



Editor:

Richard Schumacher

Cover Photograph:

Dave Roeder

This Issue's Contributors:

Dave Bartz

Venita Lake

Dave Roeder

Michael Thomas

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Editor, The RPO
Gateway Division NMRA
PO Box 510305
St. Louis MO 63151-0305

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On the Cover

The Webster Groves & Fenton RR Valley Park Sub is a busy place during the grain season. Here we see a BN switcher working the Cargill elevator setting out empties for the local to pick up. The Valley Park Subdivision is a large switching layout attached to the main layout by a single track entering from beneath a city scene on the layout. During operating sessions, switching on the Valley Park Sub requires two people and about 3 hours to complete. Photo by Dave Roeder.

Superintendent's Desk

by Mike Thomas

I'm just beginning my duties as the Gateway Division's new Superintendent, and one of those duties is writing this column. I would like to begin by thanking outgoing officers Bob Amsler, Superintendent, Dave Bartz, Clerk, and Ken Thompson, Paymaster; the two years I spent as Assistant Superintendent with them let me see how much time and effort they put into making the Division a success.

I would also like to introduce Bob Boedges, our new Clerk, and Dave Lyon,

our new Paymaster. Unfortunately, health problems have prevented Rich Laux from taking up his duties as Assistant Superintendent; Rich is making good progress following a stroke.

And of course, the vast bulk of the work that goes into keeping the Division active, solvent, and fun is done by people other than the officers. These folks don't turn over their duties to others at the end of the year, but keep on working, planning, building, phoning, writing, and doing, month after month. I hope you are one of them, and I thank you if you are.

Mike Thomas, 314-664-0680
mathomas@speakeasy.net

Breaking News

As most of you already know, Rich Laux was elected Assistant Superintendent in the Gateway Division election last fall, but was unable to assume office due to a stroke he suffered in mid-November.

Rich is now far enough along in his recuperation to assume the Assistant Superintendent's office and fill out the remainder of his term. A quick consultation with our Division Attorney, our Immediate Past Superintendent, and our de facto Parliamentarian (all of whom happen to be Bob Amsler) concluded that since Rich had been elected to the office, and since no one else had been nominated run in a special election to fill the vacancy, Rich can now simply assume office without need for a special election or other red tape.

Congratulations to Rich Laux.

From the Editor's Desk

by *Richard Schumacher*

Production of this issue was slightly delayed due to the arrival of the Division's newest little engineer (pictured here). Alexander Mestres Schumacher (Alex)

was born December 3, 2003 to his very happy and proud parents Susan and Richard; weighing in at 7 lbs 4 oz and 21" in length. As you can see, a Bachmann HO Thomas the Tank Engine was waiting for him at home under the Christmas tree.

As I somehow anticipate a lot of baby pictures in my future, I finally acquired a digital camera to reduce the costs of film and processing. Fortunately, *almost* reasonably priced digital cameras are now available which compete favorably in image quality and ease of use with conventional film cameras. This photo of Alex, and the model contest photos, were taken with a digital SLR (Canon 300D). My clinic at the May meeting will include a discussion on the types of digital cameras available, and considerations when using one for model photography.

Our next issue will include an article on operation by Bob Johnson and the track plan and photos of the completed Gateway Central X (2003) project layout.



Rental Car Giveaway

Register for the Gateway Getaway 2004 MCoR Regional Convention before April 20, 2004 (registration forms available on our website, www.gatewaynmra.org) and you may be the winner of a 2004 rental convertible for the MCoR Convention!

Rules:

- Must be a Gateway Division member
- Must register (form and payment) for Gateway Getaway 2004 before April 20, 2004 (April Division meeting)
- 2004 Chrysler Crossfire convertible or 2004 Chrysler PT Cruiser convertible for 3 days, 2 nights
- Licensed driver must be 21 year or older
- State proof of full (insurance) coverage is required
- 750 mile limit
- Winner must pick up vehicle from dealer in Belleville, Illinois

This is one more reason to send in your convention registration today!

Gateway Central XI

by *Brad Joseph*

The Gateway Central XI railroad will be on display and in operation at this summer's MCoR Convention.

The latest in a long and illustrious series of project railroads built by the Gateway Division as educational, outreach and fundraising tools is a departure from the previous layouts. It is the first N-scale project railroad built by the division. The size - 30x80 inches - and extremely light weight make the portability of this layout exemplary.

N-scale permitted us to model big time, double track railroading in a small space. Crossovers, sidings and the two-track mainline allows serious operations. The

layout represents the River Subdivision of the Burlington between Portage and Savannah, Illinois with its heavy traffic density.



Gateway Central XI under construction and running at the Gateway Division 2003 Fall Meet.

The layout began with a foam core door and a sheet of blue insulation foam. Next the highly reliable Kato Unitrack was laid atop the foam, which was carved for basic scenic contours. The layout was built over several months by Gateway Division members, some of whom had never worked in N-scale before. This was in keeping with the provision that the railroad be an educational experience for our members and encourage new techniques.

You could take the layout home in October of 2004 when the winner of our raffle will be announced. It comes complete with power pack, train, and buildings and is wired for two train operations. Chances are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and the winning ticket will be drawn at the Museum of Transportation's Family Days Celebration. Delivery in the Metro St. Louis area is included.

The scenery represents the upper midwest with a double track tunnel, several through truss bridges and a typical river town with its "Turn of the Century" brick buildings. We hope you enjoy watching it in operation and wish you good luck if you choose to buy some chances!

Getting Down to Details

by Venita Lake

Some years ago I wrote a brief piece for the RPO relating information I had picked up at a national convention. It focused on making sure that details on the layout fit the time frame modeled, and gave approximate times that hay stacks went from stack or square bales to rolled, or when stop signs changed color from black on yellow to white on red. I made a rash statement that "next time" I would tell about mailbox colors. Well, in true US railroad time, here it is.

I contacted the Smithsonian Institution's Postal Museum through its web site at <http://postalmuseum.si.edu>. The site had information and drawings on the older boxes that were attached to posts, but not on the larger collection boxes we see today. I remembered that these boxes had been "government green," then blue with red on top, and currently they are all blue, with white lettering and logos, but wondered which was best for our about-1957 layout. Here is their answer:

"Mailbox color changes happen over several years, and correspond to color themes used by the postal service for other items as well (including vehicles). The first color used was white, which lasted into the end of the 19th century. After that, drab olive green was used. Towards the end of the Second World War, blue became the color of choice, and subsequent to that, blue and red. Following 1971, mailbox and vehicle colors went their separate ways, with vehicles returning to the 19th century white, (with red and white trim) and mailboxes returning to blue."

Obviously mailbox color transitions did not happen overnight, just as we see now with locomotives and Amoco stations, so depending on your era, several options might be shown.

I have spotted the red-over-blue box in the movie "An Affair to Remember" (1957) as Deborah Kerr is running across the street – and subsequently being hit by a taxi, and, I believe I caught one in the opening credits of the TV show "Archie Bunker's Place" which ran from 1979-83, later than the 1971 date given by the Smithsonian's historian. (Get a life, Venita!)

In larger cities, the drab green boxes used as distribution boxes for mail carriers only may appear next to the public collection box.

Incidentally, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. has a wonderful little postal museum on the basement level of the post office across the street from Union Station. When we were there, it had a full-sized RPO car and a continuously running video featuring former RPO workers talking about the old days. It's worth a visit.

Gateway Division Clinicians Wanted

We still need clinics for upcoming meetings. If you know something other people don't then you're qualified to conduct a clinic. And if you don't think you can fill an hour, we can pair you up with another short clinic for the evening. We especially need more hands-on how-to modeling workshops and more in-depth prototype clinics.

Call Mike Thomas at 314-664-0680 or 314-771-0680.

Volunteers Make 2003 Fall Meet a Success

by Mike Thomas, Fall Meet Chair
photos by Richard Schumacher

The Gateway Division's 2003 Fall Meet, held Saturday, November 1, at Trinity Lutheran Church, was successful beyond anyone's expectations. Attendance topped 175, about twice last year's total, and we cleared just over \$500 after expenses.



Just as important, we signed up a couple new NMRA members. Venita Lake was in charge of publicity and gets much of the credit for the turnout. Ken Thompson worked the registration table and tracked the income and expenses; without him we wouldn't know just how much of a success it was.



The **MZ&D Big Bridge** modular layout was perhaps the most popular single attraction. Thanks to Ed Dietrich, Dave Scharnhorst, and Larry and Barb Stoll for bringing it down from Quincy.



Brian Post sold 32 vendor and swap tables, which offered everything from No. 1 gauge tinplate to N scale brass, with new and used items for everyone in between, and tee shirts for anyone else. Even folks who didn't buy



anything from vendors probably went home with something new for the layout thanks to Randy Meyer's ability to round up door prizes.



All six clinics were well attended; thanks are due to Bob Johnson, Jim Anderson and Dave Lyon, Mike

Thomas and Jerry Smith, Chris Theis, Jack Stroker, and Rich Laux for presenting them. The model and photo contests, organized by Don Taschner assisted by Chris Oestreich, also



attracted plenty of interest. Special thanks to Rich Schumacher who photographed all the contest winners and printed up the winners' certificates under severe time constraints.



Thirty or forty guests got in to see each of the home layouts which were on display. Thanks to Dave Lyon, Randy



Meyer, Herb Gilden, and Dave Roeder for their hospitality, and thanks also to Hank Kraichely for talking them into it.



Finally, thanks to Jim Anderson who made all the necessary arrangements with the church, counted tables and chairs, reserved the video projector, drafted the set-up and clean-up crews, and made extra copies of the program when we ran short.



1st & 2nd Generation Diesel, First Place, Glen Koproske



1st & 2nd Generation Diesel, Second Place, John Carty



Traditionally, the model contest photos were taken on 35mm color negative film and scanned (either with a film scanner or lately via Picture CD) to produce the digital images required for reproduction in the *RPO*. This is the first year these photos were taken with a digital SLR.

Freight Car, First Place, Kurt Stroer



Freight Car, Second Place, Richard Schumacher



Freight Car, Third Place, Don Taschner



Passenger Car, First Place, John Carty



Passenger Car, Second Place, John Carty

Caboose, First Place, Kurt Stroer



Caboose, Second Place, John Carty



Caboose, Third Place, Don Taschner



Maintenance of Way, First Place, Don Taschner



Gateway Western Award & Whole Train, First Place, Chris Oestreich



Whole Train, Second Place, Venita Lake



Whole Train, Third Place, Glen Koproske



Best of Show & Structures (On Line), First Place, Don Taschner
William F Schumacher Spirit of Model Railroading Award



Structures (On Line), Second Place, Glen Koproske



WHGK Architects Award & Structures (Off Line), First Place, Don Taschner



Prototype Color Print
First Place, Venita Lake



Prototype Color Slide
First Place, Richard Schumacher



Structures (Off Line), Second Place, Glen Koproske



Structures (On Line)
Third Place, John Carty



Structures (Off Line)
Third Place, Bob Miano



Model Color Print, First Place, Richard Schumacher



Diorama, First and Second Place, Jack Templeton



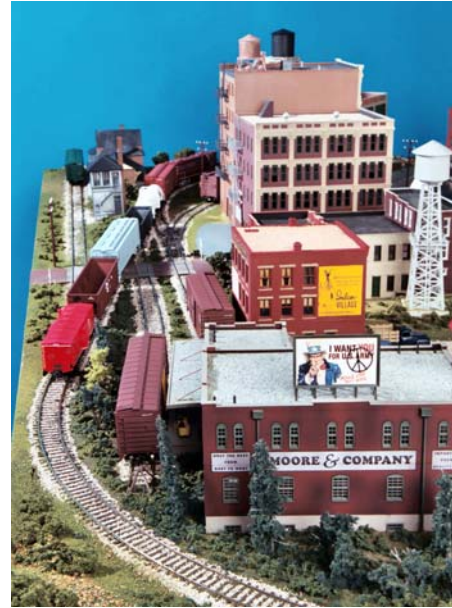
Prototype Color Print, Second & Third Place, Ed Walton



Prototype Color Slide, Second & Third Place, Richard Schumacher



Model Color Print
Second Place, Richard Schumacher



Model Color Print
Third Place, Glen Koproske



Model Color Slide (not available)
First Place, Mike Thomas

*Color versions of these model and photo contest photographs are available on the Gateway Division website:
www.gatewaynmra.org/models03.htm*

Gateway Getaway 2004 Committee

Chairman – John Schindler
Registration – Jim Anderson, Bill Levin
Home layout tours –
Hank Kraichely, Dave Lyon

Prototype tours – John Hardy
Door prizes – Randy Meyer
Publicity, Program – Venita Lake
Train Show – Brian Post, Mike Barry
Computer, Photography, Website –
Richard Schumacher
Clinics – Richard Lake, Mike Thomas
Model & Photo Contest – Don Taschner

MCoR 2004 Convention Plans Continue

The Gateway Division's Convention Planning Committee, chaired by John Schindler, continues to develop plans for the Mid-Continent Region's annual convention to be held at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, Illinois, from June 3 – 6, 2004. Details and registration forms are posted on our website at <http://gatewaynmra.org> and information will be added as it becomes available. If you do not have access to the web, forms will appear in the next *Caboose Kibitzer* or you can contact our convention registrar, Jim Anderson, at (636) 394-1305, or at a division meeting.

Register soon for the convention and the following prototype tours to assure yourself a seat on the bus! Also, even though you live within easy driving distance of the convention site, consider reserving a room at one of the convention hotels. You might enjoy the vacation and have the opportunity to meet and talk with more members from outside our division area.

Prototype Tours

Three bus tours are scheduled for Friday. These are extra-fare activities and will be on modern, air-conditioned buses.

Tour #1: The Terminal Railroad Association Madison yard and Gateway Rail Services will be visited on Friday morning. The TRRA, owned by the railroads that use it, does most of the switching activity in the St. Louis area. Tour this state-of-the-art fully automated hump yard, and then visit the passenger car rebuilding facility at

Gateway Rail Services (formerly Illinois Transit Assembly).

Tour #2: Also on Friday morning, the Union Pacific car shop at DeSoto, Missouri, will be open. See damaged cars being rebuilt and repainted in UP's car repair shops, one of only two owned and operated by the railroad. The latest addition to the facility, built in 1999, is a 760' long fully automated paint booth. UP also does rebuild and repaint work for other railroads.

Tour #3: Manufacturers Railway and the Metrolink shops will be on tour on Friday afternoon. Anheuser-Busch owns this small switching line, founded by Adolphus Busch in 1887. It performs bridge transfer service crossing the river and terminal and switching services in St. Louis. Manufacturers also does repair work for other railroads in its shops. Locomotives and rolling stock will be on display. Then visit the shops and repair facilities of Metrolink, the St. Louis area's highly successful transit operation. Metrolink utilizes old and/or abandoned freight railroad right of way to serve a growing number of rail commuters every day.

Downtown St. Louis service is via underground tunnels that once served the business district, while the historic Eads Bridge is the connection to the east side of the Mississippi River. The newest section extending east to Shiloh, Illinois, and Scott Air Force Base is now open for business and a third section is currently under construction.

Unfortunately we cannot guarantee that Friday morning tours will return in time for attendees to take the afternoon tour. Tour capacities are limited and at \$15, spaces should fill fast on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest that you indicate on the registration form the

number of tickets you wish to purchase for your first choice, and if space is no longer available for that tour and you would like to join one of the other tours, indicate "second choice" and "third choice" on those lines of the form.

For information contact:

John Schindler, 1950 The Woods Circle, Barnhart, MO 63012-5923; phone: (636) 464-3431
2004regional@gatewaynmra.org

Division Minutes

Recorded by Dave Bartz, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for Sept. 15, 2003

The meeting began at 7:07 pm when assistant superintendent Mike Thomas introduced Dave Roeder, the clinician, for his slide presentation of his Webster Groves and Fenton HO railroad. Dave's layout is built using "L" girder construction with ½" Homasote for the roadbed without any sub-roadbed for additional support. The layout uses "coved" corners to make the square wall corners "disappear". It takes approximately 6 hours to completely run all the trains during an operating session and requires 6 trainmen at various operating positions. The layout is completely "finished" and abounds with many Kit-built, Kit-bashed and scratch built structures. It also has hundreds of scale inhabitants and their vehicles.

Our thanks to Dave for sharing his modeling and photographic skills with our members.

The business meeting was called to order by Superintendent Bob Amsler at 8:25 pm.

Visitors: We welcomed visitor and new member Brian Cherkes to the Gateway Division. Brian and his wife model in several different scales.

Minutes: Rick Lake moved to accept the minutes of the August meeting as presented and Jim Anderson gave the second. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Richard Wegner moved to accept the treasurer's report dated September 14, 2003, and Rick Lake gave the second. The treasury has an ending balance of \$23,492.85. Approved.

Old Business:

AP Awards: Don Taschner reported there were no new recipients for AP awards. Don also stated

that forms are now available from him for the judging of "popular vote" models at the fall meet. This was a suggestion made at our July meeting to speed-up the entry of these models.

Gateway X Project Layout: Bob Amsler reported that there are still 3 buildings that need to be completed and the "builders" have been contacted to have them completed ASAP. There is also some ballasting that needs to be finished.

The layout will be taken to the Pacific Railroad Days celebration in Pacific, MO on September 27, 2003. It will be on display from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm and raffle tickets will be sold to win the layout. The winner to be announced at the MOT event on October 5, 2003. Volunteers who wish to sell tickets and to finish the layout on that date, were asked to sign a work schedule sheet before leaving the meeting.

The layout will be set up at the Museum of Transportation on October 4th and 5th during the MOT's open house. We will sell the final tickets to raffle off the layout and provide some clinics for visitors during those 2 days. Again volunteers are needed to work 4-hour shifts each morning and afternoon for those 2 days.

Gateway XI Project Layout: Bob Amsler reported for Brad Joseph, that the group building that new N scale layout is meeting every Wednesday evening and has made significant progress towards its completion. The layout will be at the Fall Meet this year.

Wheel Sets: Hank Kraichely reported that all the wheel sets have now been received. Anyone wishing to purchase the wheel sets should contact John Hardy.

Fall Meet 2003: Mike Thomas has completed advertising fliers to be placed in the local hobby shops to promote the Meet. Mike had bundled the fliers in-groups of 25 and asked our members to pick up a bundle and place them in a hobby shop that they frequent.

Mike also made the following observations:

- Randy Meyer is in charge of door prizes and may need help if he is unable to attend the meet.
- Hank Kraichely is in charge of the home layout tours and will provide maps to each home to be given to Mike. Hank reported that the number of layouts that will be offered would be less than the last meet to avoid having some layouts with very few visitors.
- Jim Anderson will be in charge of the set-up at Trinity for the meet. He will need help on Friday afternoon prior to the start of the meet. See Jim to offer your help.

- Brian Post is in charge of the "swap tables" and reported that there have only been 2 tables sold at this time, although several people have mentioned their intention to purchase tables.
- Rich Laux is a clinician giving a clinic on painting scale figures. At the time of this meeting only 2 people had paid their \$14.00 for supplies and 4 additional members have signed up for the clinic.

2004 MCoR Convention: Venita Lake reported for John Schindler, that the 2004 committee met on September 9th and gave the following observations:

- John Hardy is in charge of the prototype tours and is still making investigations for tours.
- Venita Lake is in charge of publicity and has sent the first notices to be placed in the November Kibitzer.
- Mike Thomas and Rick Lake are in charge of clinicians and are just stating to make inquires to various possible people to give clinics. To date, two definite clinicians from California have agreed to present clinics.
- Hank Kraichely will be in charge of providing the home layout tours.
- The budget for the convention is based on an attendance of 200 people.

Elections: Bob Amsler reported that no one has volunteered to be a member of the nominating committee. Bob has personally been contacting various members to try and locate people to fill the 4 open positions- superintendent, assistant superintendent, treasurer and clerk. This has been done to make the job easier for the nominating committee. As of this meeting there is no one on the slate for new officers. The deadline for closing the nominations is October 1st per our by-laws.

Membership: Venita Lake reported that 2 new members have joined the Gateway Division as of tonight's meeting.

Hank Kraichely reported that the National Membership Contest information is in the September "Scale Rails" magazine and that the contest ends November 30th. Hank reminded our members that with the Pacific Railroad Days, the MOT open house and our Fall Meet we have many good opportunities to sign-up new members.

Bob Amsler reported that the Gateway Division will also present a prize of a \$50.00 dollar gift certificate to a hobby shop of the winner's choice, to the member who signs-up the most new

members. This contest will also end on November 30th.

Dues: Ken Thompson reported that he has sent 28 post cards to delinquent members to try and keep them active in the Division. Ken will no longer carry them as members as of November 1, 2003, if they have not paid their dues.

New Business:

Mike Thomas made a motion to have a committee investigate the purchase of a "data projector" and screen which would be used at various clinics and functions to show computer images to our members. Randy Meyer gave the second. After discussions, Mike Barry made a friendly amendment to the motion to allow the committee to purchase the projector and screen for an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00. Randy Meyer accepted the amendment. A show of hands vote was taken and 18 members were for and 8 members were against. Approved. The committee will consist of Mike Thomas, Richard Schumacher and Kirk Yates. The equipment will not be needed until the 2004 Regional convention, so the committee was asked to be thorough with their investigation and obtain the projector and screen at the most economical price.

Mike Barry has made a suggestion to Bob Amsler and to the NMRA president Allen Pollock, that we investigate the possibility of having Missouri license plates "personalized" with the NMRA information. This would result in advertisement for the NMRA and a small amount of income for our Division and the National organization. Mike stated that the requirements to have special plates made in Missouri were only to have 100 members of a non-profit organization commit to purchase the plates. A sign-up sheet was made available for our members to show their interest in this proposal.

Venita Lake reported that the Spring and Summer RPO's were available at tonight's meeting. Everyone please sign for and pick-up their copies.

Venita also reported that Richard Schumacher has set a deadline of September 22, 2003 for submission of articles for the Fall RPO. Anyone who can provide copy for this RPO is asked to please contact Richard.

50:50: \$36.00 was collected and Mike Satke won \$18.00.

Adjournment: Randy Meyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm and Rick Lake gave the second. Approved.

Attendance: There were 28 members in attendance.

Division Minutes

Recorded by Dave Bartz, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for Oct. 20, 2003

The meeting began at 7:10 pm when assistant superintendent Mike Thomas introduced Don Gathright, the clinician, for his slide presentation of electric railways. Don's interesting slides showed us the many different types of streetcars, interurban and heavy electric freight lines on the trackage and locations where they operated. We also saw the catenary, line cars and a variety of other equipment not found on other lines. Don included information on the prototype and how to use that information when modeling electric railways.

We thank Don for a very informative clinic and for sharing his photographic skills with our members. Assistant superintendent Mike Thomas called the business meeting to order at 8:20 pm.

Visitors / New Members: There were no visitors to the meeting, but we had 2 new members join the Gateway Division and the NMRA — Chris Zigmont and Bob Fries. A warm welcome was given to these 2 new members.

Minutes: Rick Lake moved to accept the minutes and Brian Post gave the second. The minutes were corrected by changing Mr. Pollock's first name from Bob to Allen. The minutes were then Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ken Thompson presented a corrected treasurer's report for the month of August 2003, with a new balance of \$23,497.85. The original balance was \$23,492.85.

Randy Meyer moved to accept the treasurer's report for the month of September and Rich Laux gave the second. As of October 19, 2003 the treasury has an ending balance of \$23,745.55. Approved.

Old Business:

AP Awards: Don Taschner reported that Dave Bartz has received his 5th AP award. This award was for "Structures".

Gateway X Project Layout: The drawing for the winner of this layout was held at the Museum of Transportation on October 5th, 2003. The family that won the layout is from Illinois and they picked up the layout to take it to their home. Ken Thompson reported that we netted approximately \$1,100.00 in profit on this project with roughly 1,700 tickets sold.

Gateway XI Project Layout: Brad Joseph and the volunteers who are building our next layout

report that much of the work has been completed. The layout is operational with some scenery in place. The completion and installation of structures is the remaining big item to be done. The layout will be brought to our Fall Meet.

The layout will be taken to the train shows in Collinsville, IL this November and again next spring. It will also be taken to the Wentzville MO show the end of January 2004.

Wheelsets: Hank Kraichely reported that all wheel sets have been received and are available. Ken Thompson stated that the wheel sets would be for sale at the Fall Meet. We have a large investment in these wheels and we need to make a concentrated effort to sell them as soon as possible.

Fall Meet 2003: Mike Thomas reported that the various items for the meet are schedule and will be ready for the November 1st date. The meet is from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church.

- Ken Thompson reported that in addition to the wheelsets he will have Gary Hoover cars and Mid-Continent cars for sale along with track gages.
- Brian Post reported that he has sold 20 swap tables and has only 4 tables left.
- Hank Kraichely has the home layout tours lined up for the 4:00 until 8:00 pm times that evening.
- Jim Anderson asked that volunteers be on hand Friday afternoon at approximately 2:30 pm to help with the setup of all the tables and chairs.
- Brian Post will make his home available to host the people bringing the modular layout to the meet from Illinois.

2004 MCoR Convention: John Schindler reported that all items for the convention are being worked on and are on schedule.

Elections: Ballots have been mailed to all "paid-up" members of the Gateway Division in the same envelopes as their copy of the fall RPO. All offices are uncontested with provisions for "write-in" candidates. The slate of officers is as follows:

Superintendent---Mike Thomas
Assistant Superintendent---Rich Laux
Treasurer---Dave Lyon
Clerk---Bob Boedges

Jim Anderson was elected for Division Director to the MCoR Board and will serve until 2006.

The ballots must be mailed and post-marked no later than November 15, 2003. The results will be announced at the December Gateway meeting.

Membership: Rick Lake moved that all first time

new members who are signed up at the fall meet be given a Gary Hoover car as a bonus to their becoming members. Jack Templeton gave the second Approved. (Ken Thompson reported that we have approximately 160 of the cars still on hand and that their cost was \$6.60.)

Hank Kraichely reported that the National membership contest ends on November 30, 2003, and that full details are available in the September "Scale Rails" magazine.

Dues: Ken Thompson reported that we have approximately 120 paid-up members and that 14-15 people were dropped for non-payment of dues.

Data Projector and Screen: Mike Thomas reported that investigations have begun and are ongoing to gather information concerning the purchase of a computer data projector and screen.

Personalized License Plates: no additional information was presented at the meeting.

New Business:

Holiday Party: Jim Anderson reported that the Christmas party will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church on November 17, 2003, starting at 7:00 pm. Each member attending is asked to bring an appetizer or dessert for 4 guests. This party is not to be considered as an evening meal. Jim asked for a show of "hands" to get an estimate of the number of members and guests who might attend the party.

Dave Lyon will provide games and Ron Gawedzinski will provide the evening's entertainment.

NMRA BOT: Jim Anderson has won the election as the new MCoR trustee. Our congratulations to Jim. We will all be anxious to learn about the proposed new LRPs and Jim will keep us up to date on all events. Our thanks to John Hardy for his work as a former trustee.

Name Tags: Jack Templeton offered to make engraved name tags for all members who wished to have them. The members should give their \$1.00 donation to Ken Thompson and print their names on the back of Jack's business card.

Boley Vehicles: Hank Kraichely will investigate the feasibility of purchasing the inventory of Boley vehicles from a vendor who no longer sells these items. He maybe able to purchase them under cost for sale to our members or as a fund raiser at a small profit.

50:50: \$26.00 was collected and Jim Anderson won \$13.00.

Adjournment: Randy Meyer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm and Pete Smith gave the second. Approved.

Attendance: There were 37 members in attendance.

Note that there are no Division Minutes for a November 2003 meeting since that date is reserved for the Division's annual holiday party.

Membership News

by Venita Lake, Membership Chair

Enclosed with this issue is a questionnaire asking for new or expanded information for inclusion in the next Division member directory. Please correct the included copy as needed or let Membership Chair Venita Lake know that there are no changes.

Welcome to these new or rerailed members:

William T. Bousman, 1676 San Simeon Way, Fenton, MO 63026-3048; (636) 343-9929

Robert Fries, Route 3, Box 103, McLeansboro, IL 62859, (618) 757-2327

Roger Hill, 300 South Main Street #5, Edwardsville, IL 62025-2060, (618) 656-8825

John C. Kalin, 5011 Barbagallo Drive, St. Louis, MO 63129-1506

Bruce L. Ketts, 12040 Maidstone Court, Florissant, MO 63033-7828, (314) 741-0711

Bob Miano, 1257 Red Oak Plantation, Ballwin, MO 63021, (636) 394-4406

Don Ploch, 10408 E. Washington St. Road, Argenta, IL 62301-8023, (217) 699-2261

Fred Stephan, 4828 Herleman Road, Quincy, IL 62305-8244, (217) 224-0294

Ed Walton, 3200 Fox Hill Road, St. Charles, MO 63301-0010, (636) 947-1582

Chris Zigmont, 2601 Cripple Creek Drive, St. Louis, MO 63129, (314) 293-1963

The following changes have occurred since the last member directory and the last *RPO*:

Bob and Suzanne Amsler have moved to 514 Dover Place, St. Louis, Missouri 63111. Their phone number is unchanged.

Don Ayres has moved to 761 Cedar Mill Drive, Belleville, IL 62221, (618) 233-2621

Pete Smith's new email address is pbsmith1@earthlink.net

Please submit other changes and corrections to Venita Lake, 5851 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112-1515 or vlake@mindspring.com.

Rockwoods School District WGH Visit

text and photo by Venita Lake

As a result of request through the Gateway Division website, Rick and Venita Lake visited the Center for Creative Learning in the Rockwoods School District in September to talk with a second grade class about their train collection. This was part of a special unit on collections, what different people collect, where they find items, how they store or display their collection, and how they got started.



The Lakes arrived with more than they could possibly show and discuss and were met with a barrage of questions.

The most surprising response was from a young man who immediately recognized the Lakes' Lion Oil and El Dorado & El Reno Railroad cars because he had played on the Lion Oil softball team in El Dorado, Arkansas, before moving here. Small world!

As part of the World's Greatest Hobby activities, postal reply cards have been distributed at numerous train events during the past year, including the History Museum, train shows, and the Museum of Transport. The cards ask for feed back on the event and the opportunity to win a free train set in monthly drawings. Somewhere along the line, a card with Venita's Ambassador number on it was submitted. As a result, Venita has also been awarded a \$100 credit at Terminal Hobby Shops. Shopping suggestions are being accepted.

A Special Thank You – and a Suggestion

by Rick and Venita Lake

We would both like to thank all of those division members who sent their prayers, good wishes, and encouragement to Rick after his surgery in November for prostate cancer. Recovery is happening, although never as fast as anyone would like.

With our thanks comes a bit of nagging too. Prostate cancer is the second leading type of cancer in American men and it does not have symptoms until it is very well advanced. It is detected by a simple PSA (prostate specific antigen) blood test, and men are encouraged to have this test annually starting around age 45. That applies to most model railroaders!

Coming Events

by Venita Lake

Do you know of an event of interest to other Gateway Division members? Send the information to the editor so it can be listed in future *RPOs* and on the www.gatewaynmra.org website.

NMRA Divisions or St. Louis area clubs may have their event listed here by sending a description of the event, in the format shown here, to the Editor (rpo@gatewaynmra.org).

Sat., February 14, 2004

Dupo Show 2004, train swap meet, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Dupo High Gym, Dupo, Illinois. Admission: \$3, 12 and under free with an adult. Contact Reynolds Railways, 212 N. Main Street, Dupo, IL 62239-1227, (618) 286-3399, comptrain2002@yahoo.com

Mon., February 16, 2004

Gateway Division Meeting, VFW Hall, O'Fallon, IL, 7 p.m. Clinic by John Schindler on Operations.

Sat. & Sun., Feb. 21-22, 2004

Sixth Annual Cross County Model Railroad Days, Sat. 10 a.m. – 9 p.m., Sun 12 – 5 p.m. Cross County Mall, Mattoon, IL, ¾ mile west of Rt. 16, from exit 190B, I-57. Swap meet, layouts, door prizes. Hosted by Cross County Mall Merchants Assn.: Coryville Station, (217) 459-2787. Free admission. Contact John or Becky, Coryville Station, www.coryvillestation.com, e-mail john@coryvillestation.com

Mon., March 17, 2004

Gateway Division Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church, West St. Louis County, 7 p.m. Clinic by Bill Levin on Backdrop Painting.

Sat. & Sun., March 13-14, 2004

Train and Circus Show, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Sunday. The Cisco Center, N. Eldon Street, Cisco, Illinois (adjoining firehouse) at I-72 between Champaign and Decatur, Exit #156. Sponsored by the Cisco Junction Model Railroad Group. Model railroad layouts, circus builder displays, and clinics (Some require reservations and/or fees.) Vendor tables, swap tables. Proceeds go to renovation of the Cisco Depot to house a permanent model railroad layout. Admission: donation. Contact Don Ploch, 10408 East Washington Street Road, Argenta, IL 62521-8023, (217) 669-2261, dobe@one-eleven.net or <http://www.one-eleven.net/~dobe/Don.htm>

Saturday, March 20, 2004

Boeing Employees' Railroad Club Swap Meet, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Greensfelder Recreation Complex at Queeny Park, 550 Wiedman Road, Manchester, MO 63011. Admission: \$2, children under 12 free, vendor tables \$14. Contact Wayne Schimmel (636) 668-6313 after 6:30 p.m. (Next meet September 18, 2004)

Sat. & Sun., March 20-21, 2004

Great American Train Show, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Gateway Center, One Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL.

Sun., April 18, 2004

Central Illinois Great Train Show,
9 p.m. – 3 p.m. Interstate Center, 2301
West Market St., Bloomington, IL.
Vendor tables, layouts, clinics, train
simulators, prototype model contests.
Sponsored by Central Illinois Railroad
Club. Admission \$5, under 12 free with
adult. Contact Mike DeBerg, (309) 287-
3250, Michael_DeBerg@msn.com

Mon., April 19, 2004

Gateway Division Meeting, VFW Hall,
O'Fallon, IL, 7 p.m. Clinic by Paul
Metzler on Scenery.

Mon., May 17, 2004

Gateway Division Meeting, Trinity
Lutheran Church, West St. Louis
County, 7 p.m. Clinic by Richard
Schumacher on Model Photography.

**Thursday, June 3 through
Saturday, June 5, 2004**

**Mid-Continent Region Convention,
Gateway Convention Center,**
Collinsville, IL. Contact John Schindler,
1950 The Woods Circle, Barnhart, MO
63012-5923, (636) 464-3431 or
<http://gatewaynmra.org>.

**Saturday, June 5 and Sunday,
June 6, 2004**

**Mid-Continent Region/Gateway
Division Train Show, Gateway
Convention Center.** Contact John
Schindler (above). Vendor reservation
forms are on the website. Tables \$15.

Mon., June 21, 2004

Gateway Division Meeting, VFW Hall,
O'Fallon, IL, 7 p.m. Clinic on favorite
modeling tools.

NMRA MCoR Region & Gateway Division

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) is a world-wide organization dedicated to all aspects of model railroading. In order to bring the most benefit to its members, the association is subdivided into Regions, and each Region has a number of local Divisions. The Gateway Division is part of the Mid-Continent Region, which represents Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and parts of Iowa and Illinois.

The Mid-Continent Region is represented on the NMRA's Board of Trustees. It publishes a quarterly bulletin, *The Caboose Kibitzer*, and holds an annual convention meeting that usually includes modeling clinics, local tours of layouts or prototype facilities, and model contests. The 2004 meeting will be organized by the Gateway Division and will be June 4-6. Annual membership in the Mid-Continent Region is \$6 and runs concurrently with membership at the National level.

The Gateway Division is well represented on the regional and national levels of the NMRA. Its members actively promote the modeling hobby through local monthly meetings, this quarterly newsletter, an annual train meet in the fall, participation in area train shows and other events, and a comprehensive website. Annual membership dues for the Gateway Division are \$3, with all memberships running from July 1 through June 30. Members who join mid-year are given extended memberships. In addition to the quarterly newsletter, a member directory is published listing names, addresses, and information about individual modeling interests. New members also receive a Division membership pin.

Membership is open to anyone from the beginner to the most advanced modeler, of all ages, so that everyone can share questions and knowledge of the hobby. Visitors are welcome at the monthly Division meetings listed on our website, www.gatewaynmra.org

How to Join

Visit our website, complete the form at <http://gatewaynmra.org/membership.htm>

Here's a "sneak preview" of two great home layouts on tour during the Gateway Getaway 2004 MCoR Regional Convention – Bob Boedges (left column) and Herb Koenig (right column).

