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On the Cover

Mike Satke & Bob Boedges kitbashed a custom barge loading grain conveyor system for the grain elevator on the new Gateway Central XII project railroad which was first displayed at the WGH on Tour St. Louis show. Photo by Richard Schumacher.

Superintendent's Desk

by Mike Thomas

Ask yourself: What does the Gateway Division do? Well, we have meetings once a month; somebody gives a clinic, followed by a business meeting – you get a postcard every month reminding you about it. And we put out the RPO, which you're now reading, four times a year, plus a membership directory. We build a portable project layout called the Gateway Central every year, and take it to the Great American Train Show and the Museum of Transportation's Family Fun Days and sell raffle tickets for it. We've had a Fall Meet the last couple of Novembers, and of course we hosted the National Convention in 2001 and will host a Mid-Continent Region Convention in a few years (like we did this June). You knew all that, right? So what's my point? Well, my point is something you also know, whether you think about it much or not: none of these events and activities

happen by themselves, or by magic, nor do we hire anybody to do them for us. They're all done by us – Gateway Division members who volunteer (or, occasionally, get drafted) for the job.

Someone reserves our meeting place. Someone sends out the reminder post cards – and someone keeps the database of addresses up to date so those postcards can get to the right place. Someone recruits and schedules clinicians, someone brings the slide projector and screen, and of course someone gives the clinic. Someone presides at the business meeting; someone takes minutes; someone presents the financial report. Lots of someones build the project layout which someone has designed and someone has purchased materials for, and then lots of someones turn up at GATS and the MoT to sell the raffle tickets that someone has printed up.

I could go on, of course, but you can see that there are dozens and dozens of jobs – “volunteer opportunities” – involved in keeping the Gateway Division running.

I'm asking you (yes, you) to do two things: 1) Thank someone for the work he or she has done for the Division, and 2) Offer to help.

Maybe something in the long list of what we do every year jumps out at you as something you'd love to help with. Maybe you'd be happy to help but don't know where you're needed, or don't know what you've got to offer, or just don't really know any of the other members. Mike Thomas, 314-664-0680
mathomas@speakeasy.net

Next Issue

Photos of the Missouri Botanical Garden's 2004 Gardenland Express. **We need articles – please write one and send it to me for publication!**

Gateway Central XI

by Mike Thomas

Thanks to Brad Joseph, MMR and his crew for all their work on the Gateway Central XI. This was our first-ever N scale layout, and turned out great. Building it on a hollow core door was a clever idea for a strong, stable, lightweight base. Kato Unitrak simplified track laying, made for flawless operation – not something N scale is known for. Jim Agnew, Don Ayres, Jim Ables, and Ron Kraus were responsible for much of the construction. Additional building kits were assembled by Don Taschner, Richard Schumacher, and others – some of the finished kits turned up on the layout when Brad had his back turned, so we don't know for sure who built them. We do know that Red Board hobbies in Belleville gave us discounts on materials, and Ken Thompson donated a GP38.

The layout had its first showing at our 2003 Fall Meet, and was on display at three Great American Train Shows, the Mid-Continent Region convention, and the Museum of Transportation's Family Days. Transportation of the layout and selling raffle tickets required a cast of dozens, if not thousands. Hank Kraichely, Rick Lake, and Venita Lake were prominent among the layout haulers, and train show workers included everyone named above plus John Schindler, Rich Laux, Bob Boedges, Bill Levin, Ron Gawedzinski, and pretty much everyone else you can think of. Bob and Pru Johnson provided hauling for the trip from the Wentzville GATS show to the lucky winners in Maryville, Illinois, who planned to give the layout to their grandson.

Financially, the GCXI was enormously successful. We sold \$1,566 worth of raffle tickets, and received another \$380 in appearance fees from GATS; expenses were \$553.85, so our net proceeds were \$1,392.15, about \$200 more than the

previous layout. The project layout is our biggest single source of income each year, and in very rough approximation, the profit from the Gateway Central covers our printing and mailing costs for the RPO for a year. Thanks again go to Brad and everyone who helped – and thanks, too, to the crew of the Gateway Central XII, which is already making the rounds of the train shows! Brian Post is in charge, and Bob Boedges and Mike Satke are taking the lead on construction.

33,000 Attend World's Greatest Hobby on Tour in St. Louis

by Venita Lake

The World's Greatest Hobby program, sponsored by the Model Railroad Industry Association, had the right idea when they selected St. Louis as the location for its second WGH on Tour event. America's Center in downtown St. Louis was packed on January 8-9, 2005, and the Gateway Division, NMRA, was there to promote the hobby and membership in the NMRA.



Admission was \$9 for adults and FREE for those 16 and under. The event was widely publicized on television and in the newspapers, and a well-advertised family health event with free admission at the same time may have helped attendance

as well. Show coordinator Dave Swanson said he believes the event is well on its way toward fulfilling its goal of introducing new people to the hobby. “At St. Louis, 87 percent of those who came to the event said they'd never attended a train show before,” Swanson said.



This is a program designed to showcase model railroading and is intended to be exciting for model railroaders and fun for the whole family. Among the advertised attractions were operating model railroads, an exhibition on the Walt Disney Railroad Story, 200 booths of manufacturers and retailers, 100 trains for kids to operate (Thomas the Tank Engine Train Playland), Choo Choo Charlie the Railroad Robot, and demonstrations, seminars, and new products. In promoting the program to potential exhibitors, the organizers have



emphasized that this is not just for die-hard modelers and it is not a swap meet, flea market or junk show. (And the cost of booth space for manufacturers reflects that!) The program had budgeted over \$50,000 for promotion.

So why did the Gateway Division, with its many “die-hard modelers” participate? Organizations like the National Model

Railroad Association, as well as model railroading manufacturers and publishers, need to keep current modelers interested



in the hobby and tell future and wanna-be model railroaders about its many aspects and how to get started. We have a lot of enthusiasm for the hobby within our membership and we should share it.



Our current project railroad was on display right at the front door where we gave on-going answers on how to build a portable layout. We also sold raffle tickets as our annual fundraiser, raising a total of \$565, our second highest amount at a single event in the years we have been building such layouts. We had a 10' x 10'



booth where we promoted membership in the National Model Railroad Association, answered questions about modeling and activities in our area, and encouraged



people to check out our impressive web site. As a result we added several new members during the show and a number of people took information away with



them. Who knows? Someday we may read about the latest Master Model Railroader who got his first Thomas the Tank Engine train set when he was part of the stroller crowd in St. Louis.



Photos by Richard Schumacher



Building the Gateway (Riverport) Central XII

Photos by Richard Schumacher

Develop the Concept

Industrial river inlet

Geographical location (Eastern US - Consider the railroad road name you have chosen)

Industry selection (ADM Grain, Shell fuel oil, Peter Piper's Pickled Perch Packing Plant)

Plan the Layout

Determine the layout size to insure portability (consider the size of transporting vehicles)

Determine the type and weight of structural materials for portability (Foam board, 1"X 4" framework, folding legs)

Determine the placement of major geographic forms (river inlet, etc.)

Design the track plan taking into account the placement of the selected industries

(Check the "footprint" for the industries selected to be sure you have allowed enough room)

Build the Framework

Lay Out the Track and Adjust the Plan as Necessary

Pin the track to the foam board, and run trains to be sure of clearances, etc.

Lay out the footprint of the industries you have selected using the base pieces from the kits themselves or paper patterns cut to the correct size

Glue the track to the foam board (No roadbed was used due to the industrial nature of the layout with all of the track representing "yard" track)



See the color version at: <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/layouts/gc12/gc12preview.jpg>

Wire the Layout

The selection of the Command Control system resulted in a simple wire connection with insulated joiners necessary only at the curved turnouts

Cut Out the River Inlet and add Hills and Tunnels

Cutting can be accomplished using a hot foam cutter, saw, electric knife, etc.

Foam board is used for all land forms, built up in layers, carved with a Surform tool, and covered with Sculptamold

Coloring on this layout used Rit Dyes, and Woodland Scenics ground foams secured with diluted white glue.

Build and Place the Industries Selected

The industries on the Riverport Central are basic plastic kits with added scratch built parts for barge loading.

Some of the structures are "kit bashed" using a variety of commercially made parts used to create unique structures such as the lift bridge

The wharf and dock areas are "scratch built" using a variety of scale lumber pieces

Place Roads, Packing Lots, etc.

Roads and parking areas are constructed from AMI Instabase sheets, and Instant Roadbed.

Grade crossings are hand laid using individual scale 8"x10" lumber cut into 8' lengths.

Finish the Scenery

Cut out depressions "below grade"

Add ground foam and other textures

Add trees either kit built or commercially made

Add Exterior "Profile Boards"

Use masonite, or luan plywood, and paint a neutral color.



Division Officers

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Gateway Division 2004 Fall Meet & Contests

photos by Dave Lotz

This list of 2004 Fall Meet contest winners and color versions of these photos are available online at <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/models04.htm>

1st&2nd Generation Diesels, First Place, Blair Drazic



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



1st&2nd Generation Diesels, Third Place, John Carty



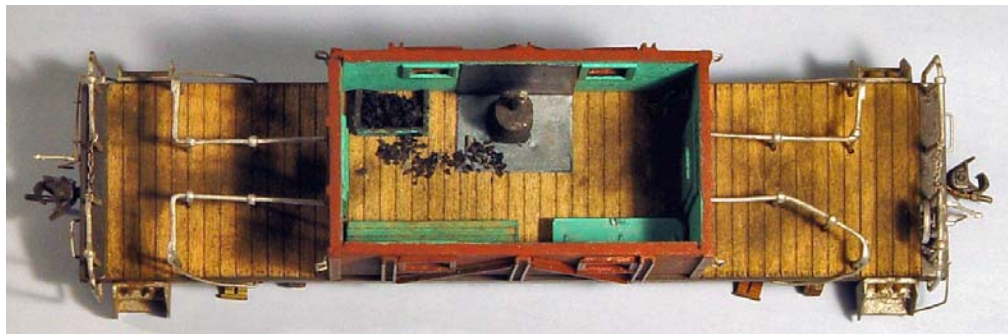
Steam Locomotive, First Place, Jack Stroker



Steam Locomotive, Second Place, John Carty



**Caboose, First Place, Don Taschner
William F Schumacher Spirit of Railroading Award**



Caboose, Second Place, John Carty



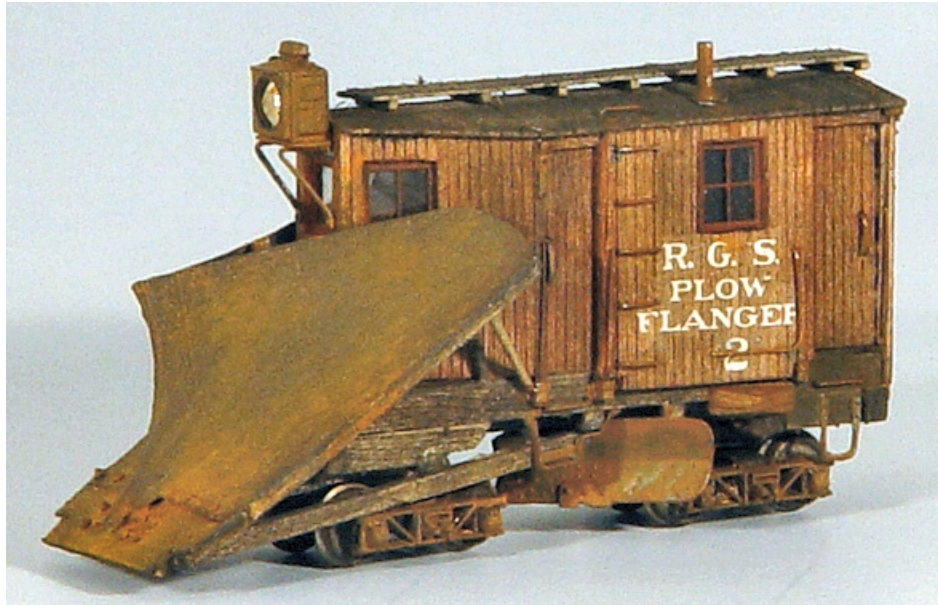
Whole Train, First Place, Rich Laux



Maintenance of Way, Second Place, Rich Laux



Maintenance of Way, First Place, Don Taschner



Freight Car, First Place, Chris Oestreich



Freight Car, Second Place, Chris Oestreich



Whole Train, Second Place & Gateway Western Award, Chris Oestreich (coal train)
Whole Train, Third Place, Venita Lake (cookie train)



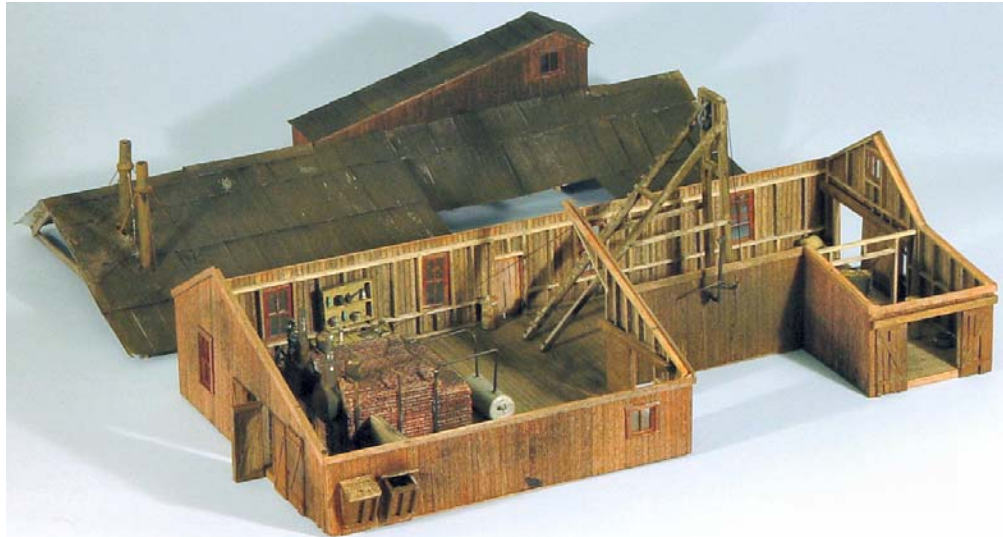
Online Structures, First Place & Third Place, John Carty



Online Structures, Second Place, John Carty



**Offline Structures, First Place, Don Taschner
Best of Show and WHGK Architects Award**



Dioramas, First Place, Jack Templeton



Photo Contests

- Prototype Color Print
First Place 2004
Marvins Camera Award
Mike Oestreich
- Model Color Print
First Place 2004
Fred Stephan
- Model Color Print
Second Place 2004
Chris Oestreich
- Model Color Print
Third Place 2004
Fred Stephan



Custom Decals

text & photos by Richard Schumacher

A big problem when you freelance your own railroad is how to get the decals you need for your rolling stock. Although many vendors offer custom decal services, most have a substantial minimum order and design service charges. This is "ok" when ordering lettering for your home road, since you'll need multiple sets, but what do you do if you want a unique "one of" kind of car?

The two cars on the opposite page are examples of custom "one of" cars. Both are rolling stock for local industries on the Lake's el&el Railroad – the Archer chemical plant in Junction City (Archer is Venita's family name) and Langtry Paper at the end of the branchline in Lillie, La.

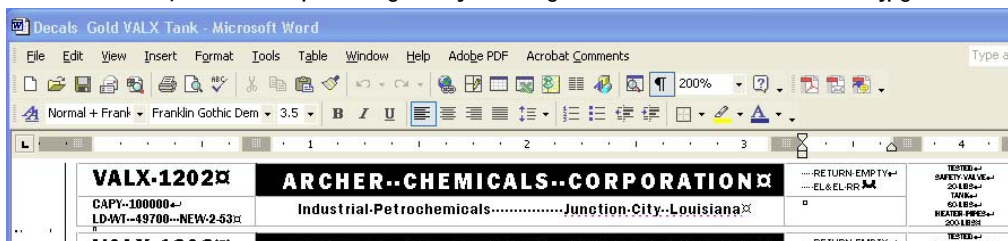
Both of these are examples of "word processor" decals. The original artwork was created in Microsoft Word by carefully selecting, formatting and sizing the lettering. All of the lettering needed to be created for the tank car. Since a "data only" boxcar was used for the paper car, I only had to make the road name, "return when empty," and reporting marks.

Two things are critical when designing your decals – use typefaces that are appropriate to the era you are modeling, and don't make the lettering too large. Overside lettering, especially for dimensional data, is a common error. Typically, HO dimensional data is only 3.5 to 4 points in size. Reporting marks and road names are larger – but still only in the 7 to 9 point range.

Printing black decals is easy – you use decal paper designed for a laser printer. White and color decals are much harder to print – a normal inkjet won't work, since the results are transparent colors. The hard-to-find ALPS MD-1300 prints with opaque colors and even metallics, and many decal services use that model.



VALX 1202 is a standard Athearn 3-dome tank car with Kadee couplers and metal wheelsets. The tank, ladder, railings and trucks are painted C&O Enchantment Blue with a Grimy Black frame. All of the lettering is metallic gold in various Franklin Gothic typefaces. This color combination creates a quite attractive car. You may view the color version of this photo at <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/models/2003contest/2003-502-2.jpg>



LLPX 2003 is an Accurail "data only" model. "LLPX 2003" was added on the sides and ends in Century 725, along with the company name (Pristina), location (Britannic Bold) and "return empty" (Century 725) marks. The decals were printed in opaque white using an ALPS MD-1300 printer.

Division Minutes

Recorded by Bob Boedges, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for June 21, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Mike Thomas at 7:04 PM. Superintendent Thomas introduced the clinic These are a Few of My Favorite Tools. Short presentations of a variety of modeling tools were made by Richard Lake, Mike Thomas, Randy Meyers, Dave Roeder, Ken Thompson, Venita Lake, and Brian Post. The membership thanks all of these members for their presentations.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was called to order by Superintendent Thomas at 8:11 PM.

Visitors: No visitors or new members were in attendance.

Minutes of the May Meeting: The minutes of the May Meeting were distributed. There were no additions or corrections.

A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Ken Thompson and seconded by Richard Lake. The corrected minutes were Approved by a voice vote of the membership.

Treasurer's Report: A printed copy of the one month treasurer's report (May 18 through June 20, 2004) was distributed. A motion to accept the report was made by Ken Thompson and seconded by Randy Meyer. John Schindler asked for discussion concerning the "\$1,000.00 correction" itemized in the report. The item was explained by Ken Thompson as the adjustment for checks that have not yet cleared. The report was Approved by a voice vote of the membership.

Superintendent Thomas reminded the membership that the Division dues are due as of June 30. Jim Anderson was collecting dues in the absence of Dave Lyon.

Directors Report from the Regional Board Meeting: Jim Anderson reported that a great deal of discussion centered around the NMRA Regulations Ballot. Officially the answer will probably come out of the Seattle Board of Trustees meeting at the National Convention. However, Jim indicated that he believes it passed. He is a member of the "Life After the LRP" committee which is charged with the implementation of the new regulations if they pass. He indicated that there were many details not completely thought out and that

implementation may take at least a year. Everything is on hold until after the national. He also reported a lot of favorable comments with regard to the regional convention the Gateway Division recently hosted. Next year the regional will be held in Topeka, KS. The date of the convention was not available. He also indicated that the AP Program participation is down and there was discussion concerning ways to increase interest. A new regional patch is being designed and hopefully will be available at the August meeting. The patch will be similar with the addition of the southern Illinois to the logo.

Old Business:

AP Awards: Don Taschner did not have any awards to present. He also reported his disappointment with the contest results from the Regional Convention. He had only 58 entries from the 208 people attending the convention. 35 of the entries were from 3 people. 22 merit awards were presented based on the work of the regional judges. There were some very nice models in the contest.

Merchandise Sales: Wheel sets are still available from John Hardy. All of the remaining sets are 33".

Ken Thompson reported that he still had Gary Hoover cars for sale and would be sending some to the National Convention.

RPO: The Winter Edition has been delivered. The Spring issue is going to press. The Summer issue deadline for articles, etc. is still the end of June.

Membership Directory: Venita Lake reported that she is "up to the Js." She will still accept input from any member that would like to update his or her information.

Project Layout: Brad Joseph reported that a problem has arisen with our good friends who produce the Great American Train Shows. He indicated that we were notified in 1996 that we would not be allowed to sell raffle tickets at any future shows. The concern is with regard to our status as a "not for profit" organization. Brad is looking for documentation to prove our status. Superintendent Thomas indicated that he had the documentation required. Further discussion concerning GATS highlighted severe problems with the new ownership and their monetary policies. If approval of our ticket sales is not forthcoming, we will have to reevaluate the entire Project Layout program. We will have one more GATS show followed by the Fall Meet where the winner will be announced. After that time we will need to be working on the next layout.

Regional Convention Report: John Schindler reported that the convention was a resounding success.

We finished with 208 registrations. The model contest was a bit under supported. The clinics were well attended and the layout people seemed to be happy with the numbers in attendance and the interest given to their work. The door prize program was really excellent as was the Banquet. The slide show presentation that accompanied the model awards really enhanced the presentations. Venita Lake received the Larry Long award. The train show attendance was acceptable for June and there were no complaints from the vendors. We also made a profit of \$800.00. The drawing for the weekend use of a new car donated by the Oliver C. Joseph Dodge Dealership has not been completed and will be taken care of before the next meeting.

Fall Meet: Superintendent Thomas reported that we would be having our Fall Meet. The meet will be held at the Trinity Lutheran Church on the first Saturday in November (November 6th).

New Business:

Memoriam for a Former Member:

Superintendent Thomas reported that Bill Birdsell informed him that former member Ernie Dunning passed away. He was an active and very talented modeler and was involved in the Gateway Division as well as in the Metro East Club. Bob Boedges was instructed to send a note of condolence to the family upon receipt of an email containing mailing information.

Volunteer Activities: Superintendent Thomas reported the continuing need for clinicians, both for general meetings as well as for the Fall Meet. Some clarification concerning the form to be used was given to the membership.

Layout tour volunteers are still needed. Also an election committee needs to be formed to find candidates for the next election. We also need a new chairperson for the Project Layout program.

Storage Facility: Superintendent Thomas indicated the need for a physical location to store the materials that the Division owns. Brad Joseph volunteered the use of his facilities. Bob Boedges indicated that he would take care of the inventory records and distribution. He asked the membership to let him know what they have. One of our laser pointers is missing.

UMSL Request: Superintendent Thomas reported that the Division has been asked by the University Of Missouri St. Louis to help publicize some continuing education courses on Transportation in American Life. The fall semester course will be on aviation and the

spring semester will be devoted to trains. These courses will be available for credit if desired. They will be sending us materials as soon as they are available. We may include this information in the *RPO*.

Patrick Pope Colorado Midland: Patrick is looking for people to participate in his operating sessions on Friday nights. Members are to see Mike Thomas at the end of the meeting for more information.

Future Clinic Presentations: Superintendent Thomas announced the following clinic sessions for future Gateway meetings:

July 19 – Jerry Smith – Open House at Augusta Station (No business meeting)

August 16 – Dave Roeder – Background Painting

September 20 – Hank Kraichely – New Thinking for a New Layout

October 18 – O'Fallon Caboose

November 15 – Holiday Party

50/50 Drawing: Winner unknown

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Randy Meyer and seconded by Mike Satke. The motion was Approved by voice vote of the membership.

Attendance: There were 27 members in attendance.

Division Minutes

Recorded by Bob Boedges, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for Aug. 16, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Mike Thomas at 7:00 PM. Superintendent Thomas introduced the clinic Background Painting presented by Dave Roeder. The membership thanks Dave for his presentation.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was called to order by Superintendent Thomas at 8:00 PM.

Visitors: Ralph Kniepkamp reintroduced himself as an "every other month" guest.

Minutes of the June Meeting: The minutes of the June Meeting were distributed. There were no additions or corrections.

A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Ken Thompson and seconded by Dave Roeder. The minutes were Approved by a voice vote of the membership.

Treasurer's Report: A printed copy of the one month treasurer's report (July 20 through August 16, 2004) was distributed. A motion to accept the report was made by Bob Amsler and seconded by Ron Gawedzinski. The report was Approved by a voice vote of the membership.

2004 Mid-continent Regional Convention Income and Expense Summary:

Superintendent Thomas reported that he was in receipt of the report prepared by Dave Lyon. The final profit figure was higher than originally reported due to the receipt of the hotel room rebate. The final total profit was \$1,143.31. John Schindler pointed out that 50% of that profit needed to be sent to the region.

Directors Report from the Board of Trustees Meeting:

Jim Anderson reported that the new NMRA regulations were approved by the membership. The single membership dues will be in place by September of 2005. The new Board of Directors will decrease from 17 to 9. The current trustee's term will expire just prior to the national meeting in Cincinnati next year. The new board will be elected by then. There will be ballots issued after the first of the year. A nominating committee is looking for candidates for the new board and regional presidents will nominate a candidate for their regions. There will also be board members from Canada, Australia, and Europe. There is a great deal of work to be done. The long range planning committee will be meeting in Chicago on the last weekend in September.

Jim also reported the NMRA membership has been declining over the past several years. A new plan called the "rail pass membership" has been implemented to try to attract new members to the organization. The program began on June 1st and will run until the end of August in 2005. The program features a \$9.95 six months non-renewable membership. During this time the short time members will receive all national, regional, and local publications.

Old Business:

AP Awards: Don Taschner reported that he received his awards for structures and cars. He is working on his electrical award. He does not have any other candidates or awards to report. John Schindler reported that a "pseudo division member" John Lee received his MMR at the National Convention. He was present at the convention to receive the award.

Membership Contest: Hank Kraichely reported that he solicited prizes from the Lifelike, Bachman, and Overland Corporations. The entries were open to individuals, divisions, and regions. Five or more memberships were needed

to qualify. Four groups (one division and three regions) tied for first place.

The Gateway Division was one of the winners and John presented the locomotive to Superintendent Thomas.

Merchandise Sales: Ken Thompson reported that he had a buyer for all 800 remaining wheel sets. These have been delivered. John Hardy indicated to Ken that there was one bag of 36" wheel sets remaining to be sold. At least one member is waiting for wheel sets. 20 Gary Hoover cars were sold at the National Convention. Several others were sold and/or donated at various meetings. Track gauges are still available and over 100 Hoover cars remain to be sold. Hank Kraichely requested that some solution be found to the wheel set problem. No action was taken.

Name Tags: Jack Templeton still has completed name tags that need to be picked up.

Membership Directory: Venita Lake is still working on the Directory. She was not present to give a report.

Project Layout: Brad Joseph was not present to give a report.

Fall Meet: Hank Kraichely reported that advertising on a regional and national basis has been arranged. Tom Bousman will be organizing the clinic portion of the Meet, and Don Taschner will be taking care of the contest. More help is needed for set up and take down on the day of the event. No contact has been made for display layouts, tour layouts, or swap tables. November 6th is the date. Randy Meyer will be contacted about soliciting door prizes.

New Business:

Election Committee: Bob Amsler is heading the committee to develop a slate of officers for next year.

Project Layout: This is our main fund raiser for the year. Brad Joseph is working on finding the new crew.

Region Patches: The new region patches are not yet available until the old patches are gone. The new patch includes Illinois on a redesigned logo.

Future Clinic Presentations: Superintendent Thomas announced the following clinic sessions for future Gateway meetings:

September 20 – Hank Kraichely – New Thinking for a New Layout (Hank gave a brief overview of his clinic session)

October 18 – O'Fallon Caboose

November 15 – Holiday Party

Clinics are needed for meetings, Fall Meet, etc. Without more volunteers the clinics will end.

Division Equipment: Let Bob Boedges know if you have Division Equipment.

Wheel Sets: A proposal was made to buy more wheel sets. There was some discussion with regard to suppliers, cost, procedures, etc. Bob Amsler moved that we buy 3,000 wheel sets from a manufacturer at market price. These wheel sets would be paid for in advance. The motion was seconded by Jack Templeton. The motion was Approved by a voice vote of the membership.

Car Drawing: The weekend use of a car provided by Brad Joseph from the Regional Convention was won by Tom McKenzie

50/50 Drawing: Bob Weinman held the winning ticket.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Amsler and seconded by Dick Wegner. The motion was Approved by voice vote of the membership.

Attendance: There were 30 members in attendance.

Division Minutes

Recorded by Bob Boedges, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for Sept. 20, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Mike Thomas at 7:00 PM. Superintendent Thomas introduced the clinic Research and Construction of the New CB&Q presented by Hank Kraichely. The membership thanks Hank for his presentation.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was called to order by Superintendent Thomas at 8:00 PM.

Visitors: Rick Henson introduced himself as a guest. Rick models in HO scale and lives in Owensville.

Minutes of the August Meeting: The minutes of the August Meeting were distributed. The spelling of John Lee under the AP awards heading was corrected. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Rick Lake and seconded by John Hardy. The motion was Approved by a voice vote of the membership.

Treasurer's Report: A printed copy of the one month treasurer's report (August 17 through September 19, 2004) was distributed. A motion to accept the report was made by Rick Lake and

seconded by John Hardy. The motion was Approved by a voice vote of the membership.

Membership Renewals: Dave Lyon reported that 35 members have not renewed. There was some discussion about contacting the tardy members by phone. Several people volunteered to assist with the calling. No further action was taken.

Directors Report from the LRP: Jim Anderson reported that the Long Range Planning Committee meeting would be held in Chicago on the weekend of September 24, and 25. He would have a report for the October meeting. He also reported that there was a major effort underway to get candidates for the new Board of Directors who will take office beginning at the national convention in Cincinnati next summer. He submitted his credentials to the Nominating Committee.

Superintendent's Desk Column in the Next RPO: Superintendent Thomas reported that the "Superintendent's Desk" column in the next issue of the RPO will be devoted to information concerning the benefits of Division membership. Now instead of having 120 dues paying members in our group we will have everyone in our geographic area which will number over 300 people. All NMRA members will be welcome at our meetings and all will receive information on significant elections and voting opportunities. The RPO will still require the \$3.00 subscription price. The actual cost of printing and mailing the RPO is approximately \$12.00 per year, so the subscription cost plus significant fund raising will still be required to continue the publication. The meeting reminder post card cost is \$3.00 per member. Some discussion will be needed to determine if we will send the card to all 300 members in our region.

Old Business:

AP Awards: Don Taschner reported that there were no awards presented in the last month.

Merchandise Sales: Superintendent Thomas reported that we have both name tags and Gary Hoover Cars as always. Ken Thompson sold several at the meeting. He also reported that Hank Kraichely contacted the InterMountain company and they would provide wheel sets to us at the same price as our last order. The sets would come in bubble packs of 12 axles for a cost of \$6.00. Hank reported that he talked to the company on the day of the meeting and they agreed to give the division the same price on all of the wheel sets including the HO scale 36" size as well as their N Scale sets. Hank asked for direction on how many 36" HO and N Scale sets to order. After considerable discussion it was

decided that we would order 3,000 of the 33" sets and 400 of the 36" sets. It was also suggested that we order 10 packs of the N Scale sets.

RPO: The Spring and Summer issues will go to the printer at the same time and will be mailed with the new directory.

Project Layout: Brad Joseph was not present to give a report. Superintendent Thomas reported that we were at the Museum of Transport and we sold \$215.00 worth of tickets. We have a Certificate of Appreciation from GATS for the Feb. 2004 show. The next GATS show is on the weekend of September 24th and 25th. Superintendent Thomas asked for volunteers to cover the show but he wasn't sure how many people would be needed. He also reported that construction of the Project XII layout would begin at the fall meet, and that we would have a "semi-complete" layout ready for the Collinsville GATS show. We still do not have a chairman for this year's layout. Brian Post volunteered to fill this position. Superintendent Thomas asked for a co-chair to assist Brian.

Fall Meet: Hank Kraichely reported that Randy Meyer would be handling the door prizes and that Brian Post would take care of the dealer tables. Tom Bousman will be arranging the clinic schedule. Announcements have been sent to the magazines and there should be an ad in the October issue of *Scale Rails*. Flyers were distributed at the Boeing show and at the Transportation Museum. He asked for volunteers to assist with the distribution of flyers to the various area hobby shops. The big signs are in Brad's warehouse and Hank will take care of picking them up. The Quincy Model Railroad group is tentatively scheduled to bring their layout. There was some discussion concerning the AP contest forms and award certificates, and Hank indicated that these matters have been resolved.

New Business:

Volunteer Opportunities: Superintendent Thomas indicated the need for volunteers for the following jobs:

Refreshments for the Missouri meetings – Richard Laux volunteered

Clinicians – Talk to Richard Laux

Nominations Committee – Still need a volunteer for the Assistant Superintendent position.

Worlds Greatest Hobby: Planning a major professional train shows featuring manufactures, retailers, and organizations at America's Center on the first weekend in January. We will be participating so plan on attending. The price for booth spaces for manufactures and retailers is \$750.00 which will insure a first class show.

Future Clinic Presentations: Superintendent Thomas announced the following clinic sessions for future Gateway meetings:

October 18 – O'Fallon Caboose

November 15 – Holiday Party – Clinician to be determined

Other Business: Question with regard to an accounting from the National Headquarters on the Presidential Fund. Superintendent Thomas reported that no such accounting has been received.

Lionel Collectors Society: Looking for layouts for their convention next July.

50/50 Drawing: Rich Laux held the winning ticket.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Randy Meyer and seconded by Rick Lake. The motion was Approved by voice vote of the membership.

Attendance: There were 38 members in attendance.

www.gatewaynmra.org

Website statistics for **December 2004:**

Page Views: 81,790 (~2,638 per day)



Visits: 53,635 (~1,730 per day)



"Hits": 2,525,998 (~81,483 per day)

