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Your name could be here!

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On the Cover

Once again we had lots of beautiful entries in the model and photo contests that were part of the Division's 2005 Annual Fall Meet. See photos of the winning entries starting on page 5. This water tower was constructed by Randy Meyer. Photo by Richard Schumacher.

Superintendent's Desk

by Mike Thomas

This Superintendent's Desk column closes out my two years as Gateway Division superintendent. Much of what I've written here in these columns has been appeals for volunteers to step up and take on one job or another. There remains as much to be done as ever, but I want to take this last opportunity to thank those who have contributed to the success of the Gateway Division during my terms in office.

First, thanks go to my predecessor, Bob Amsler, who left things running so smoothly that momentum has done much of my work for me. Thanks also to my fellow officers: Rich Laux, who was Assistant Superintendent during my first term (and who continues to bring refreshments for all our meetings at Trinity), and Bill Levin, Assistant Superintendent during my second term; these two have been responsible for rounding up clinicians each and every

month. Paymaster Dave Lyon has collected dues and subscription fees, written checks, doled out 50/50 winnings, balanced bank statements, issued monthly reports, and guarded the cash box. Bob Boedges had been a Division member for less than a year when he was elected Clerk, and he's spent the past two years sending us all monthly meeting reminder postcards, recording minutes, and volunteering for a wide variety of jobs beyond his duties as Clerk.

As he has done for five years now, Jim Anderson has represented the Division to the Mid-Continent Region and reported back to the Division on the doings of the Region. This has involved a great deal of travel on Jim's part, as only one of the Region's semi-annual board meeting in all that time has been here in Saint Louis.

The Achievement Program is one of the NMRA's most visible and important activities, and I want to thank Don Taschner for continuing as Gateway Division AP Chair. Don organizes merit judging of models for any member who asks, processes paperwork for AP certificates, and runs the popular-vote model and photo contests at our Fall Meet – for several years now he has been assisted at the Meet by Chris Oestreich. Of course, Don and Chris wouldn't have much to do if it weren't for all the folks who enter the contests each year; so thanks go to all of you, as well. You can see the winners of the 2005 voting elsewhere in this issue of the *RPO*, and on our website.

Speaking of the *RPO* and the website, Richard Schumacher has been responsible for both for many years. There are many reasons that the Saint Louis area in general and the Gateway Division in particular have a high profile among model railroaders nationwide, but the Gateway Division website, www.gatewaynmra.org, is certainly a big part of it. Richard posts notices of

upcoming events, photos of contest winners and project layout construction, archives of *RPO* articles, and links to other websites of interest. He also takes the vast majority of the photos that appear both on the website and here in the *RPO*. And while the *RPO* reaches 300 members one issue a year, and 120 subscribers the other three issues, the website is visited by tens of thousands of people. I will be taking over from Richard as *RPO* editor at the end of the year, but he will continue in the more technically demanding job of webmaster.

The efforts of the *RPO* editor wouldn't mean much without someone to take charge of printing and mailing. Venita Lake has done those jobs and a great deal more in her role as Membership Chair. Besides delivering masters to Hi-Tech Copies, and picking up the completed press run, then addressing, stuffing, sealing, stamping, and mailing envelopes, Venita has compiled (and printed and addressed and stuffed and sealed and stamped and mailed) our annual membership directory, recruited new members at train shows, phoned lapsed members to encourage them to renew, compiled lists of hobby shops and club layouts, and surveyed members to see what other services they might find useful. Venita is retiring from these multiple duties (because she's taken on more volunteer work for National) and I think it will take several people to replace her.

Hank Kraichely devotes more of his time to model railroading than anyone I know. He's employed by the NMRA (if you want to advertise in *Scale Rails* he's the man to talk to), spent four years as Gateway Division superintendent, has taken on our special member service project of purchasing bulk quantities of scale metal wheelsets for sale to members – and for the past two years he has chaired our Fall Meet. The Fall Meet has grown considerably in the past four years, and

Hank and his crew deserve a round of applause for providing both members and non-members with this annual Saturday full of trains. Brian Post has organized and sold the vendor tables, Randy Meyer has cadged door prizes, Jim Anderson coordinates our space and furniture needs with the church, Ken Thompson and Dave Lyon and others have worked registration, Dave Scharnhorst hauls his layout down from Quincy every year, Don Taschner and Chris Oestreich, as mentioned before, run the contest room, probably a dozen people have given clinics, and half a dozen have opened their home layouts to tours. I think getting together like this is one of the most important things we do for ourselves each year, so thanks to everyone who helps make it happen.

If one day full of trains is good, three days full of trains is great. In June 2004 the Division hosted the Mid-Continent Region's annual convention. It took a lot of people to put this on, and I can't possibly name them all (Rick Lake, Mike Barry, Gary Gross, John Hardy, Bill Levin, Richard Schumacher, John Hardy, and on and on) but obviously general chairman John Schindler deserves to be singled out. The convention we hosted was well attended, and quite profitable – which is more than many host divisions can say.

Another 'cast of thousands' (well, dozens) Division project is our annual project layout. Bob Boedges and Mike Satke began work on the Gateway Central XIII even before they'd finished giving away the GCXII at the Fall Meet in November. While Bob and Mike are responsible for building these two most recent layouts, Tom Bousman has hauled it all over town, Brad Joseph (who ran the show for the Gateway Central XI) and Brian Post have dealt with getting us signed up with the various train shows, and dozens of you have turned up to work selling raffle tickets.

Every member who has given a clinic at a monthly meeting or at the Fall Meet or at the Regional convention deserves our thanks. Every member who has opened a home layout to visitors or brought a modular layout to a meet deserves our thanks. Thanks to Jerry Smith for hosting an open house at his Augusta Station, and thanks to Jack Templeton for making name tags for us and thanks to Ron Gawedzinski for showing his videos of his railfan trips at our Holiday Party each year. Thanks to everyone who turns up at a meeting, and to everyone who votes in an election and to everyone who goes to the bother of reading this column. The "beyond the basement" concept doesn't just apply to staging yards that represent connections with other railroads, but to you making connections with other modelers. Being active in the Division is good for those who you share the hobby with, and good for you, as well.

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Find photos of our project model railroads at www.gatewaynmra.org/project.htm

Coming Next Issue

Mike Thomas will be taking over as the *RPO* editor with the next issue. Please support his efforts by providing him with articles and photos for publication.

Gateway Division 2005 Model & Photo Contests

photos by Richard Schumacher

The November 5, 2005 Gateway Division Annual Meet at Trinity Lutheran Church was another success. Great clinics, oodles of swap tables with a large variety

of products in many scales, plenty of door prizes, model railroads on display and to visit, the drawing for the Gateway Central XII (2005) project railroad, and, of course, lots of great entries in the model and photo contests.

Color versions of these photos are available for viewing online at <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/models05.htm>

Diesel Locomotive First Place, William Wehmeir



Diesel Locomotive Second Place, Jeremy Janzen



Diesel Locomotive Third Place, Dave Roeder



Caboose First Place, Dave Bartz

William F. Schumacher Spirit of Railroading Award





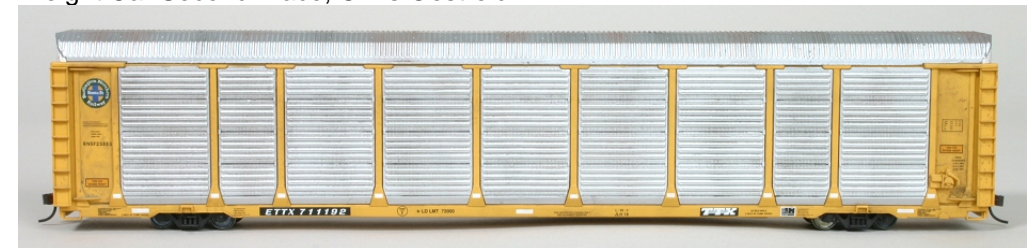
Caboose Second Place, Brad Slone



Freight Car First Place, Dave Bartz



Freight Car Second Place, Chris Oestreich



Freight Car Third Place, Richard Schumacher



Passenger Car First Place, Dave Bartz



Whole Train First Place and **Gateway Western Award**, Chris Oestreich



Whole Train Second Place, Richard Schumacher



Whole Train Third Place, Jeremy Janzen



Passenger Car Second Place, John Carty



Passenger Car Third Place, Brad Slone



Maintenance of Way First Place and **Best of Show**, Don Taschner



Online Structures Second Place, Patrick Fontaine

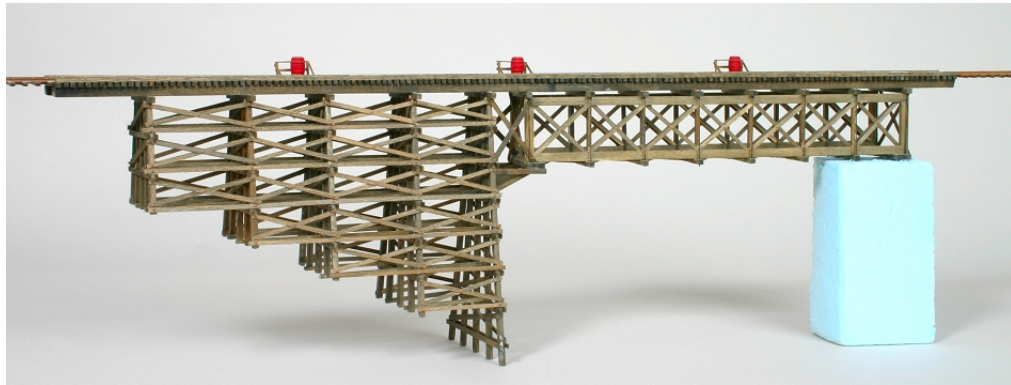


Online Structures First Place and **WHGK Architects Award**, Dave Roeder





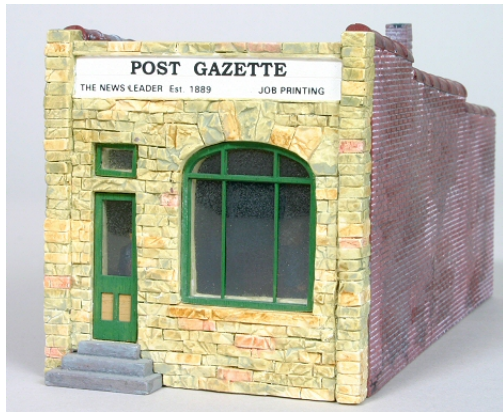
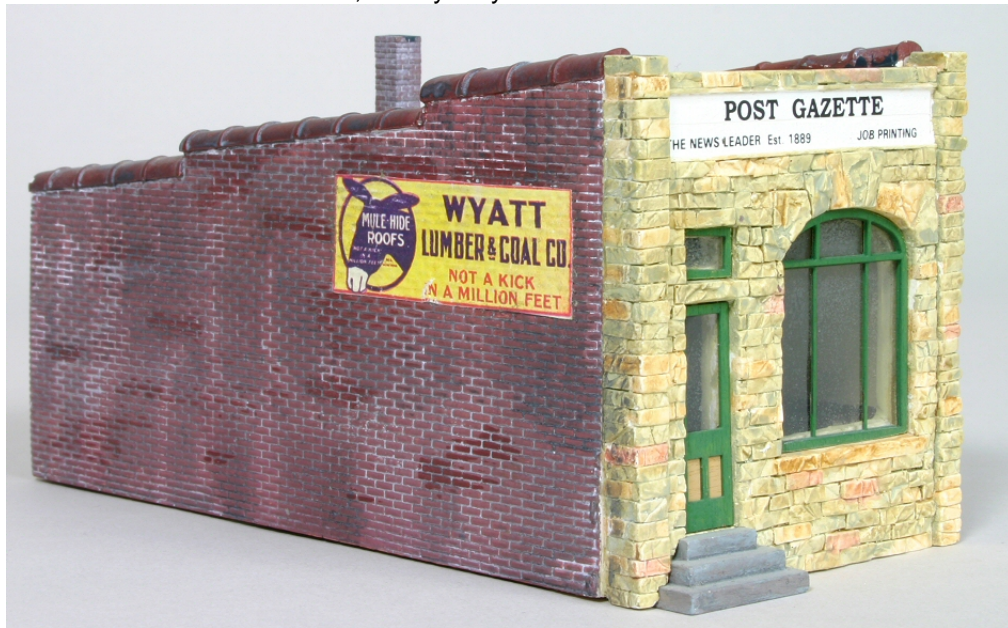
Online Structures Third Place, Don Taschner



Offline Structures Second Place, Glenn Koproske



Offline Structures Third Place, Randy Meyer

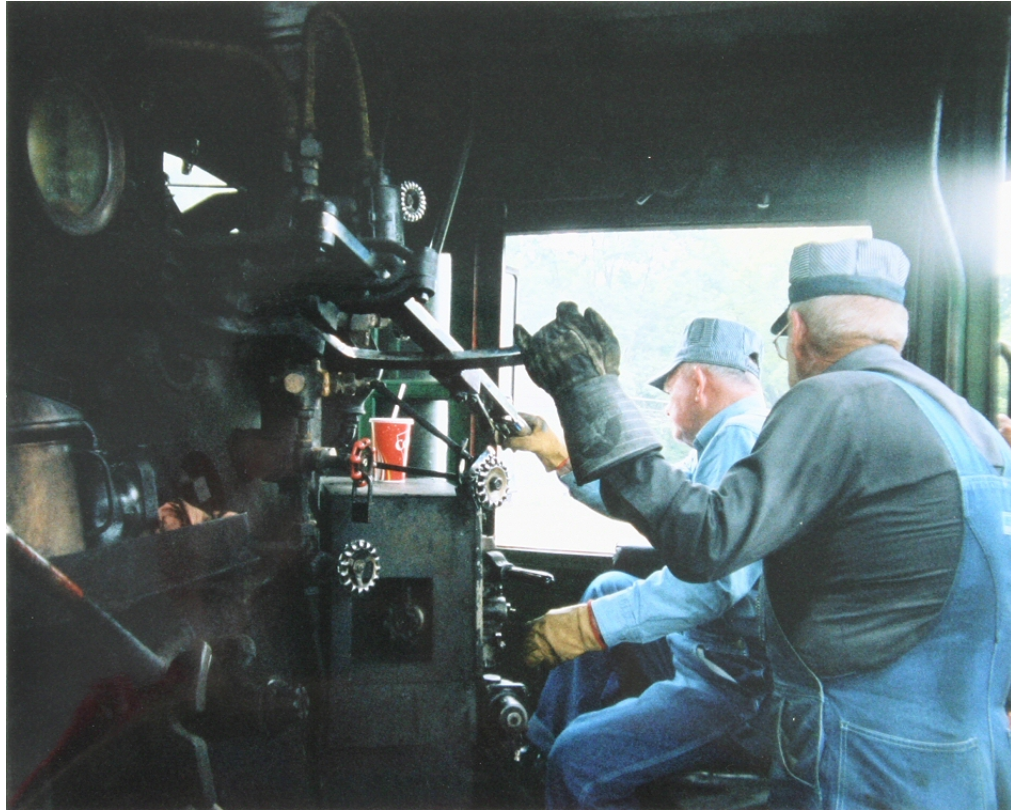


Detail shot of Don's bridge

Offline Structures First Place, Don Taschner



Prototype Color Photograph First Place, Brian Post
Marvin's Camera Award



Prototype Color Photograph Second Place, Gregor Moe



Prototype Color Photograph Third Place, Bradley Hufnagel



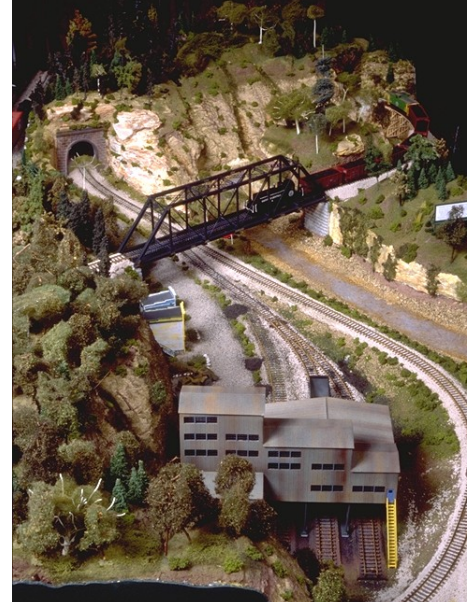
Model Color Photograph First Place, Gregor Moe



Prototype B&W Photograph First Place, Gregor Moe



Model Color Photograph Second Place, Richard Schumacher



Prototype B&W Photograph Second Place, Gregor Moe



Model B&W Photograph First Place, Gregor Moe



The 2005 Annual Meet swap tables offered a wide assortment of items.



Once again, the Quincy "Big Bridge" modular layout was on display, featuring captivating animation and the massive Mississippi River (lift) bridge.



Bob Boedges and Mike Satke started construction of the Gateway Central XIII (2006) project railroad, customized from a track plan published by Kalmbach.

Upcoming Division Meeting Clinics

by Bill Levin

20-Feb (IL) Richard Lake
Wood Structures - Painting & Staining

20-Mar (MO) Hank Kraichely
Planning & Building the CB&Q

16-Apr (IL) Brian Post
DCC Tricks & Basic Decoder Programming

15-May (MO) Bob Johnson
Layout Operations

19-Jun (IL) Pete Smith
Scratchbuilding Buildings using Styrene

17-Jul (MO) Tim Hessel
Animation Projects using Electronics

21-Aug (IL special meeting location –
meet at OC Joseph Chrysler)

Brad Joseph
Prototype Passenger Cars

18-Sep (MO) Brian Post
DCC Sound Decoder Comparison &
Programming

16-Oct (IL) Gary Hoover
Prototyping San Bernardino

20-Nov (MO) Ron G and Bill Levin
Railroad Trip Video - Northeast Canada
and Peru

18-Dec (IL) Bob Boedges
Railroad Operations - Switch lists and
other systems

Mark Your Calendar

Our 2006 Annual Gateway Division Fall Model Railroad Meet and Train Show will be held November 4, 2006, 9am to 3pm, at Trinity Lutheran Church in West St. Louis County (Clayton Road and 141).

Bring your models and photos for the contests, and watch the drawing for the Gateway Central XIII project layout!



photos by Richard Schumacher

For the third year, the Missouri Botanical Garden offered their highly successful "Gardenland Express" holiday flower and G gauge train show. The layouts include models of St. Louis landmarks, as well as crowd-pleasing ski lifts, circus tents, and quaint structures.



The highlight of this year's display was a new model of St. Louis Union Station.





The Gateway Central XIII (2006) project railroad operating and on display at the Thanksgiving weekend (Gateway Center) train show. The trackwork and main structures are complete, and basic scenery has been roughed in – carved from the extruded foam sheets used to construct the layout. Photo by Richard Schumacher.

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