

RPO

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Fall 2009

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Official Publication of the
Gateway Division NMRA



RPO

Fall 2009: Volume 17, Number 3

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

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On the Cover

photo by Richard Schumacher

Wabash, Frisco & Pacific #400, a live steam Pacific, pauses between runs during the Gateway Division/NRHS joint picnic at the WF&P.

Superintendent's Desk

by Hank Kraichely

Well 3 months have passed so fast since I last wrote my column have you been busy? I can guarantee that the Division has been!

In July the Division's normal monthly meeting was replaced by a visit to the St. Charles Model Railroad's great layout in O'Fallon Missouri. The 22 members attending were allowed to run their own locomotives or run a club unit. We all had a great time, hope you were there!

In September we had our 2ND annual picnic at the WF&P. We had some 160 people present this year and everyone had fun and everything was provided to the members and their families FREE! If you didn't make it you missed a great day.

2009 is speeding to a conclusion but there is still more model railroading fun to be had including; October's clinic on kit bashing steam locomotives, the Fall Meet November 7th and the Division Christmas Party on November 16th. There will be attendance prizes, great

food and a video presented by Ron Gawedzinski on one of his recent trips by rail. You have made the investment in the NMRA by paying your dues, why not take advantage of the benefits that membership offers? I hope to see you soon!

Phil Bonzon, MMR 427

Official word has come through that Gateway Division member Phil Bonzon has earned his Master Model Railroader status. Phil started pursuing the AP program at the Division's November 2008 Fall Meet, with a Golden Spike award and Prototype, Scenery, Structures certificates. He earned Motive Power in January 2009, Dispatcher in August 2009 and finally Author and Cars in September 2009. Phil's close attention to his chosen prototype, the Buffalo Creek & Gauley, has been noted in Railroad Model Craftsman and can be seen on the website devoted to the history and

modeling of the BC&G, www.buffalocreekandgauley.com. It's worth noting that Phil got his MMR paperwork submitted right before his friend and fellow BC&G modeler Brooks Stover did, so Brooks had to settle for being Master Model Railroader #428.

You're Invited

Brian Post is hosting the 8th Annual New Year's Open House on his Sierra Nevada & Indian River Railway

Saturday, January 2, 2010

10AM to 6PM

Address 248 Pardella, 63125

Bring a Digitrax throttle, your favorite locomotive, some rolling stock, whatever you'd like to run and have fun.

2009 Gateway Division Picnic

by Ron Gawedzinski

photos by Richard Schumacher

On Saturday, September 19, 2009, the Gateway Division NMRA and the St. Louis Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society held the second annual get-together picnic of these two fine train groups at the Wabash, Frisco, and Pacific Railroad, in Glencoe, Missouri. The WF&P RR runs 12-inch gauge small scale steam and diesel trains alongside the Meramec River. It provides a 2-mile roundtrip. From 1939 until 1959 it was located near St. Louis Lambert Field. As they say, these are the only scheduled steam passenger trains in Missouri.





Hostlers



Speeder

The weather was great, the steam and diesel locomotive rides were many, the scenery along the Meramec River was beautiful and some new train friends were made. Best of all, people had fun.



Working up steam

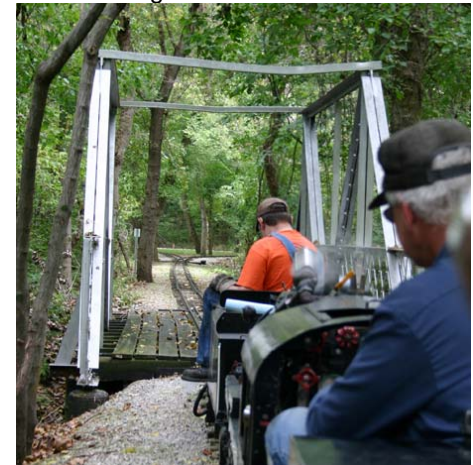
This year there were 156 registered members, their families, and guests from both groups in attendance, up from 95 last year, along with 25 crew members from the WF&P and two from the Northview & Frisco RR of Strafford, Missouri.



Grade crossing

The Northview & Frisco RR brought their 4-4-0 steam locomotive to pull

trains. The WF&P provided several steam and diesel locomotives. There were train rides all-day, even double-head running of locomotives.



Steel bridge

There was also a tour of the WF&P facilities. The WF&P RR and the Northview & Frisco RR were very gracious hosts and they enjoyed having us there as much as we enjoyed their facilities.



Water tank



The Schumachers depart

This year there were 32 volunteer workers who were exemplary in performing the many tasks at hand: Bud Anderson, Neil Bedi, Russ Bill, Barbara and Steve Binning, Mary and Bill Birdsell, Bob Blaesing, Fred Blank, Alex Ford, Ron Gawedzinski, Bill Heger,



Registration

Phil Hellwege, David Huelsing, Hank Kraichely, Ron Kraus, Rich LaBore, Jean Myers, Joe Obernuefemann, Chuck Potratz, Jan and Bill Schaberg, Rich Schumacher, Neva and Rick Sprung, Lynne and John Stoecker, Tim Stout, Doris and Don Taschner and

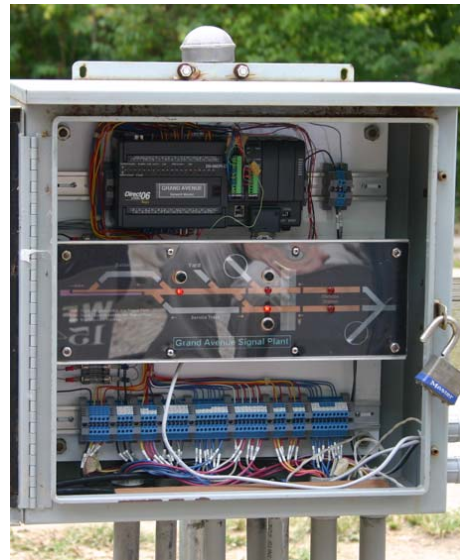
Eileen and Al Weber. *(If I have accidentally left off your name please let me know so that I can correct my error. Ron)*

Many members of both groups donated about 150 attendance prizes of all values this year, so just about everyone got a chance to win something.



If it's smokin' it's cookin'. If it's black, it's done.

Our picnic crowd was hungry and thirsty for they consumed 220 cans of soda, 25 pounds of potato salad, 19 pounds of cole slaw, 4 gallons of baked beans, 136 hamburgers, 80 hot dogs, 8 pounds of baby carrots, 9 big bags of potato chips and 288 cookies.



Signal box relays



Steam in the trees

The Officers' of the Gateway Division NMRA and the St. Louis Chapter NRHS thank the members, families and guests



Passing the tank

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

Finally, many thanks to the WF&P and the Northview & Frisco crews for making this a success: WF&P RR – Dale Bitsch, Mike Brennan, Clayton Cullen, Andrew Dean, Brad George, Jim Greathouse, John Grewe, Matt Grewe, Steve Haack, Elliott Littlejohn, Mike Lorance, John Mohen, Carolyn Mosbacher, Wayne Mosbacher, Dave Neubauer, Jim Scott, Jimmy Scott, Paula Shaw, Dennis Smith, Mike Walsh, Andrew Wapelhorst, Betty Wapelhorst, Greg Wapelhorst, Hank Welch and Tom White.

Northview & Frisco RR– Rich Brown and Jim Pekarek.



The End

See And Operate Trains On The Litchfield Train Group's Great HO Layout!

by Ron Gawedzinski

Special Announcement To All Members Of The Gateway Division NMRA And The St. Louis Chapter NRHS:

Arrangements have been made with members of the Litchfield, Illinois, Train Group for Gateway Division and St. Louis Chapter NRHS members to come visit, take pictures and run trains on their great HO layout on Saturday, December 12, 2009.

Plans are for Gateway Division members and St. Louis Chapter members on the Missouri side wanting to go to leave by 8:00 AM by carpool from the parking lot of Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road, at Woods Mill Road (Hwy 141), Ballwin, Missouri. Members on the Illinois side should contact each other for a time and location.

We plan on arriving in Litchfield, Illinois, at 9:30 AM. (Directions to the Litchfield Train Group will be sent to you on Monday, December 7, 2009.)

From 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM we will run trains. At 12:30 PM the layout will be opened to the public as the Litchfield Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a "Holiday Walk Day" along with a parade and other events. There are many fine restaurants in Litchfield for members to go to lunch before going home.

The Litchfield Train Group HO layout uses Digitrax DCC. We can use their locomotives or we can bring our own DCC equipped locomotives; please make sure they run well before you bring them. Also, we can bring our own Digitrax throttles if we wish. The Litchfield Train Group uses plug in or radio throttles only.

If you are interested in going then

please sign up at the next Gateway Division meeting on Monday, October 19 or Monday, November 16, 2009. If you can't make it to the meeting but still want to go to Litchfield then call Ron Gawedzinski at 314-846-5559 or send him an email at rwgawed@yahoo.com. If you have any questions let him know. Hope you can make it!

Website Statistics

By Richard Schumacher

The gatewaynmra.org website has now been online ten years, since July 1999 .

Since we added the Google custom search function to our website last August, that feature has been used 1,492 times.

Since we added RSS feeds last November, the Gateway Division feed has been viewed 4,372 times with 1,565 clicks to our RSS promoted web pages.

The top keyphrases driving traffic to gatewaynmra.org from search engines:

model railroader
train yards
railroads during the civil war
block detection
model trains yard
nmra
block detector
dcc decoder
tunnel liner
model train layouts

Webtrends report for September 2009

Visits: 56,952 (about 1,898/day)

Page Views (Impressions): 81,053
(about 2,701/day) (about 1.42 pages/visit)

Average Number of Visitors per day on Weekdays: 1,914

Average Number of Visitors for the entire Weekend: 3,708

Successful Hits For Entire Site: 2,188,583 (about 72,952/day)

Bandwidth Used: 19,027,728 Kbytes transferred

Top 15 pages

www.gatewaynmra.org/
www.gatewaynmra.org/project.htm
www.gatewaynmra.org/download.htm
www.gatewaynmra.org/mhslayout/mhslayout.htm
www.gatewaynmra.org/layouts.htm
www.gatewaynmra.org/models.htm
www.gatewaynmra.org/project10.htm
www.gatewaynmra.org/project12.htm
www.gatewaynmra.org/library.htm
www.gatewaynmra.org/project09.htm
[gatewaynmra.org/mhslayout/mhslayouts1.htm](http://gatewaynmra.org/mhslayout/mhslayout/mhslayouts1.htm)
www.gatewaynmra.org/articles/civil-war1.htm
www.gatewaynmra.org/dcc.htm
www.gatewaynmra.org/structure.htm
www.gatewaynmra.org/projectmr.htm

Top Search Engine Referrals

1. Google 9,127 89.47%
2. Yahoo 1,026 10.05%
3. AltaVista 29 0.28%
4. Yandex 16 0.15%
5. dmoz 1 0%
6. Microsoft Network 1 0%
7. Lycos 1 0%

Top 10 Downloaded PDFs

1. <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/rpo/RPO-V17N2.pdf> 367 14.09%
2. <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/rpo/RPO-V17N1.pdf> 216 8.29%
3. <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/newsroom/TrainPicnic2009.pdf> 193 7.41%
4. <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/rpo/RPO-V15N4.pdf> 158 6.06%
5. <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/rpo/RPO-V14N1.pdf> 143 5.49%
6. <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/rpo/rpo-v16n4.pdf> 143 5.49%
7. <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/rpo/rpo-v15n3.pdf> 132 5.07%
8. <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/rpo/rpo-v13n4.pdf> 124 4.76%
9. <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/rpo/RPO-V14N2.pdf> 110 4.22%
10. <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/rpo/RPO-V16N2.pdf> 107 4.11%

Top Geographic Regions -- Visits %

1. North America 44,629 78.36%
2. Region Un-Specified 7,564 13.28%
3. Western Europe 1,497 2.62%
4. Eastern Europe 835 1.46%
5. Australia 611 1.07%
6. Asia 569 0.99%
7. Sub-Saharan Africa 414 0.72%
8. South America 273 0.47%
9. Northern Europe 222 0.38%
10. Middle East 177 0.31%

Top 10 Countries -- Visits %

1. United States 43,808 88.7%
2. Canada 732 1.48%
3. AU 611 1.23%
4. Russian Federation 547 1.1%
5. South Africa 412 0.83%
6. UK 364 0.73%
7. Japan 268 0.54%
8. Netherlands 216 0.43%
9. Germany 192 0.38%
10. France 158 0.31%

Selected referring sites in the top 100

3. <http://www.google.com/> 5,628 9.88%
4. <http://images.google.com/> 2,473 4.34%
5. <http://www.bing.com/> 771 1.35%
6. <http://search.yahoo.com/> 663 1.16%
7. <http://knol.google.com/> 412 0.72%
8. <http://www.google.ca/> 326 0.57%
9. <http://www.google.co.uk/> 310 0.54%
10. <http://images.google.co.uk/> 286 0.5%
11. <http://bricktowntalk.blogspot.com/> 276 0.48%
12. <http://images.google.ca/> 215 0.37%
13. <http://www.google.com.au/> 190 0.33%
14. <http://modelrailroading.wordpress.com/> 185 0.32%
17. <http://images.search.yahoo.com/> 149 0.26%
18. <http://search.aol.com/> 147 0.25%
20. <http://images.google.com.au/> 137 0.24%
21. <http://www.modelrailroadforums.com/> 126 0.22%
22. <http://cs.trains.com/> 114 0.2%
24. <http://www.ask.com/> 103 0.18%
27. <http://www.myspace.com/> 79 0.13%
28. <http://www.marklin-users.net/> 76 0.13%
29. <http://en.wikipedia.org/> 69 0.12%
31. <http://www.trainboard.com/> 67 0.11%
35. <http://www.mapquest.com/> 50 0.08%
36. <http://www.railsolve.com/> 46 0.08%
38. <http://www.altavista.com/> 44 0.07%
40. <http://forum.atlasrr.com/> 42 0.07%
42. <http://ja.wikipedia.org/> 41 0.07%
48. <http://www.railsusa.com/> 35 0.06%
49. <http://www.miniatur-wunderland.de/> 35 0.06%

- 58. <http://www.model-train-help.com/> 27 0.04%
- 59. <http://www.findhow.com/> 26 0.04%
- 65. <http://www.wiringfordcc.com/> 25 0.04%
- 71. <http://www.webcrawler.com/> 22 0.03%
- 76. <http://therailwire.net/> 20 0.03%
- 78. <http://images.ask.com/> 20 0.03%
- 87. <http://www.opsig.org/> 19 0.03%
- 90. <http://www.collectorsweekly.com/> 18 0.03%
- 100. <http://scalemodel.net/> 16 0.02%

NMRA Info Net For August 2009

by Gerry Leone, MMR

NMRA Communications Director

Up-to-date news of what's going on in the NMRA.

This installment includes the activities from the July Board of Directors meeting.

- The Hartford Convention drew over 1,000 attendees and returned a surplus larger than the Anaheim and Detroit conventions combined.
- 28% of Hartford Convention registrants used online registration.
- Volunteers at the NMRA Membership booth, headed by Jody Hendricks and "Doc" Robert Chait, signed up over 250 new NMRA members at the National Train Show in Hartford.
- The RailPass program (\$9.95 for a six-month trial membership) is increasingly successful, with about 45% of those signing up for RailPasses converting to Regular memberships when it's time to renew. This is up from 35% at this time last year.
- The first in a new series of NMRA Data Sheets is ready for publication. They'll first appear in Scale Rails and then be placed on a members-only section of www.nmra.org.
- Want to host a National Convention? The Board is still accepting bids. The 2014 convention is scheduled to be held in the central portion of North

America. Interested host groups should contact Henry Jordan at nmracd@aol.com.

• **Wanted: Division and Region handbooks!** A special committee is assembling a guidebook for Regions and Divisions and is looking for any existing handbooks to use as a guide. If your Region or Division has one, please send it to me, Gerry Leone, at nmra-infonet@earthlink.net. In addition, the book will also contain a listing of what Regions and Divisions have done to successfully raise money, increase membership, and revitalize. If you have a success story you'd like included, please email it to me.

Highlights from the Board of Directors meeting:

- Major topics included retaining and attracting members, reducing the cost of attending National Conventions, and moving the Howell Day Model Railroad Museum and Kalmbach Memorial Library to the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, CA.
- Treasurer Tom Draper reported that the NMRA is operating at a surplus through May 31, 2009. He also noted that membership remains steady at around 19,500.
- Revenues for Scale Rails were up this year, over the same period in 2008.
- The Board approved a \$1,000 fund to enable the Standards and Conformance Department to purchase products through normal retail channels, ensuring that all samples are typical of those being purchased by consumers. Models purchased through this program will be sold in the Silent Auction at the National Convention.
- The Board voted to end the "Patron" category since it closely resembled the "Sustaining" class of membership.
- Tom Draper will soon retire as Treasurer, to be replaced by Kevin Feeney, former Eastern District Director. Mr.. Draper has taken over the duties of

Marketing, Advertising, and Promotion (MAP) Manager.

- Nominations Chair Frank Koch stepped down and has been replaced by Standards & Conformance Manager Didrik Voss. The Nominating Committee is currently soliciting candidates for the office of Western District Director.
- The Board viewed a presentation of

Signals for the Day Lines

by John Carty

My Day Lines layout depicts the East St. Louis & Suburban interurban system as it might have appeared in 1955 had the passenger operations survived the Great Depression. I originally intended to operate the turnouts manually. With the system operating as dark territory, I believed that signals were unnecessary. Reality, however, reared its ugly head. Although I still intend to handle coupling manually, the overhead wire remains a fragile component demanding that I operate most turnouts remotely in order to limit the intrusion of fingers in the vicinity of the track.

Therefore, I decided to install control panels at four of the five towers located at National City, Ridge Ave., Southside Yard, and A Street Yard. The last tower, protecting the crossing with the Alton and Southern Railroad, exists only to tend a smash gate, which does not require a panel. The panel at each tower consists of a schematic diagram of the track painted on tempered hardboard with double pole double throw (DPDT) switches at the locations of each individual turnout or crossover. These switches activate Tortoise switch motors to throw the turnouts and feature light emitting diodes on the panels to indicate turnout conditions of open (green) and thrown (red).

turning Scale Rails into an electronic publication. The Board has not yet made a decision about whether to explore this venue further.

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Board member or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in Scale Rails.

This provides an effective system. I believe, however, that it is unwise to divide the attention of operators between the track with their trains and the tower panels. To this end, I needed an easy way while operating trains to determine the position of the points on the turnouts and still keep attention focused on train and track. Signals at each turnout became the answer. Using Caboose Industries switch stands in yards and industrial areas to indicate the position of points provided a simple method. On the main lines, however, color light signals seemed a more aesthetic option.

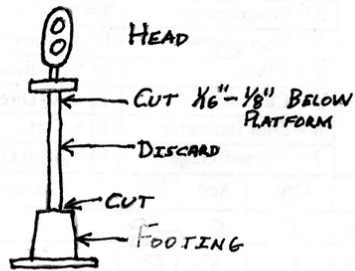
In order to provide proper protection, each turnout requires two or three signals, depending on the location of the turnout in order to provide protection in each direction of approach. I wanted each signal to use two lights each of which could display either green or red. This provided four possible aspects: proceed, stop, caution, and proceed diverging. These aspects appear as green over green, red over red, green over red, and red over green respectively. I looked for appropriate signal heads but could not find what I wanted. Then I found a nice looking dummy signal produced by Bachmann that fit the bill.

I first tried to modify the signals to accept the light emitting diodes. To this end I removed the lenses and ladders, both of which popped right out. When I test-fitted the diodes, however, I realized that the wiring needed to be routed better. After some reading and thought, I decided to replace the mast with tubing. I tested various sizes of tubing with the wires I was using while considering aesthetics and chose 5/32" tubing.



From left to right: the Bachmann signal less ladder and lenses, painted footing and base, signal head, painted ladder.

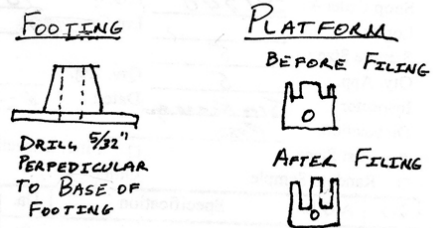
STOCK SIGNAL
(LESS LADDER)



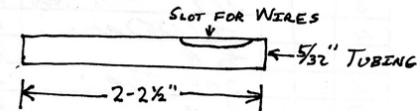
I started by cutting off the signal head at 1/16" to 1/8" below the platform. Next I deepened the slots for the ladder with a needle file to provide a place for wires to pass through to reach the tubing. The slots should reach the mast, as opposed

to the first set I made, which were not deep enough. Next I drilled a hole 5/32" in diameter in the center of the footing of the mast from the bottom. Bachmann provides a nice little guide hole from the casting process to follow when drilling. I took my time so as to not melt the plastic and to keep the hole at perpendicular to base as possible. I then cut the base about two scale feet above the footing. After a little filing to square the top and dress the footing and base, I sprayed the part with Testor's light aircraft gray to simulate concrete.

MODIFICATIONS



NEW MAST

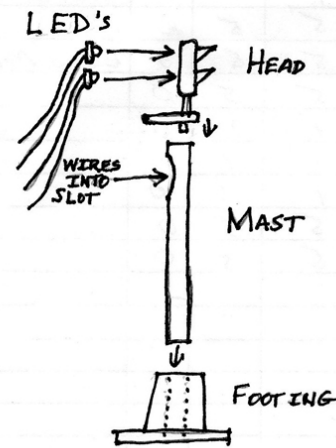


Signals with light emitting diodes installed before (left) and after (right) painting of the wires and backs of diodes.

For the mast, I cut the 5/32" metal tubing into lengths of 2-2 1/2 inches. Next I opened slots on one side to facilitate the insertion of the wires from the diodes. I dressed all cuts with needles files. The slotted side became

the back of the mast, which would be masked by the ladder. I then affixed the signal head to the top of the tube with the pin under the platform placed against the inside of the front of tube. I sprayed this assembly flat black, after which I marked the tube 1 3/8" from the bottom of the platform after cleaning the paint off of the tube below the mark. Next, I inserted the tube through base until the bottom of the foot just covered the mark. A drop of Zap a Gap secured the assembly.

ADD LIGHTS AND ASSEMBLE



Now I soldered wires (10-14" long) to the leads of the bicolor light emitting diodes as appropriate for the required signal aspects using jig to hold diodes in place. I made this jig by placing a signal head sans lenses onto a scrap piece of plywood and marking the center with a scratch awl and drilling 1/8" holes at the indicated locations. After soldering and test fitting the diodes in a signal head, I covered the connections with heat shrink tubing to insulate the wires. Use only enough shrink-wrap tubing to cover the connections.

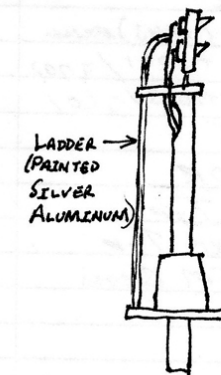
Now I assembled the signals. First I inserted the wires into the slot at the

back of the mast, pushing the wires through carefully to avoid cutting the insulation. Next I installed the diodes into the head and pressed the wires into the slots in the platform. After this, I



Signal with ladder installed.

FINISHED SIGNAL



removed any slack from the wires between the slots in the platforms and the slot in the mast. After securing the diodes from the back with a drop of Zap

a Gap, I painted the back of the diodes and the exposed wires black.

I now prepared the layout to accept the new signals. First, I cut the 3/16" metal tubing into pieces 1" long to act as sockets for the signal masts. I dressed the cuts with files to ensure that the masts slid freely into each socket. Next at each location requiring a signal, I drilled holes 3/16" in diameter perpendicular to the horizon at 1 1/4" from the center of the track. I then inserted the pieces of 3/16" tubing until the top was flush with the top of the layout.

I fed the wires through the tubing in the layout and followed them with the mast assembly. I previously installed the Tortoise switch motors under the layout as per the instructions. At the time that I hooked up the wires to the motor, I added resistors, placing the wires from the panel for the motor on the motor side of the resistor. I then soldered the wires from the signal lights that change

color to the side of the resistor opposite the feed from the panel. Wires for diodes whose color does not change run to a separate positive/negative hook up with resistors included. Now when an operator flips the switch on the panel, the signal aspects change along with the position of the points, allowing operators to simply look along the track to see which way the turnout is set.

Materials needed:

3 mm bicolor light emitting diodes with two leads (2 per signal)
Resistors (Miniaturics includes these with their light emitting diodes)
Heat shrink tubing
Bachmann dummy signals
5/32" metal tubing (brass or aluminum)
3/16" metal tubing (brass or aluminum)
Flat black and concrete-color spray paint
Zap a Gap or other ACC
Flat black acrylic paint



Signals installed and under power on the main of the Day Lines at National City.

Division Minutes

recorded by Don Ayres, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for April 20, 2009

CLINIC

Curt Regensberger presented a slide show and discussion about passenger operations on his layout. Thanks for the interesting journey!

BUSINESS MEETING

The Superintendent called the meeting to order at 7:41 PM. There were 12 members present and 1 guest, David Weidler.

Minutes of the March Meeting

The minutes were approved with corrections. Corrected minutes are published in our quarterly publication, the RPO.

Treasurers Report

Dave presented the monthly report and made note of the fact that the biggest income item for the month was from wheelset sales. Jim asked if we had received from National the annual rebate for each GD member. Answer: no. Treasurer's report approved.

Merchandise Report

33" wheelsets are in stock. 36" wheelsets are in short supply.

RPO Report

Mike Thomas was not present. He is always looking for articles or photos on any railroading subject for publication.

Directors Report

Jim reminded everyone that the Regional Convention is getting closer. See Announcements below, and the most recent Caboose Kibitzer.

Achievement Program (AP) Report

Don Taschner was not present. No Report.

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report

Hank announced the next clinic would be a double. Greg Gray will do his long awaited weathering clinic, and also the DPM kits will be passed out.

Old Business

Ron reported on the recent trip to Quincy Society of Model Engineers layout tour and operating session. He also announced last minute details about the upcoming trip to Monticello.

Ron reminded members about upcoming joint picnic planned jointly with the National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) at the Wabash, Frisco, and Pacific Railroad location being planned for 19Sep.

The city of Maryland Heights has contacted us about building a model railroad that they would display in Feb of 2010. Hank responded that we

may have an interest and asked them several questions. They still have not gotten back with us.

Ron Gawedzinski made a motion last month that the Division buy some speakers for the Division PC. Jim Ables has a set of speakers big enough to do the job, and small enough that the Clerk is willing to lug them around. Thanks for the donation, Jim. Closed.

New Business

Hank announced that Bob Amsler has had conversations with NMRA reference us possibly wanting to bid on the hosting of the National Convention in 2013. Bob went in to a little detail about how national was possibly changing how they manage the conventions and recommended that we not jump on the wagon too quickly. More to come.

Announcements

Bob Amsler wants to host in his home a group of individuals who are interested in teaming together to earn one or more AP certificates. See his column in the latest RPO. MMR's are being contacted to see if they would be willing to assist. E-mail Bob if you are interested.

ramslers@charter.net

Tim mentioned that he had met a gentleman who is a model railroader wanna-be, but had no time as he is "president" of a major fraternal organization, Tau Kappa Epsilon. Ya never know where you might turn up a new member!! The club layout in Litchfield, IL that Tim is a member of is on Ron's radar screen for a possible future visit!

Perpetual Announcements

The Chisholm Trail Division will host the MCoR Regional Convention in Wichita, KS, 12 – 14 Jun, 2009.

The NMRA National Convention will be in Hartford, CT, 5 – 12 July, 2009.

Gateway Division Fall Meet, 7 Nov, 2009 (plan your clinic to present!)

30th Annual National Narrow Gauge Convention will be held in St Louis in 2010.

The 75th NMRA Convention will be held in Milwaukee next year (2010).

50/50 – Nineteen dollars was collected. Phil Bonzon won the drawing and took home \$10.

The treasury was enriched by \$9.

Adjournment

Dick Wenger made the motion to adjourn at 8:26. Ron Kraus seconded. Motion passed!

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for May 18, 2009

CLINIC – Greg Gray presented an excellent clinic demonstrating his technique for weathering freight cars using artist's acrylics, matte medium, and water. Chalks were also available. Members gathered around 5 tables, each equipped with brushes and other materials, and practiced Greg's techniques on their own cars. Following the business meeting, Hank had members pick up a DPM building kit, and several detail parts of their choice. Hank passed out and discussed the guidelines for constructing the kits, which will be the subject of a future clinic as members "show and tell" what they did to make their model unique.

Due to the long clinic, and the distribution of the kits, the business meeting was very short:

BUSINESS MEETING

The Superintendent called the meeting to order at 8:20 PM. There were 38 members present and 1 "guest", Mike Mason. Mike found us through our website, and after talking with Hank, joined up! He is modeling HO narrow scale.

Minutes of the April Meeting

The minutes were approved as published. Corrected minutes are published in our quarterly publication, the RPO.

Treasurers Report

Dave highlighted an "administrative expense" of \$743 which was for the purchase of the DPM kits and a few supplies for tonight's clinic. Dave was asked about the identical amount debited from expenditures and credited to receipts. He transferred money from one our Certificates of Deposit to the Checking account. Treasurer's report approved.

New Business

Hank opened the floor for new business. No new business.

Announcements

Brian Post invited all to his house on Memorial Day for Open House.

Ron thanked all who participated in the trip to Monticello.

Perpetual Announcements:

The NMRA National Convention will be in Hartford, CT, 5 – 12 July, 2009.

Gateway Division Fall Meet, 7 Nov, 2009 (plan your clinic to present!)

30th Annual National Narrow Gauge Convention will be held in St Louis in 2010.

The 75th NMRA Convention will be held in Milwaukee next year (2010).

50/50 – Thirty seven dollars was collected from the large crowd. Our new member drew the

ticket of Venita Lake who took \$19, with the treasury gaining 18 dollars.

Adjournment

John Hardy made the motion to adjourn at 8:32. Meeting adjourned.

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for June 15, 2009

CLINIC – Brian Post led a Digital Command Control decoder installation clinic. Eight to ten members brought in their locomotives and either began an installation, or continued one. (clerk's note: Brian hosted several of us at his home a few weekends later to "finish up".) Many thanks!!

BUSINESS MEETING

After a very long clinic and the necessary cleanup, the Superintendent called the meeting to order at 8:48 PM. There were 15 members present and 2 guests, AJ Holko, and David Weidler, both returning guests.

Minutes of the May Meeting

The minutes were approved. Corrected minutes are published in our quarterly publication, the RPO.

Treasurers Report

Jim delivered the report for our vacationing Paymaster. Treasurer's report approved. Jim also mentioned that he had received a check at the Regional Convention to be deposited.

Merchandise Report

33" wheelsets are in stock. All backorders have been received. Hank mentioned that one member was short on one of his packages of axles. Everyone who purchased wheelsets from this batch is encouraged to go home and make sure that there are 12 axles in each package purchased.

RPO Report

Mike Thomas will start to assemble the summer issue soon and expects to get it out the first half of July. The deadline for the fall issue will be 1 October. He is always looking for articles or photos on any railroading subject for publication.

Directors Report

Jim updated the group on upcoming regional conventions. The 2010 MCoR convention is in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 10-14 June. Norfolk, Nebraska will host 2011, and he is expecting that we may have our arms twisted to host the 2012 convention!

Jim talked about membership briefly urged members to help stimulate attendance. By joining NMRA National, you are automatically a member of the Region. Of the 219 members in the Region, about 100 get e-mail notices. About 50 or so pay the publication fee to have meeting notices and the RPO sent to them in the mail. Attendance averages about 20 per month.

Achievement Program (AP) Report

Don Taschner was not present. No Report.

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report

Hank offered to have the Greg Gray weathering clinic repeated in Illinois. No member spoke up. Thanks again to Greg for his great clinic on the west side. It was the best attended clinic in a long time!!

Old Business

The city of Maryland Heights has contacted us about building a model railroad that they would display in Feb of 2010. Hank responded back to them with several questions. They have not gotten back with us. CLOSED

New Business

No new business.

Announcements

Bob Amsler's group pursuing an MMR has chosen to pursue the AP certificate for freight cars first, and have chosen to model a Santa Fe BX-9 boxcar. Contact Bob by e-mail if you want to participate with his group in the next AP certificate they decide to pursue.

ramsler@charter.net

Hank urged all present, who want to continue receiving snail mail mailings, to pay their mailing fees.

Hank reminded members about upcoming joint picnic planned jointly with the National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) at the Wabash, Frisco, and Pacific Railroad location being planned for 19Sep.

Hank reviewed the guidelines for the DPM kit build, due in September, and offered the few leftover kits for sale to members at cost.

Perpetual Announcements

The NMRA National Convention will be in Hartford, CT, 5 – 12 July, 2009.

Gateway Division Fall Meet, 7 Nov, 2009 (plan your clinic to present!)

2010 MCoR convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 10-14 Jun

30th Annual National Narrow Gauge Convention will be held in St Louis in 2010.

The 75th NMRA Convention will be held in Milwaukee next year (2010).

50/50

Twenty two dollars was collected. Don Head won the drawing and took home \$11.00, and the Treasury was enriched by \$11.00

Adjournment

Hank asked for a motion to adjourn at 9:06. Several tired modelers spoke up in unison! Motion passed.

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for August 17, 2009

CLINIC – Dave Roeder dusted off his excellent presentation about creating paper structures using "Model Builder" software from Evan Designs and presented it in person! (A previously recorded presentation was advertised in the meeting announcements.) Dave brought many samples of his work and fielded many questions from the small group.

BUSINESS MEETING

The Superintendent called the meeting to order at 8:30 PM. There were 8 members present and 1 guest, AJ Holko, a returning guest. NOTE – There was no business meeting in July. The clinic in July was an operating session at St Charles Model Railroad Club.

Minutes of the Jun Meeting

The minutes were approved. Corrected minutes are published in our quarterly publication, the RPO.

Treasurers Report

Neither the paymaster, nor the report made it to the meeting. There will be a lot to review in September!

Merchandise Report

33" wheelsets are running low, and there are only 2 packs of the 36" wheelsets. Ron Kraus made a motion to purchase 20 more packs, then amended his motion to 100 packs. Bob Amsler seconded. Motion Passed.

RPO Report

Mike Thomas was not present. The deadline for submissions for the fall issue will be 1 October. He is always looking for articles or photos on any railroading subject for publication.

Directors Report

Jim was not present.

Activity Report

Ron was not present. Hank disseminated some last minute details about the upcoming visit to the WF+P.

The Fall Meet is coming up 7 Nov, 2009, 8:30 – 3:30 PM. The following clinics were announced: Dave Roeder on scratch building and detailing locomotives, and John Carty on model railroading with children. In addition to the usual vendor tables, there will a table(s) with members' "white elephant" items, plus items that have been donated to the Division in the past, including a large collection (180 freight car kits and 3 loco's) of 70's era equipment donated by Richard Schumacher. A layout tour will follow. Be sure and visit our own table at the Fall Meet.

The GD and NRHS have been invited to Litchfield, IL, on Saturday, Dec 5 to enjoy an operating session on the HO scale club layout

that Tim is a member of. More to come as we get closer.

Achievement Program (AP) Report

Don Taschner was not present. No Report.

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report

Sept – Hank reminded the membership to complete their DPM kits to take to the Sep meeting. He announced that there will be gift certificates (\$50, \$30, \$20) from Mark Twain Hobbies given away as prizes. The Clerk will send out an early post card to remind to those who got the kit to get busy!

Oct- Phil Bonzon on kitbashing engines to match prototypes

Nov - holiday party – Mike Thomas slides on British Railroads.

Dec - member swap meet? Or should we do this on the west side this time?

Also in the queue is another “member slide night”. Hank is trying to chase down Gary Hoover to present a clinic on his new layout.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Attendance analysis – Hank has spent considerable time studying membership attendance trends over the last 5 1/2 year period. The main benefit of this will be to determine what people like to do. In an effort to stimulate attendance, Hank announced the following promotions:

- A \$10 Mark Twain hobbies gift card will now be given away at each meeting via a second drawing from the raffle tickets.

- The member who attends the most meetings or events in starting with the picnic, a total of 7 events remaining in 2009, will get 2 gift cards! Hank is looking to increase the visibility of the Gateway Division and the NMRA at shows and other events and proposed that the GD make a tabletop display and a small switching layout, probably in HO scale, which would fit in most automobiles. He asked Richard Schumacher to come up with a design, and estimates the cost to be about \$250. More to come.

Hank stated that he got a letter from the Regional President in the last month and was asked to verify the membership credentials of all officers in the GD. He suspects that this is related to insurance that National has for officially sanctioned events. Hank asked Bob Amsler if the Division needed to purchase additional insurance for officially sanctioned events like the Fall Meet or the upcoming operating session in Litchfield. Answer: no. National's insurance policy covers members and guests at officially sanctioned events – even events that are cosponsored by another organization like the upcoming picnic with NRHS. NMRA is cautioning

all Divisions to make sure that regularly attending members are actually dues paying members of the NMRA. Apparently some Divisions are abusing this. Closed.

Announcements

A sympathy card will be sent, on behalf of the Division, to the family of Wayne Schimmel, who lost their son.

Perpetual Announcements

2010 MCoR convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 10-14 Jun.

30th Annual National Narrow Gauge Convention will be held in St Louis in 2010.

The 75th NMRA Convention will be held in Milwaukee next year (2010).

50/50 –Ten dollars was collected. The assistant superintendant won the drawing and took home \$5.00, and the treasury was enriched by \$5.00. In the second drawing for the \$10 gift card from Mark Twain hobbies, the number of the Clerk was drawn!

Adjournment

Gary Gross made a motion to adjourn at 9:24 PM.

Gateway Division Meeting

Minutes for September 21, 2009

CLINIC – Approximately 18 DPM structures were returned for tonight's meeting. Members voted for their favorites and prizes were awarded as follows: Phil Bonzon took first place with his highly modified structure that he displayed on a diorama. He received a \$50 gift certificate to Mark Twain Hobbies for his efforts. Gregor Moe took second place and received a \$30 gift certificate. A tie for third was broken with a coin toss, and the \$20 gift certificate was awarded to Dave Bartz. Following the business meeting, each modeler spent a few minutes talking about the design and finishing of his own model.

BUSINESS MEETING

The Superintendent called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM. There were 32 members present and 2 guests, Frank Grimes and Jess Riddle. Both are HO scale modelers.

Minutes of the August Meeting

Hank asked if there were any corrections to last month's meeting minutes. One correction was made. Hank asked for a motion to approve the minutes. John Hardy made the motion; Phil Bonzon seconded. Corrected minutes are published in our quarterly publication, the RPO.

Treasurers Report

Dave reported “nothing unusual” in the 3 regular monthly reports that he presented. He was asked where the \$269 of income came from shown in the August-September report. This income is from the sales of items at the Boeing

show, mostly items donated by Richard Schumacher.

Merchandise Report

Tim has just a few packages of wheel sets left.

See Old Business.

RPO Report

Mike Thomas will start assembling the fall edition soon. This will be the big mailing to all members and will include the annual membership directory.

Directors Report

Nothing new to report.

Activity Report

Ron passed along several “thank-yous” to all who made the picnic a success.

The GD and NRHS have been invited to visit the Litchfield Train Group, in Litchfield, IL, on Saturday, Dec 12 to enjoy an operating session on the HO scale club layout that Tim is a member of. This is a Digitrax layout, and “foreign” motive power will be welcome if in excellent operating condition. This will be a morning session from 9:30 to 12:30. At 12:30, the layout will open to the general public. Ron passed around a sign-up sheet.

Achievement Program (AP) Report

Don Taschner visited Phil Bonzon's house and judged models in the category of Cars. Phil also submitted his entries for the Dispatcher and Author Certificates. If these 3 Certificates are approved, then Phil will have the 7 Certificates necessary, and he will soon become the Gateway Division's newest Master Model Railroader!

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report

Oct- Phil Bonzon on kit bashing engines to match prototypes.

Nov - holiday party – Mike Thomas slides on British railroads.

Dec – Open. A swap meet was considered but several of those present agreed that the swap meet should be held on the west side next time.

Old Business

Hank reminded everyone about the wheel set order that had been approved at last month's meeting. Another member suggested ordering trucks from Intermountain. It was moved and seconded that the Division buy 10 sets of each of the two types of trucks offered: Roller-Bearing and Bettendorf. These trucks will be sold to members for \$2.50 a pair, enough for one freight car. Motion passed. All items will be ordered this week.

Hank is looking to increase the visibility of the Gateway Division and the NMRA at shows and other events and proposed that the GD make a tabletop display and a small switching layout, probably in HO scale. Since it will be slightly over 4 feet in length, it should fit the backseat in most

automobiles. Richard Schumacher presented 4 designs and his recommendation for a layout with 6 switches and several simple structures. (The Division will be looking for volunteers to build these structures at a future meeting!) Richard's recommendation was approved by the membership. Hank asked Mark Twain Hobbies to provide a bid. While some clarification in the bid is necessary, it appears that items to build this switching layout can be purchased for under \$500. Dick Wegner made a motion to authorize an expenditure of up to \$500. John Hardy seconded. Motion Passed.

Hank offered the remaining DPM building kits for sale, at the Division cost of \$10.60. Several were sold.

New Business

No new business.

Announcements

No new announcements.

Perpetual Announcements

The Fall Meet is coming up 7 Nov, 2009, 8:30 – 3:30 PM. The following clinics are scheduled: Dave Roeder on scratch building and detailing locomotives, and John Carty on model railroading with children. In addition to the usual vendor tables, there will a table(s) with members' “white elephant” items, plus items that have been donated to the Division in the past, including a large collection (180 freight car kits and 3 loco's) of 70's era equipment donated by Richard Schumacher. Be sure and visit our own table at the Fall Meet! Don Taschner reminded everyone to bring their contest models. Many of us now have a fantastic DPM building kit which can now be super detailed with additional parts. A layout tour will follow in the west county area.

2010 MCoR convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 10-14 Jun.
30th Annual National Narrow Gauge Convention will be held in St Louis in 2010.
The 75th NMRA Convention will be held in Milwaukee next year (2010).

50/50 –Forty one dollars was collected. Jack Hossfield won the first drawing and took home \$21.00, and the treasury benefitted by \$20.00. Jim Anderson won the second drawing for the \$10 gift card to Mark Twain Hobbies.

ADJOURNMENT

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:35, but those present were encouraged to stay and listen to the presentations of each modeler who brought in a completed DPM kit.

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

