



2007 Fall Meet Contest Winners

RPO

Autumn 2008: Volume 16, Number 3

The RPO is the official publication
of the Gateway Division
of the National Model Railroad Association

Editor:

Mike Thomas

Cover Photograph:

Richard Schumacher

This Issue's Contributors:

Richard Schumacher

Tom Bousman

Ron Gawedzinski

Articles, photos and any other materials for publication are to be sent to the Editor. No payment can be made for publication of any materials. Regular issues are published quarterly: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Subscriptions to the RPO are available to members of the NMRA as a service provided by members of the Gateway Division. Send subscription applications and renewals to the Division Treasurer.

Any item may be reproduced by other NMRA publications, unless specifically restricted, as long as author and source credit is included. Advertising of interest to our membership is accepted for publication in the RPO. Contact the Editor or Treasurer for current rates and artwork size information. Please send submissions, suggestions, letters, and address corrections to:

Editor, The RPO
Gateway Division NMRA
3900 Shenandoah Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63110-4016

Articles may be submitted as handwritten, typed, plain unformatted text on disk, or plain text via email to mathomas@speakeasy.net; photo submissions may be made as hi-res digital files, 35mm slides or negatives or as prints.

All content is Copyright © 2008 Gateway Division NMRA unless otherwise noted.

Visit our website at www.gatewaynmra.org

In This Issue

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Model Contest Winners | 3 |
| AMB Plant Tour | 12 |
| Picnic at the WF&P | 13 |
| Website Statistics | 16 |
| Division Minutes | 17 |

On the Cover

photo by Richard Schumacher

John Carty's model of the National City tower took third place in the Online Structures category at last year's Fall Meet. If you want to see just how good a model has to be to place ahead of *this*, just turn the page!

Editor's Note

Mike Thomas

The Gateway Division publishes this newsletter four times a year for subscribers – we charge a nominal \$3 mailing fee for those who want to get a paper copy, and send a pdf file for free to anyone who provides us with their email address. Once each year, in October, we mail a hard copy to every NMRA member who lives inside the Division's boundaries, along with a ballot for the annual officers' election, a membership directory, and publicity on our Fall Meet. If you'd like to receive the other three issues of the RPO each year, send \$3 to our Paymaster, Dave Lyon, 284 Oakleigh Woods Drive, Ballwin, MO 63011, or just let him know you'd like to start getting the RPO in your email. (The file, readable using Adobe Acrobat, usually runs about 4 megabytes, so downloading it may take a while.)

Earnie Boucher

Division member Earnie Boucher passed away on September 19, 2008. Earnie was married to Anita Boucher (nee Fernandez) for 52 years, and was the father of Nita (Dr. Patrick) Garrett. The family has asked that memorial donations be made to The American Cancer Society.

2007 Model Contest

Photos by Richard Schumacher

Saturday, November 3, 2007, was the Gateway Division's annual Fall Meet, which included, as always, a model and photo contest.

Winners in each category are chosen by popular vote, but many contestants also choose to have their models judged by the Achievement Program. In 2007 there were a total of 58 entries in all categories, and 12 AP certificates were earned: one by Venita Lake (Structures), two by Dave Roeder (Motive Power and Cars), and nine by John Carty (one for Motive Power, four for Cars, and four for Structures).

Color versions of the photos of the winners can be found on the Division's website, www.gatewaynmra.org

More fine modeling can be seen at the 2008 Gateway Division Fall Meet on Saturday, November 1, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road, just east of Highway 141.



First Place, Steam Locomotives: Dave Roeder, MMR



First Place, Diesel Locomotives: Jim Providenza



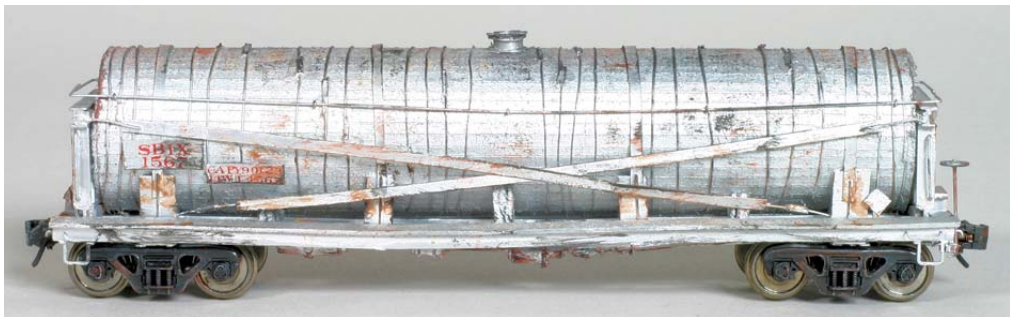
Second Place, Diesel Locomotives: Brian Post



Third Place, Diesel Locomotives: Dave Roeder, MMR



First Place (tie), Freight Cars: Dave Bartz, MMR



First Place (tie), Freight Cars: John Carty



Second Place, Freight Cars: Dave Roeder, MMR



First Place, Caboose: John Carty



Second Place, Caboose: Dave Roeder, MMR



Third Place, Caboose: Dave Roeder, MMR



First Place, Maintenance-of-Way: Dave Roeder, MMR



Second Place, Maintenance-of-Way: John Carty



First Place, Passenger Cars: Dave Roeder, MMR



Second Place, Passenger Cars: John Carty



Third Place, Passenger Cars: Dave Roeder, MMR



First Place, Traction: Dave Bartz, MMR



Second Place, Traction: John Carty



First Place, Online Structures: John Carty
Best in Show



Second Place, Online Structures:
Richard Lake



Third Place, Online Structures:
John Carty



First Place, Offline Structures: Richard Lake



Second Place, Offline Structures:
John Carty



Third Place, Offline Structures:
John Carty



First Place, Whole Train: Dave Roeder, MMR



Second Place, Whole Train: Glen Koproske



Third Place, Whole Train: John Carty

Photography Contest

Photography contest winners are best viewed in color on our website.

First place, Prototype Color Print:

Ron Schlueter

Second Place, Prototype Color Print:

Richard Lake

Third Place, Prototype Color Print:

Fred Houska

First Place, Model Color Print:

Fred Houska

Second Place, Model Color Print:

Fred Houska

Third Place, Model Color Print:

Fred Houska



First (?) Place, Thumbs:
Dave Roeder, MMR

American Model Builders Plan Tour

by Ron Gawedzinski

It was a beautiful, sunny morning when 19 Gateway Division NMRA members gathered outside the door of American Model Builders, Inc., on Saturday, August 23, at 11 AM. John Hitzeman, owner of AMB, greeted us at the door. We were led inside to a room that could best be described as “modeler’s heaven.” On shelves alongside walls and on tables around the room were dozens of examples of models made by AMB. More importantly, the models showed the creative artistry of one person, namely, John.



For well over two hours John held the attention of his audience with many interesting anecdotes, from the early years of his life when his father and grandfather introduced him to model trains and real trains, to later in his life when he sharpened his modeling skills working at Monsanto Co.’s Engineering Model Dept., to the first day he started his own company, American Model Builders.

During the course of his tour, John explained how he came up with ideas for structures and other products, mostly based on prototype examples but sometimes with no basis at all, just simple “Imagineering.” He described how he became interested in laser cut manufacturing. That curiosity grew into the making of AMB’s major business, LASERkit wood structure kits. Today, AMB is looked upon as the hobby industry’s leader and standard setter in manufacturing laser cut kits.

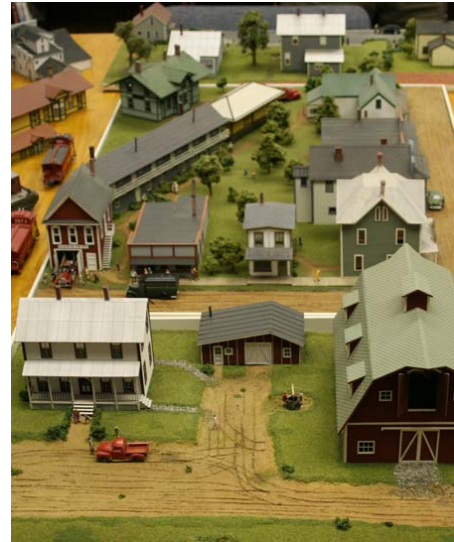


Of course, with the high degree of skills and quality work exemplified by John and his staff, not all of AMB’s business is identified with model railroad kits. A fair amount of his business also comes from the commercial business world and the federal government. In fact, AMB has a reputation for doing things that other modeling companies won’t do.



We were then led into AMB’s “shop” area. Of particular interest to everyone were the two large laser-cutting machines. John proceeded to give an operating demonstration on how the laser system works. He keyed in instructions and engaged the machine.

As everyone watched, the machine started making an HO ATSF Standard Telephone Booth. We each received a finished kit.



What takes place after John and his staff create a new model is not simple, for sure. Very precise, detailed instructions must be programmed into the laser machine. Even more simplified, detailed instruction sheets, along with drawings and photos, need to be created to accompany the finished kit. Sometimes these instruction sheets can be over 30 pages in length.



Raw material costs continue to increase dramatically and put pressure on AMB. But yet the quality of the kit continues to be paramount.



Soon it was 1:30 PM. John completed his tour, the last of the questions were answered and everyone thanked John for a great time and the gift kit.

The overall success of AMB can be attributed to John’s creativity, attention to detail and a passion for quality in what his company makes. It’s got to be great to love your job and make a successful living from it.

NMRA – NRHA Joint Picnic at the WF&P

by Ron Gawedzinski

On Saturday, September 6, 2008, the Gateway Division NMRA and the St. Louis Chapter NRHS held the first ever joint picnic at the Wabash, Frisco, and Pacific Railroad. The WF&P RR runs 12 inch Gauge Small Scale Steam Trains alongside the Meramec River at Glencoe, Missouri. It provides a 2-mile

roundtrip. From 1939 until 1959 it was located near St. Louis Lambert Field. As they say, the only scheduled steam passenger trains in Missouri.

The weather was great, the steam locomotive rides were many and the scenery along the Meramec River was beautiful.



There were 95 registered members, family and guests from both groups, along with an additional 18 crew members from the WF&P and 9 crew members from the Decatur, Illinois, steam club.



The steam club from Decatur brought their Denver & Rio Grande locomotive down to pull trains. The WF&P provided four steam locomotives and one diesel engine. There were train rides all day. The WF&P and the Decatur club were very gracious hosts and they enjoyed having us there as much as we enjoyed their facilities.



Ron Gawedzinski (GD/SLC) chaired the picnic. Fred Blank (SLC) and Hank Kraichely, Gateway Division President, did the cooking; Ron, Jean Myers (SLC), and Mary Birdsell (GD/SLC) worked the serving line. Joe Obernuefemann (SLC) handled registration, nametags and attendance

prize tickets. Bill Birdsell (GD/SLC) and Joe Obernuefemann, along with the help of some very young railfans awarded the attendance prizes. Various members of both organizations donated fifty prizes.



Rich Schumacher of The Gateway Division was the official photographer.

Bud Anderson (SLC) and his family served snow cones.



The picnic crowd consumed 158 cans of soda, 20 pounds of potato salad, 14 pounds of cole slaw, 4 gallons of baked beans, 120 hamburgers, 84 hot dogs, 4 pounds of baby carrots, 1 gallon of pickles and 180 cookies.



The committee and both organizations thank you for your attendance and any



and all help and donations that made this picnic a success. Ron especially wants to thank the above named volunteers, for without them this event could not have been held.



Finally, thanks to the WF&P crews and the Decatur crews for making this a success:

WF&P – Don “Tennessee” Angles, Greg Wapelhorst, Jim Scott, Jimmy Scott, Mike Lorange, Jim Greathouse, John Grewe, Matt Grewe, Brad George, Andrew Dean, Jerry Fritchler-Ellen, Matt Horn, Dale Bitsch, Dave Neubauer, Wayne Mosbacher, Mike Brennan, Clayton Cullen and Elliott Littlejohn.

Decatur – Kenny Dan, Ray Heaton, George Roadcap, Tommy Roadcap, Jim Adams, Tim Jacobs, Robert Jacobs, Matt Davis and Al Trenholm.



Website Statistics for www.gatewaynmra.org

reported by Richard Schumacher

The Gateway Division's website reaches more people in a typical day than this newsletter does in years. How many people come to our website, where they are from, and how they manage to find it makes for interesting study.

Page Views (Impressions), 80,273 (average 2,675/day)

Visits, 58,219 (average 1,940/day)

Successful Hits For Entire Site, 2,046,640 (average 68,221/day)

Bandwidth, Kbytes transferred, 17,075,865

| Summary of Activity for Report Period | |
|---|---------|
| Average Number of Visitors per day on Weekdays | 1,950 |
| Average Number of Hits per day on Weekdays | 69,280 |
| Average Number of Visitors for the entire Weekend | 3,825 |
| Average Number of Hits for the entire Weekend | 130,615 |

| Top Search Engines | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Engines | Referrals | % |
| 1. | Google | 8,894 | 82.55% |
| 2. | Yahoo | 1,156 | 10.73% |
| 3. | Microsoft Network | 705 | 6.54% |
| 4. | AltaVista | 16 | 0.14% |
| 5. | Rambler | 1 | 0% |
| 6. | Yandex | 1 | 0% |
| | Total | 10,773 | 100% |

| Top Geographic Regions | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------|--------|
| | Geographic Regions | Visits | % |
| 1. | North America | 42,572 | 73.12% |
| 2. | Region Un-Specified | 11,190 | 19.22% |
| 3. | Western Europe | 1,556 | 2.67% |
| 4. | Asia | 592 | 1.01% |
| 5. | Australia | 564 | 0.96% |
| 6. | Sub-Saharan Africa | 448 | 0.76% |

| Top Geographic Regions | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Geographic Regions | Visits | % |
| 7. | Eastern Europe | 348 | 0.59% |
| 8. | South America | 335 | 0.57% |
| 9. | Northern Europe | 284 | 0.48% |
| 10. | Middle East | 186 | 0.31% |
| | Total | 58,219 | 100% |

| Most Active Countries | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------|--------|
| | Countries | Visits | % |
| 1. | United States | 41,411 | 88.05% |
| 2. | Canada | 1,056 | 2.24% |
| 3. | AU | 564 | 1.19% |
| 4. | South Africa | 438 | 0.93% |
| 5. | UK | 331 | 0.7% |
| 6. | Germany | 248 | 0.52% |
| 7. | Netherlands | 206 | 0.43% |
| 8. | Brazil | 196 | 0.41% |
| 9. | Japan | 186 | 0.39% |
| 10. | Ireland | 172 | 0.36% |
| 11. | Italy | 133 | 0.28% |
| 12. | Qatar | 132 | 0.28% |

Division Minutes

recorded by Ron Gawedzinski, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for August 2008

Clinic: Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Assistant Superintendent Tim Stout presented the guest

speaker for tonight's program, Gregor Moe. Gregor, along with his wife, Bonnie, gave a presentation on "Window Treatments on Buildings." He showed many, varied examples of window treatments on small town and old city buildings, along with model buildings. Gregor demonstrated how to make model buildings look "lived in" by installing a variety of window

treatments, using materials such as paper, ribbons, fabric and acetate. He also covered how to make decal pictures on the computer to use as treatments. Thank you, Gregor, for a very informative presentation.

BUSINESS MEETING

Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the business meeting to order at 7:54 pm. There were 16 members and one guest present.

Visitors: Dorothy Martin was our guest. The membership welcomes you.

Minutes of the July 21, 2008 Meeting: Copies of the minutes of the July 21, 2008, meeting were

distributed. Richard Lake mentioned one very small typo error, under Division Activities Outside the Normal Meeting, Joint NMRA & NRHS Visit to the Desoto Car Shop, last sentence, "...transportation or call pooling," replace "call" with "car". Hank Kraichely also mentioned one very small typo error, in the heading of the paragraph above the aforementioned heading, "Joint NMRA & NRHA Picnic," replace "NRHA" with "NRHS". Another member mentioned a small typo error under Announcements, first sentence, "...father of Gary gross", replace "gross" with "Gross". The minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Lyon, Treasurer, was not present. Hank distributed printed copies of the Treasurer's Report for the period July 21 through August 17, 2008. The balance in all funds as of August 17, 2008, was \$24,816.08. There were no questions on the monthly report and it was accepted as presented.

Merchandise Report: Tim Stout reported he has the 33" wheel sets. The last of the 36" wheel sets have been sold. Reordering them won't take place for a while. The price will remain the same at \$6.00 each per package.

RPO Report: Mike Thomas was not present. No report. Hank said everyone should have received the RPO. Hank asked the question, "Is there anyone who believes they should be receiving it by email who are not?" John Hardy was one. Hank asked another question, "Is there anyone here who would like to receive the RPO and the monthly notification of the meeting by email?" No response.

Director's Report: Jim Anderson was not present. No report.

Achievement Program Report: Hank reported that Jim Ables is now the new AP Chairman.

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report: Tim Stout gave no report.

OLD BUSINESS

Question Raised at July 21 Meeting, Clinic by Marty Vaughn on the NMRA Achievement Program – Richard Lake mentioned he recently received an answer from Marty Vaughn to the question, "Whether you could get a Golden Spike Award if you had already earned one or more AP awards?" The answer is you can get a Golden Spike no matter how many AP awards you have unless you have completed MMR.

2008 Fall Meet – Hank reported the Fall Meet would be held on Saturday, November 1, 2008, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Ballwin, Missouri.

We're looking for some volunteers to man the attendance prize table, the registration table, and general helpers and help break down tables after the meet. Several members volunteered. Hank is also looking for a volunteer to coordinate the portable layouts for the show. He asked what is the feeling on inviting back the Lego layout group, what with them not coming at the very last minute last fall? There was some brief discussion. Tim reported there are three clinicians lined up – Jim Ables, John Carty and Dave Roeder.

Electronic Communications – Dave Bartz has resigned from his position. He was experiencing too much trouble with his provider in sending the large number of Division emails. Hank asked if there is anyone who would be interested in taking over that responsibility? It requires maintaining that email list and sending this (the RPO and the monthly meeting notice) out. Bob Amsler asked the question if anyone has checked to see if emails could be sent out to the Gateway Div. High-speed provider? Hank deemed that would be a question for Richard Schumacher. He'll try to ask Richard the question.

Division Activities Outside the Normal Meeting – Ron Gawedzinski reported on the following:

Gateway Div. Visit To American Model Builders – Ron reported on Saturday, August 23, we're going to visit and tour American Model Builders. So far 17 members have signed up. Ron will be sending directions on how to get to AMB by email tomorrow. Visitors should plan on being at AMB at least 15 minutes earlier than the start time of 11 AM, with the tour over at 2 PM. John Hitzeman, owner of AMB, will give us a personal tour. John is going to take the group on a tour and explain how they design models and cut them on the laser cutter. There is a limitation of no more than 20 people to make the tour. You can bring a friend but be sure when you sign the sheet you mark on there that you are bringing someone else with you. We encourage car-pooling.)

Joint NMRA-NRHS Picnic At WF&P Railway, Glencoe, Missouri – Ron said on Saturday, September 6, 2008, we will be going to the WF&P Railway (12 inch gauge small scale steam trains). As of this week the number of people signed up from both groups is 63 adults and 7 children. We have a menu. Food, beverages, train rides and attendance prizes, that's all going to be free. Members do not have to bring any covered dish. Just bring yourselves and a good time. You may want to bring lawn chairs because seating may be limited. Also, you may

want to bring an outside game. The deadline for reservations is tomorrow, either by email to me or calling me at home. We need to get a good number so as to plan on how much food and drink to buy. There is a sign up sheet on the front table.

Joint NMRA-NRHS Visit To UP Car Shop, Desoto, Missouri – Ron reported on Saturday, October 4, 2008, the Gateway Division and the St. Louis Chapter NRHS will be touring the UP Car Shop in Desoto, Missouri, from 10 AM to 12 Noon. Plans are finalized. There will be no bus transportation because the cost is too high. We strongly encourage car-pooling. There is a sign up sheet on the front table.

NEW BUSINESS

3rd Quarter Layout Tours – Hank reported the 3rd Quarter Home Layout Tour is now set for South County. It is on Saturday, September 20, 2008, 9 AM to 1 PM. The tour will consist of 4-5 South County layouts. Hank will email the directions and descriptions to everyone on the email list.

Announcements: Hank mentioned that Reynolds Hobby Shop, Dupon, Illinois, has reopened. Dirk has found new investors to supply the capital needed.

John Hardy thanked all the members who sent sympathy cards for the recent passing away of his wife, Juanita.

Bob Amsler asked is there any interest in getting a committee together to consider whether or not we should charge any publication fee to people who are opt out of the RPO and get it electronically? Discussion followed. Hank reiterated Bob's question, "Do we have a policy that says we charge the \$3 fee to people who take the RPO and the monthly reminder electronically?" Bob said maybe we should restate it again that the policy is any NMRA member within the Gateway Div. boundaries wants it electronically does not have to pay any publication cost. Those who wish it by mail will need to pay a publication cost to our Treasurer. Ron Gawedzinski said before we set up a committee let him take the time to check the past meeting minutes to see if this issue has already been covered. Hank said Ron will report his findings next month and then we'll ask if the Division now feels that they should receive the electronic copies at no charge, since there's no cost, then we'll change the policy.

Tim Stout mentioned the Janzen family is having an open house on Saturday, August 23, from 2 PM to 8 PM. They're going to provide the meat

and the drinks and are asking people to bring a side dish. They live at 3007 Persimmon Dr., St. Charles, Missouri.

Hank asked the members if there was any interest in seeing at a future Division meeting one or more of the clinics that were videotaped at last year's fall meet? The response was yes.

John Hardy thanked Bob Amsler on behalf of the NMRA for his diligent work in getting that lawsuit (NMRA vs. Real Rail Effects, Inc., involving DCC and sound) put to rest. John also asked if anyone is interested in putting together some DPM structure kits for the Cedars – JCA Retirement Facility layout. He has about 17 kits that need to be built.

Bob Amsler commented about the latest status of the NMRA patent lawsuit vs. Real Rail Effects, Inc., involving DCC and sound. (See Model Railroader, September 2008, page 10, "DCC sound patent holder does not respond to challenge.") Bob said the patent challenge has been resolved totally. Real Rail Effects has dropped its lawsuits against a number of DCC manufacturers and the people who held the original patent. NMRA's patent challenge is proceeding forward against RRE to remove its' patent.

Bob also mentioned that in a few days expect an announcement on the NMRA's website about similar action being taken in order to protect the integrity of the Conformance and Inspection Dept. There is a problem with a manufacturer.

50/50: There was \$23.00 collected for the 50/50 drawing and Dale Talbott won \$12.00 in the drawing.

Adjournment: A member moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by another member and approved at 9:00 PM.

The next meeting is September 15, 2008, 7:00 PM, Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Rd. at Woods Mill Rd., Ballwin, Missouri.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron W. Gawedzinski, Clerk

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. National dues are \$48 per year, and all members of the NMRA are automatically members of the Region and Division in which they live. 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 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. Annual subscription to the Mid-Continent Region *Caboose Kibitzer* is \$12 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 subscription to the Gateway Division *RPO* is \$3, running from July 1 through June 30. Members who subscribe 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>

Division Officers

Superintendent

Hank Kraichely

Assistant Superintendent

Tim Stout

Clerk (Secretary)

Ron Gawedzinski

Paymaster (Treasurer)

Dave Lyon

Division Director

Jim Anderson

