

RPO

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RPO

Spring 2006: Volume 14, Number 1

The RPO is the official publication
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Mike Satke

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On the Cover

Forty years ago Uncle Pete's 8500 horsepower gas-turbine got a little help from a GP-7, as witnessed at this grade crossing in northern Utah. Mike Satke modeled and photographed the scene; the turbine is Overland Models brass and the Geep is from Atlas.

Superintendent's Desk

by Bob Boedges

A few short years ago, while I was still working for a living, I often read in the model magazines about the lasting friendships model railroaders have developed through the hobby. I, however, worked in isolation and looked forward to the day when I would have the opportunity to share my work and learn from the work of others.

The sharing began with the discovery that there was another modeler in my own neighborhood who even shared my interest in N scale. Indeed, since that discovery, Mike Satke has become one of my closest friends, and my layout has become a 'joint project' between the two of us.

After my retirement, I decided to become involved in the local division of the

NMRA, and since that time, I have found that the friendships that have grown through the hobby have added a whole new dimension to my life. However, my involvement has also give rise to a question that I have worked hard to answer. What, beyond the social aspects of the Division, and the sharing of ideas, is the purpose of the organization? Does the Gateway Division exist simply to continue to exist or should we consider using some of our resources to reach out to the community with a broader purpose? I have often talked about the impact that the holiday train display in the downtown *Famous-Barr* window had on my life as a child, and the joy I have seen from my grandchildren as they appreciate the wonder of our miniature worlds. I believe that we, the NMRA members, should seek out projects that will bring this joy to the larger community. I believe that we should combine all our talents to build and maintain displays that will capture the imagination of our children and grandchildren in the same way that the window displays did for us. I look forward to hearing your opinions and hopefully to working with you on these project.

Bob Boedges, 314-631-5371
rboedges@charter.net

Website Stats

The Division website, gatewaynmra.org, is far and away our most widely visible activity. Webmaster Richard

Schumacher reports these statistics for March and April 2006:

March:

Hits for entire site, 2,815,956
Page views, 100,028 (about 3,226 per day)
Visits, 71,991 (about 2,322 per day)
International Visits, 7.46%
Data Transfer, 21,961,304 Kbytes

Search engine referrals, 13,954

Referrals from:

Referrals from trains.com, 69
Referrals from ldsig.org, 32
Referrals from nmra.org, 26
Referrals from midcentral-region-nmra.org, 7
Referrals from mcor-nmra.org site, (is somewhere less than 5, does not appear in our top 200 referrers report)

April:

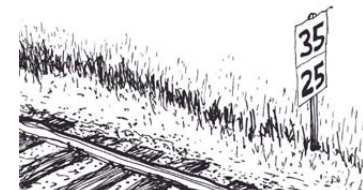
Hits for entire site, 2,223,789 (74,126 per day)
Page views, 77,107 (2,570 per day)
Visits, 61,611 (2,053 per day)
Average visitors on a weekday 2,068
Average visitors for a weekend 4,047
Data transfer 16,986,432 kbytes

Referrals from search engines: 11,593

Referrals from:

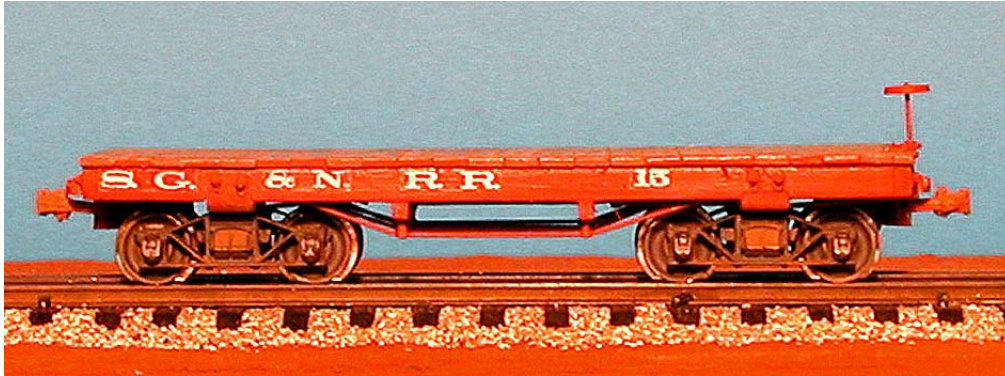
Trains.com 35
Burlingtonroute.com 23
Ldsig.org 24
NMRA.org 14
Mcor-nmra.org 9
Modelrailroadnews.com 9.

A complete (200 pages plus) Web Trends report for each month is available from Richard for anyone interested.



Scratch Building a Freight Car for AP awards

By Dave Roeder



The NMRA achievement program has a requirement that the applicant build a total of 8 pieces of rolling stock. Four of these must be scratch built according to the regulations as written. The other four must be super detailed (also according to the regulations).

One of the 8 cars must be a passenger car. Additional requirements are that the four scratch built cars must all be different designs. Four wood box cars of the same design, but lettered for different railroads is not allowed.

Research, Planning and Design:

After reviewing the NMRA information, I decided to model early cars from the time period just after the civil war. This period from 1870 to 1890 and up to 1900 saw the beginning of standards for couplers and air brakes.

Since I was not familiar with civil war era cars, I contacted Bob Amsler who I knew was researching this period. Bob is also a model railroader and serves as legal representation for the NMRA nationally.

Bob put me on to several reference books on the Civil War era and the United

States Military Railroad as it was known back during the Civil War. In addition there were two volumes of *The American Freight Car* by John H. White [1993] and *The American Passenger Car* also by John H. White [1978] that gave details of the technological advances throughout the development of American Railroads.

With titles and author names in hand, I went to the Barriger collection at the University of Missouri, St. Louis and was able to copy pages from these books. Once I had the design information, I created detailed drawings for 3 freight cars and 1 passenger car that I would scratch build to qualify for the AP certificate in Cars. I drew the four cars in "O" scale [.250" = 1' 0"]. These four drawings were the basis for the construction.

Materials:

I have always built structures and modified rolling stock using styrene so it was a simple matter to purchase Evergreen Styrene strip, rod and sheet to suit the sizes required. Early freight cars were of wood design, so even the frames

were simple straight shapes. Large structural pieces such as the bolsters were made from .250" square stock. Other frame parts such as sills and cross members were made from strip stock of the proper dimensions. Car siding is available from Evergreen in scale 3" width scribing.

The detail parts such as grab irons and brake gear can be purchased individually, or you may go to a swap meet and purchase an old Varney, LaBelle Woodworking Co. or Liberty craftsman kit to get these parts as a set. An additional benefit of this approach is that you get a set of plans that you may use to construct your own scratch built version of a car. The only drawback is that the AP judging gives more points for plans drawn by the person building the car.

I made bending jigs to fabricate simple items such as grab irons. The brake rigging on early cars was much more primitive than on cars from the 1930's. Suppliers such as Tichy Train Group, Grandt Line and Kadee offer some very nice plastic parts with a high level of detail. I went to our local detail parts hobby shop Tinkertown in Ladue, MO. for these. In fact, I purchased all of the early style Westinghouse air brake sets in stock.

Construction:

I started with the most basic of freight cars, a Carter Brothers flat car. This car was very primitive in that it had only mechanical brakes. Research revealed some of the railroads were reluctant to put any brakes on freight cars. In some cases the cars had mechanical brakes on only one truck. Passenger cars were equipped with hand brakes as early as 1845. Early freight cars were not equipped with brakes since most railroads considered this expense unnecessary. Life was cheap and safety

was not on the minds of those in charge of the purse strings during this period.

Starting with the basic frame, a flat car is nothing more than a series of timbers cut to length and placed in a square jig to get 90 degree corners. Care must be taken to cut parts to exact lengths. A Northwest Shortline chopper is a good investment for this part of the job. I also use a 6" dial caliper to insure scratch built bolster heights are within .002" of each other.

I cut a set of planks for the decking from strip styrene. This is the easiest part of the fabrication. I drill and tap a #2-56 UNC thread for truck mounting screws in the bolsters and use a #0 -80 for the coupler mounts. Note: Kadee HOn3 narrow gage coupler sets come with #0 sheet metal screws that work very well in styrene.

Grandt Line nut bolt and washer castings are available in most common sizes for details.

I also found drop type grab irons made from wire. These were very easy to install using a very small amount of ACC adhesive. I use a canvas sewing needle cut off on the eye end and pressed into a 1/4" wood dowel handle to apply the ACC at the base of the grab iron.

One step you must do when working in styrene is drilling holes for steps and grab irons. I have a set of drill bits from .013" to .040" in a small case. These are very handy for doing this work. I set my Uni-Mat Machining Center up as a vertical drill press and feed the drills into the work by moving the work on to the rotating drill. I find this gives better control and eliminates drill breakage. I also use an old beeswax candle to lube the drill before each hole.

If you have ever built a Tichy Train Group freight car, you now can have the

pleasure of doing the same type of detail assembly work. The difference is you are assembling a "plastic kit" with individual components that you fabricated. Final assembly, paint, decals and weathering are all the same as on any kit.

Once you get started, these cars go together just like any other kit except that you made all of the major parts.

Regional Conventions

If you're planning to travel in the coming months, you just might find yourself within reach of another Region's convention. Here's a list to help you check.

- AR Australasian Region from 10/14/2006 to 10/15/2006 in Niagara Park, Australia
http://www.nmra.org.au/Convention06/Convention_06.html
- BR British Region from 10/27/2006 to 10/29/2006 in Kegworth, Derby, UK
<http://www.nmrabr.org.uk/convention.asp>
- LSR Lone Star Region from 6/1/2006 to 6/4/2006 in San Antonio, TX
<http://www.samrail.org/LSR/>
- MCoR Mid-Continent Region from 6/1/2006 to 6/4/2006 in Council Bluffs, IA
<http://www.whdnmra.org/convention2006/>
- MER Mid-Eastern Region from 10/28/2006 to 10/29/2006 in Virginia Beach, VA
http://groups.hamptonroads.com/pages1.cfm?page_id=11535
- NCR North Central Region from 10/13/2006 to 10/15/2006 in Grand Rapids, MI
<http://ncr2006.ncr-nmra.org/>
- NER Northeastern Region from 10/20/2006 to 10/22/2006 in Parsippany, NJ
<http://www.trainweb.org/nergds/GSC2006.htm>
- PNR Pacific Northwest Region from 8/2/2006 to 8/6/2006 in Wilsonville, OR
<http://mymemoirs.net/model-trains/pnr2006/>
- PSR Pacific Southwest Region from 10/11/2006 to 10/15/2006 in San Diego, CA
<http://www.sandiegodivision.org/>
- RMR Rocky Mountain Region from 6/9/2006 to 6/11/2006 in Chama, NM
<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/cumbressteam/>
- SER Southeastern Region from 6/9/2006 to 6/11/2006 in Memphis, TN
<http://www.msmr.name/serconvention/index.htm>

And of course there's the NMRA National Convention, **Independence Junction**, from July 2 to July 9, in Philadelphia, PA. More information can be found at

www.ij2006.org/index.html

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YOUR PIKE?

by Gerry Leone, MMR

The Pike Registry, part of the NMRA's Membership Services and Promotion Department, is one of the lesser known services of the NMRA, yet it's been around almost as long as the organization itself. By sending in an application to program manager Dick Schneider, along with a \$10 donation, NMRA members can register the name and reporting marks of their model railroad in the Official Register of Model Railroads (ORMRR) for two years. In return they receive an official registration certificate along with a CD of the current ORMRR. (Printed versions are also available to those without computers.)

The ORMRR is a tremendous resource for those who travel and would like to visit model railroads during their trip. The Register lists names, addresses and

phone numbers of registrants, along with visitation preferences.

Studying the ORMRR is fun in and of itself. Currently it contains well over 500 pikes, some of which are as yet unbuilt. Among those appearing are prototypical names such as Union Pacific and Burlington Northern. But others have registered more whimsical names, such as the Kneedy & Lackamoney and the Downe & Owlte. It makes for great reading.

The Pike Registry was updated and streamlined last year and is now a self-supporting volunteer-run part of the NMRA Membership Services and Promotion Department. Besides the fun of receiving an official certificate and the ORMRR, it gives members a great way to make a small donation to the NMRA.

For details on how to get your pike registered, visit the NMRA website at <http://www.nmra.org/pikereg>

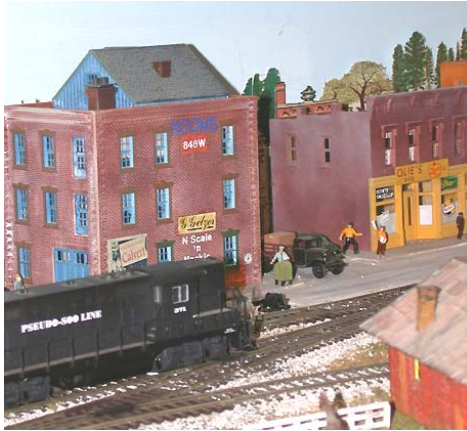
Gateway Division Clinicians Wanted

We always 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 Bill Levin at 314-878-2119
wmlbill@yahoo.com

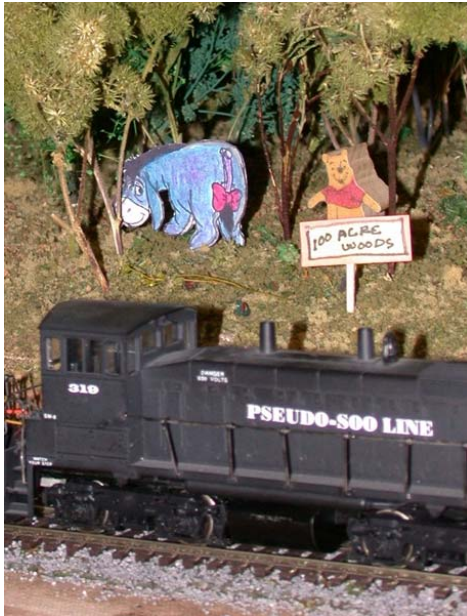
Layout Scenes

Bob Johnson sent along a few photos he took on his PseudoSoo Line railroad.



Left: The bustling town of Ladysmith, Wisconsin is the junction with the old Wisconsin Central. Across from the yard throat is G. Gelzer's "N Scale 'n Nookie Novels" shop, a store was dedicated to my friend (now in Phoenix) who never quite grew up.

Right: Reefers await unloading at the Wisconsin Open Air Frozen Food warehouse at Heafford Junction. This scratchbuilt wood structure is a play on the fair climate of northern Wisconsin.



Left: If you want to recruit a new generation of model railroaders, it helps to hook 'em while they're young. Bob's grandkids might recognize these railfans watching a PseudoSoo SW7 pull a local past the 100 Acre Wood.



Division Minutes

Recorded by Ron Gawedzinski, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for Feb 20, 2006

Superintendent Robert Boedges called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Robert introduced Richard Lake who presented a clinic on Wood Structures, Painting and Staining. Richard gave a handout to the members. His clinic covered wood preparation, glues, paints, stains, washes, techniques, some useful tools as well as references. The membership thanks Richard for his presentation.

BUSINESS MEETING

Superintendent Boedges called the business meeting to order at 8:03 pm. There were 24 members and two guests present.

Visitors:

The Division welcomes guests Patty Bousman and Curt Regensberger.

Minutes of the January 2006 Meeting:

The minutes of the January 2006 Meeting were distributed. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

David Lyon, Treasurer, distributed printed copies of the one-month Treasurer's Report (January 16 through February 19, 2006) and the Project Layout 2006, Gateway Central XIII, Income/Expense Report. The Treasurer's report indicated a balance in all funds of \$26,703.00. The reports were accepted after some discussion.

Director's Report:

Jim mentioned that the MCOR Region Convention for this year would be held at Council Bluffs, Iowa, June 1 – 4, 2006. They have their own web site now. (Full registration will only be \$35 per person through April 15, and \$45 thereafter. You can visit the Railswest Railroad Museum. Layout Tours, Prototype Tours, Clinics and Contests will also be available. Another reason to go is to visit the Union Pacific Museum, Council Bluffs, Iowa, in the former Carnegie Library building. See Trains magazine, February 2006, pages 34 – 37.)

Old Business:

Status Of The RPO – Mike Thomas received the RPO materials from Richard Schumacher. The RPO will be taken to the printer's on February 21. It will be mailed to the members shortly. Mike has set a deadline of March 20 (our next meeting) for accepting items for the next RPO. In the meantime, members are asked to send articles, photos and any other materials for publication in the next RPO to Mike.

Merchandise – Hank Kraichely reported he has all wheel sets available tonight, both HO and N scale. Those members who ordered them should see him after the meeting.

Membership – Hank mentioned that anyone who has joined in the last year or so who did not get a membership pin to please see him after the meeting as he has the pins.

Project Layout XIII (13) –Bob Boedges reported the layout was taken to the Dupo Train Show and we made \$95 from ticket sales. The layout is to be photographed and the pictures should be in the next RPO. The next show the layout will be shown at is the Great Train Expo at Collinsville on March 18 – 19. Volunteers are needed for two hour shifts on Saturday and Sunday. Please sign up. If you work you get in free. We need to do well at the next couple of shows in order to approach break even.

Achievement Program (AP) – Don Taschner was not present. However, Richard Lake mentioned that Dave Roeder is working very hard to achieve his Master Model Railroader (MMR) Award. Richard and Venita Lake recently judged the scenery and a structure on Dave's layout.

Calendar Updates – Bob Boedges mentioned copies of an updated "Calendar 2006" of events are available. Names of clinicians for future meetings were added to the calendar.

Bill Levin mentioned copies of a "Division Meeting Programs" monthly list are available. Bill pointed out in August we will meet at Brad Joseph's new auto dealership, not at the VFW Hall. Also, in April, members can bring a locomotive and Brian Post will program it but not for sound. In September, Brian will program a locomotive for sound. Members' Survey Results are at the bottom of the monthly list. Bill stated he is still looking for clinicians in the areas of

locomotives, rolling stock, signals and photography for 2007.

Hank Kraichely stated that in March, after he gives his presentation, everyone is invited to his home to see his layout and run trains.

Bob Boedges congratulated Bill Levin for the fine job he did in scheduling clinicians for the rest of 2006 and looking for them in 2007.

Equipment Inventory Project – Dick Wegner reported on the results of his searching for and identifying Division equipment and other items with members. An “Equipment Inventory” list was made available to members. Dick asked members who have the items on the list to hold on to them for now until we decide on some form of centralized storage.

Dick stated 11 Layout Tour Yard Signs (yellow/black 2 feet X 2 feet) are missing and if any member has one to let Dick know after the meeting.

Meeting Display Project – Bob Boedges stated he, Bill Levin and Dave Lyon are working on the project and will provide a report at the next meeting.

Fall 2006 Meet – Bob Boedges had no report on the Fall Meet other than he talked to the folks who had the Lego Layout at the St. Charles Model RR Club Show and it looks like we might have them at our November show.

Kirkwood Station Layout Project – Bob Boedges reported on his conversations with the Kirkwood Station volunteer coordinator regards building a model railroad layout in the Station. Since our Division indicated interest so, too, are the Kirkwood city officials in favor of it. However, there is a space limitation and an N scale layout might be considered in place of an HO layout. The next step in the project is to design a couple of different options in coordination with the volunteer coordinator. Once an option is approved by the coordinator Bob will bring the project back to the Division membership for approval of a monetary outlay towards the building of the layout. More on this subject at the next meeting.

Other Old Business – None reported.

New Business:

Projector Purchase – Bob Boedges stated the old Dell data projector couldn't be repaired. He said we need a new one. A motion is required to buy a new data projector not to exceed \$1,200. Tom Bousman made the motion, “For the Division to approve the purchase of a new data projector not to exceed \$1,200.” Richard Lake seconded the motion. Discussion took place covering use by other groups, need, cost, size, rental, warranty, brand name and service. The motion passed.

Library Presentation – Bob Boedges reported we received an inquiry from the Daniel Boone Branch, St. Louis County Library, asking for a presentation on model railroading in August. Bob informed the Library representative we would do it after Venita and Richard Lake had volunteered their services. The project layout would be available. The Library representative said she would like a program on model railroading and how a person would get started in this wonderful hobby. The target group would be young, active and involved families. If anyone wants to help the Lakes please let them know.

Other New Business –

Publication Fee Dues – Dave Lyon stated 48 members have not paid this year's publication fee. They will be dropped from the Monthly Reminder Postcard mailing list and the RPO mailing list. Much discussion took place on this subject, the Division's policy on the matter and related National and Region items. Hank Kraichely made a motion, “For the Division to continue to mail the Monthly Reminder Postcard to NMRA members who reside within our Division's boundaries, whether they paid the \$3 publication fee or not.” Jack Templeton seconded the motion. Much more discussion took place. John Schindler proposed an amendment to Hank's original motion, namely, “To limit the motion for one year.” Hank accepted the amendment to his motion. More discussion took place. Bob Boedges explained, prior to a vote on the amendment itself, that a “yes” means the motion will last for a year, a “no” means that the motion will be open ended. The amendment passed. Next, a vote took place on the amended motion, “For the Division to continue to mail the Monthly Reminder Postcard to NMRA members who reside within our Division's boundaries, whether they paid the \$3 publication fee or not, for a period of one year.” The motion did not

pass. Therefore, Dave will proceed to drop the 48 members as originally stated.

Meeting Room Background Noise – A request was made for our management to inform the VFW Hall management that we do not have a repeat of new activity going on in the meeting room at the same time we are holding a meeting. A member of the VFW Board said he would take care of the request.

50/50: Jack Templeton won \$16 in the drawing.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Richard Lake, seconded by Mike Satke and approved by a voice vote of the membership.

Respectfully Submitted

Ron W. Gawedzinski, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2006

Superintendent Robert Boedges called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Robert introduced Hank Kraichely who presented a clinic on Planning and Building the CB&Q. His clinic covered a review of the research, planning and construction of his new layout, based on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. After the business meeting, Hank invited the members to come to his home, see his layout and run trains. The membership thanks Hank for his presentation and for inviting us to his home to see his very large layout.

BUSINESS MEETING

Superintendent Boedges called the business meeting to order at 7:30 pm. There were 27 members and one guest present.

Visitors:

The Division welcomes guest Patty Bousman.

Minutes of the February 2006 Meeting:

The minutes of the February 2006 Meeting were distributed. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

David Lyon, Treasurer, distributed printed copies of the one-month Treasurer's Report (February

20 through March 19, 2006). The Treasurer's report indicated a balance in all funds of \$26,076.00. The report was accepted as presented.

Director's Report:

Jim mentioned he brought copies of the Registration Form for the MCOR Region Convention to be held at Council Bluffs, Iowa, June 1 – 4, 2006. They also have their own web site on which you can get the same information, 2006convention@whdnmra.org). (Full registration will only be \$35 per person through April 15, and \$45 thereafter. You can visit the Railswest Railroad Museum. Layout Tours, Prototype Tours, Clinics and Contests will also be available. Another reason to go is to visit the Union Pacific Museum, Council Bluffs, Iowa, in the former Carnegie Library building. See Trains magazine, February 2006, pages 34 – 37.)

Old Business:

Achievement Program (AP) – Don Taschner reported that he had five Merit Awards on Buildings for Dave Roeder. In addition, Don presented Certificates for Author, Electrical and Scenery to Dave. Dave has just a couple more Certificates to earn before achieving his Master Model Railroader (MMR) Award. The membership recognized his efforts with a round of applause.

Don also reported that Dave Bartz is in the process of receiving his last Certificate for Motive Power. This means he has successfully earned and passed every requirement to receive his Master Model Railroader (MMR) Award. It should be coming shortly. The membership recognized his efforts with a round of applause.

Don mentioned that he, too, has received his Certificate for Motive Power. Congratulations to our fellow members! Don encourages the rest of us to look at our layouts as we may already have items qualified to meet the certificate requirements for a MMR. He'll be glad to give advice and direction. Finally, Don gave special recognition to Richard and Venita Lake for volunteering their time to help Don judge items on members' layouts.

Status Of The RPO – Mike Thomas stated that tonight is the deadline to get any photos or articles to him for the next RPO. No one had anything for Mike. So no photo for the cover but

meeting minutes will be available. However, Bob Boedges mentioned Richard Schumacher did finish all the photos for the new project layout so Mike might want to call him.

Project Layout XIII (13) –Bob Boedges reported the layout was taken to the Great Train Expo at Collinsville on March 18 - 19 and we made \$275 from ticket sales. That amount allowed the Project to earn \$31 over break even. The next scheduled date to show the layout isn't until September. However, there are several train shows between now and September that we might consider showing the layout. Bob gave special thanks to those members who volunteered their time at the Collinsville show.

Equipment Inventory Project – Dick Wegner was not present so Bob Boedges gave a summary report. Dick has found everything, he thinks, with the exception of eight of the Layout Tour Yard Signs (yellow w/ black, 2 feet X 2 feet) that are still missing. He feels that the people who have used them might still have them and simply haven't reported them.

Dick feels the centralized storage of all of our stuff would be very desirable but it would require about 100 square feet of climate-controlled space. Commercial storage space of this type to rent would cost about \$150 per month, some \$1,500 plus per year. This is significantly more than what we bring in annually from the Project Layout ticket sales. We have three options: 1. If any member has that amount of space available to donate to the Division, it would be our best choice. 2. Rent the space in spite of the cost. 3. Leave everything as it is. Bob decided to table the item to the next meeting.

Kirkwood Station Layout Project – Bob Boedges reported he and Mike Satke went over to the Station and did measurements and sketches to get an idea of the room we were going to have and what we want to build. It would be a simple layout modeling the Station itself and the street behind it. Bob says they are at the design stage now and he needs help in designing the framework as well as the track plan. Anyone wanting to help should call Bob. Once the design is completed and submitted to Kirkwood city officials and approved, then a total estimated cost of the project can be developed and submitted to the membership for approval.

Data Projector Purchase – Bill Levin reported the Division bought a new data projector (brand name Infocus) at a cost of \$987 (budget \$1,200).

Library Presentation – Bob Boedges reported on the request last month from the Daniel Boone Branch, St. Louis County Library, to do a presentation on model railroading in August. The lady that contacted Bob said we didn't respond, which we did (have copy of e-mail). The librarian booked someone else in our place. We may be asked for something later on.

Publication Fee Dues -- To a member's question, Dave Lyon reported that he dropped 48 members from the Monthly Reminder Postcard mailing list and the RPO mailing list as a result of non-payment of this year's publication fee.

New Business:

Web Site Report – Bob Boedges stated that our Division's web site is evidently one of the best in the nation. Since Richard Schumacher started our web site (January 1998 as NMRA 2001 Homepage, and then as GatewayNMRA.ORG) it has had 2.8 million hits. Other statistics quoted by Bob gave further support to the high popularity of our web site around the world. And, of course, with this high interest comes an assortment of messages and questions, a few of which Bob presented.

50/50: Craig Brown won \$12 in the drawing.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Bousman, seconded by Gregor Moe and approved by a voice vote of the membership.

Respectfully Submitted

Ron W. Gawedzinski, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2006

Superintendent Robert Boedges called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Bob informed the membership that Brian Post is in the hospital and should be released tomorrow. Since Brian could not present his part of the clinic on "DCC Tricks & Basic Decoder Programming," Bill Levin presented his part. Bill focused on two software programs available on the Internet, as well as how to make use of an assortment of options and

tools for DCC applications. The membership thanks Bill for his informative presentation.

BUSINESS MEETING

Superintendent Boedges called the business meeting to order at 7:50 pm. There were 19 members and one guest present.

Visitors:

The Division welcomes guest Patty Bousman.

Minutes of the March 2006 Meeting:

The minutes of the March 2006 Meeting were distributed. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

David Lyon, Treasurer, distributed printed copies of the one-month Treasurer's Report (March 20 through April 16, 2006). The Treasurer's Report indicated a balance in all funds of \$26,659.19. The report was accepted as presented.

Director's Report:

Jim Anderson mentioned he brought copies of the Registration Form for the MCOR Region Convention to be held at Council Bluffs, Iowa, June 1 – 4, 2006. (They also have their own web site on which you can get the same information, 2006convention@whdnmra.org). Full registration will only be \$35 per person through April 15, and \$45 thereafter. You can visit the Railswest Railroad Museum. Layout Tours, Prototype Tours, Clinics and Contests will also be available. Another reason to go is to visit the Union Pacific Museum, Council Bluffs, Iowa, in the former Carnegie Library building. See Trains magazine, February 2006, pages 34 – 37.)

Jim said if you received the recent MCOR Newsletter "President's Handcar" then complete the survey that was included and mail it back to Gary Hemmingway, the Convention Chair. Since no Division has volunteered for next year's Region Convention Gary is seeking answers on the survey as to what direction MCOR should go.

Old Business:

Status Of The RPO – Mike Thomas stated that the deadline for the next RPO issue is the next meeting, May 15. He has nothing so far. He needs a cover photo, photos and articles. He

has not received the photos of the new project layout.

Project Layout XIII (13) –Bob Boedges said there is no report.

Achievement Program (AP) – Don Taschner was not present. Bob Boedges commented that in MCOR's "President Handcar" is a list of AP Certificates awarded recently. Dave Roeder has earned his remaining Certificates, completed all his judging for the Master Model Railroader (MMR) and will be receiving his Certificates and his MMR Award at the MCOR Region Convention in June. The membership recognized his efforts with a round of applause.

Fall 2006 Meet – Bob Boedges said there is no report.

Equipment Inventory Project – Bob Boedges said we have three choices: 1. Leave everything exactly where it is and keep a list of who has what. 2. Bring everything together in one location and rent a facility to put it in. Cost would be about \$1,200 - \$1,500 per year for a 10' X 10' climate-controlled space. 3. Someone to donate the space in a garage, basement, etc. We need a motion, discussion and get it done. Pete Smith made a motion, "Inventory all supplies, appoint some official as the person responsible for maintaining the inventory list and maintain the status quo with regard to storage until we get too many complaints." Dick Wegner seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion was approved.

Meeting Display Project – Bob Boedges reported that Bill Levin, Dave Lyon and Bob visited a company where they build displays. Bill Levin discussed what the company could do for us. A question we need to answer is what should the content be on the display. Our display would be used at train shows. We have no cost estimate yet because we have not decided on the complexity of the display. What we have in mind initially is a backdrop that announces "The Gateway Division of the NMRA," eye-catching and very professional-looking, and then something about the hobby. Bill Levin is asking people to help determine content of the display. Much discussion followed. Bill said for the next meeting he will try to have a sample of what one of the displays looks like.

Kirkwood Station Layout Project – Bob Boedges enlisted the help of Dave Roeder in drawing up plans for the layout. Members can look at the plans after the meeting. The layout would be a simple “dog-bone” design built in two pieces. It would be built in a case. It would reflect the track plan in Kirkwood in 1950. This is the plan we are going to submit to Kirkwood city officials for approval. We face two big issues: 1. No electrical outlets on any of the walls in the room where the layout would be displayed. 2. Fear of Liability Lawsuits—It is recommended when we donate the layout to the City of Kirkwood they accept all responsibility for it from that day forward. Significant discussion on these two issues warranted the recommendation of getting our lawyer involved. More information at the next meeting.

Merchandise – Hank Kraichely said we still have N and HO wheel sets. Ken Thompson still has Gary Hoover cars.

Membership – Hank Kraichely encourages members to pay Dave Lyon the \$3 Publication Fee Dues so you can continue to receive the RPO. Also, Hank is taking a poll of members who might be interested in receiving an electronic notification by E-Mail instead of a post card notification of the meeting notice each month. His intention is to try to reach more people and get more E-Mail addresses now that every NMRA member living in our region is an automatic Gateway Division member.

New Business:
None reported.

50/50: Craig Brown won \$14 in the drawing.

Adjournment - A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Bousman, seconded by Gregor Moe and approved by a voice vote of the membership.

Respectfully Submitted
Ron W. Gawedzinski, Clerk



Division Officers

Superintendent
Bob Boedges

Assistant Superintendent
Bill Levin

Clerk (Secretary)
Ron Gawedzinski

Paymaster (Treasurer)
Dave Lyon

Division Director
Jim Anderson



RPO Submissions

Like all publications, the RPO is in never-ending need of material to print. Articles, announcements, questions, prototype photographs, model photographs, and drawings will all be welcomed.

Text may be submitted in any form, although electronic submission (on disk or by email) eliminates the need for retyping.

Photos may be high resolution digital files (preferred) or slides, prints, or negatives (which we can scan).

Storage Space Needed

As noted in the minutes of recent meetings, the Division owns a lot of stuff: overhead projectors, a data projector, projection screens, layout tour signs, table-top displays, a bulletin board, a whiteboard, all the material needed to build a project layout and the layout itself.

These materials are scattered across the area, in members' garages, basements, closets, and businesses. Rental of storage space is prohibitively expensive, but if any member has dry, secure space available (an area about 10' square would do) we would appreciate the offer. Contact any officer listed on the previous page.

NMRA, Mid-Continent 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>

Introducing the best deal in model railroading.

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Fill out this form, include your payment of \$9.95 (U.S. funds only) and mail it to: NMRA - Rail Pass Membership, 4121 Cromwell Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119. Or sign up online at www.nmra.org.

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*Rail Pass offer is good in the U.S. only and is for new members and those who have not been NMRA members for two years or more. Individuals can only join at Rail Pass rates one time; membership renewal will be at the regular membership rate. Rail Pass members can vote, attend conventions and participate in contests, but cannot hold office and will not receive a New Member Pak.

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