



Dee Joseph
1927 – 2009

RPO

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Editor, The RPO
Gateway Division NMRA
3900 Shenandoah Avenue
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On the Cover

photo by Rich Schumacher

Dee – just as happy as can be!

Superintendent's Desk

by Hank Kraichely

Welcome to 2010, another year is history and we are starting a new decade. 2009 was a good year for the Gateway Division and its members! Thanks to the dedication of Ron Gaudinski the Division participated in the following outside activities:

A bus trip and train ride in Montecello, IL.

The visit to the Quincy, IL. Model Railroad to operate on that great layout.

The 2ND annual picnic at the WF&P RR in Glencoe, MO.

A trip to operate trains on the club layout in Litchfield, IL.

(All these activities were held jointly with the NRHS.)

The Division also held a kit bashing contest in which each member present was given a DPM kit with two extra walls and some detail

parts. The member was to use only these parts in the construction of one or more structures. Four months later each member made a short presentation and after a secret vote the top three vote getters received either a \$50.00, \$30.00 or \$20.00 Mark Twain Hobby gift cards.

In addition the Division held its largest single day Fall Meet with paid attendance of 330 plus 40 to 50 children who were 12 or less.

The Division authorized the building of a new compact switching layout. The purpose of this layout is to publicize the NMRA and recruit new members. The layout was shown for the first time Thanksgivings weekend at the Collinsville train show.

I hope you were able to participate in one or more of these activities!

Finally the last two '09 items: the annual election was held with four incumbent officers being re-elected and Phil Bonzon being selected to be the new Division Director. I would like to thank Jim Anderson for his 6 years of dedicated service.

The last item, Division attendance: as some of you know meeting attendance has been slipping for the last four years. The Officers agreed to work double hard to create interesting clinics and activities like the building contest and the outside activities hoping to reverse the attendance slide. The good news is that slide was reversed in 2009! The goal of the officers is to build on the new momentum and increase attendance in 2010.

Now to the New Year. The Officers will meet in January to plan the Division activities for the year. On the agenda are another kit building

effort, possibility in wood this time. Also, planning interesting clinics, the 3RD annual picnic and some surprises! Is there a topic you would like a clinic to address, better still can you present a clinic on one of your favorite modeling effort. Give one of the officers a call or send an email with your ideas; there is tons of creativity in the Division, why not share it?

One last item, in the effort to increase attendance there will be 2 drawing each meeting, one for the 50/50 and the second for a \$10.00 gift card. Why not attend additional meetings you now have chances to win a prize. (The gift cards were given to the Division by Mark Twain Hobby.)

Gateway Division Website Updates

by Richard Schumacher

The Gateway Division NMRA has joined the new era of online conversation. Our Twitter URL is <http://twitter.com/gatewaynmra>

If you use Twitter, please consider following GatewayNMRA.

1. A new Feedburner socialization feature allows us to automatically tweet our RSS feed to the new GatewayNMRA Twitter account. This makes it very easy to publish that info on the Twitter timeline.
2. I created a Twitter account while our branding (GatewayNMRA) is still available.
3. I hand tweeted most of our existing RSS feed. I used bit.ly to shorten those URLs.
4. I allowed the latest RSS item to automatically tweet from Feedburner

(Photos of the Litchfield Train Group's Large HO Model Railroad <http://goo.gl/fb/ZjUc>). This worked without any issues.

5. I added the Twitter widget to the right sidebar on our home page (www.gatewaynmra.org). Even for non-Twitter users, this is still nice since it exposes and links to our latest RSS feed items as well.

6. Yes I know, Twitter is most heavily used by the "younger" generation (unless that's the only way you can communicate with your children, and therefore you have a Twitter account too ...). However, that generation represents the future of our hobby and adding Twitter social communication brings our website a little closer to current trends. At the very least, it provides one more means for people to find out about us.

I have now added an RSS Feed to the GatewayNMRA.org website. The feed will publish new articles (webpages), existing content that was substantially updated, and Division announcements (such as info on the next Division meeting).

You can also opt-in subscribe via email to this information. You will only get an email on the days that an update or new article first appears.

The links to access the feed or email subscription have been placed on a number of pages, and is available on the right side ("Subscribe to this Website") of the home page (<http://www.gatewaynmra.org/>).

If you don't use an RSS Feed Reader or have a browser that shows feeds, you can see the content of the current feed at

<http://www.gatewaynmra.org/rss/>

or by clicking on the RSS Feed link

<http://feeds.gatewaynmra.org/GatewayNMRA>.

December Website Statistics

Note that due to a technical issue, no statistics for Dec 1 were collected or included in this report. So these numbers are slightly smaller than the actual traffic, since Dec 1 is not included.

Successful Hits For Entire Site 3,488,736
Average Hits Per Day 112,539
Page Views (Impressions) 104,260
Average Per Day 3,363
Visits 68,975
Average Per Day 2,225
Average Number of Visitors per day on Weekdays 2,280
Average Number of Hits per day on Weekdays 113,464
Average Number of Visitors for the entire Weekend 4,699
Average Number of Hits for the entire Weekend 248,129
Bandwidth: Kbytes Transferred 28,865,375

Top Pages

| Pages | Visits | % | Avg Time Viewed |
|--------------------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| 1. project.htm | 10,145 | 10.67% | 01:45 |
| 2. mhslayout.htm | 2,391 | 2.51% | 01:20 |
| 3. download.htm | 1,897 | 1.99% | 02:40 |
| 4. layouts.htm | 1,848 | 1.94% | 01:01 |
| 5. project10.htm | 1,796 | 1.88% | 02:18 |
| 6. project12.htm | 1,706 | 1.79% | 02:06 |
| 7. project09.htm | 1,676 | 1.76% | 02:22 |
| 8. dccdecoders.htm | 1,653 | 1.73% | 02:04 |
| 9. models.htm | 1,578 | 1.66% | 00:55 |
| 10. dcc.htm | 1,561 | 1.64% | 00:50 |
| 11. civil-war1.htm | 1,422 | 1.49% | 04:35 |
| 12. designops.htm | 1,282 | 1.34% | 04:19 |
| 13. projectmr.htm | 1,262 | 1.32% | 01:26 |
| 14. library.htm | 1,250 | 1.31% | 01:20 |
| 15. project04.htm | 1,233 | 1.29% | 02:29 |

Most Active Countries

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|
| 1. United States | 54,834 | 88.96% |
| 2. Canada | 1,145 | 1.85% |
| 3. Russian Federation | 619 | 1% |
| 4. Germany | 570 | 0.92% |
| 5. AU | 543 | 0.88% |
| 6. Japan | 513 | 0.83% |
| 7. South Africa | 309 | 0.5% |
| 8. Netherlands | 282 | 0.45% |
| 9. UK | 245 | 0.39% |
| 10. Italy | 236 | 0.38% |

Oliver Dee Joseph



Dee and his wife Jean with their model of the Milwaukee station at the Gateway Division's Fall Meet on November 7, 2009

Rich Schumacher photo

Oliver Dee Joseph, 82, of Fairview Heights, Ill., born Aug. 30, 1927 in Belleville, Ill., died Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2009, at his residence.

Joseph's father, Oliver C. opened the family dealership on June 1, 1914. Oliver D. took over the business in 1958 - the day his son, Brad Joseph, was born. Another son, Oliver "Curt" Joseph, had served as general manager since the early 1980s until he succumbed to cancer at age 48 in 1998. Brad Joseph since then has been general manager of the dealership, which sells Dodge, Chrysler and Jeep vehicles. The business which for years sold Dodge from a storefront on West Main Street in downtown Belleville, expanded to include Chrysler and earlier this year, added Jeep. It also has the distinction of being the oldest Chrysler/Dodge dealership in the nation. Oliver D. was well known to people across the region for greeting customers at the door of the dealership, personally answering the phones and appearing on the dealer's television ads that also featured a talking moose. Three years ago, the dealership built and relocated its inventory and vintage 1927 Pullman railroad car to a new showroom and lot on Illinois 15 after 92 years in downtown Belleville. Oliver D. bought the rail car from the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1975. It was shipped to Belleville on the back of an Amtrak train and initially sat on the dealership used car lot along West A Street. Oliver D. was a member of S.I.R.B.A.C. (Southern Illinois Rail Buff and Cronies Club), 70 year member of the National Model Railroad Historic Association, National Wildlife

Association, Sierra Club, National Parks & Conservation Association, Airflow Club of America, Classic Car Club of America and the National Automobile Dealers Association.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Oliver C. and Irma M., nee Seger, Joseph; first wife, Grace, nee Kaiser, Joseph; a son, Oliver Curt Joseph; two brothers, Warren and Elmo Joseph; and a sister, Norma Brown.

Surviving are his wife, Jean, nee Nebel, Joseph of Fairview Heights, Ill.; a son, Brad (Lynn, nee Mueller,) Joseph of O'Fallon, Ill.; daughter in law, Louise, nee Nemece, Joseph of O'Fallon, Ill.; five grandchildren, Whitney, Carolyn, Audrey, Oliver Curt and Michael Joseph; two brothers-in-law, Julius Brown of O'Fallon, Ill., and Herman Nebel of St. Louis, MO., sisters-in-law; Charlene Joseph of Belleville, Ill., Kitty Reis of Maryville, Tenn., Mimi Hunter of Glen Carbon, Ill., and Jo Ellen Vanatta of Lakewood, Wash.

Memorials may be made to the Memorial Hospital Foundation, Violence Prevention Center of Southwest Illinois, Juvenile Diabetes Association or the National Wildlife Federation. Condolences may be extended to the family at www.schildknechfh.com.

Visitation was December 28, 2009, at the dealership.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2009, at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Belleville, with Father Clyde Grogan officiating. Burial was at Mount Carmel Cemetery, Belleville, Ill.

Information provided by the Schildknecht Funeral Home of O'Fallon



Photo by Don Ayres

Memories of Dee Joseph

by Don Ayres

Dee and I had met previously on a couple of occasions, and I was hoping to join Dee's Wednesday night crew working on his railroad. Brad thought I might fit in, so I went to Dee's house one night. Little did I know that the session had been called off for that night! As I climbed out of my truck, Dee called out from the house "Who goes there?" I introduced myself, and said I was there to work. He explained that the session had been cancelled, but, to my amazement, I was invited in anyway!

Dee took me on a personal tour of his layout. He explained the CTC operation, and every aspect of the history and development of his layout. He talked about the effort that had to be put in to some of his engines to get them to run well and he credited all involved. He was a collector of Lionel items as well as HO scale and had many collectibles in display cases around two more rooms in the basement.

Going upstairs, he talked at length about his other collectibles. It was a thrill for me to hear his stories, and I enjoyed having every second of his time. He was a gracious host.



by Mike Thomas

I don't recall now exactly what year I first met Dee, but it must have been one of the many times he opened his layout up for tours at a St. Louis area model railroad meet, almost surely before the Gateway Division was even formed. Dee had a standard gauge layout at the end of a narrow gauge driveway, so we had to park at an office building a mile or so away and get shuttled to the house in one of the dealership's vans – lots of folks open their homes to fellow model railroaders, but Dee is the only one I've ever known to provide us with a chauffeur! It was just one example of the gracious hospitality he always showed.

I know the second time I got to see the Harriman-Hill Lines was on a tour at a Mid-Continent Region meet, and I rode in the shuttle van with the meet's guest clinician, Allen McClelland. Allen, not a bad modeler himself, was impressed with the density of detail in Dee's town scene at the front of the layout. The layout room itself was a bit crowded, but Dee offered the crowd refreshments and a slide show in the next room.

Dee was also generous in donating items to the Division for use as door prizes – I have reproductions of a Burlington Route coffee pot and 20th Century Limited plate in my china cabinet at home.



Litchfield Train Group Layout Tour

*by Ron Gawedzinski
photos by Richard Schumacher*

The joint visit between Gateway Division National Model Railroad Association and the St. Louis Chapter National Railway Historical Society on Saturday, December 12, 2009, was organized by Ron Gawedzinski.

The event took 23 members and guests of both groups to Litchfield, Illinois, to see and operate trains on the Litchfield Train Group HO layout.

The Litchfield Train Group has operations set up in the back of an office building on the main floor in two rooms. The layout is very large, about 55 ft. by approximately 44 ft., with great scenery, many fine crafted structures, good running track work and large freight yards. All trains are operated by Digitrax DCC system. A dispatcher directs operations. The layout in the main room depicts the gentle rolling countryside of Illinois



from Centralia to Chicago in the 1950's and 60's while in the smaller room is Chicago in the 70's. The layout offers a lot of operational challenges and opportunities with 500 ft. of track and 55 switches.

The LTG members were great hosts and as happy to see us there as we were to be there. They normally operate twice a month from manually prepared switch lists. Many thanks to the Litchfield Train Group for their great hospitality and the fun we had – Lonnie Bathurst, Mark Lewis, Rev. Mark Schleeter, Jim Shaner, Charlie Sinclair, Tim Stout, David Thackrey, Lance Thackrey and Dan Wanger!

The members and guests from NMRA and NRHS included: Jim Anderson, Don Ayres, Ramona Ayres, Dave Bartz, JoAnn Bartz, Bill Birdsell, Dale DeWitt, Ron Gawedzinski, Gary Gross, John Hardy, Jim Keller, Hank Kraichely, Ron Kraus, Dave Lyon, Gregor Moe, Bill Peters, Brian Post, Gary Roe, Alex Schumacher, Richard Schumacher, George Spriggs, Larry Stoll and Tim Stout.





Many more photos are available on our website: www.gatewaynmra.org

Achievement Program

photos by Tom Bousman



Don Taschner MMR, Division AP Chairman, presents Division Director Phil Bonzon MMR #427, his MMR plaque, which was late in arriving. Phil completed his MMR in ten months with his awards of Prototype, Structures, Scenery, Motive Power, Dispatcher, Car and Author. Phil is pursuing the remaining four remaining AP certificates.



Dave Roeder MMR #373 continues on with the NMRA Achievement Program and was presented three merit awards for his AP Motive Power Certificate by Don Taschner MMR #403, AP Division Chairman. Dave is one of the true master builders with many award winning models to his credit, as well as many fine clinic presentations a great Master Model Railroader.



Gateway Division Master Model Railroaders

- Pete Smith, MMR # 120**
- Tom Troughton, MMR #277**
- Brad Joseph, MMR # 291**
- John Lee, MMR #335**
- Dave Bartz, MMR #369**
- Dave Roeder, MMR #373**
- Randy Meyer, MMR#390**
- Don Taschner, MMR #403**
- Phil Bonzon, MMR #427**

Easy Trees for the Backdrop

text & photos by John Carty



As the scenery on my model railroad progressed, I realized that I needed to improve the transition from the layout to the backdrop. When I built the bench work, I painted the hardboard backdrop sky blue. While this looks very nice, as far as it goes, when I added scenery, the resulting transition from trees to sky proved incredibly abrupt. Obviously I needed to add trees to the backdrop.

The most logical method for adding trees consists of painting trees directly on the backdrop. Being as I relate to paint more along the lines of oil and water rather than oil and canvas, using a brush remained a daunting option. While reading a model railroading magazine, I do not remember which one, I ran across an article on using potato prints for adding trees to the backdrop on an N scale layout. Potatoes lack the size needed for HO scale, as the trees built for the layout range from three to eight inches in height, translating to twenty to sixty scale feet. After a bit of thought, I decided to try using sponge prints instead.

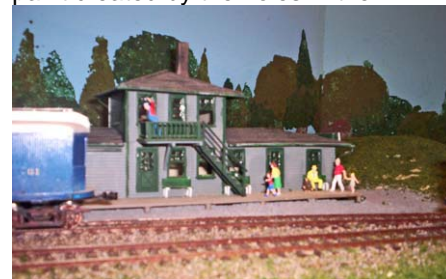
At the local store I picked up a pack of four 3x5" sponges for a buck or two. Knowing the fate awaiting the sponges, I saw no point in spending a lot of

money on them. I proceeded to cut "tree" shapes out of them. I only cut out the foliage shape, saving the scraps for use in stamping the trunks. I cut two versions of evergreen, triangles really, and two ellipsoid shapes for deciduous trees. These shapes need not be either perfectly symmetrical or perfectly neat. The profiles of real trees in nature rarely fit in either category.



Sponges cut into tree foliage shapes

I poured acrylic craft paint onto several plates. I picked a light, dark, and medium greens as well as a brown. I placed a cut sponge onto the plate making certain that the entire surface received paint and then applied the sponge to the backdrop. At first look, I was not too impressed, until one of the kids I coach for Odyssey of the Mind took one look after the paint had dried, saying, "cool." I allowed voids in the paint created by the holes in the



sponge, resulting in a somewhat see-through and mottled effect. I varied the heights, colors, and spacing while stamping with the four sponges to

create a forest with variety. I also overlapped the stamped trees. After applying the foliage I used the scraps to apply brown paint for trunks. After drying the sponges provided a credible forest.



After adding trees, ground cover, buildings, gravel, etc. to the terrain of the layout in front of the newly minted backdrop, the background blended the transition to the backdrop effectively. Although the effect looks better with model trees directly in front of the backdrop, it still suffices without them, especially in photographs.

A little creativity solved my tree problems, now if I can just figure out how to add birds...



Gateway Division Switching Layout

by Phil Bonzon, MMR

In an effort to promote model railroading and membership in the NMRA, the Gateway Division built a switching layout to be exhibit at train shows. The layout design and expenditure was voted on by the membership and was constructed by members Hank Kraichely, Tim Stout, Rich Schumacher, Brian Post, Don Taschner, Ken Thompson and Phil Bonzon. The layout was first shown at the November 2009 Great Train Expo in Collinsville, IL and was very well received with quite a few membership applications





taken, especially the Rail Pass. One person did join and another attended our January meeting as a result of the show. For 2010, Gateway is planning to attend four train shows with the layout to encourage model railroading and NMRA membership. The following photos show the layout in use by young model railroader Noah Ostreich.



Division Minutes

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for Sept. 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. There was a tie for third place in the popular vote. Following a coin toss, the \$20 gift certificate was awarded to Dave Bartz. After 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 Aug 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

None

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-you's" for their participation in the picnic.

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 be the Gateway Division's newest Master Model Railroader!

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report

Oct- Phil Bonzon on kitbashing engines to match prototypes.

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

Dec – Open. 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 wheelset 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 that they make: 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, which would fit in most automobiles. Richard Schumacher presented his recommendation on a layout with 6 switches and several simple structures. (The Division will be looking for volunteers to build these structures at a future meeting!) 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 be 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Ayres, Gateway Division Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for Oct. 19, 2009

CLINIC

The NMRA's newest Master Model Railroader, Phil Bonzon presented a clinic on how he modified several of his steam locomotives to follow Baltimore and Ohio prototypes. He brought the actual completed locomotives to enhance his presentation. He also prepared a high quality handout of his presentation for everyone to take home.

BUSINESS MEETING

The Superintendent called the meeting to order at 7:58 PM. There were 17 members present and 1 guest, AJ Holko, a returning guest.

Minutes of the September Meeting

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

Treasurers Report

Dave reported that Fall Meet income is starting to show up: \$140 from vendors for table rental. The expenditure was for the wheelset order. There is a \$2.00 bank charge for printed copies of checks. Dave cancelled this service. Report approved.

Merchandise Report

Tim reported that he still has a few of the "old" 33 inch wheelsets, and that the new wheelset and truck order from Intermountain has not arrived yet.

RPO Report

Mike Thomas will get the fall issue of the RPO mailed soon. It will include the annual membership directory and a couple of announcements. He is always looking for articles or photos on any railroading subject for publication.

Directors Report

Jim said that there will be a BOD meeting in Kansas City in January. Brian Post inquired about the hotel contract for the National

Convention. Details about the National Convention are slow in coming.

Activity Report

Ron again summarized the picnic with NRHS at the WF+P location and thanked all who were involved.

He also reminded everyone that 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 was not present, but Hank formally announced to the membership that Phil Bonzon has attained the designation "Master Model Railroader" of the NMRA (MMR #427). All present gave Phil a hearty round of applause. He attained this in less than one year!

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report

Nov – Annual Holiday party: no business meeting.

Dec – Not finalized.

Beyond – Member swap, switching layout challenge, member slide night, another contest model like the DPM building kit that was finished last month.

Old Business

Hank submitted changes to the proposal to Mark Twain Hobbies to buy the components for the switching layout. (Last month, he was authorized to spend up to \$500 for the items in Richard Schumacher's proposal.) He is looking for assistance in building the switching layout that was previously approved by the membership. This will be shown to the public for the first time at the Collinsville train show. Open.

New Business

(This item moved from announcements.) Planning for the Fall Meet final is well under way. A signup sheet to cover various jobs, from setup through teardown, was available. Brian Post said that 15 vendor tables remain to be sold. The layouts of Dave Lyon, Bob

Buschart, and Herb Gilden were announced as open houses following the Meet. Open.

Announcements

Train show at Collinsville, 28 – 29 Nov. A signup sheet to work this show was available.

All of the current officers have agreed to run for office again. Ballots will be mailed with the fall RPO.

Brian Post will have an open house on January 2nd.

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, 1st to 4th of September.

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

50/50 –Twenty dollars was collected. Dick Wegner won the drawing and took home \$10, and the treasury was enriched by \$10. Hank didn't bring a Mark Twain Hobby card this month, so two will be given in December.

Adjournment

Ron Kraus made a motion to adjourn at 8:43 PM; Gregor Moe seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Ayres, Gateway Division Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for Nov. 16, 2009

Holiday Party

While there was no business meeting in November, the membership did meet for the annual Holiday party. Ham led the menu with various salads, desserts, etc., rounding out the menu.

Mike Thomas showed his wonderful slide presentation on railroading in England, Wales, and Scotland. There were lots of photos of scenery, cathedrals, and castles included with the prototype railroad photos. He also showed photos from his 2' gauge train ride in Wales.

George Spriggs won a new locomotive in the drawing. Members and spouses were allowed to select their own door prize. This was definitely a fun and tasty evening for all involved!

Gateway Division Director's Report For The January 2010 MCOR BOD Meeting

by Phil Bonzon, MMR, Gateway Division Director

I. General Comments:

The Division continues to meet monthly on a rotating basis between the VFW Hall in O'Fallon, IL and Trinity Church in Chesterfield, MO. The average monthly attendance continues to hold in the 25-40 range. Meeting announcements are communicated by postcard to members who are current with their annual \$5 subscription fees or via e-mail to members who prefer this method of communication. Meeting info is also posted on the Gateway Division website which is www.gatewaynmra.org. Meeting and website updates are available through our RSS feed at <http://feeds.gatewaynmra.org/GatewayNMRA>.

II. Division Monthly Meetings/Clinics: July through December 2009

July: "Operating session at the St. Charles Model RR Club"

August: "Building Buildings With Paper" (Dave Roeder MMR)

September: "Members who received a DPM building kit at the May meeting brought their completed kitbashed models for a "show and tell" presentation and winners were selected by members voting – 1st \$50 gift certificate, Phil Bonzon; 2nd \$30 gift certificate, Gregor Moe and 3rd place \$20 gift certificate, was a tie broken with a coin toss going to David Bartz MMR."

October: "Kitbashing Steam Engines to Match or Resemble Prototypes" (Phil Bonzon MMR)

November: "Annual Gateway Division Christmas Party. Mike Thomas gave presentation on his trip to England highlighting Railroading in the United Kingdom"

December: "Video Presentation about 3 trips the Division went on in 2009" (Ron Gawedzinski)

III. 2009 Fall Meet and Model Contest: November 7 at Trinity Church

The annual meet was very successful. Dealer tables were a total sell out. 335 paid attendees and 55-60 free kids (12 years old or younger) Entrees in the model/photo contest increased from 46 in 2008 to 81 in 2009. Don Taschner

MMR, Rich Lake and Phil Bonzon MMR provided merit judging, for the Meet.

IV. AP Activity:

-Structures Merit Awards (2) to Venita Lake

-Motive Power (1) AP and (3) Merit Awards to Dave Roeder MMR

-(1) Car Merit award to John Carty

-Awards to Phil Bonzon - Motive Power, Cars, Author, Dispatcher, and MMR

V. Membership Activity:

Our Division continues to be challenged to retain existing members and keeping them active in Division programs. Recent membership data includes the following: 122 CK subscribers, 208 active NMRA members, and 483 inactive members for a total of 691 in the Gateway Division territory. Within these totals are 44 Gateway members who are current with their \$5/year subscription fees. There are currently about 90 members on our e-mail list receiving monthly meeting info over the Internet. Efforts are continuing to update the database for this activity.

Other activities used to promote the hobby and increase membership:

- Periodic layout tours on specific dates to visit Division member layouts
- Joint tour with the local NRHS chapter to the Monticello RR Museum in Illinois
- Joint operating train session with NRHS at the Quincy Society of Model Engineers in Quincy, IL
- Joint picnic with NRHS at the Wabash, Frisco, and Pacific RR in Glencoe, MO
- Joint visit with NRHS to Litchfield. IL to operate trains on the Litchfield Model RR

Group's HO scale layout

f. A switching layout was constructed by members (Hank Kraichely, Tim Stout, Rich Schumacher, Brian Post, Don Taschner, Ken Thompson and Phil Bonzon) and displayed at the November 2009 Great Train Expo in Collinsville, IL to promote membership in the NMRA and was well received with a lot of membership applications taken, especially the Rail Pass. In 2010 the switching layout will be displayed at four train shows.

Mike Thomas continues to do an excellent job as the Editor of the Division publication entitled the "RPO". Mike is always looking for

articles to publish so any MCOR members who might be interested please contact Mike.

The Gateway Division website, managed by Richard Schumacher, continues to be very busy. Stats for the month of November are typical and include the following:

-Hits for entire site: 3,046,521(101,550/day)

-Visits: 68,166(2272/day)

-Page Views: 96,078(3202/day)

-Search engine referrals: 14,580

VI. Officers/Department Chairs for 2010:

Superintendent: Hank Kraichely

Assistant Superintendent: Tim Stout

Division Director: Phil Bonzon MMR

Paymaster: Dave Lyon

Clerk/Secretary: Don Ayers

Membership Chairman: Hank Kraichely

Monthly E-mail Notice Manager: Don Head

AP Chairman: Don Taschner MMR

Fall Meet 2010

For some years now the Gateway Division has held its Fall Meet on the first Saturday of November – but this year the facilities of Trinity Lutheran Church are not available that weekend.

Therefore, we've scheduled the Fall Meet for the second Saturday, November 13, 2010.

Mark your calendars now!



Litchfield photo by Richard Schumacher

RPO Editor: Mike Thomas

Gateway Website Manager: Richard Schumacher

VII. Death of Members since July 2009:

Oliver D. Joseph passed away in a house fire December 2009. Dee has been a NMRA member since 1939 and was an HO modeler of the Harriman-Hill system in the 50s/60s era. Our condolences go out to Dee's wife Jean, son Brad, who is a MMR and other family members. Dee will be missed by all.

VIII. Thanks to Jim Anderson

Finally, the members of Gateway Division would like to acknowledge the fine work and support that Jim Anderson has provided in his eleven years of service as the Gateway Division Director. Also, I wish to thank Jim Anderson and other officers/department chairs for their help in preparation of this report.

Phil Bonzon MMR, Gateway Division Director

RPO Costs

Just in case you're curious....

One of the largest expenses the Gateway Division runs each year is printing and mailing of the RPO. The issue you're now reading is one of three each year that go only to those sixty or so members who request hard copies (and pay a \$5 mailing fee). The fourth issue each year, as well as the membership directory, is mailed to all NMRA members living in our geographic boundaries, about 230 persons.

Last October, printing the RPO cost \$0.74 per copy, the directory cost \$1.26 per copy, postage ran \$1.39 each, and the envelope and mailing label added about \$0.20 for a total cost of \$3.59 per member. This mailing also includes Fall Meet publicity and the ballot for officer elections.

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 \$58 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 \$5, 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

To join, visit our website and 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
Phil Bonzon, MMR

