

RPO

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2008 Fall Meet



Winter 2009: Volume 16, Number 4

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:

- Bob Amsler
Richard Schumacher
Tom Bousman
Dale DeWitt
Ron Gawedzinski

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

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On the Cover

photo by Richard Schumacher

Phil Bonzon brought the Swandale section of his layout to display at the Gateway Division's Fall Meet. The entire scene – sawmill, company store, company houses, engine house, and more – is a faithful reproduction of the town of Swandale, West Virginia on the Buffalo Creek & Gauley Railroad as it looked about 1960.

Superintendent's Desk

by Hank Kraichelyr

Well 2008 is about to come to a close and what a year it has been.

We will have a new President soon, the Big 3 Auto makers need a hand out, and 330 Billion has been used to prop up the Banking Sector. Homes prices are falling and foreclosures growing plus unemployment just reached the level not seen since 1973.

You might be asking yourself why dwell on the negative, we certainly hear enough of this on TV and in the papers? I choose to start this year-end summary this way to draw a comparison between the current gloom and doom environment with the Gateway Division that provided many fun activities for the enjoyment of its members during 2008.

Thanks to our past secretary, Ron Gawedzinski, we had the chance to tour American Modelers and visit with its owner John Hitzman. John was a great

host and he demonstrated the laser cutters and talked at length about his business. I know the 19 members who attended had a great time.

Ron also arranged a joint visit (with the NRHS) to the UP Car Shops in Desoto. The UP personnel provided a very informative tour and allowed unlimited access for photo taking. Twenty six people made the tour with approximately half being Gateway Members.

Finally, Division and NRHS jointly held a picnic for our memberships at the WF&P Railroad in Glencoe. There were trains rides, tours of the facility and great food. I have received calls and emails from members who enjoyed the day and the opportunity to bring their Wife, children and grand children to the event! The best part was that the 100 people who attended enjoyed all activities at no cost; yes the day was TOTALLY FREE to the members.

We are beginning work on the 2009 calendar and one of our goals is to provide several weekend events again this year. Due to the overwhelming response to the picnic Ron is planning a second one for this year. Ron is also looking into additional prototype tours and a trip to Quincy, Illinois to run trains on the Quincy Model Railroad Clubs beautiful layout. We will also have the ever popular Quarterly layout tours again this year. If you have a suggestion for a Division activity, contact me or any of the Officers; we would love to have your input.

In summation, I would like all 240+ NMRA members who live within the Gateway Division boundaries to become active in 2009. There is no additional cost to you so why not take part in the fun. During these difficult times you deserve the enjoyment that comes from meeting other model railroaders and the joy of sharing our great hobby!!!

Sharpen Your Modeling Skills

by Bob Amsler

Some friends and I in the NMRA have challenged each other to become Master Model Railroaders. I thought the challenge would make a great opportunity for other fellow NMRA members in the Gateway Division to improve their skills and work on obtaining new skills for modeling. By working together we can learn new skills, improve our modeling, enjoy various aspects of the hobby, and maintain enthusiasm within the group so we all become MMRs.

As you know, the Achievement Program (AP) is really an educational program offered by the NMRA with ten separate categories in four areas of model railroading. The AP "provides an incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading." When you complete a category, the NMRA will issue a certificate acknowledging your achievement. Once you have seven certificates with at least one certificate in each of the four areas, you are awarded the title Master Model Railroader.

In the area of model railroad equipment there are two categories: Master Builder Motive Power and Master Builder Cars. Under the area of settings are three categories: Master Builder Scenery, Master Builder Structures, and Master Builder Prototype Models. There are three categories under Engineering and Operations: Model Railroad Engineer Civil, Model Railroad Engineer Electrical, and Chief Dispatcher. The final area is service to the hobby: Association Volunteer, Association Official, and Author.

I know that in the past some members have just gotten together and worked on their projects together with no structure to

the activity. These modelers met and worked on whatever project each wanted. I also understand some modelers have had a more disciplined approach such that everyone in the group would work on the same project. As an example, everyone in the group could get the same car kit and then get together and work on their cars together. One of the requirements for the Master Builder Cars is that there must be eight cars submitted of which four may be superdetailed kits. Thus we could work at the same time on the same kit. Obviously certain categories, such as author, are better achieved when the group is not together. My goal is to host a session one or two times a month at my house or, if the

group is so inclined, the homes of others in the group. My house is a few miles south of the brewery and I believe it is centrally located so members from Missouri and Illinois could come without traveling too far. I propose we meet and discuss how we will proceed. Once this is established, we can set a schedule and, if the group so chooses, we can target a car or kit and start working on the project together.

If you want to give this a try, call me [(314) 353-9131] or send me an e-mail (rambler@charter.net). I can handle 7 to 9 other members at my home. I propose a meeting in March 2009 and then we could begin the sessions in April 2009.

2008 Gateway Division Fall Meet

Meet photos by Tom Bousman & Richard Schumacher

Contest photos by Richard Schumacher

Saturday, November 1, 2008, was the Gateway Division's annual Fall Meet, which included clinics, vendors, display layouts, a model and photo contest, and layout tours.

Clinics included Dave Roeder, MMR on Backdrop Building Flats, John Carty on Interurban Railroading, and a session on Tools & Tips by Rick Lake.



Vendor tables

Schumacher photo



Schumacher photo

Dick Wegner guards the door prizes



Merchandise for sale

Bousman photo



A circus-themed display layout *Bousman photo*



Brian Post programs a decoder *Schumacher photo*



Bousman photo

Dave Roeder, MMR gives his clinic



Schumacher photo

A Whittle Shortline layout for the kids



Another, larger circus themed display layout

Schumacher photo



Phil Bonzon watches as Tom Bousman photographs the scene at Swandale

Schumacher photo

The 2009 Gateway Division Fall Meet will be held on Saturday, November 7. It's not too early to begin thinking about which models you'll bring to enter in the contest and what sort of clinic you'd like to present.

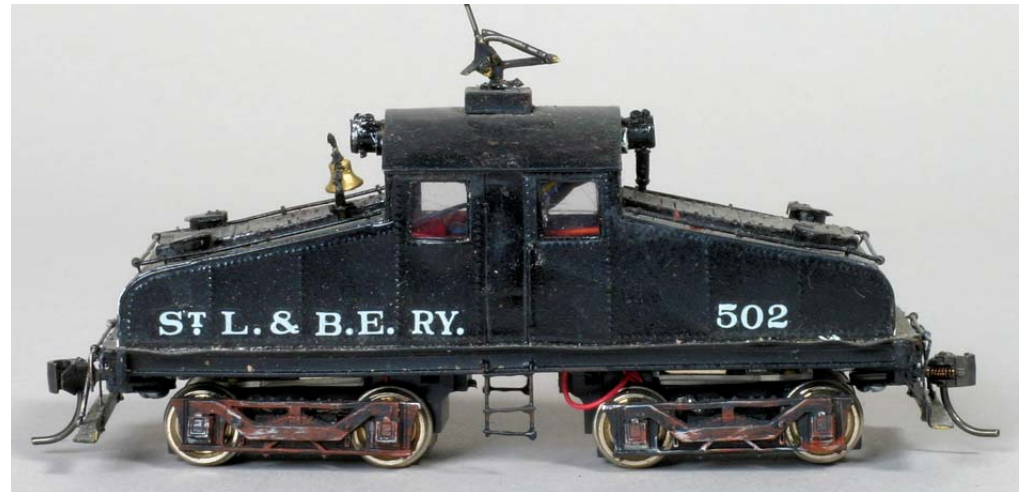
2008 Contest Winners



**First Place, Steam Locomotives:
Phil Bonzon – B&O 4-8-2**



**First Place, Diesel Locomotives:
Phil Bonzon – B&O E1**



**First Place, Traction:
John Carty – St. Louis & Belleville Electric Ry #502**



First Place, Passenger Cars:
Dave Roeder, MMR – Silverton, Gladstone & Northern Coach



First Place, Freight Cars:
Dave Roeder, MMR – Burlington Northern Pulpwood Car



First Place, Caboose:
Dave Roeder, MMR – Burlington Northern Wood Caboose



First Place, Maintenance-of-Way:
Don Taschner, MMR – Pine Cone Lumber Co. #2



First Place, Online Structures:
Phil Bonzon – Wood Engine House



**First Place, Offline Structures:
Greg Gray – Gray Bros. Mobil Station
Best in Show**



**First Place, Diorama:
John Carty – Church & Rectory**



**First Place, Whole Train:
John Carty – St. Louis & Belleville Electric Coal Train**

In addition to the photos of model contest winners published here, color photos of the winning models as well as second and third place models can be found on the Division's website, www.gatewaynmra.org

Photography Contest

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

- First place, Prototype Color Print: Fred Houska**
- Second Place, Prototype Color Print: Jerry Smith**
- First Place, Model Color Print: Fred Houska**
- Second Place, Model Color Print: Richard Schumacher**
- Third Place, Model Color Print: John Carty**

Gateway Division & NRHS Joint Tour of Union Pacific Railroad DeSoto Car Shops (Or, *The Tour That Almost Didn't Happen!*)

*by Ron Gawedzinski
photos by Dale DeWitt*

Saturday, October 4, was a beautiful fall day, and 26 members from the St. Louis Chapter NRHS and the Gateway Division NMRA were anxious to start the tour. 10 AM came and went and no UP personnel showed up. An anxious moment was at hand for the tour leader.

A quick scan of the site showed some workers at another building but they were contract people and knew nothing about a tour. To the rescue came a janitor who helped the tour



director find the cell phone number of Jim Ross, Director, UP Car Shop. A quick phone call and explanation of

the situation caused a long pause, and then a quick reply he would call the two managers who were supposed to be there. Shortly a call came back and he said one person forgot and another was sick but that two people would be there in a half-hour. Finally, at 11 AM, the tour began with Dennis Hubbs, Foreman General, and Bill Young, Car Inspector, leading two groups.

For the next 1½ hours we had a great tour through the main Car Shop repair building, the paint building and the outside grounds. Many questions were asked and good answers were given. We were allowed to roam the grounds and take pictures of anything. (An interesting note: During the entire time we were there not a single guard or railroad policeman approached us. This was mentioned later to Jim Ross.)

The UP Car Shop Facilities are located on approximately 360 acres in the heart of downtown Desoto, Missouri. The area has a rich railroad history. Years ago it was operated by the Missouri Pacific RR and before them the St. Louis Iron Mountain RR.



About 350 people work at the site now. Some 1,200 to 1,600 freight cars per year go through the Car Shop for anything from minor to major repairs, rebuilding, upgrading and repainting.

Multilevel enclosed auto/truck carrier freight cars and container well cars are the most frequent cars going through the Car Shop now. On the



container well cars UP owns the rack while TTX owns the body. We saw several examples of both type cars, including 3-unit well cars, in various states of repair.



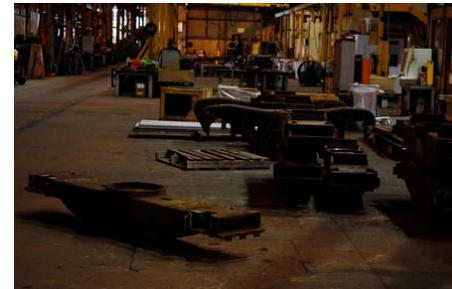
One line at the Car Shop gets two cars a day. Average time is 3 to 4 days for a single car to get through the Shop. Heavy cranes at the top of the main building are used frequently to move the cars.

Every single part on a freight car gets inspected and repaired or replaced, if necessary. We saw knuckle couplers, lift bars, freight car trucks all apart, springs, grab irons, air hoses, side-panels, you name it, it was there, all on the floor in an organized manner.



Many specialized pieces of machinery were present, from small to huge. We saw lathes, drill presses, tool grinders, hoists, milling machines, to name a few.

Of course, it was very quiet as we went through the buildings but you can only imagine the noise level when everyone and every machine are working.



The tour was over at 12:30 PM and we thanked Dennis and Bill for their time and patience. Apologies were accepted for us being forgotten, as we were able to salvage a great tour.



After the tour, several of us stopped by at the Arlington Hotel, an old railroad hotel in a 3 story white building, at 207 East Main Street. We had an enjoyable lunch buffet.

From there we went to visit the new Railroad Employees Memorial site located on north Main Street, just before you get to the Car Shop. A red Missouri Pacific Caboose was sitting there. The site is quite impressive with its unique design suggesting tracks (walkways) leading to a turntable (bridge walkway) and a roundhouse (small wall front). It's a nice place to visit if you haven't been there before.

After the visit we went home and some of us took a nap.



Division Minutes

recorded by Ron Gawedzinski, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for September 2008

Clinic: Assistant Superintendent Tim Stout called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Superintendent Hank Kraichely was out of town. Tim presented the guest speaker for tonight's program, Fred Houska. Fred demonstrated how he creates N-scale buildings from blocks of wood to simplify construction. Using a band saw, he cuts blocks of wood to geometric shapes as needed. Then he wraps siding paper or thin balsa wood around the wood, using paints, or colored pencils, for highlights. He uses mostly western cedar wood. Fred has made 150 buildings from wood for his layout. If you have seen his layout then you know the quality of workmanship that is evident. His approach is certainly a cost savings concept, showing innovation and imagineering. Fred brought several examples of his handiwork, from the bare wood beginnings to the beautiful finished structures. Thank you, Fred, for a very fine presentation.

BUSINESS MEETING

Assistant Superintendent Tim Stout called the business meeting to order at 7:51 pm. There were 20 members and no guests present.

Visitors: No guests were present; however, Dave Berner, a member, showed up for the first time, and Don Head, a member, showed up for a second time. The membership welcomes both of you.

Minutes of the August 18, 2008 Meeting: Copies of the minutes of the August 18, 2008, meeting were distributed. The minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Lyon, Treasurer, distributed printed copies of the Treasurer's Report for the period August 18 through September 14, 2008. The balance in all funds as of September 14, 2008, was \$25,071.16. There were no questions on the monthly report and it was accepted as presented.

Merchandise Report: Tim Stout reported he has the 33" HO wheel sets. 36" HO wheel sets are sold out, as are the N scale wheel sets. He has received one request for 36" wheel sets. Tim said he would check with Hank about how many

we have to order at one time. We also have N and OO/On3 standard gauges.

RPO Report: Mike Thomas reported the next issue of the RPO is the one that goes out to all NMRA members residing within our geographical boundaries. It's usually about 300 people. A hard copy is sent to everyone, including those who request it by email, because it includes a directory, a ballot for the upcoming election and a flier for the Fall Meet. He has photographs of the joint get-together picnic at the WF&P RR. The Nominations Committee needs to come up with a slate of people running and give the names to Mike so he can insert a ballot. He needs to know the name of the Chairman of the Election Committee to put on the ballot for members to know who to mail the ballot to. Mike would appreciate it if he could have all the above information by Friday, October 3, at the latest.

Director's Report: Jim Anderson reported there's nothing really going on in MCOR at this time. He met a fellow at the Boeing Swap Meet from the Quincy, Ill., Model RR group who informed Jim that the Quincy group would not be bringing their modular train layout to our Fall Meet. Jim mentioned that it is important for us to try to get group layouts to show at the Fall Meet. He also said he has forms available for those people who would want a table to sell goods at our Fall Meet; complete the form and send it to Brian Post, who is taking care of vendor tables.

Achievement Program Report: Jim Ables was not present. No report.

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report: Tim Stout reported the October 20th Division meeting will be an operating session at K-10's Model Trains in Maryville, Illinois. There are direction sheets on the front table. Or you can access

www.k-10smodeltrains.com/directions.htm

Ken, the owner, has said that we can bring our own locomotives or run his trains. If you bring a locomotive he can handle either analog or DCC equipped locomotives. If you bring a DCC locomotive you need to use 2-digit addressing – not 4 digit. His layout uses Digitrax for the DCC portion. There will be no scheduled business meeting. You can arrive as early as 6:30 PM.

Tim said the November 17th meeting would be the Division Christmas Party at the Trinity Lutheran Church site. He said his wife would like

to do a Trivia night as related to railroads. To get a number of questions Tim distributed envelopes to members, asking them to follow the instructions on the note inside by providing several railroad trivia questions on the index cards. Mail the index cards back to Tim in the envelope provided.

Old Business:

2008 Fall Meet: Tim reported the Fall Meet would be held on Saturday, November 1, 2008, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Ballwin, Missouri. He has the following clinicians lined up – Dave Roeder, John Carty, Jim Ables, Rick Lake and John Hitzeman from American Model Builders, Inc. He has no idea on table sales from Brian Post. We're looking for some volunteers to man the attendance prize table, the registration table, and general helpers to help set up the tables and break down the tables after the meet. Jim Ables will head the Model Contest.

Division Activities Outside the Normal Meeting:

Ron Gawedzinski reported on the following.

Joint NMRA-NRHS Picnic At WF&P Railway, Glencoe, Missouri – Ron said it was a beautiful sunny day on Saturday, September 6. There were 95 people from the Gateway Division and the St. Louis Chapter who attended the picnic, along with an additional 18 crew members from the WF&P RR and 9 crew members from the Decatur, Illinois, steam club, for a grand total of 122 people at the event. There were several steam locomotives. The steam locomotive rides were many and the scenery along the Meramec River was beautiful. The food and drinks were more than plentiful. There were many attendance prizes. Everyone appeared to have a good time. Ron especially wants to thank the following volunteers, for without them this event could not have been held – Hank Kraichely (GD), Mary and Bill Birdsell (GD/SLC), Rich Schumacher (GD), Bud Anderson (SLC), Fred Blank (SLC), Don Bowling (SLC), Jean Myers (SLC) and Joe Oberneufemann (SLC).

Gateway Div. Visit To American Model Builders – Ron reported there were 19 members of the Gateway Division show up at AMB. John Hitzeman greeted us at the door and as he led us inside to a room with shelves and tables loaded with models of all types, structures and cars, you felt you were walking into a "modeler's heaven." It showed the creative artistry of one person, namely, John. For the next couple of hours John held the attention of our group with many interesting anecdotes about how he got interested in trains in the beginning, how he

sharpened his modeling skills at Monsanto Co.'s Engineering Model Shop and how he got the idea of starting his own company. He described the curiosity he had about laser manufacturing and pursuing that to the successful development of the LASERkit's. Now his company, AMB, is looked upon as a hobby industry leader and a standard setter. We got a tour of the shop area where John gave an actual demonstration on one of the large laser machines he has and we watched him punch the instructions in and the next thing you know the machine was cranking out an HO Santa Fe Telephone Booth kit. Each of us received the kit as a gift. We came away with a feeling it's really great when you love your job and you can make a successful living at it.

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. There is a sign up sheet on the front table. There will be no bus transportation because the cost is too high. He strongly encourages car-pooling. Approximately one week before the trip he will send out maps to you by email and by regular mail on how to get there. Ron asks that you arrive at 9:45 AM as once the tour begins at 10 AM we are not going to wait for latecomers. No special safety gear is required for the tour. Young children that might come should have adult supervision.

3rd Quarter Layout Tours – Tim reported the 3rd Quarter Home Layout Tour is scheduled for Saturday, September 20, 2008, 9 AM to 1 PM. The tour will consist of 4-5 South County layouts. Directions were sent by email and regular mail.

New Business:

Nominating Committee For 2009 Election Of Officers: Tim reported that Hank would soon be forming a Nominating Committee to nominate the officers for next year. Hank intends to run again for the position of Superintendent. Anyone interested in serving as an officer should please let any of the current officers know what position you would be interested in. The list of candidates should be submitted as a ballot by October 1 to get into the RPO. Ron Gawedzinski mentioned he is not running for the position of Secretary for 2009. He has had the job for three years and believes it is time for a new face to take up the job.

Project Layout For 2008: Tim reported Rich Schumacher raised the question of doing a project layout this year. We did not do one last year. The layout is good for advertising our

hobby to the general public. Rich would like to have something in progress for the Fall Meet on November 1, 2008. Rich is volunteering to design the layout. We could build the layout at the various shows we would be attending. Seeing actual construction going on would be a good attraction to the public. Tim asked if anyone had any thoughts on doing a project layout? There was a long silence, an indication of no interest. It was decided to table the idea until the next meeting when Hank is present.

Clinic Presentations On Division Website:

Tim reported Rich Schumacher talked about the idea of putting clinic presentations from monthly Division clinics on the Division website. There is a way to show clinics as animated presentations that are easily accessible and viewable by most people on line. Rich has a sample he is working on currently at

www.gatewaynmra.org/clinics/sls-st-louis-southern/

At this time, Tim said, he doesn't know what Rich would want from past clinicians but probably copies of power point presentations or a video with narration of what the clinician is describing. It's a great way to publicize the hobby to a wide electronic audience. Hank would talk about this more at the next meeting.

2007 Model Contest Winners And Photographs On Division Website:

Dave Roeder made a request to Rich Schumacher to download the photographs and the winners of the 2007 Model Contest at the Fall Meet in November 2007 on to the Division's website. Mike Thomas did say that it does take extra time in preparing the photos to be shown at their best on the website and that the photos and winners were shown in the Division's RPO.

Announcements:

Fred Houska wanted to remind everyone that the annual Kirkwood Train Show sponsored by the Mississippi Valley N Scalers will be on October 11 and 12 at the Kirkwood Community Center from 10 AM to 3 PM.

Moe Berk mentioned that the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park, St. Louis, is having a "Transportation Theme" event on Saturday and Sunday October 25 – 26, Tuesday October 28 and Saturday and Sunday November 1 – 2. A great event to bring the grandchildren to see.

Moe mentioned also downtown St. Louis is making a big deal about Christmas this year. They will have a rally at Kiener Plaza on Friday, November 21. Santa Claus will be on the 3rd floor of Macy's and the American Flyer S Gauge Club layout will be shown in the corner window.

Moe said the American Flyer Club has not heard anything from the Great Train Expo group that normally has a weekend show in Collinsville, Illinois. So he does not know when or if they are having a show this year.

Lastly, Moe said on December 6 the TCA is having a big train show in South County at the New Life Christian Center on Highway 30.

50/50: There was \$17.00 collected for the 50/50 drawing and a member won \$9.00 in the drawing.

Adjournment: Tom Bousman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by another member and approved at 8:50 PM.

The next meeting is October 20, 2008, 7:00 PM, K-10's Model Trains Shop, 19 Schiber Court, Maryville, Illinois.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron W. Gawedzinski, Clerk

There were no minutes for October or November because of the K-10 operating session and the holiday party.

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for December 2008

Clinic: Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Tonight's program was the annual membership swap meet where members could bring their railroad items to sell or trade with other members and no Chapter fees are charged.

BUSINESS MEETING

Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the business meeting to order at 7:37 pm. There were 11 members and no guests present.

Visitors: No guests were present.

Minutes of the September 15, 2008 Meeting:

Copies of the minutes of the September 15, 2008, meeting were distributed. The minutes were approved as presented. There were no meeting minutes to approve from the October 20 meeting (Operating session at K-10's Model Trains, Maryville, Illinois.) and the November 17 meeting (Division Christmas Party, Trinity Lutheran Church, Ballwin, Missouri.).

Treasurer's Report: Dave Lyon, Treasurer, distributed printed copies of the Treasurer's Report for the periods September 15 through

October 19, October 15 through November 16, and November 17 through December 14, 2008. The balance in all funds as of December 14, 2008, was \$23,959.46. There were no questions on the monthly reports and they were accepted as presented. Hank Kraichely commented we had two money makers in the past, one was the Fall Meet, which we did very well on, and the other was the Project Layout that we sold chances on, which Division members are not willing to commit the resources and the time to do another one. If someone wants to come to Hank and volunteer to put that (Project Layout) on again for another year that would be fine.

Merchandise Report: Tim Stout reported he has the 33" HO wheel sets. There are no 36" HO wheel sets and no N scale wheel sets. He has received one request for 36" wheel sets. Tim suggested putting an order together for all three wheel sets if there is sufficient interest. Discussion took place. Ron Kraus made the motion, "Per Hank Kraichely's recommendation, we order 20 sets of near-scale 33" HO wheel sets for Gregor Moe, 2 sets of 36" HO wheel sets for another member, 20 sets of 36" HO wheel sets and 58 sets of 33" HO wheel sets for a total of 100 sets." Dick Wegner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

RPO Report: Mike Thomas was not present. Hank said Mike is working on the RPO and wants to finish it before Christmas. If any member has an article or news or something about their club please get it to Mike as soon as possible.

Director's Report: Jim Anderson reported there is a MCOR BOD's meeting on January 10, 2009.

Achievement Program Report: Hank reported that Don Taschner agreed to take over the AP program, as Jim Ables could not do it due to increased work requirements. Don was not present. No report.

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report: Tim Stout reported the clinic at the January 19, 2009, meeting will be presented by Dave Neubauer, member of the Wabash, Frisco and Pacific Railway, on the history of the WF&P RR. Dave will show a DVD presentation of the RR on how it got started and what it is today. Curt Regensberger volunteered to do a future clinic on a Milwaukee Road passenger station he is building.

Old Business:

2009 Election of Officers: Hank Kraichely said Mike Thomas, who was taking care of the results of the election, was not present to report. Instead, Tim Stout reported the results of the

elected slate of Officers: Superintendent – Hank Kraichely, Assistant Superintendent – Tim Stout, Secretary – Don Ayres and Treasurer – Dave Lyon. Jim Anderson, Director, has another year to serve. (Note: A motion is required to destroy the ballots; this should be made at the January 19, 2009, meeting.)

Division Activities Outside the Normal

Meeting: Ron Gawedzinski reported on the following.

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 toured the UP Car Shop in Desoto, Missouri. It almost didn't happen. We had 26 members from both groups show up on time. The tour was to start at 10 AM, and 10 AM came and went and no UP personnel showed up. We looked for any UP personnel, a guard, a railroad policeman, and no one could be found. Finally, a janitor was found who was able to get for me the cell phone number of the Director of the site. A quick phone call and explanation of the situation caused a long pause by the Director, and then a quick reply he would call the two managers who were supposed to be there. Shortly a call came back and he said one person forgot and another was sick but that two people would be there in a half-hour. Finally, at 11 AM, the tour began. The tour turned out to be great. We got to see everything that they process through the Shop. The buildings are big. The equipment is varied in both type and size. The Shop handles primarily auto and truck carrying railroad cars as well as container well cars. We saw all sorts of cars in various states of repair and disassembly. Our members could take pictures of anything anywhere at the site. The two managers who gave the tour were most cooperative and patient in answering the many questions our members asked. By 12:30 PM the tour was over and everyone had a great time. A number of us stopped at the nearby Arlington Hotel, an old railroad hotel, for an enjoyable lunch buffet. From there we went to visit the new Railroad Employees Memorial site on the outskirts of Desoto. A red Missouri Pacific caboose was sitting there.

Hank mentioned he asked Ron if he would agree to coordinate Outside Activities for the Division in 2009. Ron agreed. Hank said if any member has something that they think would make a good visit, tour or activity that we could do then let Ron know.

Hank asked the members present what did they think about the fact that we had some combined activities with the NRHS? One

member said he would like to see us go on a joint venture with them on a picnic again. The group expressed high interest in doing a picnic in the Fall.

Ron mentioned a couple of things he is working on for 2009. In February or March, we could do a trip to the Quincy Society of Model Engineers RR Club, Quincy, Illinois, to operate on their club layout. Another tour, with the NRHS group, would be to the Monticello RR Museum, Monticello, Illinois. It's a very nice museum, with a working Wabash RR F7 diesel. Because of the distance the trip would involve going by bus. A member suggested a tour of the tower at the UP yard at Dupo, Illinois. Another suggestion was the Manufacturer's RR.

K-10 Model Trains Operating Session – Tim Stout reported that everyone who was at the October 20, 2008, operating session at K-10 Model Trains Hobby Shop had a good time. There were a number of people who visited and/or operated on the huge layout for the very first time. Ken Kroschwitz, owner, said if we wanted to visit again that would be fine but just give him a few months notice. Hank mentioned that we did make a \$100 donation in the name of the Gateway Division to K-10 for the operating session we all enjoyed.

2007 Model Contest Winners And Photographs On Division Website – Hank asked Dave Roeder if Richard Schumacher had put up on the Division's website the 2007 Model Contest Winners and Photographs from the Fall Meet? Dave said yes they are on the website as well as the 2008 model contest winners and photographs.

2008 Membership Directory – Dave Roeder commented that the information in the 2008 Membership Directory needs to be updated as some of it is outdated and incorrect as well as missing. Hank said he would make copies of it and have it at the next meeting and circulate it and ask for updates and changes. He'll do the same thing by email to members.

Contacting NMRA Members Within The Division – Jim Anderson commented we have about 250 NMRA members within our Division geographical boundary and that we are currently contacting about 100 of those members through email and post cards. What can we do to contact the remaining members? Hank said we just sent each of those 250 members both a RPO and the 2008 Membership Directory as that is the Division guideline that once a year they go to every active NMRA member within our Division. Hank said he wouldn't be opposed to sending

them a post card or get their email address but the Division is going to have to be willing to spend the money on the extra communication. Ron Gawedzinski recommended that this item be deferred to the new Officers Planning Meeting in January 2009.

New Business:

MCOR Kenny Cline Award: Hank said the President of MCOR sent out a note about a special award that can be awarded every year, called the "Ken Cline Award." Hank asked Jim Anderson to describe the award. Jim stated that it is a Region Award presented to someone in the Region that is nominated based on what that person has done either at the Region level, the Division level or the National level (and to the hobby of model railroading). The Gateway Division will be asked if we have any members to be nominated for the Award. The Award is given at the Region Convention every year. Jim was presented the Award last year. The last three recipients of the Award form the Committee that reviews the applications and makes a recommendation for the recipient for the current year. Division members can make nominations by email or telephone to either Hank or Jim. Please provide some background information on the nominee.

Announcements:

Ron Kraus reported that Carl Winkler, who is usually on some of the Layout Tours on the Illinois side, suffered a heart attack last Thursday. He is in Memorial Hospital, Belleville, Illinois. Carl is not a member of the Gateway Division but was on a number of our layout tours. Give him a call. Ron Gawedzinski said he would send a Get Well card from the Division.

50/50: There was \$11.00 collected for the 50/50 drawing and Dick Wegner won \$6.00 in the drawing.

Adjournment: Hank mentioned we ought to give Ron a nice round of applause for being our Secretary for the past three years. The members gave Ron a round of applause. Ron Kraus added thanks not only for this Division but also for getting the tours and picnic together.

Gregor Moe moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dick Wegner and approved at 8:23 PM.

The next meeting is January 19, 2009, 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)

Don Ayres

Paymaster (Treasurer)

Dave Lyon

Division Director

Jim Anderson

