

GATEWAY NMRA
ST. LOUIS MCoR

RPO

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION - GATEWAY DIVISION



Volume 32, Issue 4

Winter 2025

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Bob Miller, Superintendent, Gateway Division

Hello from the new Gateway Division Superintendent

Hoping every Mid-Continent member had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

So, my name is Robert (Bob) Miller, I prefer to be called Bob. I was voted in December 16th 2024 as the new NMRA Gateway Division Superintendent for 2025 and 2026. I'm looking forward to meeting and working together with all of you in the future.

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Cover Photo: A city scene module on the Gateway N-Trak layout at the 2024 Gateway Division Fall Meet.

Photo by Jeff Cooper.

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

The Gateway Division has been able to use the Phone and Computer Zoom technology to reach out to our members who were unable to attend, in person, since 2021. This included the ability to present short presentations or mini clinics of 45 minutes to an hour.

The ability to reach out to members is the key to bringing in new NMRA members in the future. We hope to contact some of the smaller Divisions around the Gateway Division in the future months. We can start off by including them in our monthly Zoom meetings, which can stimulate participation in their own Divisions. Let's all work together in the coming months and see if we can get growth in our divisions, which ultimately means growth of the Mid-Continent Region.

Look forward to seeing you soon! Bob Miller!

The ability to reach out to members is the key to bringing in new NMRA members in the future.

WE EXTEND OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO BILL LEVIN, RETIRING PAYMASTER AND DAVID LOWELL, MMR, RETIRING DIRECTOR FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE GATEWAY DIVISION.



CONGRATULATIONS TO JIM ABLES, THE OUTGOING SUPERINTENDENT AND NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTOR AND TO JOHN KELLY, THE NEWLY ELECTED PAYMASTER FOR THE GATEWAY DIVISION.



THE GATEWAY DIVISION ALSO EXTENDS OUR GRATITUDE TO DON TRACY WHO VOLUNTEERED TO BE THE ASSISTANT CLERK , TO WALTER BECKMAN WHO AGREED TO BE THE 2025 FALL MEET CHAIR, AND TO DAVID LOWELL, MMR, WHO IS TAKING OVER AS THE CHAIR OF THE CELEBRATION OF MODELS ROOM AT THE ANNUAL FALL MEET.

Director's Reflections: Transition

By David Lowell, MMR and Jim Ables, Gateway Division

As with the prototype railroads job assignments can change, as is the case for me. I would like to thank everyone for allowing me to be able to serve two 3-year terms as Director for the Gateway Division. It has been a rewarding experience for me. I hope that I have been able to provide value to the membership. I will be moving into my new role as Chair of the Celebration of Models Room at the Gateway Division Fall Meets. My replacement, Jimmy Ables, is a capable and dedicated member of the Gateway Division. In the railroad tradition, he has worked his way up in the organization as some time as Clerk and multiple terms as Superintendent. He was also an organizer for the 2020-2022 NMRA National Convention and now is set to serve as Director. Please do all you can to assist Jimmy in assisting the Gateway Division.

Happy Rails!

David C. Lowell, MMR #775
Gateway Division, Mid-Continent Region

*I would like to
thank everyone for
allowing me to be
able to serve two
3-year terms as
Director for the
Gateway Division.
It has been a
rewarding
experience for me*

Hello everyone,

It has been a privilege to serve as Superintendent of the Gateway Division. Over the past two years, we have achieved several notable accomplishments. Our board has taken proactive measures to revitalize the Division following the COVID pause. Our achievements include the implementation of quarterly Saturday Workshops, improving our financial standing, resumption of the Fall Meet, revival of our Holiday party, and sharing meetings via Zoom with other MCoR Divisions.

Saturday workshops are held in the middle month of each quarter. These workshops are designed for members to share their knowledge and skills with others. Workshop participation has been very good. I would like to acknowledge Willie Richter, Mayor of West Alton, for permitting the use of West Alton City Hall for these workshops.

Bill Levin has done an outstanding job restoring our finances. Before COVID-19, we had about \$27,000 in reserves. During recovery and our transition to Zoom meetings, we spent nearly \$5,000. Bill recommended investing some reserves in a CD account, which, with interest rates near or above 5%, helped rebuild our reserves. Thanks to Bill's leadership, our financial reserves are now restored. Excellent work, Bill.

Resuming the Fall Meet was a significant undertaking. Walter Beckman, Brad Joseph, and numerous volunteers organized two successful events. Walter identified a new location that provides adequate space, tables, and chairs at a lower cost than the previous venue. The Division earned over \$1,000 during both Fall Meets. Brad focused on revitalizing the contest portion of the event, resulting in more entries than in many previous years. Additionally, Dave Ackmann contributed by expanding our pool of qualified Merit Award judges.

We restarted our annual Holiday Party this year, thanks to Walter Beckman for finding a new venue and organizing the event. Attendance was high, and attendees enjoyed themselves. David Lowell and Greg Gramlich received their Master Model Railroader certificates and plaques. We also awarded the Henry "Hank" Kraichely Lifetime Achievement Award to the families of Donald Ayres and Richard Velten. Thank you to all who attended; it was a special night.

We initiated outreach to other Divisions within MCoR. Smaller Divisions in MCoR often lack the resources to hold monthly meetings, so we have begun inviting their members to join us via Zoom during our monthly meetings. We now have members from Divisions in Arkansas and Missouri attending our Division meetings.

As I step down as Superintendent, I extend my gratitude to the officers and volunteers who support the Division. This group is essential to the Division's operations.

Our publicity chairman, Greg Gramlich, restarted our attendance at local Model Railroad events. Greg organized our attendance at the Prototype Modelers meet in July and the Great Train Show in December. Greg also has us scheduled to attend the Saint Charles Great Show in January. Thank you, Greg, for stepping up.

As I step down as Superintendent, I extend my gratitude to the officers and volunteers who support the Division. This group is essential to the Division's operations. For those not currently involved, please consider running for a Division officer position or volunteering. The success of our organization relies on your participation.

My next step is to assume the position of Director. As your representative to MCoR, I intend to advocate for reform within the Region. The Region possesses untapped resources that we should utilize to support disadvantaged Divisions and achieve the NMRA's goals of promoting the hobby and education. I would like to express my gratitude to the outgoing Director, David Lowell, for his leadership and contributions during his tenure as Director of the Division. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Superintendent.

Warmest Regards,
Jim Ables, Director, Gateway Division



We want to hear from you! The Officers, Chairs, and Volunteers at the Gateway Division strive to give you a variety of activities, such as presentations, hands-on workshops, operating sessions, layout tours, AP judging, prototype tours, a Fall Meet, a holiday party, and now a chance to build layout modules with your fellow Division members. We would like to hear from you if you like what we are doing or if you would like us to do something different. After all, this is your Division of the NMRA. Check out the "2024 Year in Review" article in this issue of the RPO to see the variety of activities that occurred over the past year. You can send in your thoughts to our Division Superintendent, Bob Miller at bobnjoanstlmo@gmail.com or to the editor of the RPO at: rpoeditor@outlook.com

2025 Gateway Division Event Calendar



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

February 15, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Hands-on Workshop

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

March 17, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Member Meeting with Presentation

Oakville Elks Lodge
2726 Oakville Elks Lane, St. Louis. MO

April 21, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Member Meeting with Presentation

Oakville Elks Lodge
2726 Oakville Elks Lane, St. Louis. MO

May 17, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Hands-on Workshop

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

June 16, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Member Meeting with Presentation

Oakville Elks Lodge
2726 Oakville Elks Lane, St. Louis. MO

July 21, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Member Meeting with Presentation

Oakville Elks Lodge
2726 Oakville Elks Lane, St. Louis. MO

August 16, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Hands-on Workshop

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

September 15, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Member Meeting with Presentation

Oakville Elks Lodge
2726 Oakville Elks Lane, St. Louis. MO

October 20, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Member Meeting with Presentation

Oakville Elks Lodge
2726 Oakville Elks Lane, St. Louis. MO

November 1, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Fall Meet

VFW Post 5691
1234 Vandalia St, Collinsville, IL

November TBD, 2025, TBD p.m..

Holiday Party

Location TBD

December 15, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Member Meeting with Show and Tell and Mini Swap Meet

Oakville Elks Lodge
2726 Oakville Elks Lane, St. Louis. MO

Presentations Needed

We need presentations for March, April, June, July, September, and October. If you have a presentation or an idea for a presentation, contact Dan Knipp, Presentations Chair, at: dgknipp@att.net. We can also help you build your presentation if you need assistance. Just let us know and we are happy to help.



Gateway Division NMRA

Hands-on Workshop Weathering with Oils

CONDUCTED BY BOB MILLER

Saturday, February 15, 2025, 9:30 A.M.

West Alton City Hall

111 Richard Drive

West Alton, Missouri

SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED AT NO COST

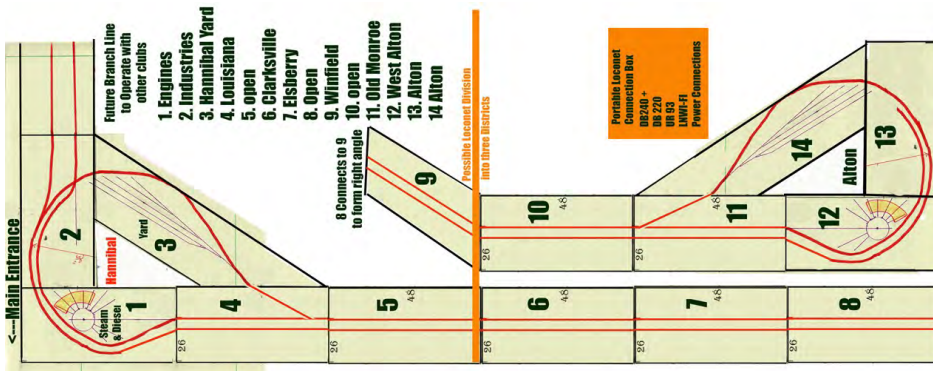
*** HOWEVER ***

YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN MODELS TO WEATHER

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY:

Gateway Division Module Group Meeting

- There will be a meeting of the Division's module construction group to check-out the first standard straight module built by Charles Marshall
- We will be discussing how each module will be set up with cork, track, and DCC electrical connections
- Come to the workshop and stay for the meeting for a great morning of modeling fun!



Mid-Continent Region Annual Convention

By Larry Diehl, President, Mid-Continent Region, NMRA

Plan to Attend

78th Mid CONTINENT Regional CONVENTION

**MCOR to KC
IN '25**

AUGUST 22ND & 23RD
... Friday and Saturday ...

Lenexa/Overland Park/Kansas City
hosted with and overlaying
Turkey Creek Division Annual Show

Special Clinics



Clinics

Modeling Photo Contest
Dessert Bar & Ice Cream

Speakers

Train Show

More Clinics

Turkey Creek Model Contest

Layout Tours

Banquet

Good Food

Speaker

Chinese Auction

Live Auction

Fun!



Expected Schedule

MCoR to KC '25

Friday the Convention starts with clinics around 1:00 pm. The intent is to give you time to drive into the Convention on Friday morning.



Holiday Inn & Suites
Overland Park, KS

Friday will feature clinics related to Kansas City Southern, then interesting clinics on modeling and layout operations.

We are planning a couple of photo presentations on Friday morning for those who come early.

The model and photo contest room will open at 1:00 pm for displays and judging. Friday will be the only day for the contest model viewing and judging. We will wrap up the judging Friday evening and present award plaques at Saturday evening banquet.

We are overlaying MCoR activities onto the Turkey Creek Division Annual Train Show with its own separate contest, awards, and clinics Saturday morning through early afternoon. Their awards will be presented Saturday afternoon in a separate presentation. The Turkey Creek Show is open to the public.

MCoR clinics will be Friday afternoon, the MCoR contest room will start Friday at 1:00 pm, and contest and judging will be complete Friday evening. All winners will be determined by NMRA judging scores. MCoR is planning a "Dessert Snack Bar" Friday evening. ~~Maybe ice cream and pie!~~ We are trying to arrange a short presentation or speaker to highlight the evening.

Turkey Creek is planning to have six (6) more clinics Saturday morning. Turkey Creek will also host a contest room with awards presented in early afternoon. Winning is based upon popular vote. All MCoR attendees can also submit their models to this contest.

Home layout tours are planned for Saturday afternoon.

MCoR will host our banquet on Saturday evening. We are planning for:

- A nice dinner with cash bar
- A guest speaker (somewhat shorter in length)
- Awards for model and photo contest
- Special award for KCS category
- MCoR Service Awards
- A "Chinese Auction"! (with tickets being sold at banquet)
- A short live auction (member built items)

Don't forget about the special contest category soliciting entries on KCS/pre-cursor railroads. It will be a very nice special plaque! See the eligible railroads which will count as KCS and its evolution.



Hope you all enjoy

and welcome the shortened convention schedule, economy motel costs! ... so you can spend more money at the train show!

Larry W. Diehl
Your MCoR President

PLEASE COME ... PLEASE ENJOY!



MCoR to KC IN '25





NMRA Mid Continent Region Convention

Having special focus on the KCS System, History, Contest Category ...
THE "SOUTHERN BELLE" passenger service to points South!

Hosted by

Turkey Creek Division

August 22nd & 23rd, 2025

To be held at

Holiday Inn & Suites

8787 Reeder Street

Overland Park, Kansas

Registration Form

Name of Primary Registration: _____ NMRA #: _____

NMRA membership required to enter model contest.

Spouses's Name (if attending): _____ (keep name tag for banquet)

Name of other registrants: _____

(Spouse will receive a complimentary pass for admission to include the train show and banquet meal w/name tag.
other Extra fare participation must be purchased for each person attending.

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Are you registering as a Vendor? Yes ☐ No ☐ no MCoR registration needed...select wanted "Extra Fare Events".

Registration Fee (NMRA membership number required for reduced registration fee.)

Cost	# Persons	Total Cost
NMRA member \$115.00 per person (includes Turkey Creek Train Show)	\$115.00	
Non-member - \$135.00 per person (includes Turkey Creek Train Show)	\$135.00	

Extra Fare Reservations:

Lunch Friday 11:00 am to 1:00 pm ("box sandwich etc.)	\$14.00	
Friday Dessert Bar at 6:30 pm, per person, including spouse	\$18.00	
Lunch Saturday 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (box sandwich etc.)	\$14.00	
Saturday Banquet (cash bar) choose 1 per person	\$30.00	
(if a vendor wants to attend the banquet, this extra fare applies to each person)		

TOTAL REGISTRATION:

Vendor Tables for Saturday Train Show Swap Meet (Vendors must register but no base fee)

are being reserved and paid for through separate Turkey Creek Registration forms.
(to be available soon)

Send Completed Registration Form to:

Larry Diehl
7008 Millridge Street
Shawnee, Kansas 66218
ldiehl066@gmail.com
for any additional information call (816)804-0152

MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS WITH HOTEL OR CLICK LINK BELOW

Holiday Inn & Suites
8787 Reeder Street
Overland Park, Kansas 66214
(913)888-8440
Rate: \$99.00 (includes breakfast)
Ask for MCoR/NMRA group rate
www.holidayinn.com/overland-parkw

Upcoming Events

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

February 8, 2025 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Sons of the American Legion Spring Train Show: Dupu American Legion Post #485, 200 South 5th Street, Dupu, IL

February 22, 2025 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Pacific Eagles Train Show: 707 West Congress Street, Pacific, MO

March 8, 2025 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Boeing Employee's Railroad Club—St. Louis Railroad Swap Meet: Greensfelder Recreation Complex at Queeny Park, 550 Wiedman Road, Ballwin, MO

March 9, 2025 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Springfield Train Fair: Orr Building, Illinois State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL

March 29, 2025 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: After the Storm Train Show: Arnold Eagles Hall, 1725 Jeffco Blvd., Arnold, MO

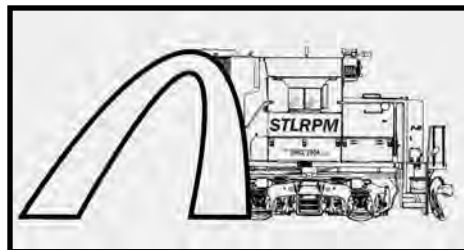
May 3, 2025, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: 2nd Train Show & Swap Meet: American Legion Post 683, 7236 State Route 15, St. Libory, IL

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

Achievement Program Update: If at First You Don't Succeed

By Dave Ackmann, Achievement Program Chair, Gateway Division

If At First You Don't Succeed . . .

Try, try again.

You've heard it said many times in your life, and it is especially true in the NMRA Achievement Program (the AP). May I tell you my story?

I entered my first NMRA contest in the spring of 2022, at the "Indy Junction" Tri-Regional Conference in Indianapolis. I had 3 entries, a log cabin, an A-Frame, and a freight house. None of them won a Merit Award. But this conference was also my first opportunity to be a Celebration Judge (or Contest Judge as they were called in days gone by). I attended judging classes and was assigned to a team who helped me learn what to look for and how to score entries. Judging helped me better understand the comments judges made on my models.

Fast forward to November 2024, where four of my eight structural entries were given Merit Awards at the Gateway Division Annual Meet; my first award winners ever! Interestingly, one of the winners was an upgraded version of the freight house from 2022, after I addressed some of the deficiencies identified the first time around. Just goes to show that reflection, improvements, and trying again can lead to growth and success.

I need two more Merit Award winning buildings to qualify for the AP award for structures, which is something I decided I want to achieve. Two of the models which did not receive awards last November were ones that I thought might qualify, but when I read the comments on the back, I recognized opportunities for improvement that I had missed. I am in the process of upgrading these models and will bring them back better than ever.

So, "What's the point"? Don't be discouraged if at first your entries are not recognized as highly as you would like. A second set of eyes usually helps identify opportunities to "raise the bar", and will lead to improved construction and details. And even if you have never before brought your work in front of your colleagues, it's really is painless and definitely will help you learn how small changes might lead to big results. It might even lead you to become a judge.

A second set of eyes usually helps identify opportunities to "raise the bar", and will lead to improved construction and details.

If you want to talk some more about the AP journey, you know where to find me.

Dave Ackmann
Achievement Program Coordinator, Gateway Division
E-mail: ackmanns@charter.net

Membership Update: July 2024 through December 2024

Membership Anniversaries

Thank You!

35 Years

Ron Schlueter

David Raymo

30 Years

Gerald Golaszewski

25 Years

Erika Tetens

Trevor Axford

20 Years

Robert Gibson

10 Years

Rick Izard

Axtell Kramer

5 Years

Lorie Knox

Ben Jordan

Edward Smith

Vern Tracy

Brenda Masters-Stout

Paul Steinberg

New Members

Welcome!

Matt Snyder

Jay Kiesewetter

Jeff Nelson

Carol Beckman

David Ackerman



Contact Bob Miller,
Superintendent at:
bobnjoanstimo@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 Paymaster: Assist the Paymaster with finance related tasks and learn position so that we have a backup in the event the need arises.

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of others." – Charles Dickens

"Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others." – Booker T. Washington

"If you get, give. If you learn, teach." – Maya Angelou

Gateway Division Forms Module Group

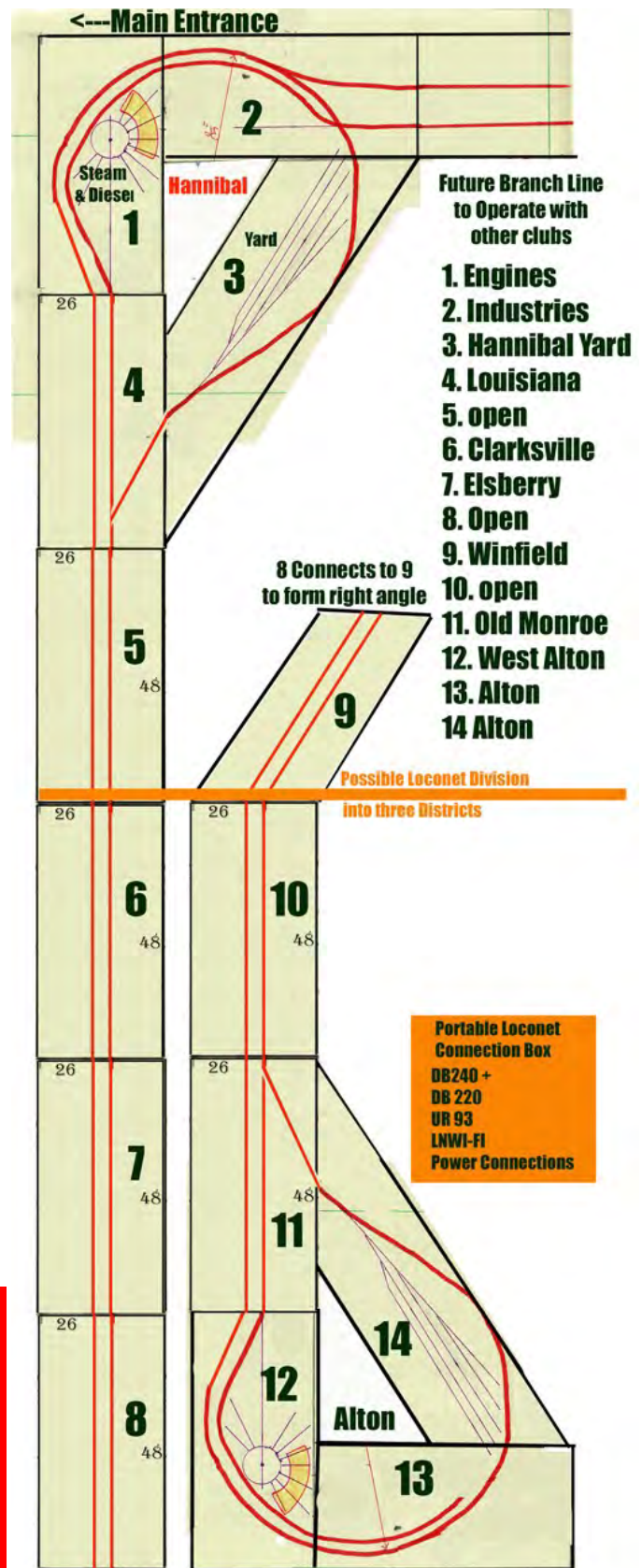
By Greg Gramlich, MMR, Operations Chair, Gateway Division

The Gateway Division is embarking on an exciting new project for our Division members. Plans are underway to establish a group to build HO scale layout modules.

The proposed layout design (on the right) represents the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy from West Alton, Missouri to Hannibal, Missouri. The layout will be built, maintained, and operated at the West Alton City Hall. It will also to be taken to outside events such as the Division's Fall Meet and some other Free-mo events in the area.

Charles Marshall exhibited his fine craftsman skills and built the first standard straight module. Photos of his excellent work are on the following page.

Join us on Saturday, February 15, 2025 at West Alton City Hall, 111 Richard Drive, West Alton, MO to discuss and decide the details for this exciting project. The first standard straight module will be on-hand for you to check out. In addition to checking out Charles Marshall's fine craftsmanship, we will be discussing how each module will be set up with cork, track, and DCC electrical connections. The meeting will occur after the Division's Hands-on Workshop that is being presented by Bob Miller. Attendees will get hands-on instruction and experience in weathering freight cars with oils. The hands-on workshop begins at 9:30 a.m. Come for the workshop and stay for the modular layout meeting. For more information send Greg an e-mail at headbigbear@yahoo.com



Module Group Meeting

Saturday, February 15, 2025

Immediately Following the Hands-on
Workshop which begins at 9:30 a.m.
West Alton City Hall, 111 Richard Drive,
West Alton, MO

The following photos show the first completed standard straight module that will be available for inspection at the upcoming meeting immediately following the hands-on workshop at West Alton City Hall on February 15, 2025. Charles Marshall built the module. Photos by Charles Marshall.



Joint Tour of Continental Fabricators

By Ron Gawedzinski, Activities Coordinator, Gateway Division

On Friday, November 8, 2024, a joint group of 14 railfans from the St. Louis Chapter NRHS and the Gateway Division NMRA toured Continental Fabricators to learn how boilers, particularly steam locomotive boilers, and other heavy vessels were made.

Fred Steinkuehler, President, and Rob Berry, Project Manager, of Continental Fabricators gave us an extensive tour of the shop. We learned a lot more details and appreciation for what special expertise it takes to fabricate, restore and rehab steam locomotive boilers, with a better insight into the equipment and labor used on the boilers and other heavy vessels.

We saw the new boiler and smoke box of Pennsylvania Railroad T1 No. 5550 4-4-4 steam locomotive, and a new boiler for Gulf & Ohio RR No. 112, 2-truck, 60 ton Shay, built in 1923, originally for Frost & Johnson Lumber Co. Our group toured the fabrication shop under actual working conditions.

We thank Ron Gawedzinski for arranging the tour and Fred and Rob from Continental Fabricators for their expert narration of the shop tour.

Ron Gawedzinski, Outside Activities Coordinator, Gateway Division NMRA and St. Louis Chapter NRHS arranged the tour. Photos by Ron Gawedzinski unless otherwise noted.



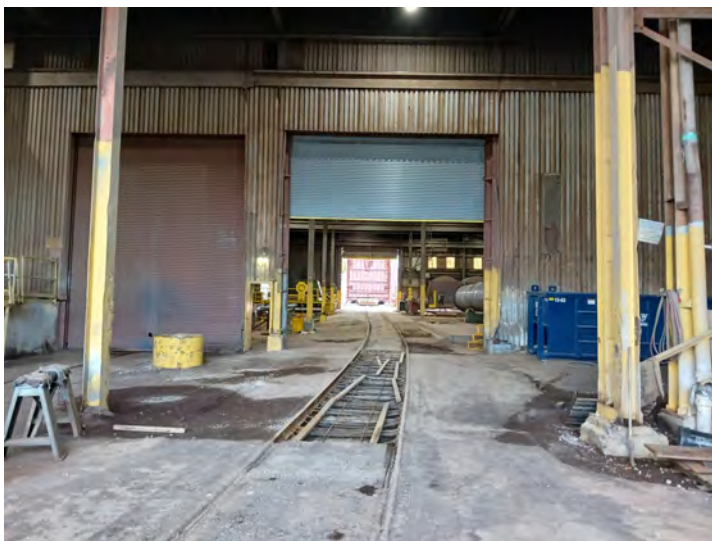
Continental slogan (Photo by David Huelsing)



Rob Berry explaining a process.



Union Shop (Photo by David Huelsing)



Railroad tracks inside the shop



Flare stack, 1st of 3 sections



Side view of flare stack



Back of PRR T1 No. 5550, 4-4-4-4, boiler



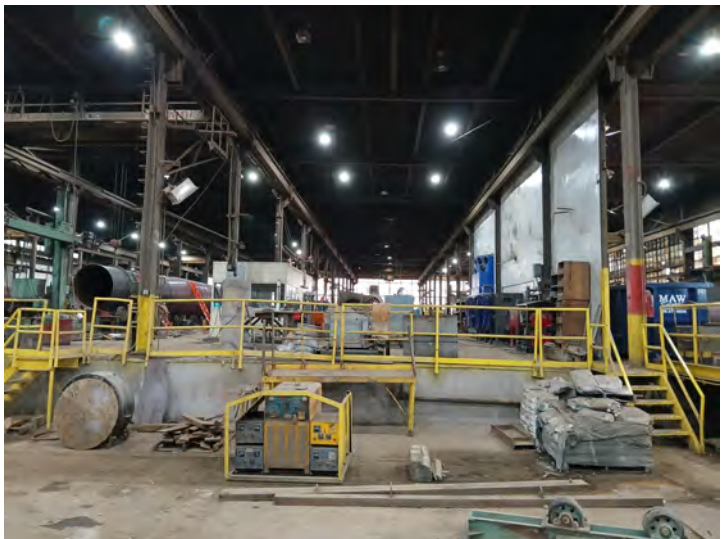
2nd section of flare stack



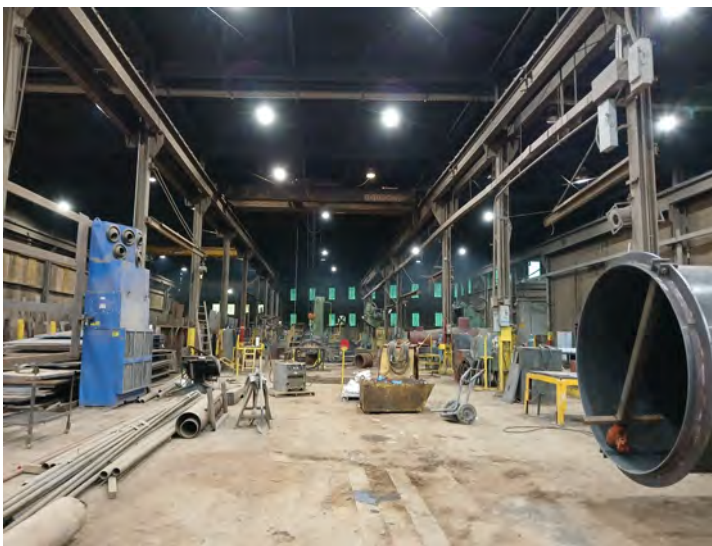
Railfans listening intently



President Fred, 2nd from right, explains work



View of shop area



View of shop area



3rd section of flare stack



Original boiler, Frost & Johnson Lumber Co., #112, 2-truck, 60 ton Shay



Another view, F&J, #112, 2-truck, 60 ton Shay



Smoke box door, F&J, #112, 2-truck, 60 ton Shay



Boring machine



Fred explaining technology



Radial arm drill



Pyramid roller, will roll up to 6" thick steel plate



Another view of the shop



1,000-ton brake press



Outside, on trailer, boiler of PRR T1, No. 5550, 4-4-4-4



View from other end, boiler, PRR T1, No. 5550.



View of boiler from fire box end, looking forward,
PRR T1, No. 5550, 4-4-4-4



Gas fired heat treatment oven



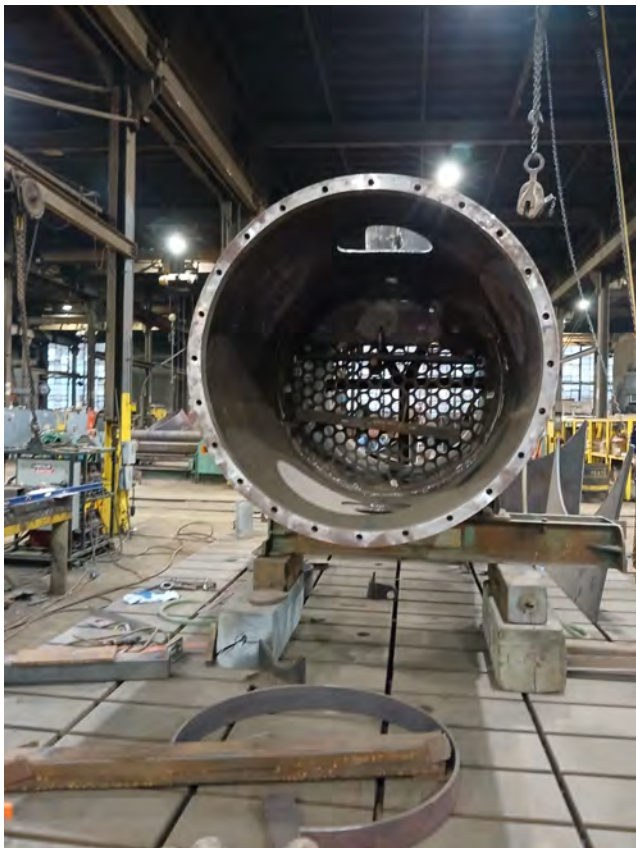
Front view, gas fired heat treatment oven



Replacement of original F&J boiler, #112, 2-truck, 60 ton Shay. Created by laser technology



Another view of replacement F&J boiler, #112



Front smoke box of replacement F&J boiler #112



Fire box for replacement F&J, #112, boiler, Shay



Fred pointing out layout of fire box assembly stay bolts on replacement F&J #112 boiler Shay



View looking inside fire box for replacement



Taking special pictures of fire box assembly



Inspecting fire box for replacement F&J #112 boiler,



Railfans checking things out



Fred explaining technology of work



Railroad spike bottle opener and steam locomotive emblem magnet given as gifts from Continental Fabricators



Group photo in front of replacement Frost & Johnson Lumber Co., #112, boiler, for 2-truck, 60 ton Shay

2024 Fall Meet Recap

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

The 2024 Gateway Division Fall Meet is in the books and it was a success. On November 2, 2024, there were over 40 vendor tables, door prizes galore, raffles for great items, a contest room filled with incredible models, three great presentations, two layouts on-site, and two layout tours after the meet. There was even a food truck out front to sell tasty lunches to hungry attendees, volunteers, and vendors.

This event could not be possible without volunteers. Brad Joseph, MMR was the Fall Meet Chair this year and he assembled a group that was second to none with their efforts and results. Each activity, from the entry table, to the raffles, to the door prizes, to the contest room, and to the vendor and layout area takes volunteers. On the day of the event, these volunteers arrived at sunrise to get it started and stayed until the last lost price tag was swept up. And all those volunteers need a volunteer to coordinate the volunteers. It is a tremendous effort and the Gateway Division would like to thank each and every one of them for every single thing they did to make this year's Fall Meet a success. The Division depends on this event as it is the only big fundraising event that we do to cover our costs all year long.

The Fall Meet sold out every single vendor table this year. There was a lot of great merchandise for shoppers to peruse and buy. We had many returning vendors and some new ones. The Gateway Division appreciates and thanks the vendors for filling the room and helping make the Meet a success. We could not accomplish our Fall Meet without their support.

Fellowship



We had two great layouts on-site this year. Gateway N-Trak and Gateway Free-mo graciously set up their modules for two outstanding setups that drew the attention of almost every visitor that day. From young to old alike, these layouts were a hit as both exhibited some excellent modeling.

From 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. we had three great presentations for anyone to attend. First up, Division 3D printing guru Dave Ackmann presented an Introduction to 3D Printing. Next, Fred Wilke informed and instructed his attendees on How to Build and Detail a Block of Buildings. Bob Miller wrapped up the final presentation for the day on demonstrating how to Use Oils to Weather and Rust. All in all, the presenters and attendees had a great time. Thank you to all three presenters for providing engaging and instructive sessions.

The Celebration of Models Room saw a dramatic increase in models on display this year. In an effort to engage modelers and attendees, the Celebration of Models Room provided space for models to be judged for the NMRA Achievement Program, to be included in the Popular Vote contest, and also for those modelers who simply wanted to show-and-tell without having their models reviewed or voted upon. It was a great way to view some great modeling and to also talk with the modelers to ask questions about their handiwork. Thank you to everyone who brought models to our Celebration of Models room.

To give our attendees, vendors, and volunteers fuel to make it through the meet, The Best Wurst food truck was on hand to serve up some tasty food. Personally speaking, I thought the Ultimate Apple Brat and German potato salad was delicious, although I heard from others the brats, dogs, and pork steaks were darn



good, too. Thanks to the Best Wurst for serving our hungry folks some great food.

If all of that isn't enough, after the meet, Doug and Tony Pelligrino and K-10 Trains graciously opened up their layouts for tours. The Pellegrino's Illinois Central Gulf layout is a great layout built for operations. K-10 Trains put their massive layout on display and also offered another shopping opportunity to their visitors. The Gateway Division sincerely appreciates these folks for opening up their layouts on a Saturday afternoon.

Soon after the 2024 Fall Meet became history, planning for the 2025 Fall Meet kicked into gear. Walter Beckman agreed to Chair this year's Fall Meet. Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2025 Fall Meet to be held on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at the same location: VFW Post 5691 at 1234 Vandalia Street in Collinsville, Illinois. We are expecting an even better Fall Meet this year. Please plan to attend and we will see you there!

Celebration of Models Room



Gateway N-Trak



The Best Wurst



Gateway Free-MO



Pellegrino's ICG



K-10 Trains



The 2024 Fall Meet Celebration of Models

By David Lowell, MMR, Gateway Division, Photos by Jeff Cooper

Best in Show: Judged



David Ackmann
Stems Florist

Best in Show, Judged

**Offline Structure,
Scratchbuilt: Judged
1st Place and Merit
Award**

**Offline Structure:
Popular Vote
1st Place**

Steam Locomotive: Popular Vote



**1st Place: Brad Joseph, MMR,
Anacortes & Mt. Rainier Climax**

Diesel Locomotive, Kit Built: Judged



**1st Place Judged, 1st Place Popular Vote, and Merit
Award:**

Passenger Car: Popular Vote



1st Place: Brad Joseph, MMR, SP Dome/Lounge

Caboose: Popular Vote



1st Place: Brad Joseph, MMR, AMB Northern Pacific

Freight Car, Scratchbuilt: Judged



1st Place Judged and Merit Award:
Dave Roeder, MMR,
HO flat car 40 foot wood T&E #567

Non-Revenue: Popular Vote



1st Place: Dave Roeder, MMR
1/25th scale Narrow Gauge 36"
Silverton Gladstone & Northerly #45 MOW truck

Freight Car, Popular Vote



1st Place: Dave Roeder, MMR,
1/25th scale flat car-40'
St. Louis & Northern Short Line #1817

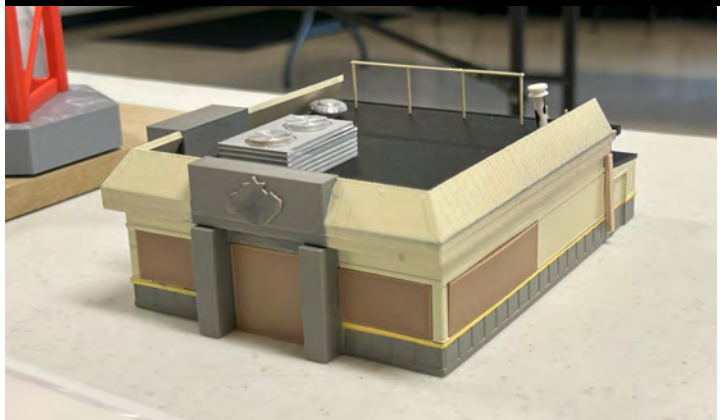
Offline Structure, Scratchbuilt: Judged



2nd Place and Merit Award: David Ackmann,
Greenhouse



2nd Place: Chris Oestreich
TTPX 81858 Log Car



3rd Place and Merit Award: David Ackmann,
Church's Chicken

Online Structure, Popular Vote



1st Place: Elmer Kellmann, Rock Bunker



2nd Place: Elmer Kellmann, Elijah Roth & Sons



3rd Place: Jeff Cooper,
Southern Illinois Produce Company

Online Structure, Scratchbuilt Judged



1st Place and Merit Award: David Ackmann
Moss Brothers Freighthouse



2nd Place: David Ackmann
KORN

Offline Structure, Kit Built: Judged



1st Place and Merit Award: Robert Miller
Yankem and Pullin Dental Office

Offline Structure, Popular Vote



2nd Place: Glenn Koproske
Anheuser Truck Terminal in N Scale



3rd Place: Jeff Cooper, Gloria's Diner

Whole Train: Popular Vote



1st Place: Brian Post, Steam Train



2nd Place: Glenn Koproske
Conrail Passenger Train N Scale

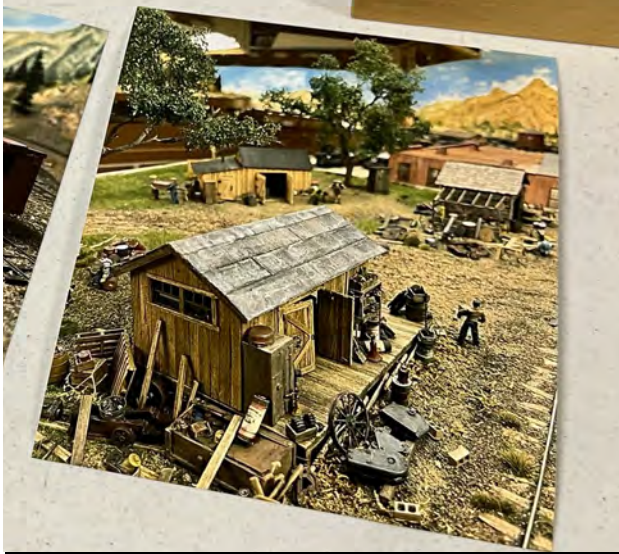


3rd Place: Don Schnurpfel
BN 445712 through UP81332

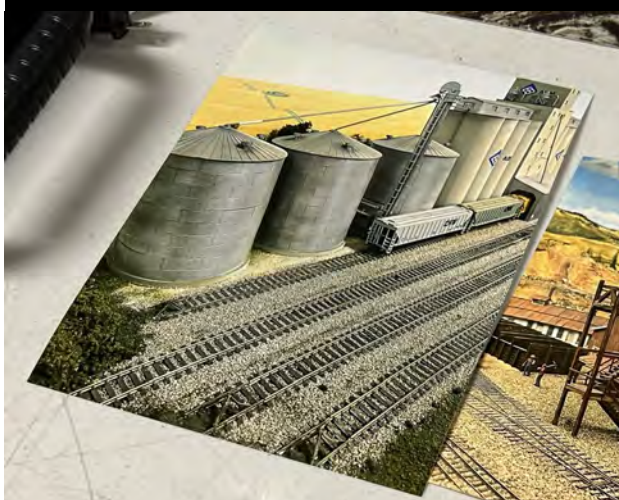
Model Photo: Popular Vote



1st Place: Chris Oestreich, D&RGW 3512



2nd Place: Chris Oestreich, Shanty



3rd Place: Chris Oestreich, ADM Elevator

Prototype Photo



**1st Place Judged and 3rd Place Popular Vote:
Robert Miller
481 Leads a Double Header to Cascade Canyon**

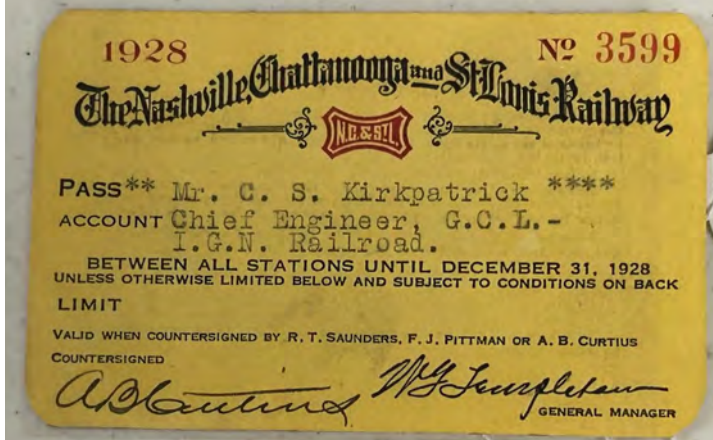


**1st Place Popular Vote: Brad Joseph, MMR
Night Watchman's View Cumberland MD**

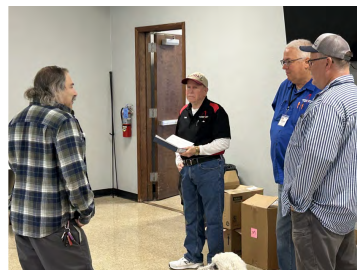


**2nd Place Popular Vote: Brad Joseph, MMR
Patria Sugar Mill Morón, Cuba**

Railroad Pass, Judged



1st Place: Robert Miller
1928 Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway



The Gateway Division would like to thank all participants who brought their models to the 2024 Fall Meet Celebration of Models Room. This year there were models that were judged for the Achievement Program, models that were entered into the popular vote contest, and some that were in both. Additionally, participants brought models that were not judged nor entered into the popular vote contest as the goal of the Celebration of Models Room was to share the outstanding work of the participants whether they were judged, entered into the popular vote, or simply placed on display for all to enjoy. We wanted to create an environment that allowed you, the modeler, decide how you wanted to participate. One of the joys of this hobby is to share models, projects, ideas, information, and inspiration with our fellow modelers, and as such, we wanted to allow you the opportunity to choose how to do that. We look forward to celebrating your modeling accomplishments at the 2025 Fall Meet. See you there!

Celebrate Good Times!

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

After a lengthy absence, the Gateway Division Holiday Party returned on November 16, 2024. This year, Gateway Division members and many of their family members gathered at Crusoe's in Oakville Shopping Center for an evening of celebrating the fellowship and accomplishments of our members.

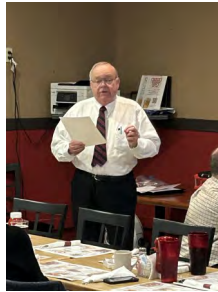
First up, we got to celebrate the well-served accomplishments of our two newest Master Model Railroaders. Dave Ackmann presented Greg Gramlich, MMR with his Master Model Railroader plaque while Dave Roeder, MMR, presented David Lowell, MMR with his plaque. Both shared their stories and their gratefulness of the support they received from those inside the hobby as well as their families.

Next, Jim Ables presented two Henry "Hank" Kraichely Lifetime Achievement Awards. Both honors were awarded posthumously to Rich Velten and Don Ayres. It was a proud and an emotional celebration of two Division members who are sorely missed. Their story appears in this issue of the RPO.

Walter Beckman gave a presentation on attending National conventions. He explained his thoughts about attending to show those who have never attended the kinds of activities and opportunities await at a National convention.

Most importantly, we got to celebrate the friendships, new and old, and the fellowship created by our shared interest in this incredible hobby.

The 2025 Holiday Party is early in the planning stages. Stay tuned for dates, times, and details. We hope to see you there!



Gateway Division Bestows Lifetime Achievement Awards

By Jim Ables, Director, Gateway Division

Don Ayres

Donald "Don" Ayres was posthumously awarded the Gateway Division's Henry "Hank" Kraichely Lifetime Achievement Award at the November Gateway Division Holiday Party. Superintendent Jim Ables accepted the award on behalf of the family.

Don, an avid modeler, specialized in building structures, detailing rolling stock, and steam and diesel engines. Over several years, he built a layout based on Cajon Pass in southern California.

Don joined the NMRA and Gateway Division in the late 90s. His first major activity was the 2001 NMRA convention hosted by the Gateway Division. He served as Division Clerk and Assistant Superintendent, initiated the Model Railroading 101 program for new modelers, and organized Division information tables at numerous Train Shows.

Don passed away from pancreatic cancer in 2019.



Rich Velten

Richard "Rich" Velten was posthumously awarded the Gateway Division's Henry "Hank" Kraichely Lifetime Achievement Award at the November Holiday Party. Superintendent Jim Ables presented the award to Rich's widow, Marilyn Velten, with his son, daughter-in-law, and brother in attendance.

Rich, a long-time NMRA and Gateway Division member, served as paymaster for over 10 years, organized the Fall Meet, worked at train shows, and repaired engines for other members. He created a popular display demonstrating sound decoders and speakers, which he continually updated and used to educate non-members at the Fall Meet.

Rich passed away from pancreatic cancer in early 2020.



Two Division Members Earn Their MMRs

By Jim Ables, Director, Gateway Division



Greg Gramlich, MMR #773

Dave Ackmann, Gateway Division Achievement Program Chair (left) presents Greg Gramlich (right) his plaque for earning Master Model Railroader #773. Greg is the Operations Chair and Publicity Chair for the Gateway Division and holds routine operating sessions on his Bear Creek layout. Congratulations, Greg!



David Lowell, MMR #775

David Lowell (left) receives his plaque for earning Master Model Railroader #775 from Dave Roeder, MMR (right). David previously held the office of Director for the Division and will now chair the Fall Meet Celebration of Models Room. He is also well known for his enthusiasm for the C&IM. Congratulations, David!



Gateway Division Ops Session: Bear Creek

By Greg Gramlich, MMR, Operations Chair, Gateway Division

On October 19, 2024, The Bear Creek layout hosted an operating session for Division members.

The Bear Creek model railroad is a prototypical layout and operating sessions are as realistic as possible and are based on the Cotton Belt/Southern Pacific operations in southern Arkansas in the mid-1950's. My focus is to have the Cotton Belt/Southern Pacific picking up and delivering goods to the towns and industries along the line.

The operators listed on the sign-in sheet will either be an engineer/crew or an individual running a train. I often pair up a non-experienced operator with an experienced operator. When hosting an operating session on my layout, my philosophy is that you are at an operating session to have fun. It isn't a race so take your time, enjoy yourself, and be comfortable because nobody is going to judge you on the Bear Creek model railroad.

Editor's Note: To read more about Greg's layout and detailed information on its operations, check out the Volume 31 Issue 1 Spring 2023 RPO.







2024: The Year in Review

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

JANUARY

The year started off with Walter Beckman beginning his term as Assistant Superintendent taking over for Dan Knipp who retired from Division officer duties. Jeff Cooper began his second term as Clerk.

Greg Gramlich, MMR, received certificates for Structures and Scenery and Glenn Koproske received his certificate for Scenery.

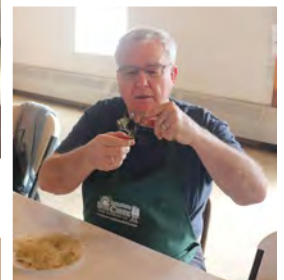
Brad Joseph, MMR agreed to be the Fall Meet Chair for 2024.

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.

RPO Volume 31, Issue 4: Winter 2024 was issued and included Steve Goaring's Illinois Terminal layout, a report on the October 2023 charter train tour on the St. Louis, Iron Mountain, and Southern, an article by Steven Hamilton showing us how he models graffiti on freight cars, a report on the 2023 Fall Meet, an article by Jeff Cooper about modeling trees by using a technique he learned at the NMRA National Convention in Grapevine, Texas, information on the Big Four station in Mt. Carmel, IL and the Illinois Central freight house in Herrin, IL along with all of the usual columns and announcements you've come to enjoy in each issue of RPO.

FEBRUARY

Greg Gramlich, MMR, conducted the first hands-on workshop of 2024 with his presentation and instruction on how to make trees.



MARCH

At the March member meeting, Glenn Koproske received his AP certificate for Association Volunteer while Greg Gramlich, MMR received his certificates for Cars and Association Volunteer. Greg Gramlich, MMR and David Lowell, MMR received their merit awards for their entries in the 2023 Fall Meet.

Greg Gramlich, MMR agreed to be the Division's Publicity Chair taking over for Jim Ables.

The Division received a large number of items donated by American Model Builders after they closed their operations.

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? His 156 panel presentation attempted to fill that knowledge gap.



APRIL

Edward M. Koehler followed up on his March presentation on Cass, West Virginia with: Three Days in Cass, West Virginia. What happens when a rail enthusiast returns to a venue after a 48-year absence by buying a ticket for a three-day photo charter? See the answer when Ed Koehler visits the Cass Scenic Railroad for three special days of trains run for the photography group only. Shays, a Heisler and a Climax all contribute to this wonderful collection of geared locomotives and West Virginia scenery. To complete the story and reach Bald Knob, images from a visit in 1973 and another in 2022 have been added into the mix.

Greg Gramlich, MMR, hosted an operating session for Division members on his Bear Creek layout.

RPO Volume 32, Issue 1: Spring 2024 was issued and included John Peluso's Frisco Eastern Division Cuba Sub. layout, an article previewing the Mid-Continent Region Convention scheduled for June 13th-15th, 2024, a review of the February hands-on workshop, an article on painting and weathering flatcar decks, a tour of Rene LaVoise's Sedalia & Warsaw layout, and information about the Marion, IL C&EI depot and a timber overpass in Gallatin County, IL along with all of the usual columns and announcements you've come to enjoy in each issue of RPO.



MAY

The second hands-on workshop of 2024 occurred in May and attendees got to learn how to paint with and care for airbrushes. There were multiple airbrushes on hand so participants could actually learn by doing.

JUNE

Greg Gramlich, MMR received his Achievement Program certificate for Prototype Models.

Brian Post, a Gateway Division member, presented an introduction to JMRI, both Decoder Pro and Operations Pro. This also included an introduction to Soundtraxx Blunami decoders with an engine that had a Blunami decoder in it.

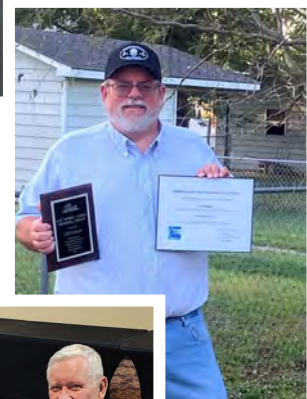
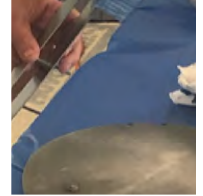
The Mid-Continent Region Convention was held in Grand Island, NE. Several Gateway Division members attended. David Lowell, MMR knocked down six awards while Dave Roeder, MMR took home 8 awards. David Lowell, MMR, also received his Achievement Program certificates for Structures and Electrical. Jeff Cooper received the region's K.B. "Kenny" Johns Memorial Award for outstanding service to the region and the NMRA President's Award for Service to the Division.

JULY

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.

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.

RPO Volume 32, Issue 2: Summer 2024 was issued and included Jeff Kuebler's Louisville & Nashville layout, a recap of the May airbrushing hands-on workshop, a preview of the 2024 Fall Meet, an article by Steven Hamilton on modeling positive train control, information on the Illinois Central depot in Waggoner, IL and the courthouse in Thebes, IL along with all of the usual columns and announcements you've come to enjoy in each issue of RPO.



AUGUST

Greg Gramlich, MMR instructed attendees on how to weather freight cars with Pan Pastels at the third and final hands-on workshop of 2024.

A joint group of railfans from the Gateway Division and the St. Louis Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society toured Intramotev, Inc., a startup company developing autonomous, battery-electric, self-propelled freight cars.

K-10 Trains hosted a 3-hour operating session for Gateway Division members.



SEPTEMBER

Greg Gramlich, MMR received his Achievement Program Chief Dispatcher certificate which put him over the top to receive his Master Model Railroader certification.

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

OCTOBER

Ryan Crawford gave his presentation about the short-lived Chicago, Missouri & Western Railway. It included a short back-story on Gateway Western and Southern Pacific and their involvement in the decline and eventual demise of CM&W. Ryan and two colleagues have been putting together a book about CM&W and Gateway Western and he hit the high points of this very interesting regional railroad topic. There was a question-and-answer session immediately after the presentation.

RPO Volume 32, Issue 3: Fall 2024 was issued and included the Litchfield Train Group layout, a recap of the tour of Intramotev, a recap of the St. Louis RPM, a review of the August weathering with Pan Pastels hands-on workshop, information on the K-10 operating session held in August, and information on the Illinois Central depot in Ullin, IL and the Grange Hall near Murphysboro, IL along with all of the usual columns and announcements you've come to enjoy in each issue of RPO.

Greg Gramlich, MMR, hosted an operating session for Division members on his Bear Creek layout.



NOVEMBER

The month kicked off with the Division's Fall Meet at the VFW in Collinsville, IL. Attendance topped 180 adults and kids who were treated to more vendor tables than last year, three presentations, loads of prizes, the Celebration of Models room with significantly more models than in 2023, Gateway Free-Mo and Gateway N-Trak layouts at the meet, tours of the K10 and Joe and Tony Pellegrino's Illinois Central Gulf layouts after the meet, a great food truck for lunch, and a chance to catch up with old and new friends alike.

A joint group of railfans from the St. Louis Chapter NRHS and the Gateway Division NMRA toured Continental Fabricators to learn how boilers, particularly steam locomotive boilers, and other heavy vessels were made.

The Division Holiday party made its return with a large turnout at Crusoe's in Oakville Shopping Center. Not only was there a great meal and chance to break bread with Division members and their families, but two Henry "Hank" Kraichely Lifetime Achievement Awards were awarded posthumously to Rich Velten and Don Ayers, David Lowell, MMR and Greg Gramlich, MMR were officially presented their MMR plaques, and Walter Beckman gave a presentation on attending National conventions.



DECEMBER

Greg Gramlich, MMR introduced the idea for members to build Free-Mo modules for a Division layout. The modules would represent the CB&Q from West Alton, MO to Hannibal, MO.

Glenn Koproske received his Golden Spike Award. Several members were presented with Merit Awards from the 2024 Fall Meet including Glenn Koproske, Bob Miller, Dave Ackmann, and Dave Roeder, MMR.

The Division moved to using one facility for member meetings rather than alternate between the church on the west side of St. Louis and the VFW in O'Fallon, IL. The new location is the Elks Lodge on 2726 Oakville Elks Lane, St. Louis, MO.

Members concluded the year with a mini-swap meet and a show-and-tell at the last membership meeting of the year.



Editor's Observations: What's New with You?

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

As the calendar flips from 2024 to 2025, it is a time to ponder about the new year in front of us. The optimist looks forward to all of the new exciting possibilities, the pessimist looks at the new year and complains about getting another year older and the tough times that lay ahead, and the realist knows that we will have both good and bad days just like last year. I think that depending on which day it is or our mood when we wake up in the morning, that all of us migrate between all three outlooks. Today, I am looking at things as an optimist.

The Division is starting off the year with some new Officers. After our elections at the end of 2024, Bob Miller is taking over as Superintendent as Jim Ables moved to our Region Director for the retiring David Lowell, MMR who admirably held the office for 6 years. David isn't leaving his Division involvement behind as he is taking over the Celebration of Models chair position. Bill Levin, Paymaster, retired with the expiration of his term and the exceedingly capable, John Kelly, who served as Assistant Paymaster under Bill, is taking the financial reigns. So, we start off the year with some familiar faces in new roles.

Also new for 2025 is the new meeting location that is taking the place of the church on the west side and the VFW on the east side. Our monthly meetings, with the exception of our quarterly hands-on workshops, will now be held at the Elks Lodge at 2726 Oakville Elks Lane, in St. Louis. We tested out the location for our December meeting and it worked out well. It is a central location for our members on both sides of the river, it will cost us less than our previous locations, and it has all the amenities that we need to conduct our meetings and presentations, including more than adequate internet service for our members attending via Zoom. Not only did the location change, but

we also have a new meeting time. The meetings will now start at 7:30 p.m. to allow time for traffic. What did not change is our meetings will still be held the 3rd Monday of each month, except February, May, and August which will be our hands-on workshops at the West Alton City Hall. Also, there are no meetings in November as we will have our Fall Meet and Holiday Party again in 2025.

What else is new? Well, at the December meeting, Greg Gramlich, MMR, gauged members interest in building free-mo modules for the Division so we have an opportunity for members to learn, participate, and operate on a layout built with their own hands. There will be regularly scheduled work sessions at the West Alton City Hall. The modules will represent the CB&Q from West Alton to Hannibal. The goal is to model as much of that line and its features as possible. Stay tuned for further announcements on this exciting new development in Division activities.

What's not new? Dan Knipp continues to schedule great presentations for us to enjoy. He doesn't have many lined up at the moment, so why not

. We would love to see you, in-person or virtually, at some of these events or see what you've been up to through these pages. Hopefully with this wide array of activities we are able to provide something for everyone to enjoy. If nothing else, come out to our meetings and events to meet some of the great and friendly people in our Division.

do a presentation on what's new with you and your modeling? I think this year just might be the year to show off what you have and how you did it. Something else that isn't new is that Ron Gawedenski will surely be setting up a few enjoyable tours again this year. If you missed the tours to Intramotev and Continental Fabricators in 2024 you missed a couple of good ones. We will also be bringing you great hands-on workshops to you again this year. The first one coming up in February will be weathering freight cars with oils. Watch for upcoming announcements for details on that one. We will have our Fall Meet and our holiday party again this year so nothing new

there but still lots of enjoyment nonetheless. Finally, the RPO will come out quarterly again this year. Hopefully you are enjoying the RPOs. Maybe something new for this year would be to send us something to include or even the Mid-Continent Region Caboose Kibitzer. It's another chance for you to share your techniques and accomplishments. Drop us a line or some photos to let us know what's new with you!

This year is starting to sound pretty good with the chance to build some free-mo modules, attend some great presentations and hands-on workshops, and go on a tour or two. All of that and the Fall

meet, holiday party, and the RPO are just of the many benefits of being part of the Gateway Division. We would love to see you, in-person or virtually, at some of these events or see what you've been up to through these pages. Hopefully with this wide array of activities we are able to provide something for everyone to enjoy. If nothing else, come out to our meetings and events to meet some of the great and friendly people in our Division. We'll keep a seat open for you. Feel free to reach out to me or any of the Officers if you have questions or ideas to improve the Division. May 2025 bring you some great model railroading opportunities, in the Gateway Division or otherwise.



Scenes from Lamy, NM on August 13, 2014 taken from Amtrak's *Southwest Chief*. The locomotive is a GP7u (ex-ATSF) and the passenger car is a Pullman Standard 48-seat diner (originally christened as *Talladega* on the Atlantic Coast Line)
Photos by: Jeff Cooper

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for October 21, 2024

Call to Order

Superintendent Jimmy Ables called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 new members and one visitor.

Minutes from the September 16, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Ables presented the minutes from the September 16, 2024 meeting. There were no corrections. David Lowell motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Ron Gawedzinski seconded the motion. *The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.*

Financial Reports

Bill Levin presented the August and September financial reports. Mr. Levin reported that the August report is corrected with updated CD information. The September report had little activity and shows an end of month cash balance of \$24,837.57.

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 information was presented at the last meeting held at the church and is being presented tonight so the Illinois members can weigh in. 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. The meeting would begin at 7:30 instead of 7:00 to allow for traffic on I-270. There is no curfew at the lodge, the Division could continue to sell 50/50 raffle tickets, the location has safe parking, and there are no lease agreements with either of the current locations used for the meetings. Membership agreed to hold the December member meeting at the new location as a test.

Achievement Program Update

Mr. Ackmann presented Greg Gramlich with his Chief Dispatcher certificate.

Elections

Mr. Koproske updated membership on the elections for Superintendent, Paymaster, and Region Director. The election schedule has been set, nominations are being accepted, and if necessary, voting will be electronic with paper ballots for those members who do not have e-mail addresses.

Volunteers Needed

Mr. Beckman reported that there are still a few openings for volunteers at the Fall meet. Volunteers are also needed to staff the Division table at the Great Train Show in December in Collinsville and in January in St. Charles.

Open Positions

Mr. Ables requested volunteers to serve as Assistant Clerk and Illinois Operations Coordinator. Please contact Mr. Ables if you are interested.

Club Updates

- A member reported on a fun run at the Eureka Library on October 26th from 9 to 3.
- A member reported being interested in joining a club. Members discussed many club and layout operating options in the area.

Ask Us Anything

- Members discussed filling out the online form for the contest room at the Fall Meet.
- A member noted the Division website has not been updated for quite a while. Mr. Ables acknowledged the lack of updates and noted that he is attempting to work through the situation.

Other Business

- Mr. Post reported that he would be once again hosting his annual end-of-year operating session on his layout the last Saturday in December from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend the operating session.
- A member reported that the St. Charles Train Show will be held on January 4th.
- A member asked if the Division could donate to other entities that were not a 501(c)(3). Mr. Ables reported that the Division can only donate to a 501(c)(3).
- Mr. Gawedzinski reported that the Division will hold a joint tour with the NRHS of Continental Fabricators on November 8th at 3:45 p.m. Continental makes high pressure tanks for industry and also rehabilitates steam locomotive boilers. The tour is expected to last 1.5 to 2 hours. Contact Mr. Gawedzinski to sign up for the tour.
- Mr. Ables announced that Greg Gramlich and David Lowell will be presented their Master Model Railroader (MMR) plaques at the Holiday Party in November. A member asked for an explanation of the MMR program, and Mr. Ackmann accommodated them.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Ables announced the following upcoming events:

- **October 26, 2024, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Halloween Theme Train Day**, Eureka Library, 5;00 Workman Road, Eureka, MO
- **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. both days: Train Fest**, Baird Center, 400 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI
- **November 30, 2024, December 14, 2024, and December 28, 2024: Metro East Model Railroad Club Holiday Open House**: 180 Summit Street, Glen Carbon, IL
- **December 7, 2024, Great St. Louis Christmas Train Show: TCA Ozark Division Gateway Chapter**: 4300 Hoffmeister Avenue, St. Louis, MO
- **December 7-8, 2024, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days: Great Train Show**, Gateway Center, 1 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL

50/50 Drawing

John Kelly won the 50/50 drawing.

Presentation

Ryan Crawford gave his presentation about the short-lived Chicago, Missouri & Western Railway. It included a short back-story on Gateway Western and Southern Pacific and their involvement in the decline and eventual demise of CM&W. Ryan and two colleagues have been putting together a book about CM&W and Gateway Western and he hit the high points of this very interesting regional railroad topic. There was a question-and-answer session immediately after the presentation.

Next Meetings/Events

Mr. Ables announced the following upcoming Division events:

November 2, 2024, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fall Meet, VFW Post 805, 1234 Vandalia Street, Collinsville, IL

November 16, 2024 6 p.m., Holiday Party, Crusoe's, 5591 Oakville Shopping Center, St. Louis, MO

Adjourn

Mr. Ables adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Cooper, Clerk, Gateway Division



Scenes from La Junta, Colorado on September 5, 2009 as the passengers get to take a break and step off Amtrak's *Southwest Chief* for a few moments while the train gets serviced. Photos by: Jeff Cooper

Meeting Minutes for December 16, 2024

Call to Order

Superintendent Jim Ables called the meeting to order at 7:30 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. There were two members that had not attended a meeting in a long time.

Minutes from the October 21, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Ables presented the minutes from the October 21, 2024 meeting. There were no corrections. Charles Marshall motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Carl Wessel seconded the motion. *The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.*

Financial Reports

Bill Levin presented the Fall Meet financial information. Mr. Levin reported that paid attendance was 177 (165 adults and 12 children). Revenue from the attendees totaled \$1,379 which included donations of \$36. The raffle generated \$170, table rent generated \$735, and the sale of Division products generated \$401. In total, the event generated \$2,685 in revenue. Fall Meet expenses included \$925 for hall rent, \$250 paid to clubs who set up layouts at the meet, and \$125 in advertising for total expenses of \$1,300. The net profit from the 2024 Fall Meet was \$1,385. In 2023 we had 214 paid attendees and the net profit was \$1,175. A member asked what the Division products were. Mr. Levin reported that they were items from the Don Ayers estate.

Mr. Levin presented the October and November financial statements. October's financial activities included the receipt of table rents for the Fall Meet, interest, and the transfer of funds to petty cash for the Fall Meet to make change. In November, the financial activities included Fall Meet deposits, deposit of petty cash, Fall Meet expenses, 50/50 receipts, and meeting refreshment expenses. The total cash balance (bank account and CDs) at the end of November is \$26,105.54. A member pointed out an error in regards to meeting space rent and Mr. Levin noted that he would fix the spreadsheet. Finally, Mr. Levin reported that the CDs renewed at 4.45% interest.

Mr. Ables extended the appreciation of the Division for Mr. Levin's time as Paymaster. Mr. Ables noted that pre-pandemic the Division maintained about \$27,000 in the bank. The pandemic hit and we lost two years of income from the Fall Meets being cancelled, we purchased \$5,000 in equipment to allow for virtual meetings, and now we are almost back to pre-pandemic levels thanks to the financial leadership of Mr. Levin.

Elections

Mr. Koproske reported that the Nominations and Elections Committee is presenting the slate of candidates to membership as follows: Superintendent (2 year term): Bob Miller; Paymaster (2 year term): John Kelly; and Region Director (3 year term): Jim Ables. As there is only one candidate for each position, the membership can approve the candidates by acclamation rather than by a full, formal election. David Lowell motioned that Bob Miller, John Kelly, and Jim Ables be approved by acclamation for the positions of Superintendent, Paymaster, and Region Director respectively. Dan Knipp seconded the motion. *The motion was approved by unanimous vote.*

Division Free-mo Modules

Greg Gramlich, MMR, presented a possible new activity for Division members if there is enough interest. Mr. Gramlich noted that there has been interest from at least 11 Division members to build free-mo modules for the Division. Details are still be worked out, but the Division would own the modules built by the members. They would be worked on and stored at West Alton City Hall. Work sessions would occur every third Saturday. These work sessions would not take the place of any current Division meeting or hands-on workshop. The layout would be set up for the Fall Meet and Christmas, and we could also work with the local free-mo group and their events. The modules will be HO scale and represent the CB&Q from West Alton, MO to Hannibal, MO. There are still several details to be worked out, but Mr. Gramlich appreciates the feedback and level of interest in this activity.

Achievement Program Update

Dave Ackmann, AP Chair, presented Glenn Koproske his Golden Spike Award and a Structures Merit Award. Mr. Ackmann also presented Bob Miller with a Structures Merit Award and Dave Roeder, MMR, with a Freight Car Merit Award. David Lowell, MMR, presented Mr. Ackmann with three Structures Merit Awards.

Club Updates

- A member reported the next meeting for the Jefferson County & Southern is
- January 27th and they will be re-starting the project on the module connectors.
- A member reported that the Mexico Train Works layout updates are getting close to being completed. New wiring, breakers, and track replacement are just some of the updates to the layout.

Ask Us Anything

- Members discussed options to tone down the brightness of LEDs built into inexpensive scale vehicles.

Other Business

- A member asked about the Division website. Mr. Ables reported that the webmaster made a request for reimbursement earlier this year but had not submitted any documentation or invoices. We cannot pay a substantial bill without appropriate documentation. Additionally, the webmaster has possession of the login credentials for the Division website which complicates the issue. Right now, the webmaster is the only person who can login to the website to make changes. Mr. Ables reported that Brad Joseph has been working with the current webmaster towards a resolution. Additionally, Mr. Joseph has been working with a new web designer to build a new website. The content of the current website, as well as the domain, belong to the Division and not the webmaster. The new designer has already copied down most of the content of the website so in the event the current site is shut down by the webmaster, we have a backup of the content. Once this gets resolved, the login credentials for the website will be maintained by the website administrator and the Officers of the Division rather than with just one person.
- Mr. Ables asked for feedback on the facility. One member requested amplification as there was difficulty hearing people speak. Members were agreeable to the new location as it is cheaper and centrally located. Members from the Wentzville area expressed concern over the distance and traffic.
- Mr. Ables noted that the Division is in need of presentations for 2025. He also noted that the February hands-on workshop topic will be weathering rolling stock with oils.
- Mr. Ables thanked all of the outgoing Officers. Members also showed their appreciation.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Ables announced the following upcoming events:

- **December 21, 2024, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.:** Christmas Trains at Fenton Library, Fenton Library, 1501 San Simeon Way, Fenton, MO
- **December 20th, 21st, 22nd, 27th, 28th, and 29th:** Holiday Train Display: Alhambra Village Hall, 602 W Main, Alhambra, IL
- **December 20th, 21st, 22nd, 27th, 28th, and 29th:** New Switzerland Model Railroad Club Open House: McGinley Chrysler Dealership, 7 Shamrock Blvd, Highland, IL
- **December 21st and 22nd:** Santa's Train Land: Daniels Farm and Greenhouse, 352 Jungermann Road, St. Peters, MO
- **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 3 p.m.:** Metro East Model Railroad Club Open House: 180 Summit Street, Glen Carbon, IL
- **December 28, 2024, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.:** Brian Post's Sierra Nevada & Indian River Railway Open House: 248 Pardella, St. Louis, MO
- **January 4, 2025, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.:** TrainFair 2025 Presented by St. Charles Model Railroad Club: St. Charles West High School, 3601 Droste Rd, St Charles, MO
- **January 18, 2025, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.:** National Museum of Transportation 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, St. Charles, MO

50/50 Drawing

Willie Richter won the 50/50 drawing.

Next Meetings/Events

Mr. Ables announced the following upcoming Division event:

January 20, 2025, 7:30 p.m. Member Meeting with Presentation, Oakville Elks Lodge, 2726 Oakville Elks Lane, St. Louis. MO

Adjourn

Mr. Ables adjourned the business meeting at 8:30 p.m. Members stayed afterwards for the show and tell, the mini-swap meet, and to discuss the free-mo modules.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeff Cooper, Clerk, Gateway Division



Durango & Silverton No.493 heads south back to Durango with coaches filled with satisfied guests looking forward to a delicious dinner and recapping their adventure. The photo was taken north of Durango as the track parallels U.S. Highway 550. Photo by: Jeff Cooper



**Winter 2025:
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Editor: Jeff Cooper

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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

Division Officers

Superintendent

Bob Miller
Festus, MO

Assistant Superintendent

Walter Beckman
St. Louis, MO

Clerk (Secretary)

Jeff Cooper
Marion, IL

Paymaster (Treasurer)

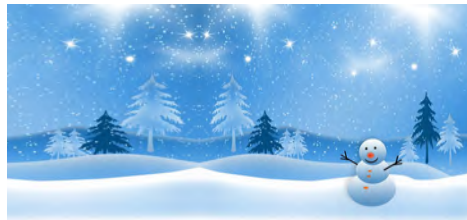
John Kelly
Fenton, MO

Division Director

Jim Ables
Mascoutah, IL

Past-Superintendent

Willie Richter
West Alton, MO



Close-up of the drop bottom doors and mechanism on D&RGW drop-bottom gondola #702 at the Ridgway Railroad Museum in Ridgway, Colorado. The museum obtained the car at a Durango & Silverton silent auction in 2004. Photo by: Jeff Cooper

Division Chairs

Achievement Program

Dave Ackmann

Activities

Ron Gawedzinski

Presentations

Dan Knipp

Contests

David Lowell, MMR

Fall Meet

Walter Beckman

IT

Willie Richter

Layout Tours

Dave Roeder, MMR

Membership

Glenn Koproske

Operations

Greg Gramlich

Publicity

Greg Gramlich

Assistant Clerk

Don Perry

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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