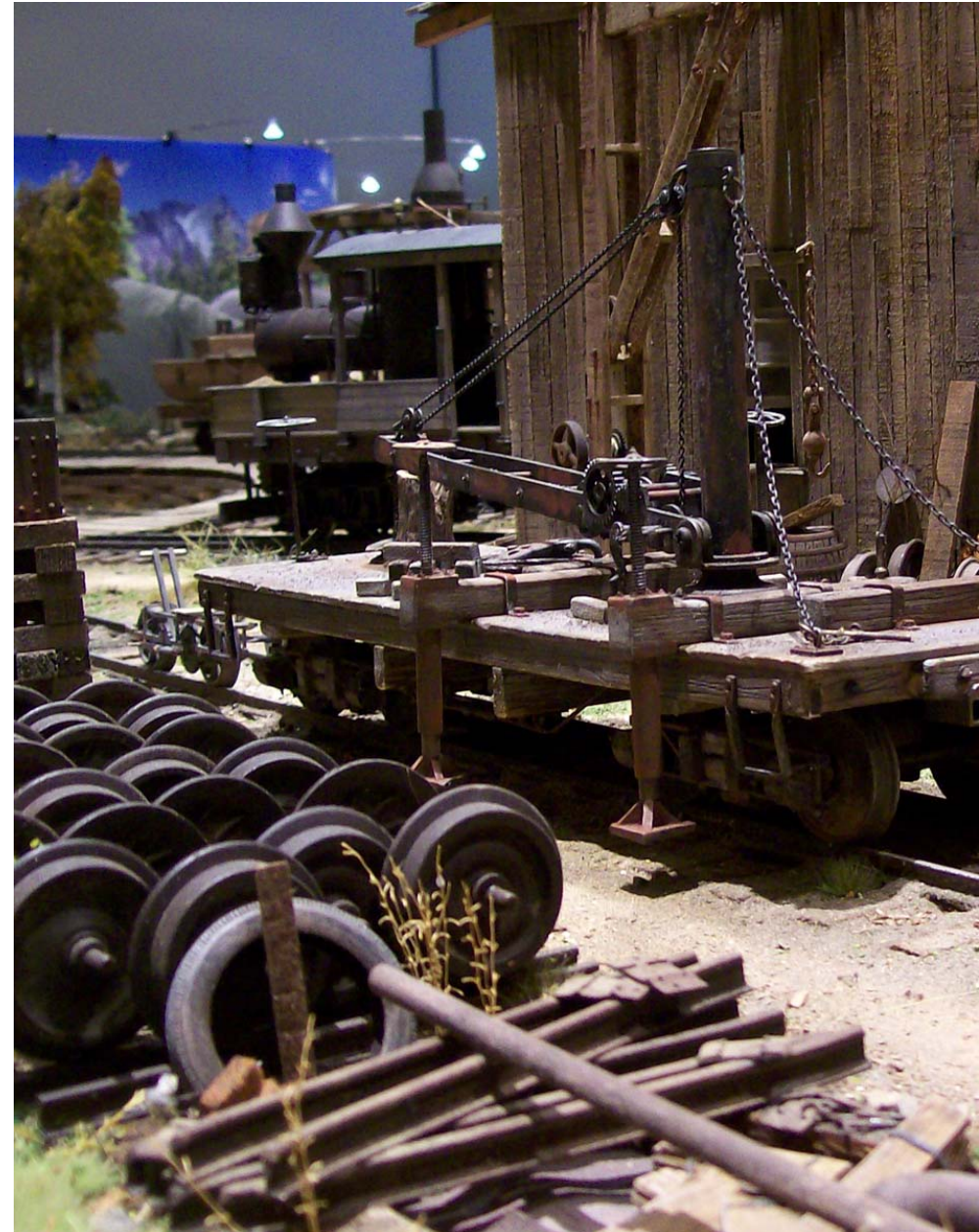


RPO

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Spring 2011
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Editor: Mike Thomas

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

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Rail Op Weekend

by Phil Bonzon, MMR

The April 20th deadline for Gateway Rail Op Weekend registration is fast approaching so you need to get your registration in or you are going to miss a fun weekend of prototypical operations.

Rich Lake is giving a clinic at the next Gateway meeting, April 18, on how to operate for the first time on an unfamiliar layout. Rail Op Weekend is for both first timers and "old hands". There is fun for both and we have seven great layouts available.

Last year's Rail Op weekend was a great success and everybody wanted to continue having Rail Op weekends, so look over the layouts that will be open for operations and sign up on-line at:

<http://www.gatewaynmra.org/railop.htm>

Hobby Shop Listings

The Gateway Division membership directory which is sent out to all members each October contains at the back a listing of local hobby shops and other resources. We depend on our members to keep us informed about new hobby shops opening and old shops closing.

Ron Gawedzinski reports that Corner Hobby in Belleville and Green Caboose in Alton have both closed, and that Hobby Station in Kirkwood is now in the process of selling off inventory and closing. In addition he tells us that Scott AFB Hobby Shop does not carry model railroad products.

On the plus side, a new shop is listed:

All Aboard Trains, 4676 Gravois Road, House Springs 63051, (636) 375-3133

If anyone has been to All Aboard Trains, let us know what it's like!

GatewayNMRA website statistics

by Richard Schumacher

Web Analytics Reports for the www.gatewaynmra.org web site for the month of February 2011

PDF Documents with report details are attached. The attached pdfs are considered GatewayNMRA confidential information.

Note that when comparing these numbers with a prior month, there are only 28 days in February (vs 30/31 in others)

19,425 visits (note that this number has been adjusted to reflect only actual human visitors)

83,594 pageviews (note that this number reflects only visitors to html web pages, does not include pdfs or image-only views)

715 pdf downloads (this only reflects downloads through a link on the gatewaynmra.org website)

626,737 jpg image views/downloads

2,794,600 hits

29.42 GB bandwidth

All traffic sources sent 19,425 visits via 415 sources and media

Traffic: 63.57% organic search, 22.14% referrals, 13.41% direct, 0.88% other

Referring sites sent 4,301 visits via 401 sources

Search sent 12,349 total visits via 7,213 keywords

Search sent 12,349 total visits via 10 sources

1. google 9,179
2. yahoo 1,383
3. bing 1,152
4. search 279
5. aol 223
6. ask 121
7. yandex 8

0.10% visits used site search

Campaign traffic sent 171 visits via 1 campaigns

1. Feed: GatewayNMRA (Gateway Division NMRA, Your Gateway to Model Railroading Fun) 171

Ads sent 37 visits via 6 ad contents

293 page titles were viewed a total of 83,594 times

On The Cover

photo by Mike Thomas

A derrick car sits near the roundhouse on the large scale modular layout at last September's 30th National Narrow Gauge Convention.

Top Content by Title

1. Small HO Scale Model Railroad Layouts with Track Plans | Gateway Central Train Layout 9,932
2. Model Trains and Model Railroads | Gateway Division NMRA | Gateway to Model Railroad Fun 3,647
3. Scale Model Railroad Download Page | Signs, Interiors and Backgrounds 3,338
4. Directory of St. Louis Area Model Railroad and Train Layouts 2,432
5. 4x8 HO Scale Model Railroad Layout Display at the Missouri Historical Society 2,196
6. HO Scale Small Switching Model Railroad | Designing the Gateway Central XV 2,042
7. Model Railroad & Model Train Article Library | Tips, Tricks, Photos & Techniques 1,938
8. 2010 Train Show Railroad Model and Photo Contest | Gateway Division NMRA 1,919
9. Trains and Railroads in the Civil War 1,893 1,619
10. Model Railroad DCC | Digital Command Control for Model Train Layouts 1,608
11. 2005 Riverport Theme Model Railroad Layout | Gateway Central XII (2005) | Gateway NMRA 1,587
12. 4x8 HO Model Railroad Track Plan | Gateway 2001 National Train Show Model Railroader Magazine Layout 1,529
13. Gateway Central X (2003) Small HO Scale Model Railroad Layout with photos and trackplan 1,406
14. Contest and Award Winning Train Models and Photos | Gateway NMRA 1,389
15. Small HO Scale Model Railroad Layout | Gateway Central IX (2002) Project Train Layout 1,327

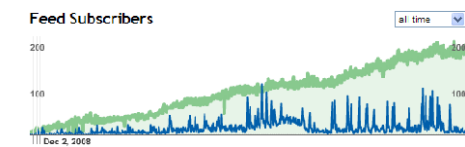
16. Jacob Libhart City Streetcar HO Scale Small Model Railroad Diorama 1,217
17. John Kalin Rio Grande Southern Sn3 Scale Model Railroad Layout | Page 1 of 3 1,199
18. HO Scale Model Buildings and Structures on the Missouri History Museum Train Layout, Page 1 1,184
19. Build a Small HO Scale Switching Layout | Track Plan & Parts List 1,153
20. Greater St. Louis Area Model Railroad and Train Layouts | Page 3 | K-O | Gateway NMRA 1,141
21. Designing Model Railroad Operations | Quick Start Techniques and Examples 1,129
22. Greater St. Louis Area Model Railroad and Train Layouts | Page 1 | A-B | Gateway NMRA 1,063
23. 4x8 HO Scale Small Model Railroad Layout | Gateway Central IV | 1997 Project Train Layout 1,002
24. Basics of Building Plastic Structures for your Model Railroad, with step-by-step photos 968
25. Greater St. Louis Area Model Railroad and Train Layouts | Page 2 | C-J | Gateway NMRA 944
26. Dave Roeder Webster Groves & Fenton HO Scale Model Railroad Layout | Page 1 of 3 933
27. Photos of the Missouri History Museum Model Railroad Layout | Page 1 of 2 896
28. Warehouse & Industrial Background Building Photos for Model Railroads 860
29. DCC (Digital Command Control) Power Bus Wiring for Model Railroads 825
30. Gateway Central VIII (2001) Small HO Scale Model Railroad Layout | Article with photos and trackplan 783

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1. /project.htm 6114
2. / (home page) 6109
3. /download.htm 2412
4. /articles/civil-war1.htm 2008
5. /mhslayout/mhslayout.htm 1452
6. /dcc/dccdecoders.htm 1281
7. /project15.htm 1257
8. /layouts.htm 1140
9. /dcc.htm 1135
10. /designops.htm 1068
11. /projectmr.htm 1062
12. /models.htm 1005
13. /project09.htm 1001
14. /project10.htm 955
15. /project12.htm 955
16. /structure.htm 924
17. /library.htm 913
18. /layouts/gc15/project15-trackplan.htm 827
19. /layouts3.htm 758
20. /project04.htm 750
21. /layouts1.htm 699
22. /dcc/powerbus.htm 690
23. /mhslayout/mhsbuildings1.htm 690
24. /mhslayout/mhs-dpm.htm 572
25. /models10.htm 563

Interesting Referring Sites

2. cs.trains.com 208
5. en.wikipedia.org 116
6. modelrailroadforums.com 102
9. opsig.org 83
11. findhow.com 70
12. wiringfordcc.com 70
16. knol.google.com 55
22. nmra.org 36
23. barchester.webs.com 32
25. forum.atlasrr.com 29
26. railserv.com 29
27. trainboard.com 26
31. all-model-railroading.co.uk 21
37. freerails.com 18
41. microengineering.com 17
42. trainsarefun.com 17
44. collectorsweekly.com 14
50. ehow.com 13
56. mcor-nmra.org 11
62. modelclub.gr 10
63. railmerchants.net 10



Officers' Planning Meeting

January 15, 2011

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Hank Kraichely, Superintendent
Bill Linson, Assistant Superintendent
Phil Bonzon, MCoR Director
Don Ayres, Clerk
Dave Lyon, Paymaster
Ron Gawedzinski, Activities Coordinator
Sue Linson, Hostess Extraordinaire
Hank presented an agenda at the beginning of the meeting:

First item on Hanks agenda was to ask the officers if they think we need a "mission statement". National has one. Ron pointed out that we already have something similar in

Article I of our Regulations. It reads: "The purpose of the Division is to promote fellowship among model railroaders, to educate them and the public about the hobby, to develop the various skills of the hobby, and in general to advance the hobby of model railroading. . . . " All agreed that this should suffice.

Several ideas were discussed for joint activities that we might participate in with the National Railway Historical Society. The following activities seem likely or will be pursued:

Rail-ops weekend, March 26

Photography weekend

Picnic at WF+P location, September

Other prototype locations were discussed, but railroads and related industries today don't seem to want to have visitors. Manufacturers Railway?

Next, we discussed many ideas for clinics in 2011, and came up with the following TENTATIVE list:

January – Two of our MMR's speaking on various aspects of the hobby.

February – Two of our MMR's speaking on various aspects of the hobby.

March – Brian Post on DCC speed matching

April – Rich Lake on operations

May – AMB kit passed out; discussion on merit judging

June – Operating session at K-10 Hobbies in Maryville, IL.

July – Swap meet

August – Backdrop painting

September – AMB kit judging

October - Custom decal and custom casting making or urban detailing

November – Holiday Party

December – Bring it and brag: models or pictures

The kit building contest has been very popular. It is thought that this is the LEADING cause for our increased attendance at meetings. John Heitzman volunteered to come in and judge the contest again this year, so another AMB kit will be the basis for this year's contest. The officers came up with a list of 5 or 6 kits that retail for under \$35. John will be asked to help us focus in on one particular kit to maximize kitbashing possibilities. There will be two competition categories: Expert and Regular, with a first and second place prize awarded in each category. It was decided that we will limit the base to the footprint of the building.

Budget – we are down approximately \$700 on the year. At this rate of loss, the Division will be solvent for 31 more years. No significant expenditures are foreseen.

Mailing fee's – Postage is expected to rise in 2011. The division is already losing about \$5 per member per year for those who receive meeting reminders and the RPO by snail mail. Look for a motion for an increase in 2011.

The Division will likely be looking for a new Clerk in 2012.

Membership count: lost 5 but gained 24!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Don Ayres

Gateway Division Clerk

Division Minutes

by Don Ayres

Meeting Minutes for January 17, 2011

CLINIC – This month's clinic featured two of the Division's Master Model Railroader's. Don Taschner talked about various techniques' related to structure building. Then, Dave Roeder discussed scratch building freight cars. Thanks, guys!!

BUSINESS MEETING – The Superintendent called the business meeting to order at 8:19 PM. There were 35 members present, and five guests, including Don Taschner's wife Doris, and new member Gary McCullough's wife Cheryl. Craig and Debby Noah were visitors and are just getting started. Doug Aegerter is also just getting started in the hobby.

Minutes of the December Meeting There was a motion to approve the December minutes. Seeing no comments or requests for changes, the Superintendent declared the minutes APPROVED as read. Approved minutes are published in our quarterly publication, the RPO.

Treasurers Report Dave said there was "nothing unusual" in this month's report. The \$210 for rent was our annual donation to the VFW hall in O'Fallon for the use of their meeting room every other month. The report was APPROVED as read.

Merchandise Report Tim reported that there are 47 packs of the 33" wheelsets available, and a few odd standards gauges. He asked if anyone was interested in getting any other sizes of wheelsets from Intermountain. Hank asked if anyone interested in purchasing an HO gauge standards gauge. Nobody indicated an interest.

RPO Report Mike Thomas requested minutes of past meetings from the Clerk, and said that any other submissions to him for the next quarterly edition need to be sent to him soon.

Directors Report The Regional Board of Directors meeting is 22Jan. Phil and Bob Amsler will attend. Phil announced that we have 30 new members in 2010; a net gain of 25 after losses.

Activity Report Phil announced 2 more rail op weekends for members only. More details to follow. The first is May 20 and 21, and another one in the September-October time frame.

Ron then talked about possible upcoming joint activities with the National Railway Historical Society. A copy of the annual Officers Planning Meeting minutes was available that has this info. Nothing is locked in at this time. He also pitched some of the events that NRHS is doing this year.

Achievement Program (AP) Report Don Taschner presented Gregor Moe Certificates for Electrical, Scenery, and Civil. He also presented Gregor Merit Awards for his cars that he entered in the contest at our Fall Meet. He's going to be an MMR in no time! Bonnie Moe was presented a Merit Award for her flat car, also earned at the Fall Meet.

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report Bill ran down the list of clinics scheduled for the year (also enumerated in the Officers Planning meeting minutes). Next month is part 2 of "Modeling with the Masters".

Old Business The 2010 Officers Planning Meeting was held in January 2010. The following item remains open:

Recruitment – No report this month. OPEN.
Division Shirts – National has approved our new logo. (Thanks to Bob Amsler!) Don announced that orders were being accepted for the Divisions' new polo shirt. CLOSED

New Business No new business.

Announcements Gateway Division will have a booth at the upcoming train show in St Charles.

50/50 – Thirty three dollars was collected, and Taschner won the drawing and took home \$16.50. The treasury was likewise enriched by \$16.50. Mike Thomas won the Mark Twain Hobbies gift card.

Adjournment Gregor Moe made a motion to adjourn the business meeting at 8:55 PM. SECONDED, and PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Ayres, Gateway Division Clerk

Meeting Minutes for February 21, 2011

CLINIC – This month's clinic featured two of the Division's Master Model Railroader's. Randy Meyer started by talking about plaster molds, both homemade and store bought, and his technique for applying them to the layout. He then went on to tell about his painting technique to create realistic scenery. Phil Bonzon then talked about building award winning engines with a focus on merit judging of the models. Of course, he brought along several models for us to admire. Thanks, guys!!

BUSINESS MEETING – The Superintendent called the business meeting to order at 8:20 PM. There were 23 members present, and no guests.

Minutes of the January Meeting The minutes were APPROVED as read with one correction. Approved minutes are published in our quarterly publication, the RPO.

Treasurers Report Dave said there was "not a whole lot unusual" in this month's report. He did bring to light an error that he had made and explained his correction as shown in the report. He volunteered to be fired for his mistake, but we were all smart enough not to do it! The report was APPROVED as read.

Merchandise Report Tim talked about stock levels of the HO scale wheelsets that we sell at a great savings to members. He opened the floor for discussion on a future purchase. Some interest was expressed. Gregor Moe made a motion to order another increment of various sizes of the Intermountain wheelsets and trucks. Dick Wegner seconded.

MOTION PASSED.
RPO Report Mike Thomas was not present. No report.

Directors Report The Regional Convention will be held in St Louis in 2012. Hank will have more on this later. The next Kibitzer will have ballots for officer elections at Region. Phil said that the publication of the Kibitzer in print format will be discussed again – or whether it should be published in electronic format only. Next Mid Continent Region meeting is in June.

Activity Report A layout tour is being set up for March 26th. The layouts will generally be in northwest part of the greater St Louis area. More info at the next meeting, and in the email announcements.

Another rail –op weekend is scheduled for May 25 and 26. There will be 7 layouts open this time. Watch for registration to open on our website, at www.gatewaynmra.org.

Achievement Program (AP) Report Don Taschner was not present. No report.

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report In March, Brian Post will demonstrate speed matching of dissimilar locomotives using Digital Command Control.

In April, Rich Lake will speak on model railroad operations – just in time for our rail-op weekend!

Old Business The 2010 Officers Planning Meeting was held in January 2010. The following item remains open:

Recruitment – No report this month. OPEN.

New Business The new shirts were brought up as a new business item. The shirts were

ordered from a vendor in Illinois where we do not have tax exempt status for our non-profit org. We will have to pay tax on our purchases. Shirt prices are now \$34.51 and \$39.90 if you want your name applied to the shirt. (And an additional \$3.21 for 2XL and larger sizes.) Members thanked Don with a hearty round of applause for heading this effort. Orders are being accepted, and several were already taken tonight prior to the business meeting. CLOSED

As Phil previously announced, the 2012 Mid Continent Regional Convention will be hosted by the Gateway Division. Hank had a list of committee chairs with many positions already filled. He passed the roster around and requested more volunteers to sign up. A place to hold the convention is being looked into now. Hank announced John Hardy is the Facilities chairman. He is thinking we would try to schedule it in the first few weeks of June, and several schools and Community Colleges have been approached. The schedule for these conventions is typically Thursday afternoon/evening registration, a full day of activities on Friday and Saturday, with "get away day" on Sunday. OPEN 'till next fall!

Announcements Jim Ables has volunteered to send out email announcements to the membership. He has encountered over 50 bad email addresses for members. If you are not receiving your announcements, email him at gateway.division@charter.net and he will add you.

Dave Roeder mentioned that there will be another train show at Dreamland Palace. Details below. Dave also invited us all and our families to his house to help him celebrate 15 years of monthly operations on his "Webster Grove and Fenton RR". The open house is Sunday, April 10, from noon until 5.

50/50 – Thirty dollars was collected, and Randy Meyer won the drawing and took home \$15. The treasury was likewise enriched by \$15. Larry Wodell won the Mark Twain Hobbies gift card.

Adjournment Phil made a motion to adjourn the business meeting at 8:56 PM. Dick Wenger SECONDED, and the motion PASSED by an overwhelming majority.

Respectfully Submitted,
Don Ayres, Gateway Division Clerk

Division Officers

Superintendent

Hank Kraichely

Assistant Superintendent

Bill Linson

Clerk (Secretary)

Don Ayres

Paymaster (Treasurer)

Dave Lyon

Division Director

Phil Bonzon, MMR

