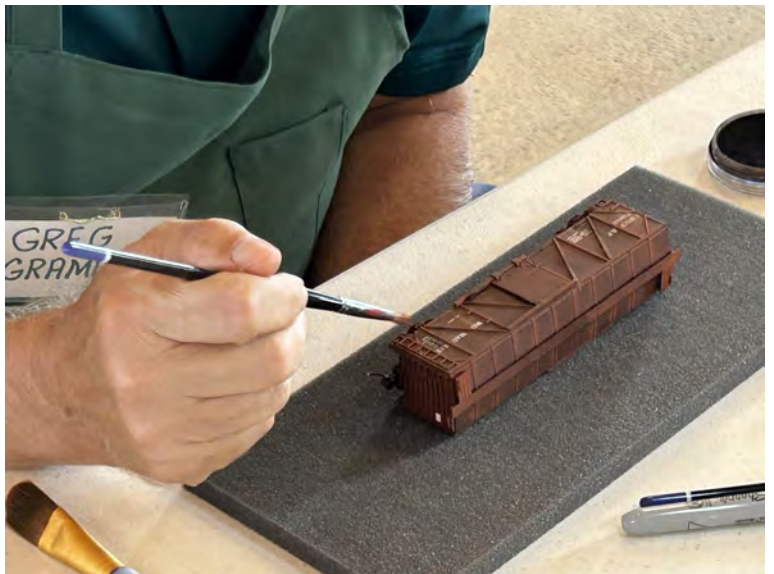
Greg also covered the importance in the order of steps in which to apply the pastels to eliminate (or at least minimize) the possibility of inadvertently blemishing recently applied weathering.

Some attendees brought their own Pan Pastels, while others shared sets provided by other Division members. Thank you to everyone who allowed the attendees to use your personal supply of Pan Pastels. It exemplifies how Division members not only share their knowledge, but also their modeling supplies.

A special thanks to Willie Richter and the City of West Alton for the use of their City Hall.

This Hands-on Workshop follows two other workshops conducted in 2024 on airbrushing and making trees. It was the final hands-on workshop of the year. If you have ideas for possible topics for a hands-on workshop, or for hands-on session at our regular meetings, please reach out to Jim Ables at jim.d.ables@gmail.com





Gateway Division Ops Session: K-10 Trains

By Greg Gramlich, MMR, Operations Chair, Gateway Division

On Sunday, August 4, 2024, several members from the Gateway Division arrived at K-10 Trains for 3 hour operating session from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.. The following members were participating in the operating session: Fred Wilke, Don Perry, Steve Hemmel, Willie Richter, Charles Marshall, Ron Gawedzinski, Michael Hellweg, Greg Gramlich, Noah Oestreich, and Chris Oestreich. The K-10 group was outstanding helping the members through the many moves on this great layout. Their store was open for us to look around and purchase train items. There are plans to possibly do another session in the spring of next year. Everyone had a great time. Thanks to K-10 Trains for allowing our members to have an operating session and browse the merchandise for some cool model railroad items.







K-10's Model Trains

Maryville, Illinois

Station to Station: Ullin, 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.

The Illinois Central depot in Ullin, Illinois, built in 1897, has made a couple of trips of its own over its lifetime. The current depot is the third depot built in Ullin. The first two were built in 1854 and 1863, both of which were later demolished. The current depot served passenger traffic until 1967.

The 24-ft x 60-ft depot is wooden frame construction and is typical of structures built in that era. It is believed the depot was built with hardwood timber from local sawmills. The sill and girders that form the base frame are 10" x 10" creosote timbers, the floor joists are 3" x 10" placed on 18" centers, the wall studs are full 2" x 4" placed on 24" centers, and the trusses are 2" x 6" placed on 24" centers. The roof planking is 1" thick lumber.

The depot was segmented to have the passenger waiting area on the south side, the station master and ticket office in the middle, and a large freight area on the north end. Changes to the depot over the years, other than it moving twice, primarily consist of changes in the siding and roofing. The depot's siding changed from vertical to horizontal wood siding. Sometime around 1947, the siding changed again to a combination of wood and Transite siding. The changes included horizontal wood siding from the foundation to the bottom of the windows and then Transite from the bottom of the windows up to the eaves. The color scheme was gray on the horizontal wood siding, door and window trim, doors, soffits, and eaves. The Transite was an off-white creating a two-tone paint scheme. It appears that the structure had a slate roof

1997



1998



2024



based on reports filed in 1898 and 1915, but it was changed to three-tab asphalt shingles as some point.

The interior has 1" x 6" pine flooring over what is thought to be 1" maple subflooring and the walls and ceiling in the passenger and station agent areas are sheathed with 1" x 3" car siding with ¼" bead on 1 ½" center. There is picture molding around all the walls at the 12-ft mark and the ceilings are 14-ft. There is crown molding where the walls meet the ceiling. The brick chimney is wood covered with exposed cleanout and stovepipe holes. The freight room has an open ceiling and boards sheath the walls up to the nine foot mark leaving the rest of the height of the wall unsheathed. The flooring in the freight room is solid 2" thick planks.

In 1972, the Illinois Central was preparing to abandon the building when it was sold to Phoenix Mill. The mill moved the structure across the tracks and located it approximately 300-ft northwest of its original location but still on property the mill leased from the railroad. The mill did not alter the structure and used it to store supplies. Fire destroyed the Phoenix Mill on Labor Day in 1979 but the old depot only received minor fire damage on an eave. The mill rebuilt in a new location and left the old depot behind as the cost to move it to the new location was too great. The old depot sat unused for the next 18 years.

In 1997, the Illinois Central notified the village of Ullin of its intent to demolish the old depot. As the land lease with the mill expired, the railroad declared the depot abandoned and readied it for demolition. A group of Ullin Civic Club members worked with the Ullin Village Board to save the depot within days of its scheduled demolition, but it had to be moved. In a gesture of goodwill, the Illinois Central sold the village the plot of land that was the original location of the depot. On



December 2, 1997, the old depot moved once again. The same company that moved the depot in 1972 moved it back across the tracks to where it originally stood. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1999. Eventually the village renovated the depot and it became the village hall and library in 2012. The application to the National Register contains additional information regarding the exterior and interior doors and windows that would be helpful to the modeler.

Sources of Information

Echols, Paul E. (April 15, 1999). "[National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Illinois Central Railroad Depot](#)" (PDF). [National Park Service](#). Archived from [the original](#) (PDF) on December 25, 2013. Retrieved December 23, 2013.

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Structural Elements: Grange Hall, Murphysboro, Illinois

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.**

This small, unassuming brick building is located alongside Illinois Route 13 in Somerset Township north of Murphysboro, Illinois. While scarcely used today, the building has served as a backdrop for many people in the area. It is a Grange Hall, which is a meeting house of the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry (or the Grange for short).

Built in 1912, it was the second building constructed by Somerset Grange Hall #1553. The first Grange Hall of frame construction was built in 1876 and burned down in 1909. After the fire, the one acre property reverted back to the original owner of the property. In 1910, a committee assembled to find a suitable location for a new, fire-proof Grange Hall. The committee selected the site of the previous hall and then purchased the tract for \$350 payable over a 9 year period.



On May 27, 1911, the committee received bids to construct the new 24-ft by 40-ft brick structure and awarded the contract to W.A. Pittman for a cost of \$1,355.65. At the April 1912 meeting, the building committee reported the total final cost of the building was \$1,401.15.

The hall itself is Early Commercial architecture and is constructed of soft red brick three layers deep with a below grade concrete foundation. The hip roof is covered with slate. There is an arched crown design above each door and window. The windows are 1/1 double sashed with a concrete or stone sill. The windows are covered with 4-ft x 8-ft steel shutters bolted to the brick walls. The only known alternation to the exterior of the building is the installation of a door on the east side of the building. The door took place of the southernmost window.

On the inside, the walls are plaster with tongue and groove wainscoting extending up three foot from the floor with a 4-inch wide decorative wooden border capping it off. The original ceiling was decorative metal and measured at 12-ft above the floor. The floor is finished concrete poured in sections. There are two iron railings installed on the north end of the building to divide the hall into two sections. When



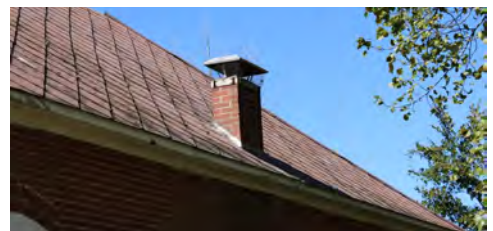
Southeast corner. The side door was added at a later date. Note the vent and cleanout pipe for the restroom added in 1988.



Front details including gate over front door, signage, and exterior light.



Steel shutter and hinges, window sill, and arch window details



Chimney Details. Top photo is west chimney and bottom photo is east chimney

meetings were held, officials sat behind a heavy oak table located behind the rails during the meetings. The attendees sat on church style wooden pews. The building was completely restored in 1988 by tuckpointing the brick, re-glazing and painting the windows, installing new restrooms, replacing the wiring and fixtures, and repairing the floors.

The hall served as a center of many local activities such as Grange, Farm Bureau, Masonic, and township meetings, induction center for World War I draftees, election polling station, summer Bible school, suppers, school plays, 4-H club activities, ice cream socials, ball games, and family reunions. The hall was the only public meeting space in the entire township. It is said that at one time, anyone who grew up in Somerset township likely had memories of important events that took place at the hall.

Grange Hall is listed in the 1974 Illinois Historic Survey. The renovation earned it a Certificate of Achievement by Governor Thompson in 1989. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

The Illinois Central railroad ran along one side of the property and at one time there were scales for farmers to weigh grain and livestock before shipping to market. There was also a flag stop station for

passengers and also for farmers shipping milk, cream, and veal calves to St. Louis. The Illinois Central eventually abandoned the tracks and then removed them in 1970.

The national Grange formed in 1867 after the Civil War and is the oldest American agricultural advocacy group with a national scope. The goals of the Grange were to educate farmers, improve their social lives, and support their economic needs. The Grange also opposed monopolies that set prices for grain and livestock, and protested high railroad freight rates. By the 1880's, membership was close to 800,000. Over the years, membership declined and by 2005 there were 160,000 members in 36 states. In 2022, the Grange experienced a net increase in membership and as of 2024, the Grange continues to press for the causes of farmers with a mission statement that reads: "strengthening individuals, families, and communities through service, education, nonpartisan grassroots advocacy, and agricultural awareness."

Modeling Considerations

This structure would be a straight forward scratchbuilding project. It also lends itself to be built full size without compression as its footprint would be approximately 3 3/8" x 5 1/2" in HO Scale and 1 13/16" x 3" in N Scale . The 1/1 windows

Would not be difficult to model, either with commercial parts or scratchbuilt. The steel shutters could be modeled with styrene and could be in the open or closed position. It would not be too difficult to make the shutters positionable if you so desire. This little structure would add character to a remote rural scene or near a flag stop or remote grain elevator. It would also lend itself to be modeled in almost any era. Fortunately, with the history of the building preserved in the National Historic Places application, you have a good idea how to detail the interior of the building if you so choose.

Sources of Information

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Editor's Observations: Thankful

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

It is that time of year that we stop to give thanks for the bounties in our lives. On any given day, as life unwinds its pleasures and challenges, I know that I have much to be thankful for. So much so, that I should be more mindful about it and also share the sentiment with those whom I owe much more than I likely deserve. Even through the toughest of challenges and what may seem the darkest of nights, I, as most of us, have a great deal to be thankful for. One of the things that I am grateful for is being able to participate in this great hobby of model railroading.

First and foremost, I am thankful for my wife that tolerates the eccentricities that I possess when it comes to my hobby. She accepts my passion for trains and doesn't question it. She happily puts up with me traveling to small town nowhere to take pictures of crumbling buildings, abandoned rails, or some other feature that is important in my pursuit. She tags along to conventions and always finds something to do while I am off on a tour or presentation (although as a demonstration of my thanks to her I make sure I spend time doing things that she enjoys while we are exploring the host city.) She very much puts up

with various articles of train and hobby paraphernalia scattered in what seems to be random locations around the house (and what I really mean by "what seems to be random locations" is more accurately described as varied and sometimes odd locations whereby I've set something down to be retrieved at a later time to be put in its proper place.) I am immensely grateful for her support of my hobbies (and quirks!) One of my very best friends jokes that he is going to send her a sympathy card on our wedding anniversary. It's funny and sometimes fitting.

I am grateful that I had family members that nurtured my passion for the hobby when I was young. From my grandpa

It truly is the fellowship and bonds between people of all walks of life that share a passion for this hobby that I am thankful for. There are so many knowledgeable and friendly people out there enjoying this hobby. As the saying goes, there are no strangers here, just friends you haven't met yet.

taking me down the tracks to watch trains pass by, to Mr. and Mrs. Claus for making sure there was come cool Lionel products under the Christmas tree, to my grandparents allowing me to take over a large part of their basement to run my trains. The seeds of passion, like anything else in life, need nurturing to grow. My family fostered my seemingly innate passion for trains that continues to grow and flourish to this day.

I am thankful that I've had a local hobby shop, Chuck's Depot in Marion, Illinois, to visit and hang out at for the past 25 years. I've learned so much at that shop through Friday night bull sessions, absorbing the expertise of other random customers, and helping with building the layout in his basement. More importantly is the friendship my wife and I developed with the owners, Chuck and Jean McCabe. That shop is like another home to me and I am supremely grateful for their friendship.

Speaking of friendships, I am grateful for the friends that this hobby has given to me. Over the years, I've become friends with many who've wandered through the doors of Chuck's Depot, and there are a few who've become close friends.

They are the indispensable type of friends whose first questions are "what do you need" and "how can I help." Additionally, there have been many friends and acquaintances from the shop that have since passed on. I am grateful I got to meet them, be friends with them, and spend time with them before they left these earthly bounds.

I am grateful for the "new" friends I've met over the last few years in the Gateway Division and the Mid-Continent Region. I truly enjoy the company of this band of hobbyists. I say "new friends" with quotes as it doesn't take long to get to the point where

it feels like I've known these guys for a lot longer than I actually have. And "new" friends are just like "old" friends except I haven't known them as long. This is one of the great things about the NMRA and, more locally, about the Region and Division. It truly is the fellowship and bonds between people of all walks of life that share a passion for this hobby that I am thankful for. There are so many knowledgeable and friendly people out there enjoying this hobby. As the saying goes, there are no strangers here, just friends you haven't met yet. So, thank you to those of you out there that consider me a friend, or at the very

least a mostly pleasant acquaintance.

I am grateful to all of those who have come before us and who are here now working to further the enjoyment of this hobby. I extend a sincere thanks to the founders of this organization who gave us a place to gather and share and to those who continue today to volunteer to keep the National, Regional, and Divisional organizations relevant and provide us a wide array of opportunities to participate in this great hobby. I am thankful for those Division volunteers that I never got a chance to meet that made a difference that still resonates today. I hear stories and read about them in past issues of the RPO. It is up to us to carry on from the point at which they left off. My appreciation extends to them for moving the Division forward.

This hobby has given me so much and I am grateful for that. From the joy of pursuing the hobby to the enduring friendships, I've received much more than I've given. I am thankful for the respite it gives me from the daily stresses of work and life. And finally, if you've made it this far, I am thankful for you and that you found my thoughts interesting enough to read all the way to the bottom. I hope that you, and those important to you, have a happy and safe Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's no matter how you choose to celebrate.



Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for July 15, 2024

Call to Order

Superintendent Jimmy Ables called the meeting to order at 7:15 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 June 17, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Ables presented the minutes from the June 17, 2024 meeting. There were no corrections. A member inquired about the K-10 Operating Session mentioned in the meeting minutes. It was reported that the operating session filled up but there is a standby list in the event there is an opening. Walter Beckman motioned to approve the minutes as presented. David Lowell seconded the motion. *The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.*

Financial Reports

Bill Levin presented the June financial reports. Mr. Levin reported that the June financials were unremarkable with only a couple of expenses and the 50/50 receipts. A member asked about the \$18,000 reported as an expense. Mr. Levin reported that it really isn't an expense but a transfer of the cash from the bank account to the Schwab account that is invested in CDs.

Fall Meet

Mr. Ables updated membership on the Fall Meet. The date of the meet is November 2nd and will be held at the Collinsville VFW. The Division is looking for volunteers to help with the planning and organizing, as well as assisting on the day of the event. Arrangements for the layouts on display at the meet have been finalized.

Hands-On Workshop

Mr. Ables reported that the hands-on workshop scheduled in August has not been finalized and that he will send out the announcement via e-mail once the details are completed.

Holiday Party

The holiday party is scheduled for Saturday, November 16 at Caruso's on Telegraph Road. Each attendee will pay for their own meal and the Division will pay the gratuity.

Elections

Mr. Ables reported that elections will be held for Superintendent (2-year term), Paymaster (2-year term), and Division Director for the Region (3-year term). Mr. Ables asked for volunteers to run the election. The election is handled in 2 parts. The first is to gather the nominations and the second is to run the balloting. Don Head, Glenn Koproske, and Don Perry volunteered for the Nominations and Elections Committee. A member asked why the Superintendent and Paymaster are open in

the same year. Mr. Ables responded that the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Paymaster, and Clerk positions are for two years. The Superintendent and Paymaster alternate with the Assistant Superintendent and Clerk positions.

Open Chair Positions

The Division is still looking for members to fill the roles of Presentations Chair, Assistant Clerk, and Illinois Operations Chair. Please contact Mr. Ables if you are interested.

Achievement Program Update

There was no AP update this month.

Club Updates

- A member reported on the large, 5-day N scale Meet in Evanston, Wyoming on July 24th through the 28th.
- A member reported that the Mexico Train Works layout in Mexico, MO is still undergoing their wiring upgrade and should be done in a couple more months. Much of the new wiring is complete, circuit breakers are installed, and they are working on the interface with their laptop.
- A member reminded the members that the St. Louis RPM is coming up July 19th through the 20th. The Gateway Division co-sponsors the event and volunteers have their assigned duties. Some duties may change due to recent member illnesses.

Other Business and Ask Us Anything

There was no other business items and no members had questions for the group.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Ables announced the following upcoming events:

- **July 19-20, 2024, St. Louis Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet**, Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. both days
- **August 4-11, 2024: The Surfliner in Long Beach: 2024 NMRA National Convention**: Westin Long Beach Hotel, 333 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA
- **August 24, 2024 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Military Theme Train Day at the Oak Bend Library**: 842 S Holmes Ave, St. Louis, MO
- **August 29, 2024 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.: ScaleTrains Visits the Mississippi Valley N Scalers**: Webster Groves Masonic Temple, #12 East Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves, MO

50/50 Drawing

David Lowell won the 50/50 drawing.

Presentation

July presentation: Jimmy Ables of the Gateway Division presented ways to connect JMRI to your DCC command station and how to run JMRI on multiple computer platforms.

Next Meetings/Events

Mr. Ables announced the following upcoming Division event:

- **August 17, 2024, 9:30 a.m., Hands-on Workshop**, West Alton City Hall, 111 Richard Drive, West Alton, MO

Adjourn

Mr. Ables adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeff Cooper, Clerk, Gateway Division

Meeting Minutes for September 16, 2024

Call to Order

Superintendent Jimmy Ables called the meeting to order at 7:03 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 were two visitors.

Minutes from the July 15, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Ables presented the minutes from the July 15, 2024 meeting. There were no corrections. Ron Gawedzinski motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Walter Beckman seconded the motion. *The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.*

Financial Reports

Bill Levin presented the July and August financial reports. Mr. Levin reported that there were transactions for 50/50 receipts and expenses related to the hands-on workshop in July and no transactions to report in August; however, he will need to issue a corrected financial statement for August as a line needs to be added for the Schwab investment account (CD's). Additionally, Mr. Levin reported the CD was renewed for 3 months at 4.78%.

Possible New Meeting Location

Mr. Ables presented information about a possible new meeting location at Oakville Elks Lodge, 2726 Oakville Elks Lane, St. Louis, MO. The cost is half of our current rental rates and the wi-fi appears to be adequate. There are no conflicts between our meetings and the Elks meetings. This would be a single meeting location rather than splitting the meeting locations between the church on the Missouri side and the VFW on the Illinois side. Membership discussed the location and concerns with traffic on I-270. The general feeling is that it felt like a reasonable compromise between the Missouri and Illinois locations. Members also recommended to table the question to allow for it to be revisited at the next Illinois meeting to give those members who only attend in Illinois a chance to voice their opinions. It was decided to accept the recommendation to table the issue and add it to the agenda at the next Illinois meeting.

Achievement Program Update

David Lowell reported that Greg Gramlich received his Chief Dispatcher Certificate which means he has completed the requirements to become Master Model Railroader #773. We will present his MMR to him at the Holiday Party on November 16th at Crusoe's on Telegraph Road. Members will pay for their meals at the holiday party and the Division will pay for the gratuity.

Club Updates

- A member reported that a member of the Mississippi Valley N Scalpers passed away and his family is selling a rack of Evergreen styrene for \$525. Mr. Ables will send out photos of the Evergreen inventory so members can review what is being offered.
- A member updated the group on the recently completed N scale event in Evanston, Wyoming
- A member updated the group that the Jefferson County & Southern layout will be at the St. Louis Metro Show in Kirkwood in October.

Other Business and Ask Us Anything

- Members discussed various 3D printers and their positives and negatives
- Members discussed stripping and painting a Rivarossi model and issues with primer and paint
- A member inquired if a recent membership list has been sent to Mark Twain Hobbies for members of the Division to receive their discount. Mr. Ables reported that the list was sent a few months ago but he will send it again.
- A member inquired about repairing an air compressor.
- The Division will have tables at the December 7th-8th train show in Collinsville and the January 25th-26th train show in St. Charles. Volunteers are needed to staff the table.
- Greg Gramlich announced he is having an operating session on October 19 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Members are not to bring their own throttles and they should not wear sweatshirts as there have been problems with them catching on the layout and equipment.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Ables announced the following upcoming events:

- **September 21, 2024, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.:** **First Annual Railroad Day**, Centralia Area Historical Museum, 240 S Locust, Centralia, IL;
- **September 28, 2024, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.:** **Halloween Theme Train Day**: Grant's Library, 9700 Musick Avenue, St. Louis, MO
- **September 28 2024, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.:** **Pacific Eagles Train Show**: Pacific Eagles Hall, 707 Congress, Pacific, MO
- **October 5th – 6th, 2024, 10 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday:** **32nd Annual Greater St. Louis Metro Area Train Show**: Meramec Community College Gym, Geyer Road & Big Bend, Kirkwood, MO
- **October 12th – 13th, 2024, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days:** **Great Train Show**, Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, 801 Sangamon Avenue, Springfield, IL

50/50 Drawing

Don Perry won the 50/50 drawing.

Presentation

September Presentation: Bob Miller presented his methods of using oil paints to weather and create a realistic rust look on rolling stock, structures and bridges.

Next Meetings/Events

Mr. Ables announced the following upcoming Division event:

- **October 21, 2024, 7:00 p.m., Meeting and Presentation**, VFW Post 805, 223 West 1st Street, O'Fallon, IL, 7 p.m.

Adjourn

Mr. Ables adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Cooper, Clerk, Gateway Division



**Fall 2024:
Volume 32, Number 3**

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

Editor: Jeff Cooper

Articles, photos and any other materials for publication are to be sent to the Editor. No payment can be made for publication of any materials. Regular issues are published quarterly: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Distribution of the RPO are available to members of the NMRA as a service provided by members of the Gateway Division.

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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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Mascoutah, IL

Assistant Superintendent

Walter Beckman
St. Louis, MO

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Jeff Cooper
Marion, IL

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Division Director

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IT

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Dave Roeder, MMR

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Glenn Koproske

Operations

Greg Gramlich

Publicity

Greg Gramlich

Webmaster

Richard Schumacher



Central of Georgia No. 223 is a 2-8-0 Consolidation built by Baldwin in 1907 as it appeared in 2009. It is on static display at the Coastal Heritage Museum in Savannah, GA. Photo by Twila Cooper.

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
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