



GATEWAY **NMRA**
ST. LOUIS **MCoR**

RPO

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION - GATEWAY DIVISION



Volume 33, Issue 1

Spring/Summer 2025

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Bob Miller, Superintendent, Gateway Division

Hello all,

I'm hoping that the recent Spring and early summer storms haven't caused any Division members to suffer any damage to your homes or layouts.

50 Year Certificate

Congratulations to Ron Gawedzinski who received his 50-year membership certificate in the mail recently. Ron joined the NMRA in January 1975, he joined Division 3 - Miami Valley Division MCR and then joined the Gateway Division in 1980. As Ron says, time sure flies by fast while your having fun.

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Cover Photo: An Amtrak train coasts past the ADM plant on Paul Fries' CNW East Iowa Subdivision. See more photos of this great layout in this issue of the RPO.

Photo by Jeff Cooper.

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

Projects

The Gateway Division has several projects that we are working on to improve the Divisions image and hopefully recruit new members. One item we have discussed for a while is for a second Divisional Meet to complement the annual Fall Meet. We have scheduled a second meet and it will occur on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at the Pavilion in Marion, Illinois. It was suggested instead of holding a Contest Room, that a designated area or a display room of Models and Photographs be set up. Several train clubs have said they would discuss bringing running layouts to their respective members. There is still a lot of ground work ahead. There doesn't seem to be a lot of shows scheduled in February, so hopefully vendors and clubs will welcome the date. This will be the first train meet or train show in that area in 10 to 15 years. Plus, winter is a good time to be modeling and to be on the lookout for some much needed items for the layout. Stay tuned as will be looking for volunteers!

One item we have discussed for a while is for a second Divisional Meet to complement the annual Fall Meet. We have scheduled a second meet and it will occur on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at The Pavilion in Marion, Illinois.

The second project involves a group of Division members and coordinated by Greg Gramlich, MMR, that's in the process of building a Gateway Division HO Free-mo DCC Modular Layout. It will consist of dual mainlines and sidings of code 83 track. The layout will simulate running from Hannibal, MO to West Alton, MO. and back. Various Industries and structures that are found along the route as well as the corn fields and other agricultural fields. Division member, Wille Richter and current Mayor of West Alton, MO, has graciously agreed to let the Division store the modules in the City Hall for the present time. Future work sessions will be posted in Division posts. The Gateway Division has agreed to fund the project with the Divisional financial assets and the layout is the property of the Division.

Clinics

The Division Presentations Chair, Dan Knipp, is in need of clinic topics for the upcoming months until October. If you have a clinic you would like to present in person or via zoom contact Dan. As Dan Knipp says even if it is how you screwed it up and managed to fix it somewhat!

NMRA Convention and The RPM Meet

July 2025 is going to be a very busy month. The NMRA convention is being held in Novi, Michigan. The dates are Monday July 14th to Saturday July 19th, 2025. I've registered and will be there! Then on July 25th and the 26th is the RPM Meet, the Division is a co-sponsor and any one that wishes to help out give me shout out! We will find some work for you!

Have a wonderful summer! Robert (Bob) Miller

2025 Gateway Division Event Calendar



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

July 19, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Modular Layout Work Session

West Alton City Hall
111 Richard Drive, West Alton, 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 with Modular Layout Work Session Following 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

September 20, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Modular Layout Work Session

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

October 18, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Modular Layout Work Session

West Alton City Hall
111 Richard Drive, West Alton, 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

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

Modular Layout Work Session

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

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



Near Redding, CA, 8-19-2014, Photo by Jeff Cooper

Gateway Division Model Train Fall Meet: Collinsville, IL November 1, 2025



Gateway Division, Mid-Continent Region
National Model Railroad Association



Model Train Meet

November 1, 2025

9 AM – 3 PM

VFW Post 5691, 1234 Vandalia
Collinsville, IL 62234

Fall Meet Information or to Exhibit Your Layout Please Contact: Walter Beckman at mogulfwestern@gmail.com

SWAP TABLES (30" X 96") may be reserved for \$15.00 each. Please make checks payable to: *"Gateway Division - MCOR - NMRA"* and return with the information slip below to: **Gateway Division, PO Box 7742, Chesterfield, MO 63006-7742.** (CHECKS MUST ACCOMPANY TABLE ORDER.)

VENDOR SET UP: Saturday November 1, 2025, 6 - 9 AM.

PLEASE PRINT

Please reserve _____ table(s) for me.

Electricity needed? (YES) (NO) Please circle one

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of table(s) _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Special Requests: _____

Vendor Table Information: Mail to Walter Beckman, c/o Gateway Division, PO Box 7742, Chesterfield, MO 63006-7742, or email to mogulfwestern@gmail.com

Gateway Division Southern Illinois Model Train Meet: Marion, IL February 7, 2026



Gateway Division, Mid-Continent Region
National Model Railroad Association



Southern Illinois Model Train Meet

February 7, 2026

9 AM – 3 PM

The Pavillion

1602 Sioux Dr, Marion, IL 62959

For Train Meet Information or to Exhibit Your Layout Please Contact: Walter Beckman at
mogulfwestern@gmail.com

SWAP TABLES (30" X 96") may be reserved for \$15.00 each. Please make checks payable to: "Gateway Division - MCOR - NMRA" and return with the information slip below to: Gateway Division, PO Box 7742, Chesterfield, MO 63006-7742. (CHECKS MUST ACCOMPANY TABLE ORDER.)

VENDOR SET UP: Friday February 6, 2026, 5 - 8 PM.

PLEASE PRINT

Please reserve _____ table(s) for me.

Electricity needed? (YES) (NO) Please circle one

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

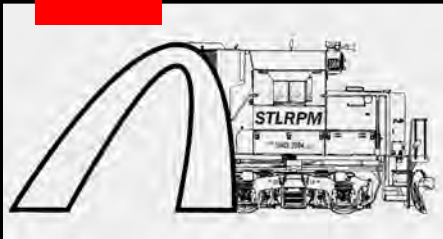
Number of table(s) _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

Total Enclosed _____ = \$ _____

Special Requests: _____

Vendor Table Information: Mail to Walter Beckman, c/o Gateway Division, PO Box 7742, Chesterfield, MO 63006-7742, or email to mogulfwestern@gmail.com

2025 St. Louis Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet



ST. LOUIS RAILROAD PROTOTYPE MODELERS MEET

JULY 24 - 26, 2025

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

St. Louis RPM is ALL ABOUT YOUR MODELS!

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

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

- 17th Annual Event
 - 38,000 + sq. ft
 - 5,000 + models
 - Vendor Tables
- Historical Societies
- Learning Stations
- Educational Clinics
- Door Prizes

2025 RPM Theme:

Technology

Advancing the "How-to" for
Prototypical Railroad Modeling

Our 2025 theme addresses the impact of technology on our ever-changing hobby and how you can use the latest products, services, capabilities and devices to give you more believable and prototypical results. No matter what the need, from building models, or creating more realistic layouts, to running the trains with incredible realism, our hobby has made and IS making giant leaps forward. We hope to include topics such as: 3D printing, DDC & Sound, Train Control, as well as LED lighting. We will help you learn more about the magic of what is available now and coming your way soon. Join us in July to witness all this firsthand.



Co-sponsored by:
The Gateway Division NMRA



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 IN '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





Mark
Your
Calendar

Mark
Your
Calendar

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

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.)

NMRA member \$115.00 per person (includes Turkey Creek Train Show)

Non-member - \$135.00 per person (includes Turkey Creek Train Show)

Cost	# Persons	Total Cost
\$115.00		
\$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
(if a vendor wants to attend the banquet, this extra fare applies to each person)

\$30.00

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

July 19, 2025 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Train Day at the Library: Meramec Valley Branch, 1501 San Simeon Way, Fenton, MO

July 16, August 16, and September 20, 2025: Model Train Market at the Iron Spike Model Train Museum: 1498 High Street, Washington, MO

August 23, 2025 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.: Western Railroads Theme Train Day at the Library: Oak Bend Library, 842 S. Holmes Avenue, St. Louis, MO

September 6, 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

September 20, 2025 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Pacific Eagles Train Show: Pacific Eagles Hall, 707 Congress, Pacific, MO

September 27, 2025, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: All Aboard for Train Day: Schlafly Library Auditorium, 225 N. Euclid Avenue, St. Louis, MO

Sept 3 - 6, 2025



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

October 9 - 11, 2025



BRHS - MPHS - C&EIHS Joint Convention

The Burlington Route, the Missouri Pacific, and the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Historical Societies are holding a joint convention on October 9th through the 11th in Marion, Illinois. The convention hotel is the Drury Inn & Suites. Activities will be full of clinics, a banquet, and evening speaker. However, no bus trip is currently planned. Times and clinicians will be announced later.

The Pavilion
1602 Sioux Drive
Marion, IL

Achievement Program Update: Lights Out!

By Dave Ackmann, Achievement Program Chair, Gateway Division

We all knew it was coming. A massively destructive spring storm was barreling through the Midwest and predicted to hit the St Louis area the evening of Pi day– 3.14. I live in Florissant MO, one of the areas to be hardest hit, and at 9:53PM, while sheltering in the basement near my train layout, with sirens howling and winds blowing over 80 MPH, the lights went out.

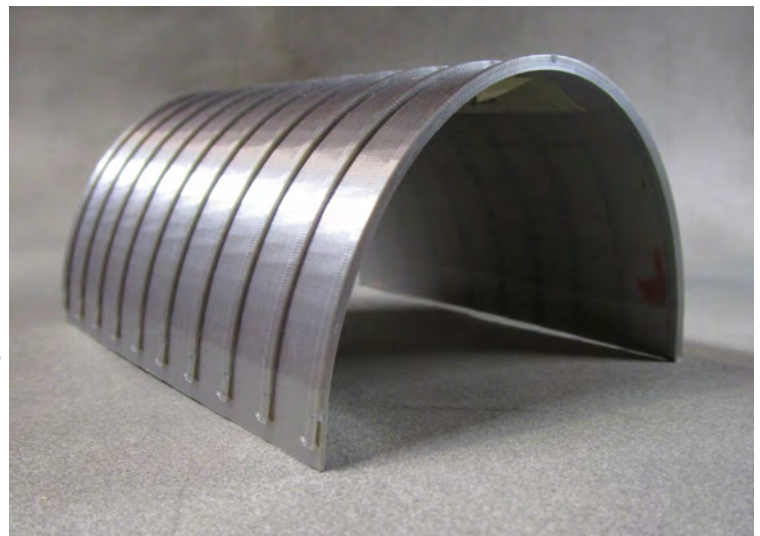
The next morning the extent of the destruction around my home was everywhere. At least six mature trees, each over 3 feet in diameter were ripped from the ground, root balls exposed, in just the four yards immediately surrounding my house. Over a dozen more were downed or snapped off between me and the first STOP sign out of the subdivision. Even so, the road was mostly blocked, and residents with chain saws and tractors were working hard to clear a path. Roof shingles were scattered like peanut shells at a Cardinals baseball game. Our house was spared, but was one of few that were so lucky. We were facing three days without even the promise of electricity and it would be a fourth before power was reliably restored, plus an additional day and a half before we had internet connectivity.

But what does this have to do with the NMRA Achievement Program? Trapped in our house because the spring on the garage door had failed overnight, what was an ORG (Old Retired Guy) going to do for the next five days without his projects, power or technology?

Reading, Writing and Arithmetic: I was behind on my reading of Model Railroader, Cowcatcher and the NMRA Magazine, let alone several books I had purchased but had yet to open. I had promised myself that 2025 would be the year I documented the software I have been creating to make 3D structure models without learning Computer Aided Design (CAD), and I was knee-deep in the mathematics of creating and testing software for calculating 3D models of hipped roofs. I had the will, but was there a way?

With the help of neighbors, my wife and I were able to lift the double garage door and prop it open with a 2-by-8, allowing us to move our cars outside. And with mobility restored and laptop computer in hand, I was able to drive to the library through the roads which were available (a 10 mile drive which should have been 3 miles if all roads were open). I had lights to read and access to the outside world, both real and electronic. For the next six hours I wrote, and had first drafts of documentation on how to use my Generator software to create structure roofing (arched, gable and hip).

Trapped in our house because the spring on the garage door had failed overnight, what was an ORG (Old Retired Guy) going to do for the next five days without his projects, power or technology?

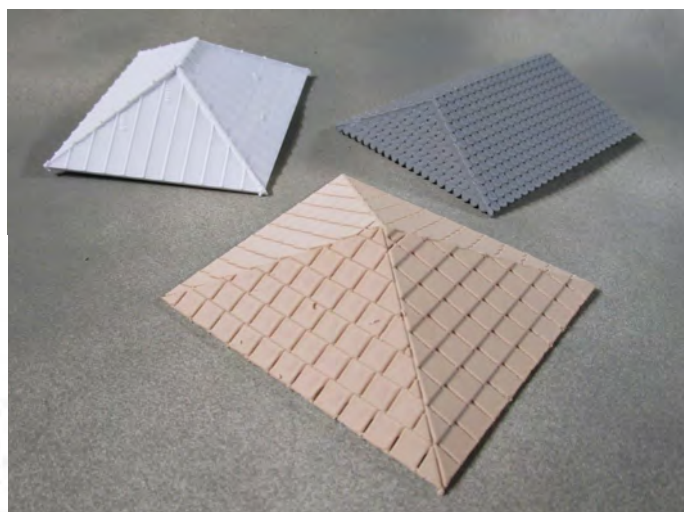
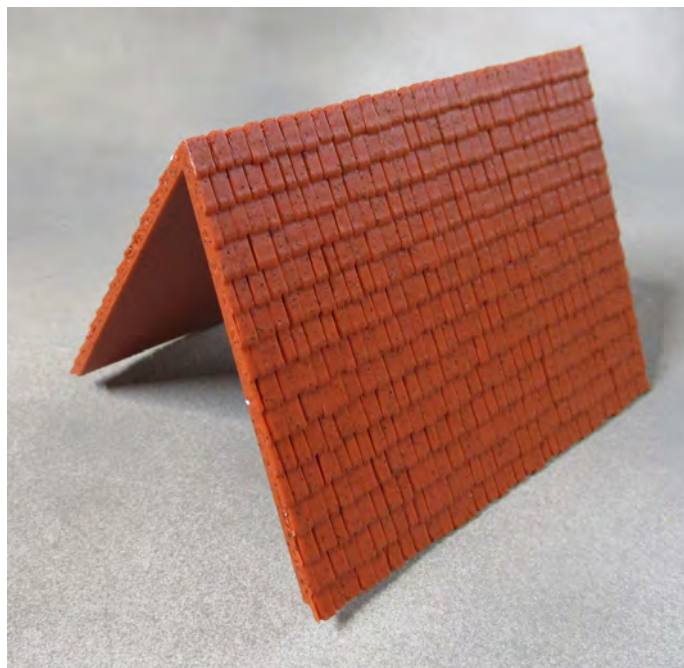


And since I had uploaded test software the night before, I was able to run tests verifying the hipped roofing software indeed performed as designed. Later on I drove to a nearby town and photographed a railroad bridge I plan to build for AP Structures. And thus I continued for several days more.

This article is not about charging your devices, finding your radio, testing batteries, making certain you have enough medicine for at least a week, having clean underwear, or even how to destroy the contents of your refrigerator after 36 hours of no power. But it taught me that even without electricity or technology, Model Railroading can go on.

Do what you can, where you are, with what you have.

Dave Ackmann is the Chairman of the Gateway Division's Achievement Program. Visit his web site at <http://daackm.github.io>.



BADEN, VOGT & DeSMET

David A. Ackmann

Chairman of the Boards
Ackmanns@Charter.Net
<http://daackm.github.io>



Hands-on Workshop Recap: Weathering with Oils

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

On February 15, 2025, the Gateway Division held its Hands-on Workshop for weathering with oils.

Attendees brought their own freight cars to practice weathering with the oil paint. Bob Miller led the session and discussed the weathering medium, how to apply it, and how to blend and thin the paint to achieve various degrees of weathering.

Some attendees brought their own supplies, while others shared sets provided by the Division. Participants used prototype photos for their weathering inspiration while tips, such as using an old egg carton as a car holder, were shared in addition to the weathering demonstration.

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

This Hands-on Workshop follows a 2024 workshop where Greg Gramlich, MMR, conducted his workshop on weathering with Pan Pastels. It goes to show there are many methods and materials you can use to model, and then dirty up, your layout. 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 Bob Miller at:

bobnjoanstlmo@gmail.com



Hands-on Workshop Recap: Growing Corn

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

On May 17, 2025, the Gateway Division held its Hands-on Workshop for making cornfields.

Greg Gramlich, MMR, conducted the workshop and taught attendees how to make fields of corn faster and cheaper than the commercial alternatives. Corn stalks were made with Christmas wreath material made by Darice Inc and planted them in fields made from single-face corrugated cardboard sheets covered in sifted potting soil.

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

bobnjoanstlmo@gmail.com



Photo by Don Perry



The raw material for the cornstalks is holiday "Canadian Pine Stems" wreath material by Darice Inc. It can be found in craft stores around the holidays or purchased online.



Greg explaining the single-face corrugated cardboard used as the basis for the field.



After coating the cardboard with spray adhesive, Greg covers it with sifted potting soil.



After cutting the pine stems into one-inch lengths, Greg uses a heating gun to wilt the greenery.



To mass produce the corn, Greg made a board specifically to hold the pine stems for wilting.



Participants practicing the wilting of the pine stems.



The pine stems in varying degrees of wilting into their final corn stalk form.



The final corn stalks planted in the freshly made field at the hands-on workshop.

A field of corn on Greg's home layout made with the same techniques taught at the hands-on workshop.

Photo Tour of Paul Fries' CNW East Iowa Subdivision

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



Paul Fries' HO scale Chicago & North Western East Iowa Subdivision layout includes Iowa Interstate, Cedar Rapids and Iowa City Railway, and the I&M Rail Link operations. The layout consists of two levels. The main level is Iowa and the upper level is a Union Pacific extension to North Platte, Nebraska. There are numerous road trains, as well as local switching jobs. The layout is track warrant controlled. Construction began on the layout in 1999. It was inspired after a trip to Iowa on one of the last days of the Chicago & North Western.





















Secondhand Revival: Hardware and Flowers

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

Turn this \$3 Train Show Castoff...



...Into This



I've always enjoyed building structures. Furthermore, I really enjoy taking a stock kit, assembled building, or in this case, a castoff, and turn it into something unique. My goal for this project was to find a low-cost train show structure to rehab into something unique. If you have been in the hobby long enough, you can scan a photo of a layout and pick out the structures and which manufacturer made them. In this case, I wanted to transform something to make you pause and wonder what building was the starting point. In some

cases the transformation is such that it is hard to tell, while other times it is a little more straightforward, but yet the structure had been modified and detailed to an extent that it was still unique.

The starting point is the warehouse section of the HO scale Walther's Sunrise Feedmill. It was already assembled, detached from the feed mill section of the building, had a large gaping opening on one end (which is how the kit is designed), and cost \$3 at a train show. I knew when I first

saw it that I could add a false front, porch, roof, and other details and have a unique structure. The longer that it sat on my shelf, the more elaborate my imagination got with the possibilities.

When I take on these rehab projects, I first fix the structural issues with the joints where the walls, roof, and other areas meet. In many cases the fit is not tight or straight or square. In those same instances, I usually find that the original builder attempted to fix the problem with more and more

glue. Most of the time I can break the joints, clean up the glue mess, true up the edges, and reassemble for tight joints. This particular structure was pretty true and did not require this level of disassembly and cleanup; however there was scenery residue on the foundation and some excess glue around the ladder next to the door on one side.

My initial thought to cure the excess glue problem was to remove the ladder and repair the siding. To test my vision, I made a simple mockup with cardboard, tape, and a storefront. This would make it a pretty simple rehab. After making the mockup I felt like something was lacking. Additionally, I intended to use a Smalltown USA (Rix Products) storefront, but it felt like it overwhelmed the front of the structure too much. I needed something with a little less presence as to keep the look of the structure in balance.

While pondering the mockup, I re-examined the windows. When rehabbing old structures, I remove the old window "glass" so I can paint the window frames. Most of the time I am successful in removing the glass material. Other times a window frame will break and I have to replace it. In the case of this building, I could not remove the glass at all. There was so much glue it could be seen along the edges of the windows. I contemplated possible solutions to my window problem. If I simply modeled a single store, I thought I could board them up or I could cut them out and replace them with Tichy or San Juan windows. My conclusion: add on to the building and hide the problematic windows.

So with that in mind, I made a mockup of a lean-to addition and placed a wall from another kit on front that would represent a storefront with a door and window rather than a formal commercial storefront. My mockup also had the storefront at ground level and the awning at the same height all the way across. It still felt lacking, but I was getting closer to what I had envisioned.



While the overall fit was decent, there was excess glue around the ladder and the window "glass" was not coming out



The first mockup as a single store



The second mockup with the addition

Building additions are a great way to show the passage of time and/or how the use of the original structure has changed over the years. Additionally, I wanted to use different materials for the walls and/or roofing to make it a little more visually appealing and to also indicate that portions of the building were added on at a later date. It was a win-win decision. I hid problem areas and I gained an even more unique structure. Before construction began, I decided to add a warehouse type structure as a lean-to on the other side of the building. I decided to set it back to break up the sight lines across the front and add to its overall visual interest. Since the concept was the same as the first addition, I did not do a mockup.

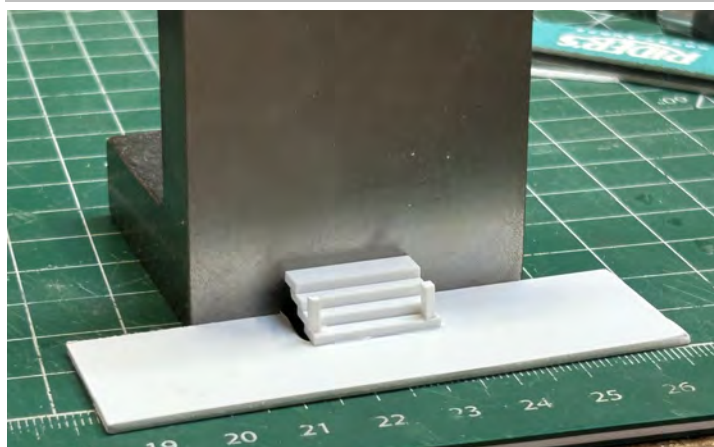
My final pre-construction decision centered on the foundation. It's height was geared for a rail served business and what I had in mind was more along the lines of retail space only served by trucks. As this was my preference, the foundation was ultimately too tall. My solution was to plan on embedding the structure into scenery to a depth of 1/4". As such, I had to plan for the steps, addition foundation, and sidewalk to be raised accordingly.

Now that I had a concept sketched out in my mind, I needed to decide what would be inside the buildings as that could impact the final appearance. I decided that one addition would be a warehouse for the main store while the addition on the other side would house a separate business.

From there the thoughts rattled around in my brain of what the two stores could be and what would look "right" inside this type of building. After a lot of rattling, I was still stuck. So my mind wandered away from stores and began thinking of other types of "pairs" in an effort to unclog my brain from its entrenched retail store thoughts. I eventually arrived at a "pair" of people that I hold near and dear to my heart. They were my former neighbors for 14 years, Don and Jenny Gowins. They were the same age as my parents, called me and my wife "the kids" in an



The foundation is too tall for the purposes I had in mind, so I needed to adjust my plans during construction to account for the building being inset into the scenery by 1/4"



The steps are inset into the porch. This view is underneath while the styrene cement sets up. The steps are 3/4" tall and made from 4 pieces of .060 x .188 strip styrene



The porch foundation is .060 x .188 and .060 x .250 styrene strip glued on edge. The porch floor is .060 sheet styrene. The last step would be a "lulu" if it wasn't going to be inset into the scenery.

affectionate way, and would do anything for us. We became more than neighbors, we became family. They've since passed on, but they will remain with me for all time. They were "good people." At that moment I knew I needed to do something to honor them. OK. Now what? He was a veteran and worked in inventory control in a university and she was a housewife. What kind of stores could I make that would incorporate that? I was stuck again. So I started thinking about things they liked. Don was pretty handy and Jenny loved her flower beds A-ha! I'll make a hardware store and a flower shop. I now had the occupants of the building and adjusted my design thoughts around those concepts.

The overall design of the building is not based on a specific prototype. Instead, it is a conglomeration of common, wooden store buildings I've seen in villages and towns all over Illinois. It is a design that would look right at home on my future layout. Additionally, the detailing and signage are not based on a specific prototype, just actual things I've seen in the real world. I knew I wanted the warehouse addition to be painted corrugated metal siding. Most of the time, we see corrugated siding modeled as rusted metal (which is prototypical) but what I don't see modeled often is painted corrugated metal and it has a certain look that I wanted to capture. I did take the liberty to model the corrugated roofs as rusty metal, but not too much rust. It had to have some semblance of being maintained. Afterall, the biggest portion of the building houses a hardware store that sells paint. They aren't going to let their building look rundown, rusty, or having peeling paint. I know Don, for sure, would not have a decrepit looking building if he had anything to do with it.

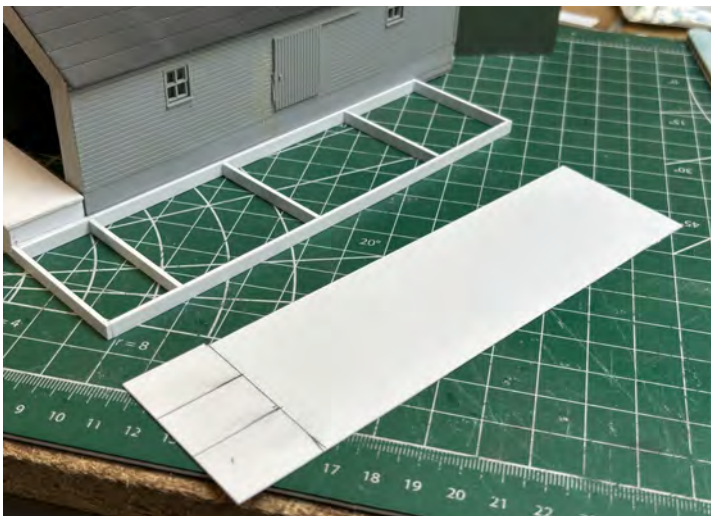
So the concept was born and now it was on to execution. My purpose of the following steps is to show how I did it, not necessarily to give you specific dimensions so it can be duplicated exactly. It serves more as a piece of inspiration



The foundation and floor bracing for the flower shop is .060 x .188 strip styrene



The floor and sidewalk for the flower shop is .030 plain sheet styrene. The expansion joints were created with a Mico-Mark panel scribe

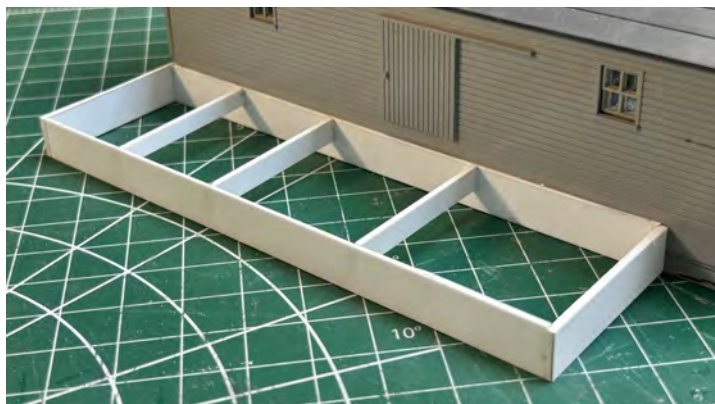


The finished floor and sidewalk prior to installation

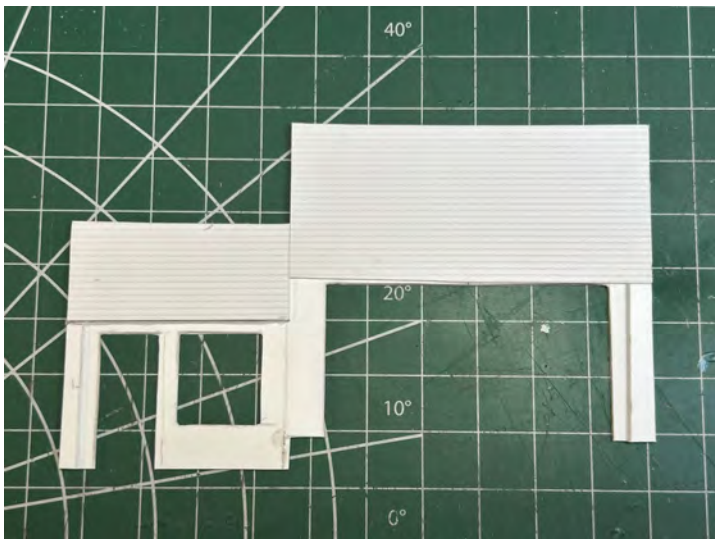
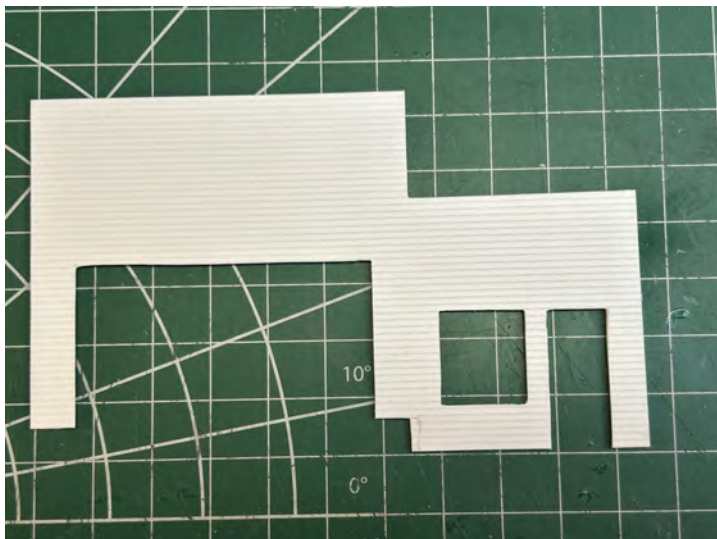
rather than a measured step-by-step building project.

As I built the project, I kept an itemized list and quantity of most of the materials used. The list is included at the end of this article. I looked up the current MSRP for the products still available and assigned the most recent cost available for unavailable materials in an effort to see how much it cost to complete the project. Overall, at full retail price for the materials, the cost of the project came in at \$60. As I've had many materials on-hand for several years and also not paying full MSRP for any of the materials, I estimate my total cost to be around \$45. I did not include costs for paint, glues and cements, parts I pulled from scraps and the junk bin, or the signs I printed out myself.

I thoroughly enjoyed this salvage operation that used a building that most didn't think was worth the \$3. Now I have a completely unique structure that honors two people whose memories I hold dearly. The next time you see a bargain bin building that is poorly assembled, ask yourself, "what could I turn that into?" You may be surprised at the result.



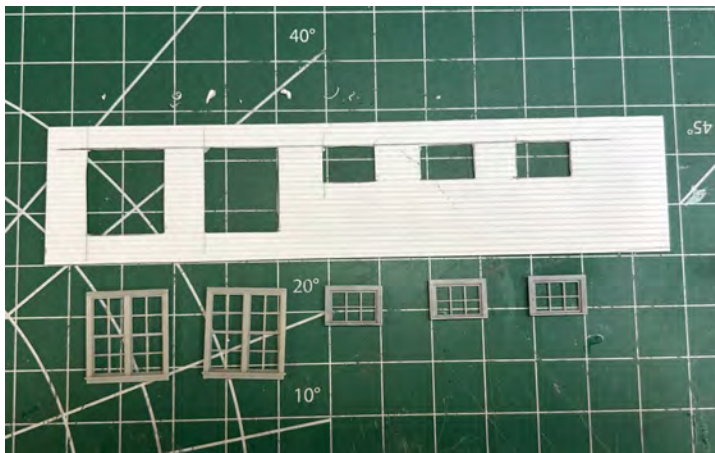
For the warehouse addition I used strips of .060 plain sheet styrene to match the foundation height. The cross braces are .060 x .188 and .060 x .250 scraps of strip styrene. The floor is .030 plain sheet styrene.



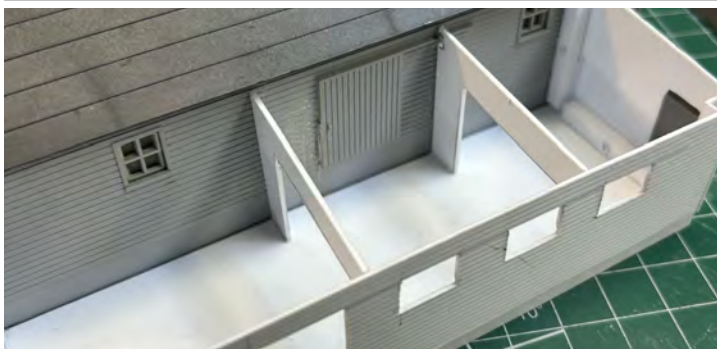
With the porch, foundations, and floors for the additions complete, it is time to make the false-front wall. The store front is on the left and the back side of the false-front is on the right. Due to the order in which I complete the steps, I had to notch out the main portion of the wall to fit on, and around, the front porch. The wall is made from .040 v-groove siding with .060 spacing. Since part of the wall is visible from behind, I cut two pieces of the same v-groove siding for the visible parts of the wall. I filled in along the edges of the wall with strips of .040 plain sheet scraps. The two pieces were cemented together and the outside edges trimmed with .100 styrene angle.



Tichy double-door with transom and Tichy store windows make up the front of the hardware store on the left. .060 x .060 strip styrene is used as a shim under the store windows. They are trimmed with .020 x .080 strip styrene. The flower shop has a San Juan Details 16-pane double window and a San Juan Details 36-inch door with oval window and transom.



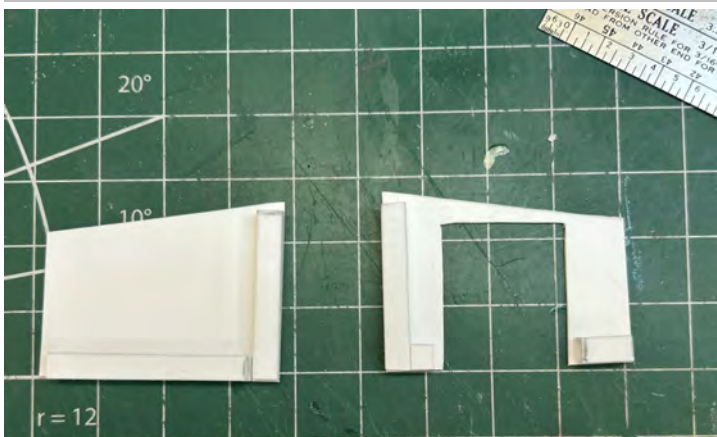
The long wall of the flower shop is .040 v-groove siding with .060 spacing. The windows have been test-fitted. The windows are San Juan Details 16-pane double windows and San Juan Details 6-lite horizontal windows.



Corner and floor bracing for the walls is made from 3/16" styrene square tube. Interior wall and roof bracing is made from .040 plain sheet styrene. I cut openings in the interior bracing in the event I would want to add lighting at a later date.



The braces are installed and the interior of the flower shop painted blue to act as a light block in the event lighting is ever added and to add a bit of color if the interior was visible through the windows.



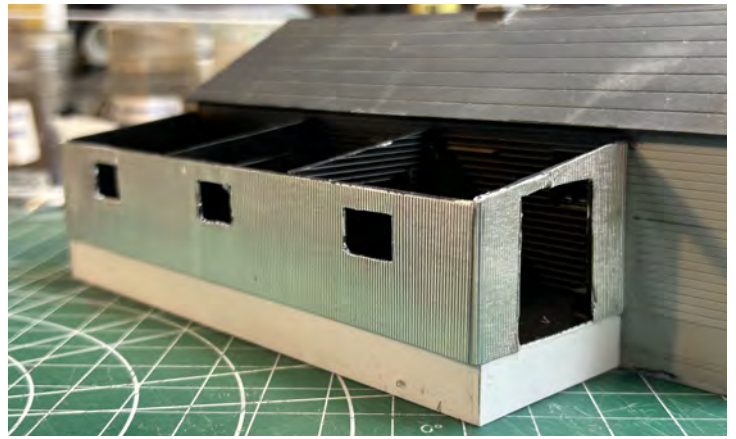
The ends walls for the hardware store warehouse addition are cut from .040 plain sheet styrene as they will be covered with corrugated siding. The bracing is 3/16" square styrene tube.



The window openings have been cut for the warehouse addition. They cannot be installed as the corrugated siding has to be in place prior to installing the windows and door.



The walls and interior bracing have been installed on the hardware store warehouse addition. The walls and braces are made from .040 plain sheet styrene.



I painted the interior with flat black spray paint to darken it. Next, I attached Campbell Scale Models corrugated siding to the exterior walls of the hardware store addition with Loctite Gel.



I cut the transom off a Tichy freight door to reduce its height. When I installed it on the hardware store addition I installed it upside down so that the threshold became to trim at the top of the door.



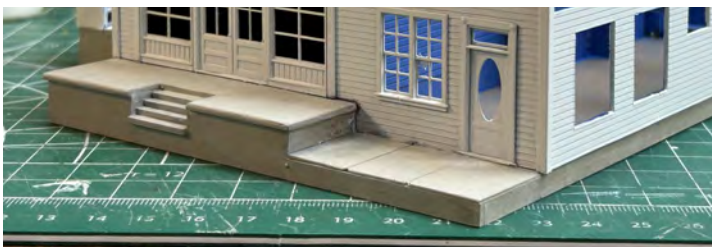
I masked off the interior of the flower shop and the hardware store addition and painted the structure with a gray primer spray paint.



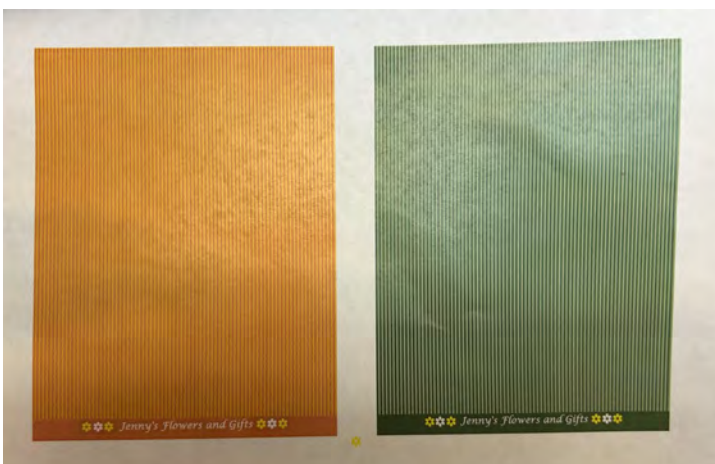
My next step was to paint the porch, sidewalk, and foundation with craft paint, in this case a color called "Sandstone." It took 2 coats to cover the primer.



Since concrete is rarely a single color, I used makeup sponges to apply very light coats of "Country Gray" and "Butter Cream" craft paint. I then mixed the gray with a dark brown color to dirty up the concrete.



The above 2 photos show how the final concrete color turned out. Using make-up sponges with a light touch, it is easy to blend colors or reapply other colors if one color becomes too dominant.



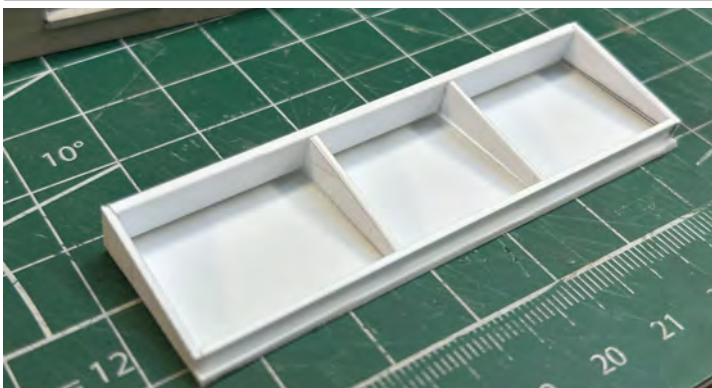
I used Excel to make striped awnings in 2 different color schemes. I decided not to use this type of awning, but I did cut pieces of the green awning to make curtains for the flower shop double windows.



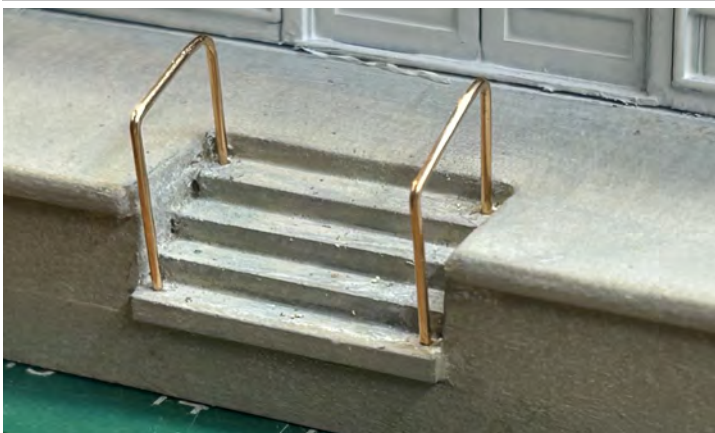
After installing the windows and adding .010 clear styrene "glass", I installed the curtains in the flower shop double windows. They aren't easy to see on the finished model but do add a subtle effect overall.



I painted the flower shop door a light yellow to breakup the white paint. I made the roofs for both additions out of .040 plain sheet styrene and trimmed them with .020 x .080 strip styrene.



I made the porch roof for the hardware store from .060 x .188 and .040 x .100 strip styrene, scrap pieces of v-groove siding, and .030 sheet for the roof. I then covered it with Campbell Scale Models corrugated siding. The above photo is the view of the underside of the porch roof.



I bent Tichy .025 phosphor bronze wire for the handrails for the hardware store steps. I drilled #72 holes in the steps, trial fitted the handrails, and then removed them to paint them black.



I used Campbell Scale Models corrugated siding for the roofing over the flower shop, hardware store addition, hardware store porch roof, and flower shop awnings. I painted all roofing with a light gray paint.



After the light gray paint dried, I washed the roofs with alcohol/India ink. I then lightly added two colors of brown paint to simulate rust on the flower shop roof and hardware store addition.



The supports for the porch roof are made from .060 x .060 strip styrene with the braces made from .030 x .060 strip styrene. I made the bunting from a photo found online, reduced their size, and printed them out on a color laser printer. After cutting them out, I colored the edges with a red Sharpie marker and them crinkled them in a radius pattern using my thumbnail. I made the flag in the same manner except I flipped the image on short edge to create the second side. The flagpole is Tichy .020 phosphor bronze wire painted silver. I gently bent a wave into the flag to make it look like there was a breeze moving it around. The crates are from a package of Falter crates and barrels. The bags are Tichy burlap sacks painted off-white and stained with alcohol/India ink. The bench is made by Preiser with the boards painted brown and the side painted black. The figures, representing Don and Jenny, are from a pack of Woodland Scenics figures ("People Sitting") and re-painted closer to colors that Don and Jenny wore and then stained with alcohol/India ink.



The awning for the flower shop is made from .040 plain styrene trimmed with .020 x .080 strip styrene. I covered it with a strip of Campbell Scale Models corrugated siding and painted it a forest green color. The supports are .030 x .060 strip styrene. I made the awning over the windows on the side of the flower shop (not shown in this photo) the same way. The flower pots and window boxes are made by Busch. I used Loctite Gel on the inside of the boxes and pots and then inserted small pieces of Woodland Scenics clump foliage. I sprayed them with cheap hairspray and sprinkled Woodland Scenics flowers on them. The door mat is a pattern I found online, printed out, and glued in front of the door.



I made the wall sign for the hardware store by creating the sign in Excel and printing it out on regular copier/printer paper. I used a sanding stick to sand the back side of the sign until I could start seeing the lettering through the paper. You want to take this step slow as not to crinkle the paper. If you end up sanding through the sign, all is not lost. It just will make the sign look more weatherworn.



I briefly soaked the sign in a mixture of white glue and water. I don't have exact proportions for the mixture, but I mix it to the consistency of milk. Here, the sign had just been placed in the glue/water and is floating on top. I submerged the sign briefly. I placed it on the wall leaving excess moisture on the sign to float it into place. I then took a folded paper towel that I wrapped around my index finger and dabbed off the moisture in a rolling motion. This not only helps set the sign, but it also helps push the sign into the grooves of the siding.



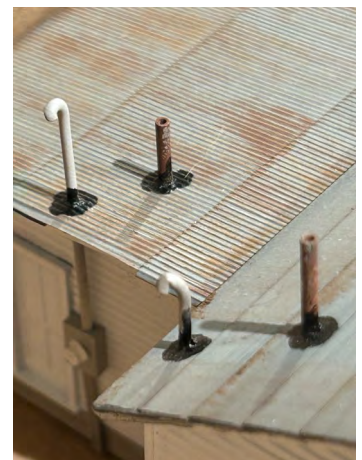
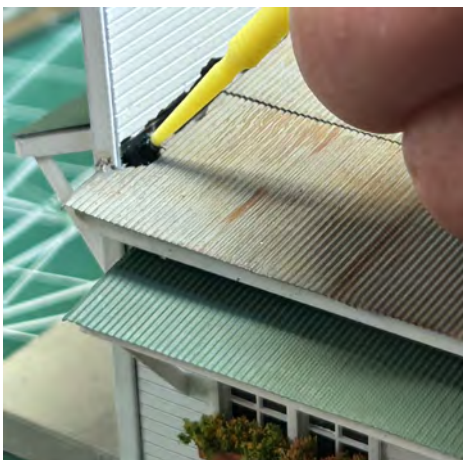
I added a made a wooden bumper block from scrap stripwood and installed it underneath the freight door on the hardware store addition. I scraped it with a razor saw to roughen it up and age it and then drilled shallow holes in the wood to represent where it is connected to the foundation. I stained it with brown paint and drybrushed it with a light gray paint.

I made the electric meters from scrap pieces of .080 x .188 styrene with .030 rod to represent conduits. The mast is 3/64" rod that I heated and bent at the top. I painted the parts light gray. The meter faces are Detail Associates EMD blank classification lights with the back painted white prior to gluing them to the meter box.





The original Walthers Sunrise Feedmill kit had a vent on the roof but it was missing on this train show castoff. To disguise this, I cut the vent base down to accept a San Juan Details chimney. I assembled the chimney halves, painted it a mortar color, and drybrushed it a brick red color. I painted the top of the chimney a concrete color and painted the inside of the chimney flat black. I painted the base a concrete color and stained it with alcohol/India ink. To weather the main hardware store roof and break up the solid gray color, I gave it a wash of alcohol/India ink and then used a makeup sponge to streak the roof with chalks.



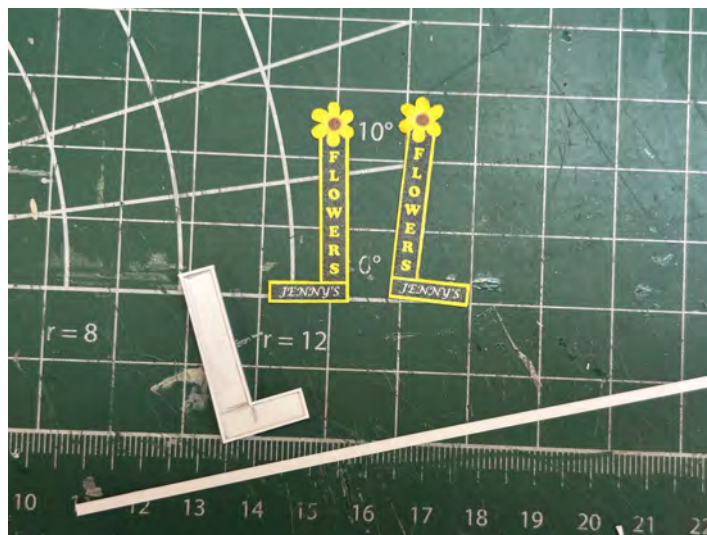
To simulate tar around the chimney, along the roof where it meets the false-front, and around the electric masts and vent pipes, I mixed full strength white glue with a few drops of black paint. I used just enough black paint to turn it completely black as the paint thins the glue and I wanted a thick as possible consistency. I used a microbrush to dab on the "tar." This is one time you do not have to be neat. I applied three coats of the mixture to build up its thickness. The vent pipes are scrap pieces of aluminum tube painted with a couple shades of brown to rust it up.



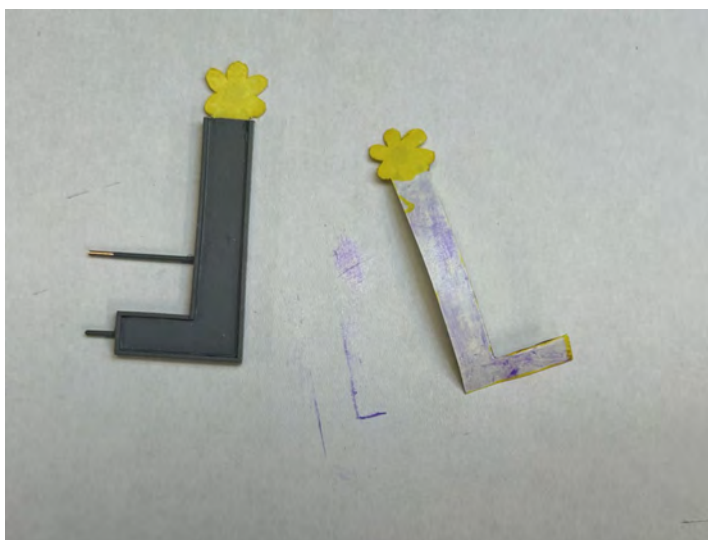
For the main hardware store sign, I wanted to create an art deco style sign that was rounded off on the ends. I created the sign in Excel and printed it on regular copier/printer paper. I cut out .060 sheet styrene to the proper size and slowly rounded off each end with a file and sanding stick. I added .030 x .125 strip styrene as trim on the top and bottom but not the ends. I then used a sanding stick to round off the ends of the trim. I then painted the sign base a bright silver color using a spray can.



I made the flower shop signs in Excel and printed them out on regular copier/printer paper. I carefully cut the signs out and used a yellow Sharpie to color the edges.



I made the sign from .040 plain styrene and trimmed all edges with .020 x .080 strip styrene. When assembling the sign I realized I should not have installed trim on the very top of the sign.

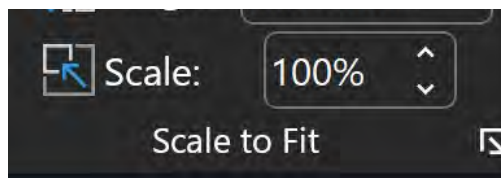


I drilled two holes for the mounting rods and used Loctite gel to glue Tichy .025 phosphor bronze wires in the holes. I painted the sign frame dark green. I applied Elmers stick glue, which is acid free, to the back of each paper sign. It goes on purple so you can see the coverage but dries clear. I pressed in the signs into the frame and ensured they were smooth and fully seated. I used the same process to glue the hardware store sign to its frame.

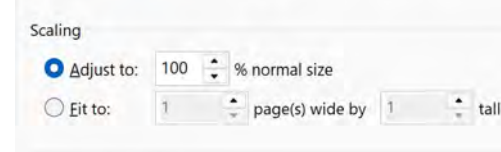
When I make signs in Excel, I design it at the default size of the cells. To make the sign a suitable size, I reduce the scale of the print area when I print them out. There are two places to reduce the scale from 100%. It is on the Page Layout ribbon and on the Page Setup box if you are used to the menus from older versions of Excel. I usually have to print out copies at various reduced scales to get the size I want to use.



Here are the finished signs prior to installation. The glue stick is shown for reference. It is acid free and will not fade the signs over time. The glue stick works very well as I have yet to have a sign peel off or start separating after using this same process for over 20 years of sign making.



Page Layout ribbon



Page Setup



This building is a tribute to my friends and former neighbors, Don and Jenny Gowins.

Don was born in Carrier Mills, IL on January 19, 1932, the son of Floyd Gowins and Dorothy Bainbridge. He had one brother. He proudly served his country in the Navy for 8 years during the Korean conflict. Upon discharge he worked for Sahara Coal Company in Southern Illinois, continued his mining career in Oklahoma, and then returned Southern Illinois to work at SIU Carbondale until his retirement.

Jenny was born in Carrier Mills, IL on April 17, 1933, the daughter of Robert and Rachel Jamerson. She had two sisters and seven brothers.

Don and Jenny married on October 13, 1950. Don and Jenny had two children, Mike and Melody. Jenny passed away May 24, 2015 and Don passed away September 7, 2023.

Brand	Part #	Description	# in Pkg	MSRP	# Used	Cost for Project
Train Show		Secondhand Structure				\$ 3.00
Busch	1209	Flower Pots	4	\$21.99	0.5	\$ 2.75
Campbell Scale Models	801	8-ft Corrugated Metal (Unavailable)	9	\$10.00	3.5	\$ 3.89
Campbell Scale Models	802	10-ft Corrugated Metal (Unavailable)	7	\$10.00	2.5	\$ 3.57
Campbell Scale Models	804	4-ft Corrugated Metal (Unavailable)	10	\$10.00	1.5	\$ 1.50
Detail Associates	1020	EMD Classification Light Blank	8	\$ 6.60	2	\$ 1.65
Evergreen	124	.020 x .080 Strip Styrene	10	\$ 4.39	1	\$ 0.44
Evergreen	133	.030 x .060 Strip Styrene	10	\$ 4.39	1	\$ 0.44
Evergreen	136	.030 x .125 Strip Styrene	10	\$ 4.39	0.5	\$ 0.22
Evergreen	145	.040 x .100 Strip Styrene	10	\$ 4.39	3	\$ 1.32
Evergreen	158	.060 x .188 Strip Styrene	9	\$ 4.39	6	\$ 2.93
Evergreen	159	.060 x .250 Strip Styrene	8	\$ 4.39	1	\$ 0.55
Evergreen	210	.030 Rod	10	\$ 4.39	0.5	\$ 0.22
Evergreen	221	3/64" Rod	10	\$ 4.39	0.5	\$ 0.22
Evergreen	253	3/16" square tube	3	\$ 4.39	2	\$ 2.93
Evergreen	293	.100 Angle	4	\$ 4.39	2	\$ 2.20
Evergreen	9040	.040 Plain Sheet Styrene	2	\$ 5.10	1.5	\$ 3.83
Evergreen	9030	.030 Plain Sheet Styrene	2	\$ 4.50	0.5	\$ 1.13
Evergreen	4060	.040 V-groove Siding with .060 Spacing	2	\$ 7.99	1	\$ 4.00
Evergreen	9060	.060 Plain Sheet Styrene	2	\$ 5.10	0.5	\$ 1.28
Evergreen	9006	.010 Clear Sheet Styrene	2	\$ 6.45	0.3	\$ 0.81
Evergreen	153	.060 x .060 Strip Styrene	10	\$ 4.39	1	\$ 0.44
Faller	180871	Freight Loads - Crates, Sacks, Barrels	50	\$ 6.99	2	\$ 0.28
Preiser	17200	Bench	24	\$18.99	1	\$ 0.79
San Juan Details	5042	36" Door with Oval Window	2	\$ 4.25	1	\$ 2.13
San Juan Details	5057	Chimney	3	\$ 4.25	1	\$ 1.42
San Juan Details	5222	16-pane Double Window	4	\$ 4.25	3	\$ 3.19
San Juan Details	5242	6-lite Horizontal Window	8	\$ 4.25	6	\$ 3.19
Tichy	1104	.025 Phosphor Bronze	12	\$ 3.00	0.5	\$ 0.13
Tichy	8032	4 Panel Door	6	\$ 4.00	1	\$ 0.67
Tichy	8120	Store Window	6	\$ 4.00	2	\$ 1.33
Tichy	8125	Freight Door	4	\$ 4.00	1	\$ 1.00
Tichy	8171	Pallets	18	\$ 6.00	1	\$ 0.33
Tichy	8175	Burlap Sacks	64	\$ 6.00	7	\$ 0.66
Tichy	8189	Double Door & Frame with Transom	2	\$ 4.00	1	\$ 2.00
Woodland Scenics	1834	People Sitting	5	\$17.99	1	\$ 3.60
Total Estimated Cost at Full Current MSRP						\$ 59.98

Note: Total cost does not include paint, adhesives, signs printed on plain paper, items made from scrap pieces, and miscellaneous details from the junk box.

Operations on the Illinois Central Gulf

By Greg Gramlich, MMR, Operations Chair. Photos by author unless noted.

On April 26, 2025, Gateway Division members gathered at Joe and Tony Pellegrino's Illinois Central Gulf layout for an operating session. The HO scale layout represents the Illinois Central Gulf Alton District from Godfrey, IL to Wood River Illinois in 1984. The layout features a large staging yard, long mainline, helix, and a swing gate to enter the layout. Industries represented on the layout include a mill, glass factory, steel mill, and multiple refineries. Division members joining in on the operating session included Fred Wilke, Charles Marshall, Willie Richter, Chris Oestreich, Noah Oestreich, and Greg Gramlich, MMR. The layout was designed for operations and based on the reactions from attendees, it did not disappoint and everyone had a great time. Thanks to Tony Pellegrino for hosting this great operating session.





Building the Burlington: Update on the Gateway Division Modular Layout

By Fred Wilke, Gateway Division, Photos by Jeff Cooper except as noted



Photo by Don Perry



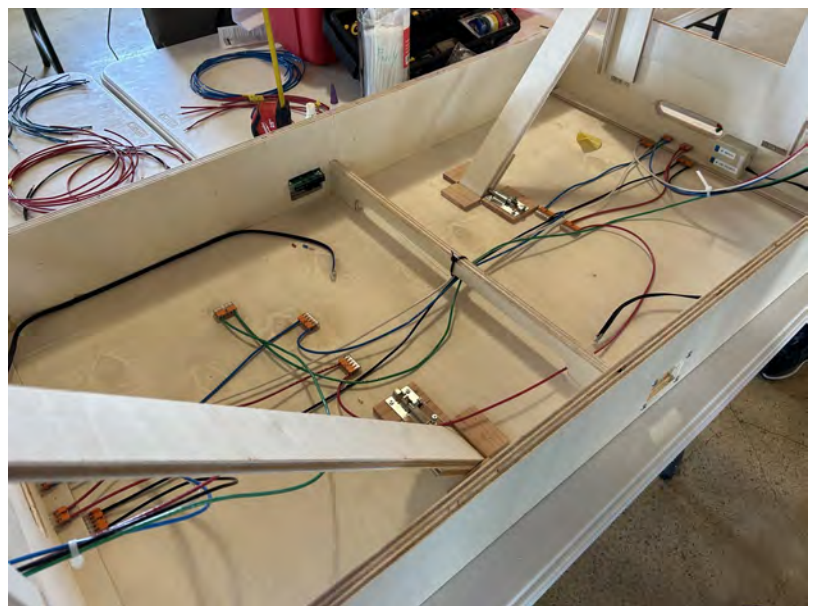
Work on the Gateway Division Modular layout is underway. The layout will be based on the CB&Q from West Alton, Mo to Hannibal, MO and is set in the 1950 to 1954 timeframe.

This route and era were chosen for several reasons. First and foremost, it honors our gracious hosts at West Alton City Hall as arranged by Willie Richter. It also means that the route from West Alton to Hannibal is reasonably local which helps with the research of the line and the towns that it passes through, and also is of interest to those who live and work in this area. Secondly, most of the towns have potential industries to model for switching purposes. Additionally, with the route following the Mississippi River, it gives the modelers an opportunity to model the interchange of commodities between the rail and the river. Third, many members have a deep knowledge of the CB&Q which cuts down on overall research time which will speed up the build.

The modules are being built to Free-Mo standards. This way, the layout retains consistency with track and wiring no matter who is working on whichever module. Prior to building the first module, project members sought the advice of local Free-Mo modelers to ensure the planned Division modules would meet all required standards. Consistency and interoperability of the modules is critical for smooth setup, operation, and teardown. The layout will feature loops on both ends to aid in continuous running for operations. When the modules are taken for display at a local show, the loop modules will stay behind at the City Hall. The route has 8 towns and each will have a module. Larger towns may have two modules. There will also be space for open areas for corn and soybean fields. Ultimately, like our home layouts, the size of the Division layout is governed by the space available at the West Alton City Hall,

The purpose of this project is to create an opportunity for Gateway Division members to work and improve their modeling skills. The modular layout also creates great opportunities to host operating sessions for Division members. By working on this project layout, members can begin or continue to satisfy requirements of the NMRA Achievement Program if they so choose. This project also is an opportunity for our members to work together in the spirit of fellowship and friendship and share in their skills and knowledge. Finally, the layout will give the Division an opportunity to setup the modules at both Division meets and non-Division train shows and other events to educate people about our hobby and to assist with recruitment new members.

Project members continue to meet regularly. Work sessions are the third Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at West Alton City Hall. In August, a hands-on



workshop will precede the work session. All of the base modules have been built and wiring is almost complete. Cork and track is being installed. Modules have been assigned to project members and their design will be reviewed by the project committee to ensure the design meets the standards and will work properly for the operational aspects of the layout.

The Gateway Division is supporting the project with an initial budget allocation of \$3,000. Even with the budget allocation, the group can always use additional resources. If you are interested in working on the project or supporting the project, the group will gladly accept donations of cash, code 83 track, code 83 Peco #6 Unifrog switches, wire, era appropriate rolling stock, kit or assembled buildings appropriate for the locale and era, scenery materials, electronics, and other materials needed to build the layout. Some of these items have already been donated, but there is a need for more. If you are interested in working on the project layout or making a donation, please contact Greg Gramlich, MMR at headbigbear@yahoo.com.



UPCOMING MODULAR LAYOUT WORK SESSIONS

July 19, 2025
August 16, 2025
September 20, 2025
October 18, 2025
November 15, 2025

All work sessions are at:
West Alton City Hall
111 Richard Drive
West Alton, MO

All work sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. except on August 16th, the work session will begin after the hands-on workshop concludes.
The workshop begins at 9:30 a.m.



Photo by Don Perry

Station to Station: Harrisburg, 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 Southern Illinois Railway & Power Company traces its beginnings to the Saline County Traction Company which was incorporated in 1908. In 1910, the company developed plans to build 15 miles of track. In 1912, the Southern Illinois Railway & Power Company was incorporated and they acquired the Saline County Traction Company.

The electric railway connected Eldorado to the northeast of Harrisburg to Carrier Mills to the southwest. The purpose of the



Color photos by Jeff Cooper

interurban line was to serve the mining communities of Eldorado, Wasson, Muddy, Harrisburg, Dorrisville, Ledford, and Carrier Mills. At the time there were 12 coal mines in the area. The line carried both passengers and freight, with coal being the primary commodity.

The right-of-way was acquired in 1912 and construction of the line began. The powerhouse for the system was built in

Muddy and provided power to the line, as well as, commercial power to the surrounding area.

The first electric operation between Eldorado and Harrisburg took place in September 1913 with electric operation between Harrisburg and Carrier Mills in October of the same year. Freight interchange service was established in Eldorado with the Louisville & Nashville and the Illinois Central.

The line operated 17 to 20 daily interurban passenger trains. Early morning trains transported passengers to Eldorado to catch trains to St. Louis. Morning and afternoon trains took miners to and from work. Extra cars were added on Saturday evenings for passengers traveling to Harrisburg to shop.

Based on the success of the line, plans were drawn up to expand the line west through Marion to Carbondale and also south to Rosiclare. In 1917, the Central Illinois Public Service Company (CIPS) purchased the line with an interest in using the power plant to supplement their electricity needs. CIPS subsequently expanded the plant twice before building new power plants in other areas.

As the fortunes of the line began to fade in the mid-1920's, the expansion plans to Carbondale and Rosiclare were dropped. By 1931, declining coal production, construction of the highway system, the opening of a bus line, and the Great Depression brought an end to the system. All passenger service was discontinued in 1931 and freight service ceased in 1932. As the line paralleled the Big Four Railroad, there was no interested buyers and the interurban line was dismantled and sold for scrap.

Even though the line ended operations over 90 years ago, several structures remain, including the station in Harrisburg. Today the structure still sports the bay window, but has significant structural issues causing the west wall to collapse. The 1916 postcard, photographer and publisher unknown, shows a relatively new station with attached freight house.



Postcard from 1916. Photographer and Publisher unknow. Andy Zukowski collection from the Facebook page "Railroad History Buffs of Illinois"

Source of Information

Scalzo, Stephen M. "Southern Illinois Railway & Power." *Hicks Car Works*. hickscarworks.blogspot.com, Web. 20 July 2022.

Structural Elements: Illinois State Bank Building, Assumption, 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.**

The Illinois State Bank building is located in Assumption, Illinois in eastern Christian County in Central Illinois. Assumption is located approximately 110 miles northeast of St. Louis.

This building was constructed in 1900 to replace the original bank building that was built in 1883 and burned in 1899. Ira Tobias was the architect who designed the building. He moved to Springfield during World War I to working as an architect with the Department of Public Works and Buildings until his death in 1939. Prominent features are its light tan brick, Bedford limestone, mansard roof, and square corner turret. The original chimney began to lean and was removed in the late 1970's. The building had a basement, two floors, and an attic.

The building housed the Illinois State Bank until 1933 and then the Assumption Building and Loan Association from 1933 to 1965. The building also housed the law office of George J. LaCharite in the basement and first floor beginning in 1948. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Place on August 16, 1984. It currently is the home of an investment firm.



The building as it appeared in 2024. Photo by Jeff Cooper



C.U. Williams postcard, 1910.

Sources of Information

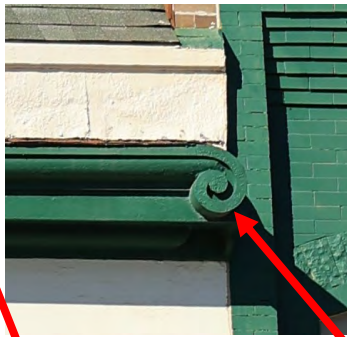
LaCharite, George J. "[National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form: Illinois State Bank Building](#)" (PDF). [National Park Service](#). Archived from [the original](#) (PDF) on March 4, 2016. Retrieved June 21, 2014.



Decorative accents on top trim also carved in the stone of the side door.



Decorative touches on the turret (above) and around the oval window on the turret (below).



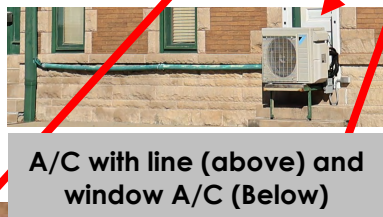
Cap on turret



Limestone column detail



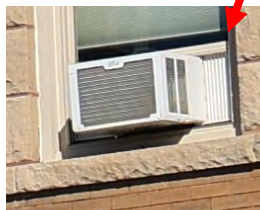
Square downspout



A/C with line (above) and window A/C (Below)



Alarm



Detail above doorway (above) and arched doorway with double doors (right)



Editor's Observations: A Man Named Ralph

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

I am late getting you the Spring issue of the RPO. So much so that I am labeling this issue the Spring/Summer issue. I am working to get back on track (pun intended) and fully intend to produce all four issues this year. The next issue will be the traditional Summer issue and hopefully will be out in the last half of August.

I had another column written and teed up for this issue and it was relevant until it wasn't. It had all sorts of thoughts about our great hobby and Springtime. Once we officially crossed over into Summer it sounded kind of out-of-place. So here we are, back to the drawing board. That has been my story since Spring. I was in a good place. I was collecting the content, assembling this issue, and I was on my way. As I was preparing the issue, I realized I wanted one more feature article to put a little more meat on the bones. So I stopped working on the RPO and built the Gowins Hardware and Jenny's Flowers building that appears in this issue. At the time, I figured it would put me a little further behind schedule, but I thought that I would still be able to have the Spring issue out in May. Then life happened. In my case, my work life happened. Unexpected turnover and staff health issues in my department resulted in me falling behind the eight ball. Deadlines don't care if you are fully staffed or short staffed and they don't

move. So, it was me and my remaining staff, side by side, in the trenches doing what we had to do. Not only did my work hours increase but so did my stress. It was the kind of stress that was, and still is, mentally draining. Then came the sleeping pattern disruptions and physical fatigue joined mental fatigue to round out my circus. Hobbies are supposed to reduce stress and bring relaxation. For me, once I cross a threshold, hobbies stop working. I paused modeling as I was both mentally and physically tired. The increasing lateness of the RPO was adding to my stress, so I had to pause work on this issue. The days and weeks came and went while I worked to rebalance my work and personal life. So, here we are. This issue is late, but since you are reading this, it is finally finished.

It has been an interesting first half of 2025. There are so many people I know that are having there own battles to fight. From their own work issues to serious illness with themselves or loved ones, to surviving a Spring full of natural disasters.

It has been an interesting first half of 2025. There are so many people I know that are having there own battles to fight. From their own work issues to serious illnesses with themselves or loved ones, to surviving a Spring full of natural disasters. I don't know what it is about 2025, but it is my hope, for all of you out there battling, that a break is on the horizon.

This brings me to a man named Ralph. Ralph Morse to be exact. Some of you in the St. Louis area may have heard his name on the news about being killed in the wrong-way driver accident on I-55 in late June. He was the driver of the white Corvette that was hit by the wrong-way driver. I didn't know Ralph and I don't believe he was a model railroader. Now you are thinking to yourself, what does this have to do with anything. Please bear with me. Like I said, I didn't know Ralph. I never shook his hand, never introduced myself, and never met him, and, heck, I didn't even know his name until after he lost his life...but I will miss him. You see, Ralph shared one of my passions...live music.

If You've ever attended a rock concert in the St. Louis area, large or small, you may just know who Ralph is. Ralph loved his concerts. People think I go to a lot of concerts, but Ralph had me beat by a country mile. Ralph was an

older gentleman, with long gray hair, glasses, a beard, his trademark hat covered in pins, his concert appropriate attire, standing right in front of the stage, and dancing like no one was watching. Ralph was a fixture at the live music events in St. Louis. I rarely missed seeing Ralph as he was hard to miss. I never met him as I don't care to be at the front of the stage. I would rather sit further back and soak in the show. That wasn't Ralph's style. As I sit in the back, I tend to people watch before and during the show and that is how Ralph landed on my radar. You couldn't help but catch a glimpse and it was the same for other frequent concert attendees. Everyone either knew Ralph or knew of Ralph.

Ralph had this dichotomy about him. He was unassuming and also stood out in the crowd. Upon his death, I read hundreds of stories about Ralph written by his family, friends, acquaintances, and people like me who had never met him. What I came to learn about Ralph confirmed my observations from afar. He loved his concerts. He dressed and danced like he didn't care what others thought because he actually didn't care what they thought. There were endless stories of how kind, caring, and humble he was. He was a proud Air Force veteran who served in Vietnam. He loved the St. Louis Cardinals, cars, and music. His house was destroyed by one of the tornadoes that ripped through

St. Louis this year. His generosity was such that he didn't ask anyone for help, and instead asked for people to help others who were in distress. Here is a man who lost everything in a tornado and he put his neighbors before himself.

I thought a lot about this man named Ralph and how I would no longer see him dancing in front of the stage. It makes me sad. I will miss seeing him at the shows. It also got me to thinking about what I could learn from Ralph even though I didn't even know him.

First and foremost, Ralph lived his passion. He found what brought him joy and he lived it unapologetically. It made me think about my passion for model railroading and how I

***We need more Ralphs
in the world...and I
need to be more like
Ralph...I just have to
figure out how.***

haven't been living it lately. Second, he approached life with joy. You could see it on his face. Every concert was like it was the first one he ever attended. He danced, and sang, and mingled with the crowd and the musicians. He was the type of man who knows that happiness only comes from the inside and you could see it pouring out of him. I have not been feeling the joy lately. Third, his accident and subsequent passing shows just how quickly things can change. No announcements ...no preparation...just abrupt

and life-altering change. Fourth, no one is promised tomorrow, no matter your age or lot in life. Today is the day I need to talk with my heart and find my joy as tomorrow may just be too late. Finally, what I can learn from Ralph is that we can impact and influence people without even knowing it. Here I am, writing about a man I didn't even know, how his passing saddens me, and how I will miss seeing him at the shows. Here I am, pondering what I can learn from his life and his death. He is having this impact on me and I didn't even know his name until a week ago.

Where has all of this rambling gotten us? Going back to my current situation with work and stress and fatigue, Ralph is showing me that I am not in that place of being like him. I'm not living the passion or experiencing the joy as I battle through my daily grind. I know that several of you are also dealing with some serious issues so it may sound a bit out of bounds to be talking about passion and joy as you deal with troubles and sorrow and you would be correct. But that doesn't mean that I (or you) can't aspire to be like Ralph. A kind, caring, and humble man who found his joy, a man who lived his passion, a man who unapologetically marched to his own beat, a man who put others first, and a man who unknowingly touched lives of people who he had never met. We need more Ralphs in the world...and I need to be more like Ralph...I just have to figure out how. Thanks for reading.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for January 20, 2025

Call to Order

Superintendent Bob Miller called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Etiquette

Mr. Miller welcomed in-person and Zoom attendees. Mr. Miller 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. Miller noted that the business meeting is being recorded.

New Members/Visitors Recognition

Mr. Miller asked if there were any new members or visitors attending the meeting. There was one new member. The attendees welcomed Jeff Nelson to the Division meeting.

Minutes from the December 16, 2024 Meeting

Mr. Miller presented the minutes from the December 16, 2024 meeting. The minutes were revised to show the outgoing officers and who replaced them. Walter Beckman motioned to approve the minutes as revised. David Lowell, MMR seconded the motion. *The revised minutes were approved by unanimous vote.*

Financial Reports

John Kelly presented the financial statements and reported the balances in the bank account and CDs. Mr. Kelly noted that Other Revenue needs to be corrected. A member asked if the Division paid for the tip for the annual holiday party. Mr. Ables replied that the Division will pay for the tip but he has not submitted the reimbursement request yet.

Region Director Report

Mr. Ables reported that the semi-annual Mid-Continent Region Board of Directors meeting will be held January 25th. Mr. Ables noted that the changes he is in favor of is the Region issuing financial statements twice a year for the members and increasing their support of Divisions, primarily those Divisions who do not have adequate resources to conduct activities for their members.

Help Needed

Mr. Miller requested volunteers for Assistant Paymaster, Assistant Clerk, and the Illinois Operations Coordinator. Mr. Miller announced that Walter Beckman will be the 2025 Fall Meet Chair. Fred Wilke volunteered as Assistant Paymaster and Don Perry volunteered to be Assistant Clerk. No one volunteered to the Illinois Operations Coordinator so the position remains vacant.

Division Free-mo Modules

Greg Gramlich, MMR, presented the projected costs for the Division modular layout. He requested that the project start immediately and asked that the membership approve a budget. Mr. Ables noted that \$18,000 of Division funds are invested in CDs and that we need to make sure not to drain the checking account prior to the CDs maturing. Mr. Levin reported that the Schwab CDs could be redeemed at any time; however, they would be sold at the market rate at the time of redemption which could result in either a profit or a loss depending on the market at that time. Mr. Levin further noted that the CDs would be maturing in about two months so funds could be moved from the Schwab account to the checking account at that time. Mr. Levin is in favor of the expense as the Division has the resources to do so and is better than just sitting on the money. Finally, Mr. Levin noted that the only revenue that the Division generates is through the annual Fall Meet which

typically provides approximately \$1,000 in profit that goes towards future Division expenses. It was also noted that the Division still needs to resolve the ongoing website issues which will generate additional expenses in 2025. Mr. Gramlich noted that the expenses would be distributed over the next 12 months so it would not be a one-time payout. Fred Wilke motioned to approve a one-time budget line of \$3,000 to be used for the Division modular layout with the understanding that the Division will request \$200 from National and in the event that National does not provide the \$200 that the Division will pay up to the proposed \$3,000. Brian Post seconded the motion. *The motion to fund the Division modular layout at an amount not to exceed \$3,000 passed unanimously.*

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 Fall St. Louis Metro train show will be held at the St. Louis Community College Meramec Gym
- A member reported that their club layout will be at the Great Train Show in St. Charles, MO. Mr. Gramlich noted the Division will have a table at the show and is in need of a volunteer to conduct a clinic/presentation.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Miller announced the following upcoming events:

- **January 25-26, 2025, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.:** **Great Train Show:** St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles, MO
- **February 8, 2025, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.:** **Sons of the American Legion Spring Train Show:** Dupo American Legion Post #485, 200 South 5th St, Dupo, IL
- **February 22, 2025, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.:** **Pacific Eagles Train Show:** 707 West Congress St, Pacific, MO
- **March 8, 2025, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.:** **Boeing Show:** 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

50/50 Drawing

Chris Oestreich won the 50/50 drawing.

Next Meetings/Events

Mr. Miller announced the following upcoming Division event:

- **February 15, 2025, 9:30 a.m.** **Hands-on Workshop,** West Alton City Hall, 111 Richard Drive, West Alton, MO

Adjourn

Mr. Miller adjourned the business meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Cooper, Clerk, Gateway Division

Meeting Minutes for March 17, 2025

Call to Order

Superintendent Bob Miller called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.

Meeting Etiquette

Mr. Miller welcomed in-person and Zoom attendees. Mr. Miller 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. Miller noted that the business meeting is being recorded.

New Members/Visitors Recognition

Mr. Miller asked if there were any new members or visitors attending the meeting. There was one new member. The attendees welcomed Dave Wehner to the Division meeting.

Minutes from the January 20, 2025 Meeting

Mr. Miller presented the minutes from the January 20, 2025 meeting. Glenn Koproske motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Jim Ables seconded the motion. *The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.*

Financial Reports

John Kelly presented the January 2025 and February 2025 financial statements and reported the balances in the bank account and CDs. A member asked Mr. Kelly about the expenditure related to the budgeted line item for the Division modular layout project. Mr. Kelly noted that the expense on the financial report is for the DCC system for the modular layout. Members discussed the DCC and agreed to continue the conversation at a later time. Finally, Mr. Kelly noted that the 2025 budget needs to be finalized. Mr. Cooper added that the budget will be presented and approved by the Board at their next meeting and then presented to the membership at the April meeting.

Modular Layout Update

Greg Gramlich, MMR provided an update on the Division modular layout project. Mr. Gramlich reported that Don Perry is leading the wiring and electronics, Fred Wilke is leading the budget and planning, Charles Marshall is leading the engineering and construction of the frames, and Willie Richter is the site manager. Mr. Gramlich further noted that there will be a work session on April 12 at the West Alton City Hall and future work sessions will occur once or twice per month. Mr. Gramlich reported that eight frames are finished. Finally, Mr. Perry shared photos of the progress that has occurred to date.

Club Updates

Mr. Miller noted that the Jefferson County & Southern work session will be March 23, 2025.

Ask Us Anything

There were no questions posed to the membership.

Other Business

There were no items of other business discussed.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Miller announced the following upcoming events:

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

50/50 Drawing

As the meeting was being held by Zoom, there was no 50/50 drawing.

Presentation

Eric Peterson presented "Using Polymeric Sand for Scenery."

Next Meetings/Events

Mr. Miller announced the following upcoming Division event:

- **April 21, 2025, 9:30 a.m. Member Meeting and Presentation**, Oakville Elks Lodge, 2726 Oakville Elks Lane, St. Louis, MO; Jim Coady will present (via Zoom) "Easy Peasy Model Railroad Photography."

Adjourn

Mr. Miller adjourned the business meeting at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Cooper, Clerk, Gateway Division

Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2025

Call to Order

Superintendent Bob Miller called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Meeting Etiquette

Mr. Miller welcomed in-person and Zoom attendees. Mr. Miller 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. Miller noted that the business meeting is being recorded.

New Members/Visitors Recognition

Mr. Miller recognized Ron Gawedzinski for being an NMRA member for 50 years. The Board and membership thanked and congratulated Mr. Gawedzinski on his accomplishment.

Minutes from the March 17, 2025 Meeting

Mr. Miller presented the minutes from the March 17, 2025 meeting. Jim Ables motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Ron Gawedzinski seconded the motion. *The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.*

Financial Reports

John Kelly presented the March 2025 financial statement and reported the balances in the bank account and CDs, as well as the dues rebate from the Region.

2025 Budget

Mr. Kelly presented the 2025 budget. Mr. Kelly noted that we budgeted Fall Meet Receipts similar to 2024. Mr. Kelly then covered the remaining line items in the budget. A member asked about the amount budgeted for the website. Mr. Miller noted that members of the Board and Brad Joseph are working with the former webmaster to bring a resolution to the website issues. Mr. Miller further noted that amounts have been budgeted to ensure dollars are available if they are needed.

Region Director Report

Mr. Ables reported on the first board meeting in January 2025 that he attended as the Director representing the Gateway Division. Mr. Ables noted that one success was increasing the percentage allocation of the member rebates from the Region to the Division from 25% to 50%. A member asked if National sets the allocation of the rebate from the Region to the Division. Mr. Ables reported that the Region sets the allocation. Mr. Ables noted that Region officer elections are

coming soon and that there will be at least two Division members running for office. Mr. Ables encouraged members to vote in the Region elections. Finally, Mr. Ables noted that the next Region board meeting will be held at the Region convention in August.

Modular Layout Update

Greg Gramlich, MMR provided an update on the Division modular layout project. Mr. Gramlich reported that donations of track, switches, structures, and scenery material are needed and would be appreciated. Mr. Gramlich noted that ten modules have been assigned to interested Division members, and that some of the modules have the basic trackwork installed with some modules also being wired. Mr. Gramlich noted that the next Division Hands-on Workshop will be how to make corn with a modular layout work session to follow. Don Perry will be on hand to assist with the wiring at the work session. Fred Wilke noted that the group is following the Free-mo standards so the modules can match up. The modules will be kept at West Alton City Hall where they will remain unless the modules are going to be taken for a display setup. Willie Richter noted that if you can do your own module if you follow the same standards and that Charles Marshall will build you a base module so that it matches the Divisions base modules. A member inquired on the price and Mr. Richter noted it would cost a member approximately \$150 to have their own personal module base.

AP Update

Dave Ackmann reported that Brad Joseph, MMR has received his Golden Spike Award.

Club Updates

There were no club updates.

Ask Us Anything

There were no questions posed to the membership.

Other Business

Brad Joseph, MMR reported that the current website is an entangled mess and that he and the Board are working towards a solution. The domain, website hosting, and content are under the sole control of the former webmaster and he also has exerted copyrights on some of the content of the current website. One of the issues is that the former webmaster wants reimbursed for costs related to the website, but Mr. Ables noted that while the former webmaster requested reimbursement, no documentation for the reimbursement request have been received. Additionally, the Division website has not been updated since 2023. Mr. Joseph has been working with the former webmaster to resolve and closeout the issues so we can move forward. Mr. Joseph also met with the designer of the National Narrow Gauge Convention website and has connected her with the Division Board.

Mr. Gawedzinski reported that former longtime member Jack Stroker passed away in March.

Mr. Ackmann noted that he brought some of his 3D printed models if anyone would like to check them out.

Mr. Miller noted that there are several activities coming up including the St. Louis RPM in July, the NMRA National Convention in July, and the National Narrow Gauge Convention in September. The latter is looking for clinicians and volunteers. The Division is a co-sponsor of the National Narrow Gauge Convention.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Miller announced the following upcoming events:

- **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
- **May 17, 2025 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: 9th Anniversary Railroad Swap Meet:** Iron Spike Model Train Museum, Washington City Auditorium, 211 High Street, Washington, MO

50/50 Drawing

Don Perry won the 50/50 drawing.

Presentation

James Coady presented Easy-Peasy Model Railroad Photography via Zoom.

Next Meetings/Events

Mr. Miller announced the following upcoming Division event:

- **May 17, 2025, 9:30 a.m. Hands-on Workshop and Division Modular Layout Project Meeting,** West Alton City Hall, 111 Richard Drive, West Alton, MO. Members will make corn stalks using miniature Christmas wreaths made from pine stems by Darice Inc. Once made, we will plant the corn stalks in a field made out of single face corrugated sheets and potting soil. All materials will be provided free of charge for this workshop. Immediately following this workshop will be a presentation on how the modules were wired by Don Perry and the module committee. This is also the time that Gateway Division members that plan on having a module take ownership of one of the modules.

Adjourn

Mr. Miller adjourned the business meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Cooper, Clerk, Gateway Division



Scene from the Gateway N-Trak modular layout on display at the 2024 Gateway Division Fall Meet.

Photo by: Jeff Cooper



Spring/Summer 2025: Volume 33, Number 1

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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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
W. Alton, MO

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, MMR

Publicity

Greg Gramlich, MMR

Modular Layout

Greg Gramlich, MMR



Scene from the Gateway Free-Mo modular layout on display at the 2024 Gateway Division Fall Meet. Photo by: Jeff 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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