



Volume 30, Issue 3

Fall 2022

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Willie Richter, Superintendent, Gateway Division

I hope you were able to make it out to the Gateway 2022 Convention. It was a wonderful event. I started each day by arriving at 7 a.m. to make sure the projectors and laptops were setup and ready for the presentations. This might sound like a job, but the people I worked with made it very enjoyable. I attended as many clinics as I could each day. I saw everything from painting backdrops, building a 7.5" gauge railroad, detailing a HO freight car, to the History of the Harvey House Restaurants. I took a tour of Union Station and a TRRA rail trip. What made that trip even better was that it was Charles Marshall's first train ride and at the end of the trip he was able to climb up in the cab and sit in the engineer's seat. He had a big smile. I also experienced my first operating session. When we

Continued on Page 2

In This Issue

Division Meetings Update	3
Director's Reflections	4
RPM Makes Contribution to Division	5
Achievement Program Update	6
National Convention Contest Results	8
David Lowell Receives Award	10
Layout Tour: Sugar Creek Valley	11
Arby's Isn't the Only One Who Has the "Meets"	14
And the Survey Says...	17
Mid-year Membership Update	23
Layout Tour: Franklin Pacific	24
Station to Station: Tamms, IL	27
Structural Elements: Carrier Mills, IL	28
In Memoriam	30
Editor's Observations	31
Content Needed for the RPO	33
Meeting Minutes for 7/18/2022	34
Upcoming Events	37
Meeting Minutes for 9/19/2022	38

From the Superintendent's Desk (continued from page 1)

got into the room and they started to explain how it worked I was intimidated. I thought "what did I get in to?" and "maybe this wasn't a good idea." By the end of the operating session I couldn't wait to go to another. It was an awesome experience. Michael Gross was the keynote speaker Saturday and he was great. The train show was great as well. I spoke to quite a few vendors and saw some great layouts. This was one of the best vacations I have had in a long time, plus I got to sleep in my own bed. It doesn't get any better. Now I am trying to figure out how I can attend another. I work at a school district and August is a no vacation month. I had to pull some strings for this one so I will have to wait a few years to try again.

By the end of the operating session I couldn't wait to go to another. It was an awesome experience.

A couple weeks ago we had our first in person/hybrid meeting. It was wonderful to be in the same room with some familiar faces and a few new ones. There were a few hiccups with the Zoom but all in all it went very well. We are already working on some changes to the Zoom setup for the next meeting. It may take us a few meetings to get the kinks worked out, but I am confident we will get there.

We are going to start our Quarterly Saturday meetings in 2023. We are still working out the details, but these will be afternoon type meetings with multiple presentations and hands-on opportunities. We will need presenters/clinicians for these meetings and our regular monthly meetings so keep that in mind. The more you put into it the more you get out of it. We are entertaining many ideas so if you have some let us know.

Great times are ahead for the Gateway Division. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do. Have a great rest of your year and stay safe.

Willie Richter
Superintendent, Gateway Division



Terminal Railroad Association (TRRA) GP38-3 locomotives #2006 and #2010 at St. Louis Union Station for the rail excursion during the National Convention.

Photo Credit: Willie Richter



Not only was this Charles Marshall's first train trip, but he was also able to climb up in the cab and sit in the engineer's seat. The smile says it all! Photo Credit: Willie Richter

In-person Meetings Are Back...But Virtual Is Here to Stay

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

Not only did the Gateway Division return to in-person meetings on September 19, 2022, but we held our first in-person/Zoom hybrid meeting. There was strong attendance, both in-person and virtually. After working through the technical learning curve, we successfully conducted the business meeting and presentation. All in all, our first hybrid meeting was both a learning experience and a step forward that will allow attendees to participate in Division meetings and presentations in the way that best suits them. Moving forward, the Division will be purchasing new equipment to enhance the virtual experience. With a large geographic area, holding hybrid meetings allows members to participate when they can't be there in person. Through the results of our Division survey, we recognize that transportation issues (distance and driving at night) are a concern for many members. Having hybrid meetings gives us the best of both worlds...in-person and virtual participation. We look forward to seeing you (live and in-person or virtually!)

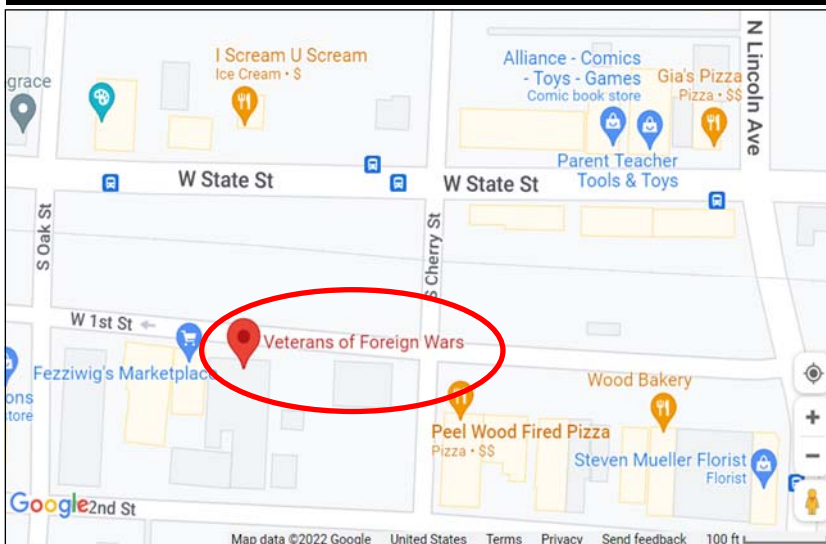
Upcoming Gateway Division Member Meetings

October 17, 2022: Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, Post 805, 223 West 1st Street, O'Fallon, IL 62269

November 21, 2022: Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road, Town and Country, MO 63017

December 19, 2022: Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, Post 805, 223 West 1st Street, O'Fallon, IL 62269

Watch your e-mail for the Zoom link so you can attend even if you can't be there in person!



Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, Post 805
223 West 1st Street O'Fallon, IL



Trinity Lutheran Church
14088 Clayton Road Town and Country, MO



Stay tuned for upcoming events! As Willie said in his column, big things are on the horizon for the Division; however we need your help. We need presentations for both the monthly meetings, as well as the quarterly, hands-on clinics and demonstrations. Presentations can be on almost anything railroad related, either models or prototypes. From history to layout tours to how-to's. For our upcoming quarterly clinics, we want to provide a hands-on experience whether it be scenery, backdrops, painting, decaling, detailing, building kits and structures, or how to use tools such as soldering irons or airbrushes. Almost anything that causes our members to get their hands "dirty" is a good topic. Reach out to any of the Division Officers with your ideas!

Director's Reflections: Summer of Fun

By David C. Lowell, Director, Gateway Division,
Mid-continent Region

In my previous column I wrote about "After the Storm" and the upcoming events I was looking forward to. Two of those things have come to pass, the 2022 RPM meet and the 2022 NMRA National Convention, both here in St. Louis. Several others are still on the horizon as I write this. We have been invited to participate with Mark Twain Hobby for their customer appreciation day in mid-September. Also, in September we are scheduled to start in person meetings again while working out the bugs of maintaining the virtual connection. Exciting times indeed.

The National Convention (August 6-13) team of John Schindler, Jimmy Ables, Brad Joseph and Bob Amsler should all be heartily congratulated for what they accomplished keeping in mind they have worked on this event since prior to the 2020 originally scheduled date that was canceled due to COVID. Somewhere in the neighborhood of six years is quite a commitment. Additionally, this was the first in person convention since 2019 in Salt Lake City. Thus, the annual momentum had been interrupted causing the convention attendance to be less than had been hoped for. Nonetheless, it still was a great success especially when you take into account all the additional head winds that they encountered to put it on. The final count is not fully tabulated quite yet, but they estimate about 800 attendees in all.

Too many clinics to count with a breadth of subjects across every prototype or hobby railroad subject you can imagine. Modeling with the masters, prototype tours, layout tours and operating sessions galore. My personal favorite, the contest room, had over 60 entries on the tables to be judged and 40 plus of those entered received merit award scores. This was a particularly strong showing given the recent trends at national conventions past. The Division & Region represented well in the contest room showing that the quality of our modelers is second to none. No matter which of the above activities the attendees participated in, everyone I talked with seemed to be having a great time.

A strong group of volunteers from within and without of the Division assisted all week. Ron Gawedzinski worked tirelessly to coordinate all the attendees onto tour busses every day. A task I am sure was akin to herding cats. Walter Beckman did a great job recruiting volunteers pre-convention and then scheduling them by times and locations. He then supplemented his initial efforts with many daily and even hourly adjustments. Wille Richter spent many hours in the clinic area ensuring AV components and clinicians could interface so the clinicians could make their presentations. Division members (in alphabetical order): Lonnie Bathurst, Bob Gibson, Greg Gramlich, Dan Knipp, Venita Lake, Bill Levin, Brenda Masters-Stout, Bob & Joan Miller, Curt Regensberger, Ed Smith, Paul Steinberg, and Al Weber all pitched in and it was appreciated. All the volunteers worked hard and were tired at the end of each day but all had great fun along the way. Speaking for myself, I got a great deal of satisfaction from the experience and made so many new acquaintances. A very special thanks to all those who volunteered.

*The Division & Region
represented well in the contest
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none.*

Another great event was the 16th annual Railroad Prototype Modeler's (RPM) Meet in Collinsville the last Friday and Saturday in July. Organized and presented by a small group of Gateway Division members, the St. Louis RPM meet has become the premier RPM event in the country. This year, all rolled into the 28,000 square foot event, were over 650 attendees, more than 3,000 models displayed, and 69 premium vendors and Historical Societies were on hand. Also offered were some very interesting presentations. It was well worth the drive across the river and the entry fee for two days of model railroad nirvana.

Even though this is not an official Gateway Division event, the Gateway Division is proud to be able to be a co-sponsor and provide volunteers to support the efforts of Lonnie Bathurst, Dave Roeder, Jeff Kuebler, Brian McQuitty and Mark Lewis in their efforts. You may ask if it is not an official Division event why do we assist them? They are all Division members working to fulfill one of the basic tenants of the NMRA, which is to promote the hobby of Model Railroading. Therefore, it makes sense to support them.

The events of the summer have rejuvenated my enthusiasm to get back into interactive and interpersonal model railroading after too long of a hiatus. I sure hope it has done the same for you. Recently there has been activity by the board making plans to jump back into interactive activities as we reconvene in person.

We also have elections upcoming and this is a great opportunity for you to get involved. Also, with the new year just around the corner we will be rolling out some changes based on your feedback. We're hoping to provide something of interest for all the members of the Division and increase participation.

I will always be available, as well as the great team of officers we have, to receive any comments or suggestions you may have. You can reach me at LowellCoMotive@gmail.com.

Happy Rails!

David C. Lowell, Director, Gateway Division, Mid Continent Region, National Model Railroad Association



Collinsville RPM Makes Contribution to the Gateway Division

In appreciation for the numerous hours of volunteer time provided by our members, Dave Roeder, a Gateway Division member and one of the people who bring you the Collinsville RPM (left) presents a check to the Division Paymaster, Bill Levin (right) as a contribution to the Division for the value of the volunteer hours provided by our members.

Achievement Program Update: It's Time to Stretch

By Dave Ackmann, Achievement Program Chair, Gateway Division
Photos by Dan Knipp, Assistant Superintendent, Gateway Division

Greetings from the office of the Achievement Program (AP) Chair. Speaking of Chairs, it seems like I have been doing a lot of sitting these days, either at my desk or driving a car. It's probably time for a stretch for both my body and my mind. How about you?

Several folks in the Gateway Division have been stretching their skills in the NMRA Achievement Program during the last few months. In September we presented AP awards in Electrical Engineering to Glenn Koproske, Greg Gramlich and myself; I also received the Association Volunteer award. David Lowell received an AP award for Association Official and three Merit Awards for pieces of his rolling stock. Greg also received his Golden Spike award. Finally, a few other AP "Statements of Qualification" (SOQs) have been submitted and are going up the approval chain.

Seven members of the Gateway Division are currently stretching by working together toward AP certificates in structures. In early September our "Working Group" held a Zoom meeting where we shared some of the structures we completed and what we learned in the process. Since the certificate requires that 6 structures be evaluated and awarded Certificates of Merit, we reviewed how structures are reviewed for construction, detail, conformity, finish, and scratchbuilding. Several of us who have gone through the evaluation process shared lessons learned.



AP Chair, Dave Ackmann (left) presents Glenn Koproske (right) with his AP Certificate for Electrical Engineering.



AP Chair, Dave Ackmann (left) presents Greg Gramlich (right) with his AP Certificate for Electrical Engineering.



Dave Ackmann (left) receives his AP Certificate for Association Volunteer from David Lowell (right).

Currently, evaluations are usually conducted only at Regional and National events, but we are investigating ways we can make the evaluation process more accessible for our local Division, so “stay tuned”.

During the Gateway 2022 National Convention, several Division members attended clinics on how to evaluate models, and I was a part of the group that did evaluations in the “Celebration Room”. Volunteering to be a contest judge is also a great way to learn what makes a good model great.

The AP is a valuable and congenial way to stretch your skills and be recognized for what you have created. If you would like to join our Structures Working Group, even if you don’t want to pursue an AP Certificate, just let me know and I’ll put you on the list. If a different area of the hobby interests you, just visit the NMRA web site at nmra.org and click on the “Education” tab.

Every now and then a little stretching is good for us all. Time for me to get moving.

Dave Ackmann
Ackmanns@charter.net



AP Chair, Dave Ackmann (left) presents David Lowell (right) with his AP Certificate for Association Official.



AP Chair, Dave Ackmann (left) presents David Lowell (right) with three Merit Awards for his rolling stock.



The Lima Locomotive Co. built this Shay in 1904 for the Somers Lumber Co. in Montana. W.H. Best Logging Company at Bigfork purchased it from Somers in 1919. It was then acquired by F.H. Stolze Land and Lumber Company in 1923. Stolze operated the locomotive until 1941 in the Swan Valley and north of Half Moon. The Shay was relocated to Columbia Falls, Montana in 1963 with the assistance of the Great Northern Railway and restored with the help of volunteers from the Jaycees for the 1964 Centennial Celebration of Montana as a U.S. territory. Photo credit: Jeff Cooper

Gateway 2022 NMRA National Convention Contest Results for Gateway Division Members

Congratulations to all of the award winners from the Gateway Division and thank you to Division members Dave Ackmann, Walter Beckman, and John Phillips for Volunteering as Contest Judges!

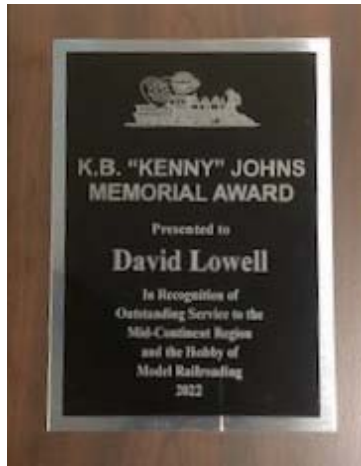
Judged Model Contest: Kit Class

Name	Model	Merit Award	Awards
Steam			
Dave Roeder	HOn3 SG&N #34 Gold Prince 2-8-0	Yes	1st Place
Diesel and Other			
Dave Roeder	HO CRGX #2 Railserv D-35 Diesel	Yes	1st Place
Dave Roeder	HO Diesel Whitcomb 20 Ton - Red		2nd Place
Freight Cars			
Dave Roeder	HO LFPX 1002 covered Hopper		1st Place
Dave Roeder	HOn3 SN RR #67 NG 32 ft Flat Car		2nd Place
Passenger Cars			
Dave Roeder	HO RI Pikes Peak #376 Dormitory/Club/Diner	Yes	1st Place
Dave Roeder	HO IC Pullman Sleeper #5235 Lake Ferguson		3rd Place
Non-revenue			
Dave Roeder	HO CHTX 9 Crane Tender - COL TRANS SOL		2nd Place
Dave Roeder	HO CHTX 8 250-ton crane - COL TRANS SOL		3rd Place
Caboose			
David Lowell	HO C&IM Caboose # 63	Yes	1st Place
Dave Roeder	HO Caboose Webster Groves & Fenton #4005	Yes	2nd Place
Dave Roeder	HO Caboose Webster Groves & Fenton #4		3rd Place
Structures			
David Lowell	HO Don Morice Freight Forwarder		1st Place
Judged Model Contest: Scratchbuilt Class			
Diesel and Other			
Dave Roeder	1/25 Rail Truck Webster Groves & Fenton #1	Yes	2nd Place
Freight Cars			
Dave Roeder	Flat Car Silverton Northern RR #53 40 ft	Yes	
Passenger Cars			
David Lowell	C&IM Business Car #1	Yes	1st Place
Dave Roeder	HO Hannibal & St. Joseph RR #15		2nd Place
Non-revenue			
Dave Roeder	Webster Groves & Fenton Rail Crew Bus #67	Yes	
David Lowell	C&IM #105 Brill Model 55 motor Car	Yes	
Caboose			
Dave Roeder	Caboose Combine Pend Oreille Valley #10	Yes	3rd Place
Diorama			
Greg Gramlich	HO Yellowstone National Park (South) 1925		3rd Place

Railroad Pass Contest			
Name	Model	Merit Award	Awards
Steam			
Dave Roeder	1875 Hannibal & St. Joseph	N/A	1st Place
Dave Roeder	1918 Illinois Central RR Company	N/A	3rd Place
Judged Photo Contest			
Black & White Print: Model			
Robert Miller	Frisco #954 Working Lindenwood Yard	N/A	1st Place
Black & White Print: Prototype			
Brad Joseph	There Are Time Machines	N/A	3rd Place
Color Print: Model			
Vic Smith	The City Edge HO #2	N/A	1st Place
Vic Smith	The City Edge HO #1	N/A	2nd Place
Vic Smith	The City Edge HO #3	N/A	3rd Place
Color Print: Prototype			
Brad Joseph	Cuban Sugar Train Trip	N/A	1st Place
Brad Joseph	Simmering	N/A	3rd Place
Working on the Railroad			
Brad Joseph	Tough Job...Just Like Old Hollywood	N/A	2nd Place
Special Effects			
Vic Smith	The City Edge HO #6	N/A	1st Place
Best of Show			
Vic Smith	The City Edge HO #5	N/A	1st Place
Judged Module Contest			
Individual/Scene			
Dennis Kehm	Downtown and Missouri Avenue	N/A	1st Place
People's Choices—Models & Photos			
Rolling Stock			
David Lowell	C&IM Business Car #1	N/A	1st Place
Caboose			
Dave Roeder	Caboose Combine Pend Oreille Valley #10	N/A	1st Place
Model Print			
Vic Smith	The City Edge HO #1	N/A	1st Place
Vic Smith	The City Edge HO #4	N/A	2nd Place
Vic Smith	The City Edge HO #2	N/A	3rd Place
Proto Print			
Brad Joseph	Simmering	N/A	1st Place
Brad Joseph	There Be Dragons	N/A	2nd Place
Special Awards			
Dave Ackmann	Girls' Weekend at the A-frame	Fun and Games Award (Best Use of Figures)	
David Lowell	C&IM Business Car #1	NMRA Magazine Award (Most Photogenic Model)	
Dennis Kehm	Downtown and Missouri Avenue	DPM Award (Best City Scene)	

David Lowell Receives the Mid-Continent Region K. B. Johns President's Award

This award is given by the President of MCoR in recognition of outstanding service to the Mid-Continent Region and to the Hobby of Model Railroading. K.B. "Kenny" Johns was a charter member of the Mid-Continent Region. He was an active participant of every Region Convention from 1949 until his passing in 1963. He was the builder of the Fern Mountain Model Railroad in St. Joseph, Mo, which served as the unofficial meeting place and "club" layout for local modelers around St. Joseph. This year's K. B. Johns President's Award winner is Gateway Division member David Lowell who serves as the Division's Region Director. Congratulations, David!



Left: Mid-Continent Region President Brad Slone, MMR (right) presenting David Lowell (left) the K.B. Johns President's Award.

Right: NMRA President, Gordy Robinson, MMR (left) congratulating David Lowell (right) on his award.



Trolley #224 is a Fort Smith Light & Traction (FSL&T) double-ended single truck arched roof Birney Safety Car built in 1926 by American Car Company. After FSL&T ceased operations in 1933, #224 was stripped of its wheels and motor and the body was sold. The body was converted to a diner in Ashdown, AR and then subsequently sold and moved to Shreveport, LA. The Ft. Smith Trolley Museum acquired the body in 1979 and after a lengthy restoration, #224 officially began operating under wire in 1991. Photo credit: Jeff Cooper

Photo Tour of Mike Wise's Sugar Creek Valley Railroad

Layout Description from the Gateway 2022 National Convention Time Table

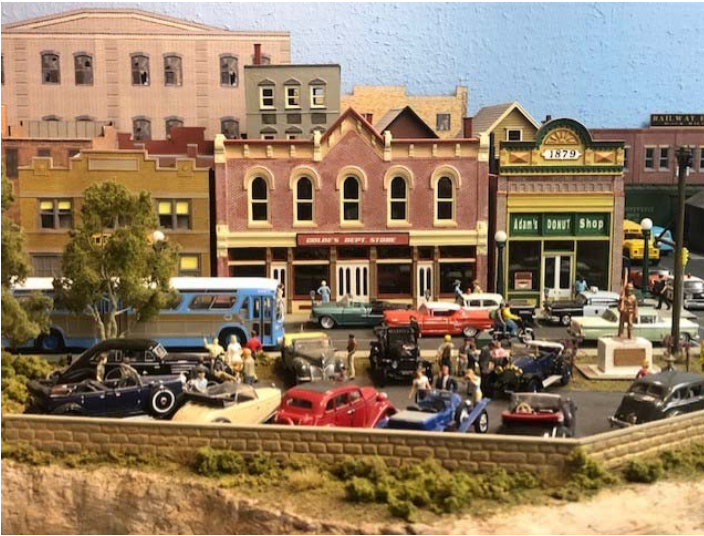
Photos by Jeff Cooper



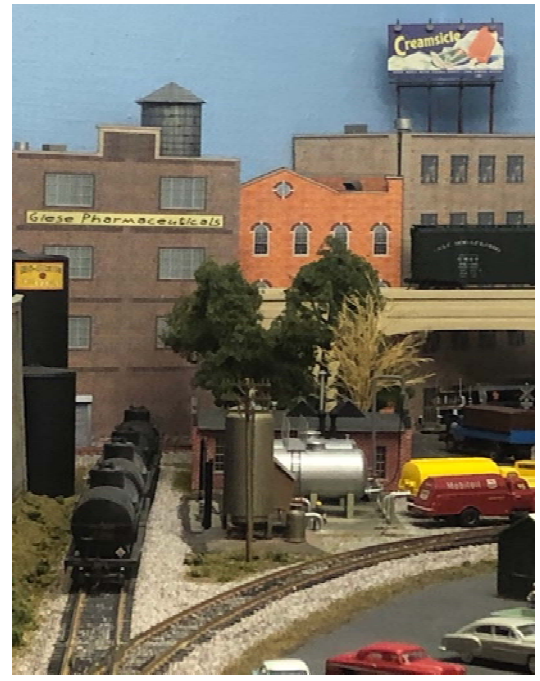
The Sugar Creek Valley Railroad is an old-school DC powered HO scale layout built from 2007 to 2009. The 75-ft of mainline is code 100 track and is built for error-free operation. The SCVRR is a fictional bridge line from Louisville to Kansas City and Omaha. The layout represents St. Louis Division operations that is heavy on urban switching. The layout is set in September 1966 and features first and early second-generation locomotives, cabooses, and rolling stock with roofwalks and ladders. All rolling stock is weathered. There are many scratchbuilt and kitbashed structures. Monthly five-person crew operating sessions have been held since June 2009.



Mike Wise's Sugar Creek Valley Railroad



Mike Wise's Sugar Creek Valley Railroad



Arby's Isn't the Only One Who Has the "Meets"

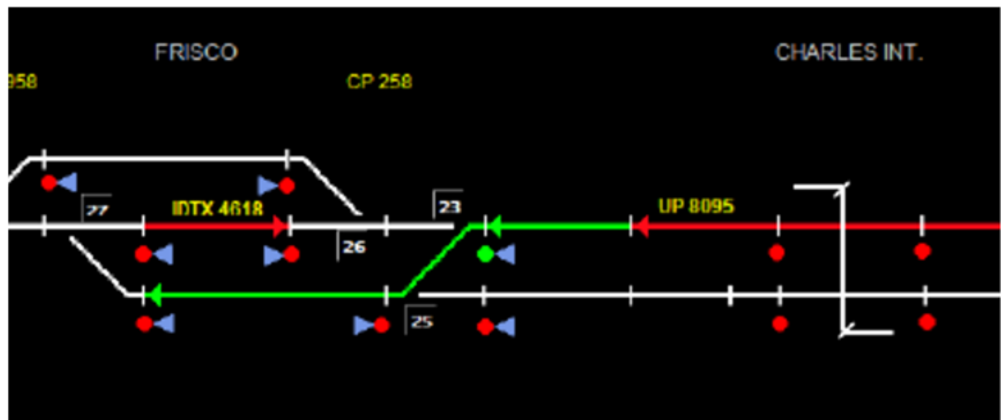
Article and Photos By Steven Hamilton, Gateway Division Member

The crackle of static comes through his headset. The tail end of a distant transmission is heard saying "roll-by looks good, have a safe trip," just as the dispatcher was tapping the touchscreen computer monitor that unselects the remote radio towers located along his territory. Now the dispatcher won't hear the endless chatter from train crews out doing their work until the next time someone tones up and needs something. This is just another day in "the chair" coordinating rail movements along the 18-mile UPSF Argentine Subdivision. It's going to be a busy day as trains are trying to get from point A to point B, maintenance crews needing Track-and-Time to solder a broken feeder wire, yard crews who can't find the cars on their switchlists, and the superintendent hollering "food's ready, stop what you're doing and come eat!"

On this particular day, things have been going smoothly. Amtrak has been using these new Siemens Charger locomotives. Today's power was a state owned IDTX 4618. They were running late as usual so the dispatcher decided to hold them at Frisco while they made their station stop. This gave a westbound train led by UP 8095 a chance to slip into the siding and not delay the passengers any more than they already were. As soon as the rear of 8095's train was clear of the OS at CP 258, the dispatcher was ready to line switch #23 and request a route east for 4618.



Thanks to CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch), this task is as simple as clicking the number next to the switch icon and blue triangle next to the desired signal icon. CAD includes interlocking logic to help prevent human error. If a route is already allocated through a control point (CP), no switch can be thrown or conflicting signal can be cleared that is part of the allocated route. Allocated routes change the track lines to green, and show an arrow indicating the direction of travel. If a segment of track is occupied, the track lines will be red. An occupied OS (the section of track between the absolute home signals) will not allow the CAD to throw a switch underneath a train.



This type of CTC control system is primarily intended to get trains across the railroad with a few computer mouse clicks. The interface the dispatcher views is overly simplified to what is actually going on with the signal and track detection hardware. The dispatcher does not need to be concerned with the individual aspects of each signal along the way. As such, the signal icons on the interface only report two states, cleared and held. The CAD actually controls the aspects based on the signal rules being used, and local track conditions. Additionally, since intermediate signals at locations between control points operate automatically, they are not controlled by the dispatcher and therefore not shown on the CAD.

A short time later the peace and quiet in the dispatcher's office is disrupted as the radio icon alerts him to a call waiting on channel 9, which is used on the branch line.

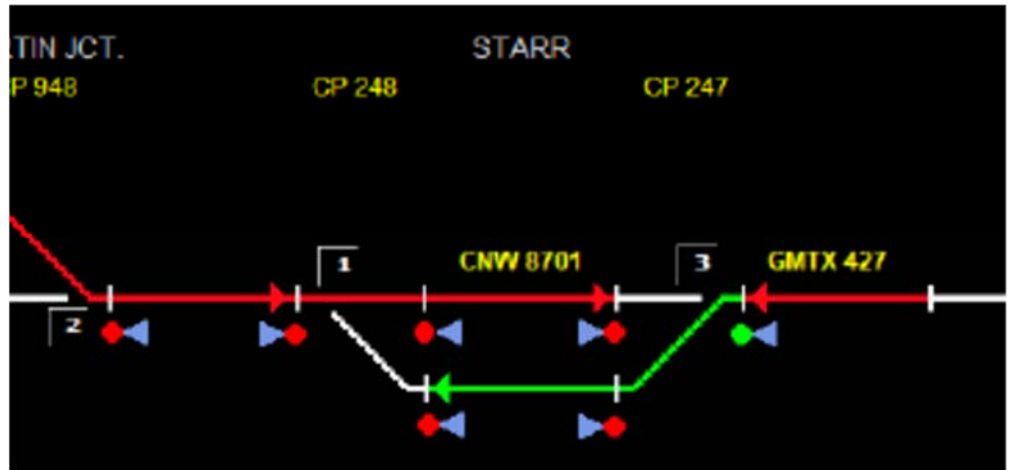
"UPSF Joint Line dispatcher answering Flora tower, over," he says into the microphone.

"CNW 8701 East, we're coming down the hill and

looking to get a light at Martin Junction, over," the crew responds. 8701 is leading a 25 car manifest train. The dispatcher needs to keep on his toes as most of the passing sidings are not long enough to accommodate such long trains. A quick glance and he can see that the local is out working an industry between CP 247 and CP 245. The dispatcher has been at this job for several years now, and knows that crew should be on the move any moment. Checking another computer screen, the local just has a few cars and will easily fit at Starr. Ah, with any luck, there will be a well-timed meet. "CNW 8701, I'm rolling the switch now, look to meet one at Starr, over," he says as he locks in the route.

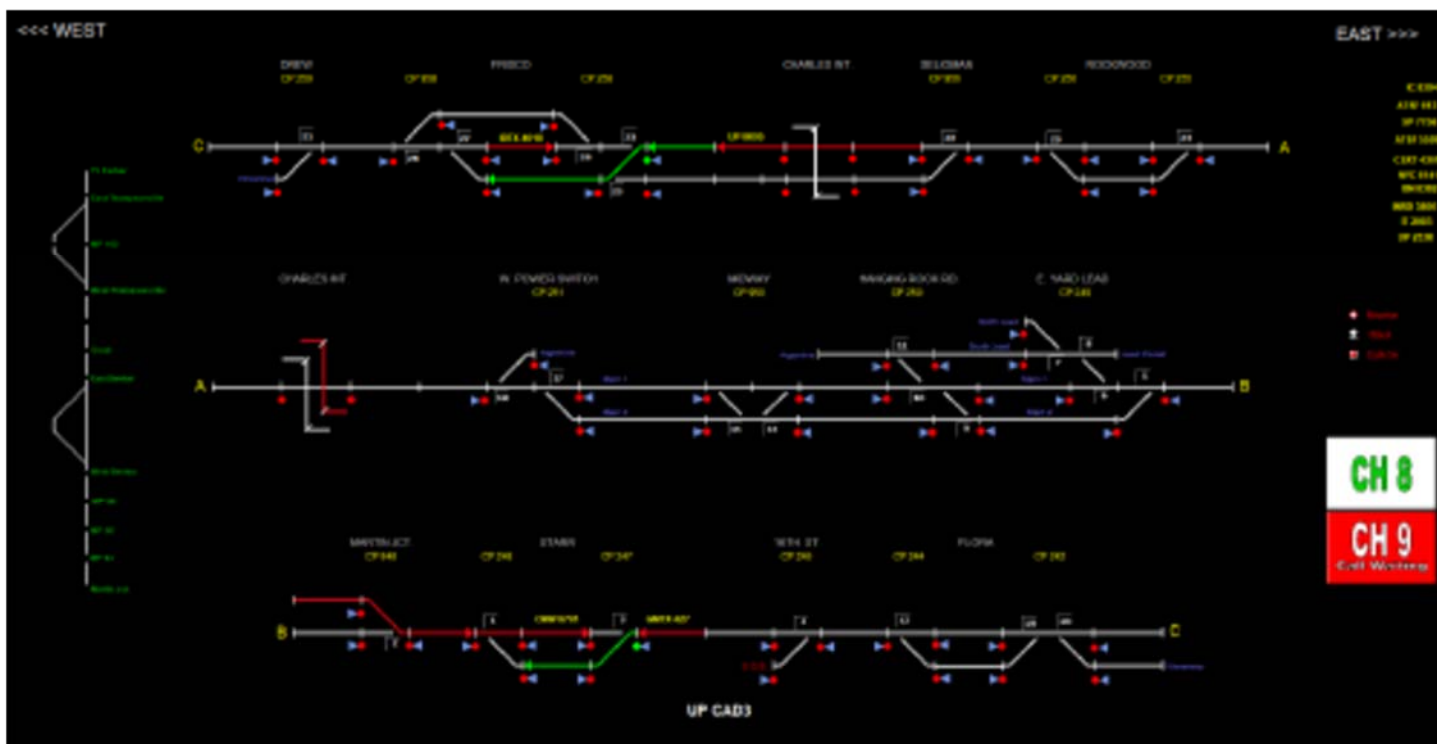
On the main now, the crew of 8701 can see the signal at CP 248 is showing Approach. "CNW 8701 East, Approach signal CP 248, Out," the conductor announces over the radio. The engineer sets some air with the train brakes expecting to stop short of the next signal. The signal at CP 247 is not yet in view. Just then, the headlight of GMTX 427 comes around the curve,

thankfully in siding! The dispatcher sees the local has made it all the way into the siding. He quickly lines the switch at CP 247 back for the main, and requests a route east for 8701. The CAD takes a



few seconds to check for conflicts. The signal at CP 247 comes into view to the crew of 8701. To their anticipation, the signal is showing a Stop indication. That's alright, because the skilled engineer set just enough air to bring the train to a safe stop if needed. Just then the conductor perks up. "Clear signal," he says to the engineer. The CAD was able to lock in a route before 8701 came to a complete stop. The sound of hissing air fills the cab as the engineer knocks off the brakes and grabs a couple of notches on the throttle.

The dispatcher is pleased with the efficiency of CAD. Prior to this system being installed on the UPSF Joint Line, train crews had to shout across the room letting others know their location and direction. A couple of years later, FRS radios were introduced, and an attempt was made to dispatch the main track with Track Warrants. That caused the dispatcher's voice to become hoarse with the constant transmitting with so many trains operating at one time. It didn't take much convincing to the superintendent that a CTC signal system would really enhance operations on the layout. A couple of PowerPoint presentations later, a plan was formulated to upgrade the main track with detection and signals. That's a good thing, because the superintendent did say the food was ready. And now the dispatcher can spend more time eating!



An overview of the entire Argentine Subdivision the dispatcher is responsible for.

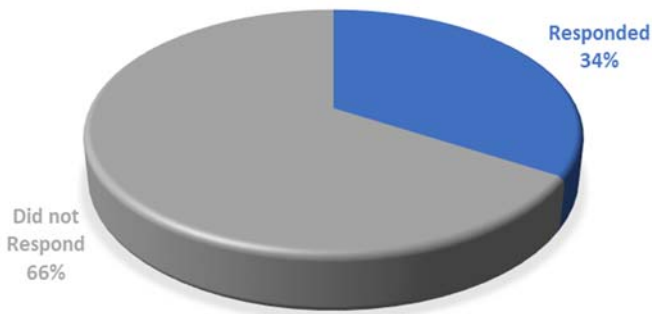
Steven Hamilton is a life-long model railroader and railfan. He's been a division member for 3 years and has presented clinics at the Gateway Division meetings.

And the Survey Says....

By Dan Knipp, Assistant Superintendent, Gateway Division
and Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

The Gateway Division recently completed an electronic survey of our membership in May and June 2022 to gain an insight on the preferences of our members, how we can provide more value to our membership, and to provide a vehicle for input and comments on the future direction of our Division. The Board presented the survey results to the membership at our July 18, 2022 meeting. The survey results are as follows:

RESPONSE RATE

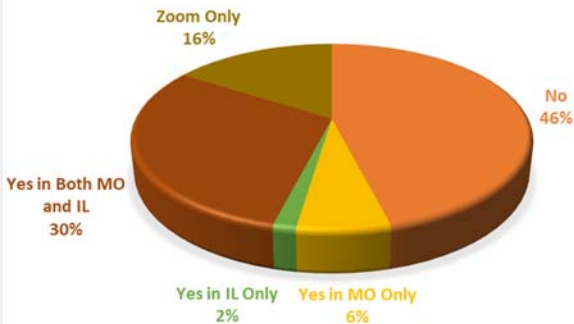


Response Rate

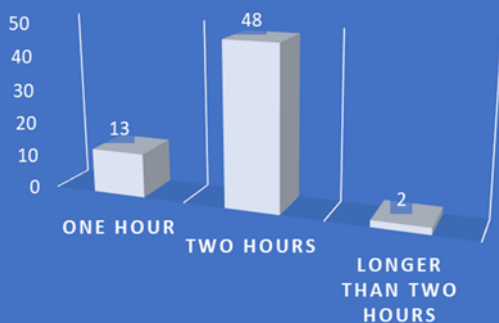
The Gateway Division has approximately 220 members, of which 186 members have valid e-mail addresses. We received 63 response of the 186 electronic surveys e-mailed to our members resulting in a 34% response rate. This response rate is similar to our prior surveys.

About the Meetings

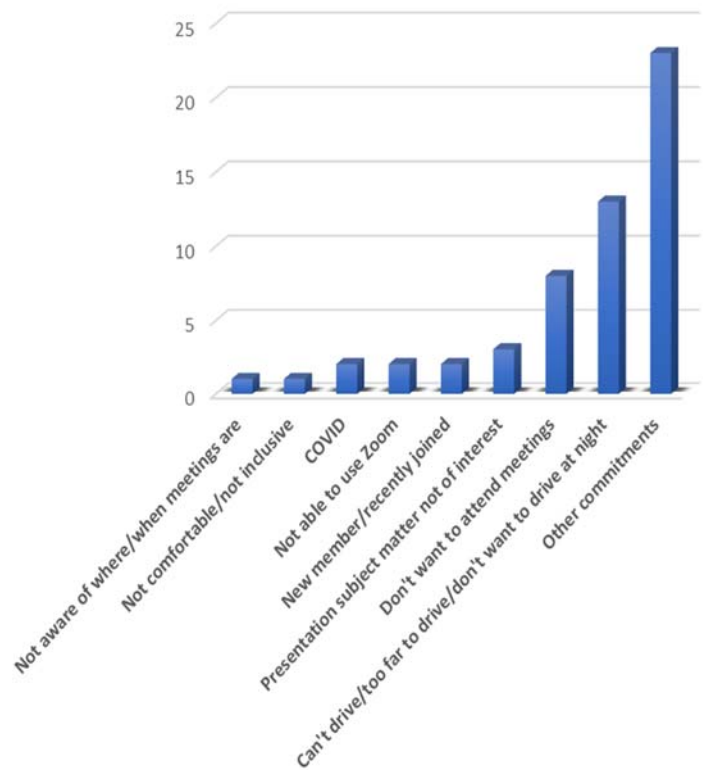
DO YOU ATTEND MEETINGS REGULARLY?



HOW LONG SHOULD MEETINGS BE?

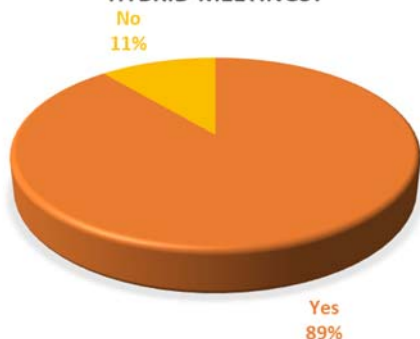


IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND MEETINGS REGULARLY, WHY NOT?

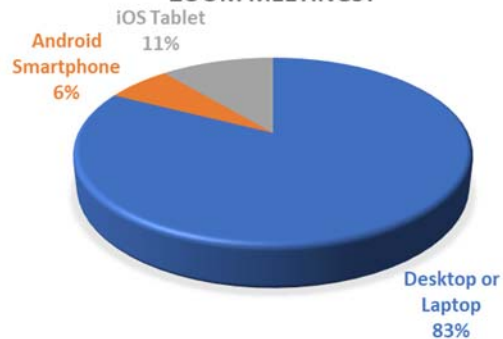


Virtual Meetings

ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF IN-PERSON AND ZOOM HYBRID MEETINGS?

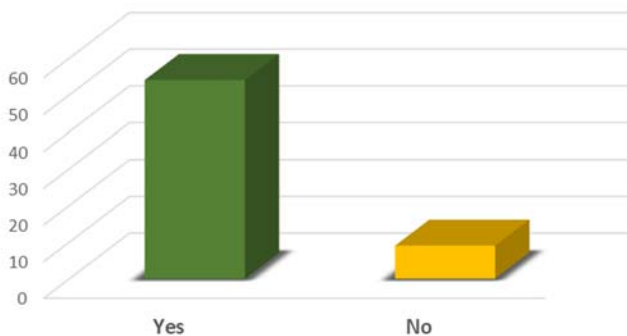


WHAT DEVICE DO YOU USE TO CONNECT TO ZOOM MEETINGS?

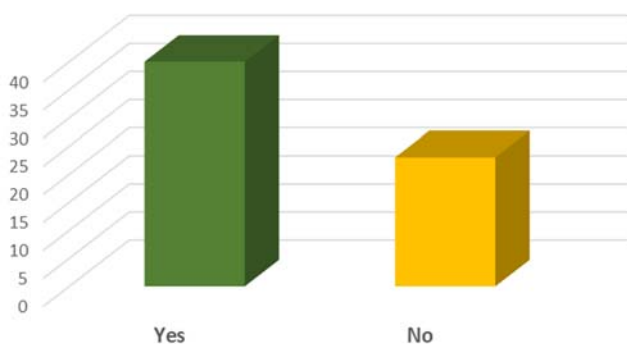


Saturday Meetings

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE ONE MEETING PER QUARTER ON A SATURDAY?



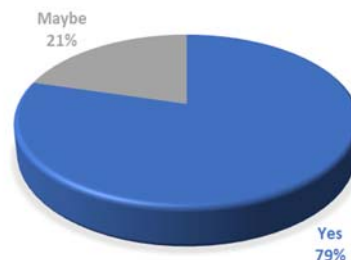
SHOULD THE SATURDAY MEETING TAKE THE PLACE OF THE NORMAL MONTHLY MEETING?



Respondents overwhelmingly (54 to 9) support Saturday meetings once per quarter for hands-on type presentations. By a narrower margin (40 to 23), respondents say the Saturday meeting should take the place of the normal monthly meeting.

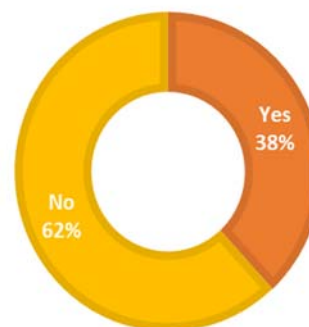
Outside Attendees

SHOULD WE INVITE OTHERS OUTSIDE OF OUR DIVISION TO OUR MEETINGS?



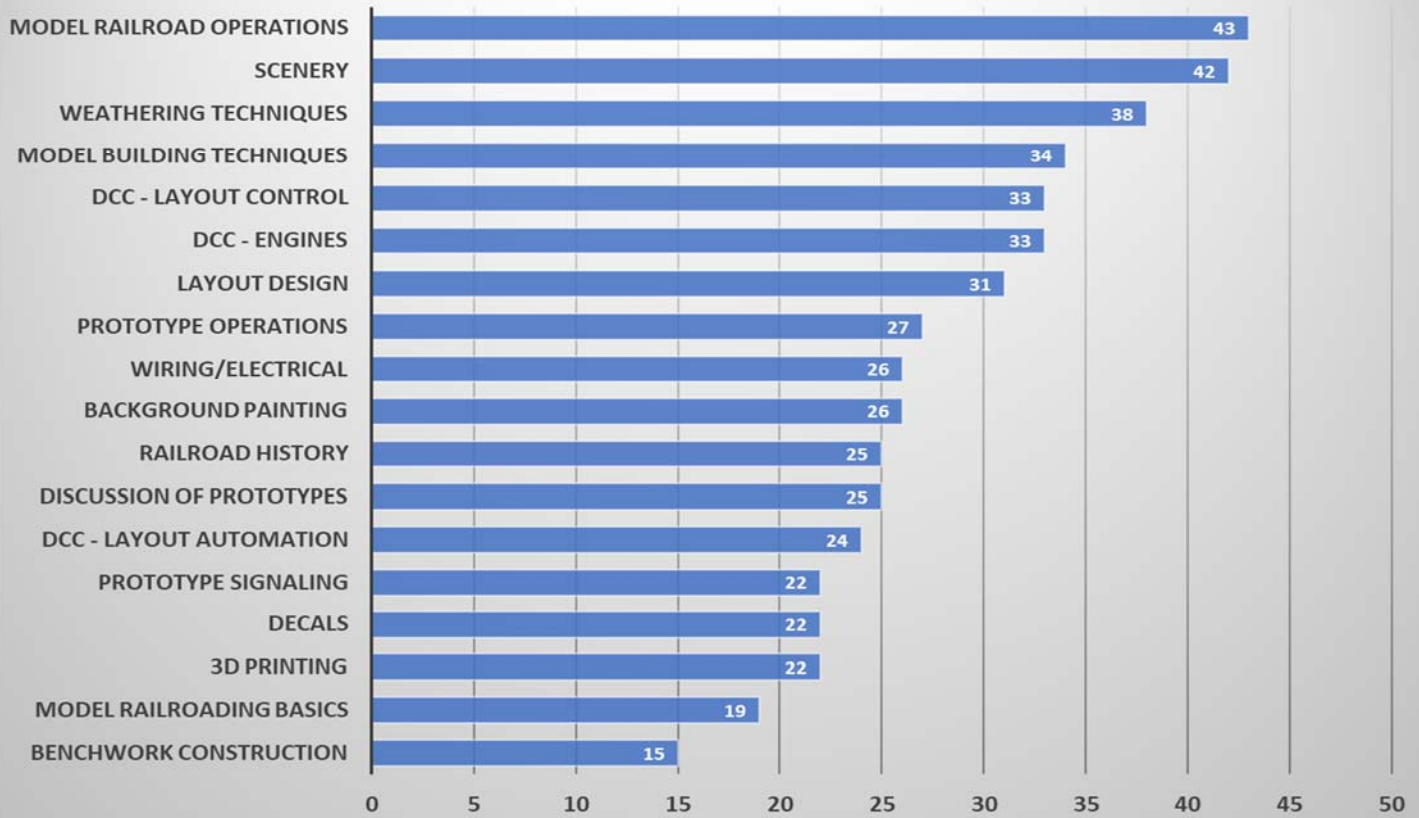
Private Facebook Group

SHOULD THE DIVISION SET UP A MEMBERS ONLY GROUP ON FACEBOOK?



Feedback on Presentations

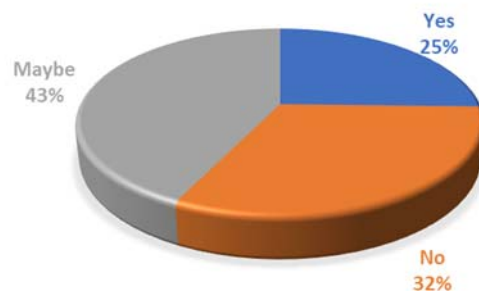
WHAT TYPES OF PRESENTATIONS WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND?



Suggestions for Presentation Topics

- Layout Animation
- Making Trees and Shrubs
- Making Streams, Ponds, and Ditches
- Achievement Program - Certificates/Achieving MMR
- Achievement Program - Judging
- Computers and Layout Control
- Panel Discussions on Modeling Topics
- Painting: Weathering/Brush Painting/Chalks Weathering Powders/AK Pencils/Airbrushing
- How to Host Layout Open Houses/Operating Sessions
- Layout Signaling
- Estate Disposition
- Make and Take Clinics
- Modern Day Prototype Operations
- Paper Structure Modeling
- People and Figures

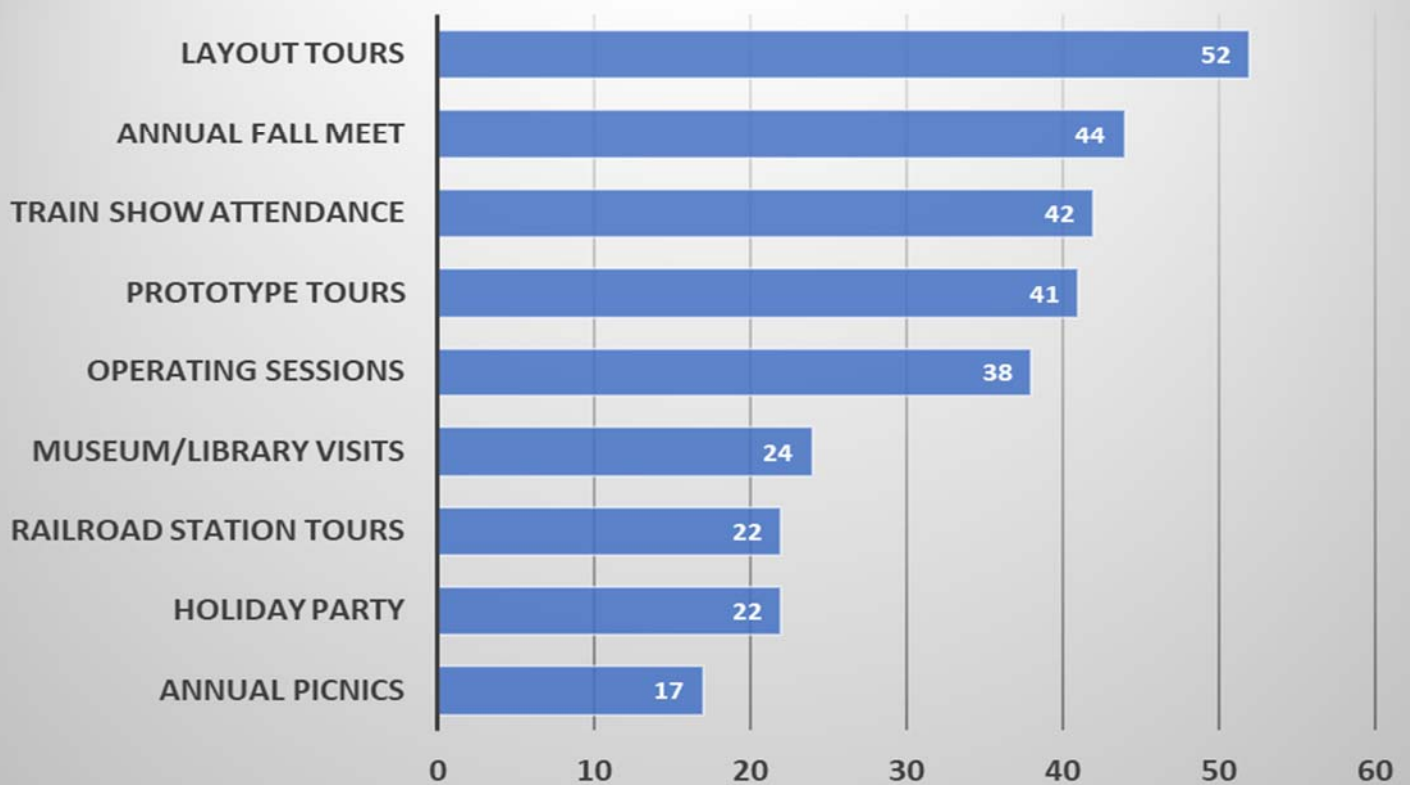
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO DO A PRESENTATION?



- Photography: Models/Layouts/Prototype
- Models: Presenting Models that are Built and Show How They are Built
- Show and Tell Presentations
- NMRA Partner Program with Demonstration of How to Get Discounts
- Tools
- Virtual Layout Tours
- Buying Brass Models

Feedback on Activities

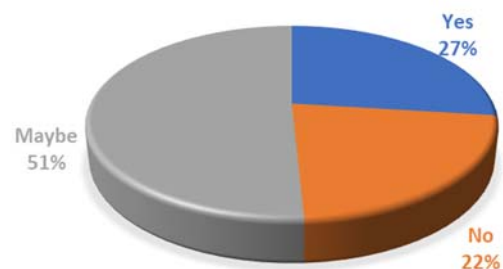
What Division Activities Would You Like to Participate In?



Suggestions for Activities

- Model Building Contests
- Presentation/Displays at Schools
- Evaluating Models and Suggesting Improvements
- Layout Tours with Host Doing a Short Clinic About Something Special on Their Layout
- Continue Zoom Meetings
- Swap Meets
- Explore Joint Activities with Other NMRA Divisions or NRHS Chapter
- Preparing Layouts for Operating Sessions
- Photo Safaris of Railroad Related Subjects with Subsequent Sharing of Results
- Visit Clubs as a Group
- Show and Tell
- Kit Challenges

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP ORGANIZE/SUPPORT DIVISION ACTIVITIES?



Note Regarding Suggestions for Presentations and Activities:

The survey allowed a freeform text entry field for suggestions for presentations and activities. The lists provided here each include all of the suggestions in a summarized format. The comments have been paraphrased and grouped to avoid duplications.

Do You Have Any Ideas to Make Membership More Valuable to You?

- Continued Zoom meetings
- A map of where our members are located
- Regular in-person meetings
- Encourage guests to attend meetings (within NMRA rules)
- Build project layouts to develop member skills
- Modeling clinics for those with less than MMR skills
- Saturday meetings
- More interesting presentations
- Operating sessions
- Encourage joint participation during some clinics
- Member representation on the Board
- More time allowed for social interaction during meetings
- Regular updates to website, Facebook, and newsletter
- Separate monthly Zoom meeting as informal way for members to gather (virtual "bull session")
- Record the Zoom meetings and make them available to members
- Work with the Boy Scouts for their Merit Badge
- Different meeting days/times

Do You Have Any Suggestions Regarding Our Monthly Meetings?

- Return to in-person meetings
- Continue to offer a Zoom option
- Business portion of meetings should be more concise/shortened
- Allow more time for clinics and presentations
- Improve camaraderie of members by allowing time for them to interact with each other
- Allow time for members working on AP certificates to interact with each other
- More hands-on clinics
- Encourage members to interact with guests and new members
- Allow members to discuss what is happening in other organizations/clubs
- Do not pick the Saturdays that have a local train show/swap meet
- Allow time for question and answer amongst the members
- Prefer Saturday meetings to weeknight meetings

Note Regarding Suggestions for Making Your Membership More Valuable and the Division Monthly Meetings

The survey allowed a freeform text entry field for suggestions for making your membership more valuable and also for improving the monthly meetings. The lists provided here include all of the suggestions in a summarized format. The comments have been paraphrased and grouped to avoid duplications.

Other Comments

- I have not attended any meetings so no comments at this time
- The meetings run smoothly and the presentations are good
- I will not use Facebook or Twitter
- Maybe the chore of electing a set of officers and finding people to fill all those slots is not the attraction it was years ago. There does not seem to be the enthusiasm for serving in the positions as in the past. People seem less interested in volunteering than in the past. Most people spend a lot of time searching for information and products at home on the Internet. These are my observations and opinions as a 77-year-old member.
- Zoom meetings are not worthwhile
- I think they are great meetings. I appreciate those who take their time to make it happen.
- You have done the best you can do, I commend you for your efforts. Just keep doing it.

Thank you to each of you who took the time to complete the electronic survey. We had 123 members who did not respond to the e-mail invitation to complete the survey. We also had another 30 or so members who did not have a valid e-mail address on file and did not receive the invitation. If anyone who did not respond to the survey or did not receive the survey, but would like to submit feedback, please contact the Division Clerk:

Jeff Cooper, 818 W. Concord Street, Marion, IL 62959

gwdivclerk@outlook.com or (618) 889-8907

Ultimately, the Board wants to make membership in the Gateway Division more valuable to you. This is done by the programming and activities put together by the Board members and Committee Chairs. We know that not all presentations, clinics, and activities will appeal to every member every single month, but hopefully we can develop a wide variety of programming that will earn your interest and participation throughout the year. Finally, if you have suggestions or if our programming is not of interest to you, please reach out to us and let us know. We can always use good ideas and even better, we could always use your help in developing and creating great content and activities for our members.

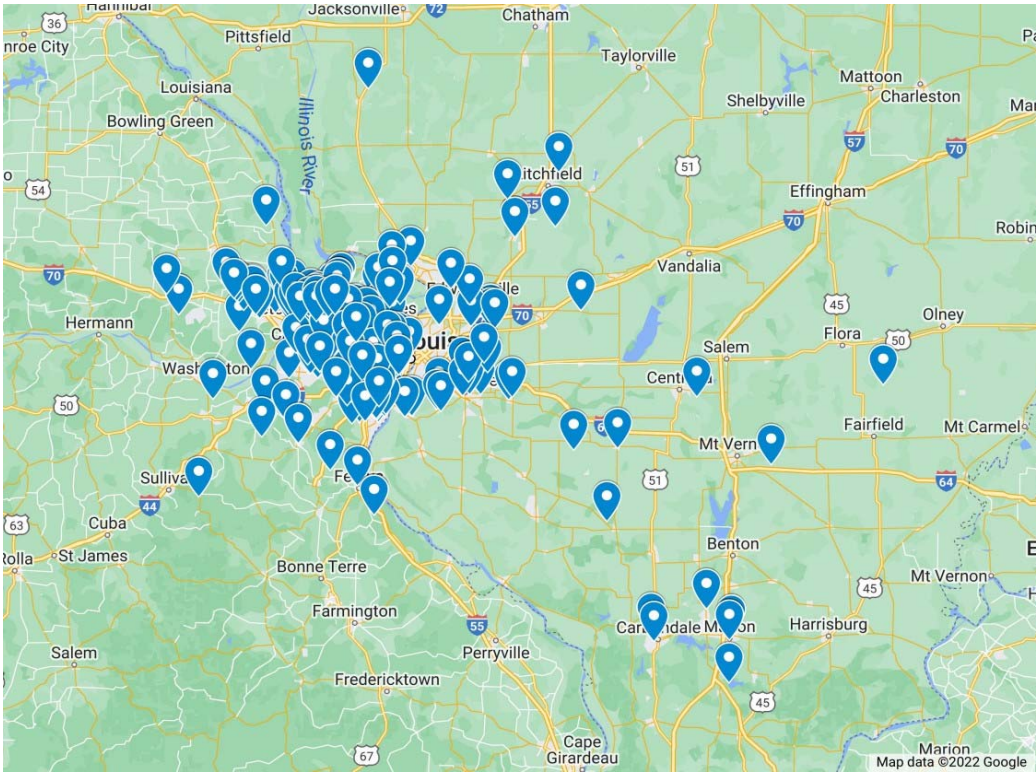


Left: ICG Caboose #199351 on display at the depot in Ullin, IL.

Photos by: Jeff Cooper

Right: IC side-door caboose #9765 on display at the depot in Jonesboro, IL.

Mid-year Membership Update: January through June 2022



Left: Google Map with markers for where Gateway Division members live.

The Gateway Division has 228 members as of June 30, 2022 with 177 living in Missouri and 51 living in Illinois.

The Mid-Continent Region has 867 members. The Gateway Division members make up 26% of the total region membership.

Google Membership Map created by Dan Knipp

New Members

Welcome to the Gateway Division!

Ron Saulka
James McDonald
Donald Perry
Thomas Manor
Roy Hackworth
William Anderson
Mark Wagener
Roger Akester
Raineri Family
James Polarine
Paul Kraegenbrink
Jared Hage
David Murvihill
David Masters
James Regier
Charles Blackwell
Louis Cissell
Aaron Cissell

Membership Anniversaries

60 Years

Steven Donkle
John Wachsmuth
Peter Smith, MMR
Milton Obrock

55 Years

Thomas Dinkins, III

50 Years

J.E. Albrecht
Mark Bauer
Ed Walton

45 Years

Gerald Affeldt

40 Years

David Bartz, MMR
Richard Schumacher

35 Years

John Stroehrer

30 Years

John Schindler
Robert Amsler
Brad Joseph, MMR

25 Years

Tom Winter
Daniel Cobb

(Bold denotes Lifetime Members)

15 Years

Richard Bielen

5 Years

Michael Knox
Thomas Johnson
Mike Raineri
Joe Visintine
Douglas Dirks

Rerailed Members

Welcome Back!

Carl Nordberg
Doug Meigs
Carol Meigs
Michael Wise
Terrence Wippler
William Hutton
Douglas Williams
David Burlis
Al Jamison
William Wehmeier

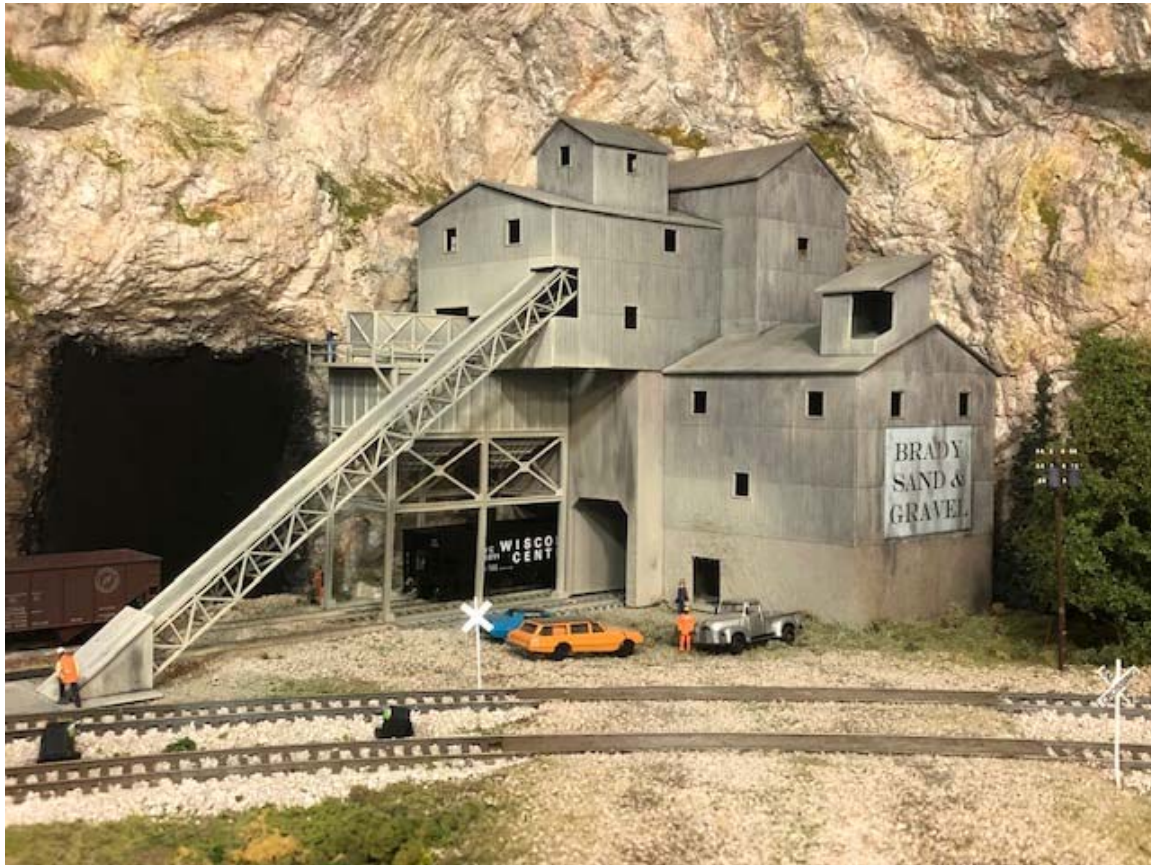
Photo Tour of Gary Gross' Franklin Pacific

Layout Description from the Gateway 2022 National Convention Time Table
Photos by Jeff Cooper

The Franklin Pacific Railroad includes the Missouri Pacific (Mopac) and the St. Louis San Francisco (Frisco) railroads and the fictional Franklin Pacific Railroad. The tri-level HO scale layout represents trackage in Missouri from Kansas City and Springfield in the west to St. Louis in the east. The railroad includes a staging area, a Franklin, MO interchange yard, and four switching districts. The era is 1958 and trains are controlled by timetable and train order via a dispatcher and station operators. Car forwarding is by car cards and waybills. Scenery on the layout is 100% complete and Digitrax DCC powers the layout. *Editors note: The layout is scheduled to be dismantled after the National Convention.*



Gary Gross' Franklin Pacific



Gary Gross' Franklin Pacific



Station to Station: Tamms, Illinois

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

Station to Station is a regular feature that highlights depots and stations in the Gateway Division whether they still exist or have since faded into history.

Built in 1899, this unique, curved depot served both C&EI and GM&O passengers in Tamms, Illinois until 1955. The two railroads crossed directly in front of the depot, and the center portion of the depot was used by employees of both railroads. The depot was used sparingly from 1955 to 1971 and then came under threat of demolition in 1975. The village of Tamms could not reach an agreement to save the structure as the railroads

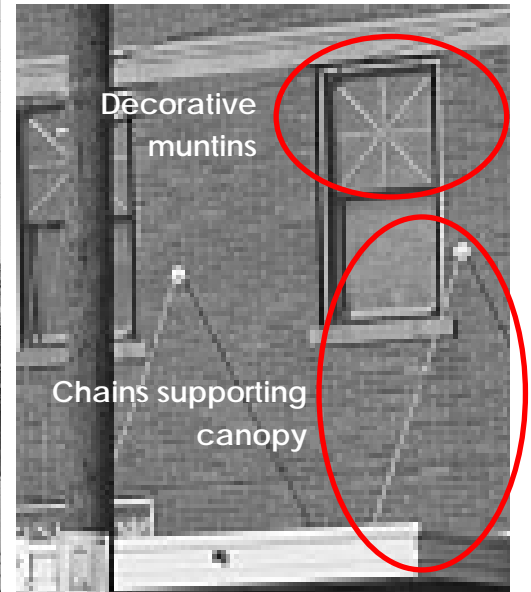
wanted the building moved off of their property. Finally, the village reached an agreement to buy the depot in 1982 without having to move it. The village completed restoration on the depot in 1986 and began using it as their village hall. Later that same year it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Missouri Pacific officially abandoned their tracks in the early 1980s and the last Illinois Central Gulf train passed through Tamms in 1985. Tamms is located in Alexander County in Southern Illinois.



Structural Elements: Carrier Mills, Illinois

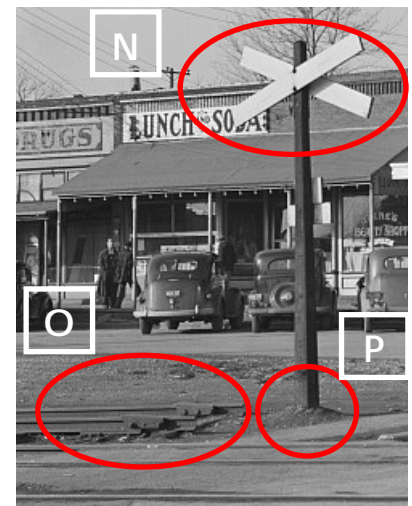
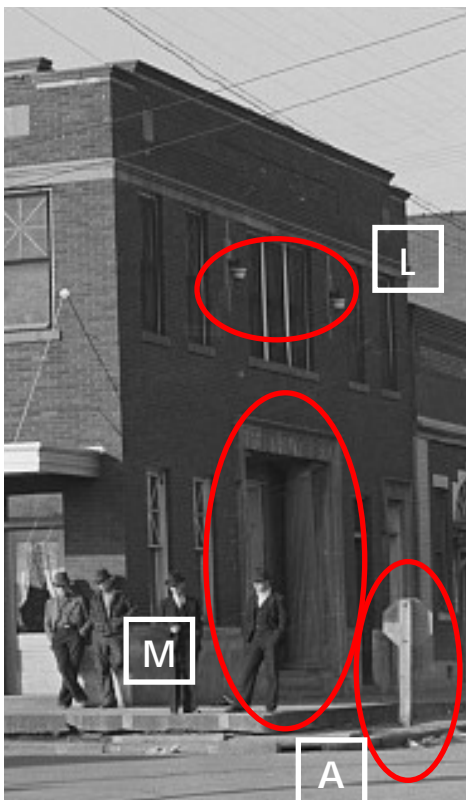
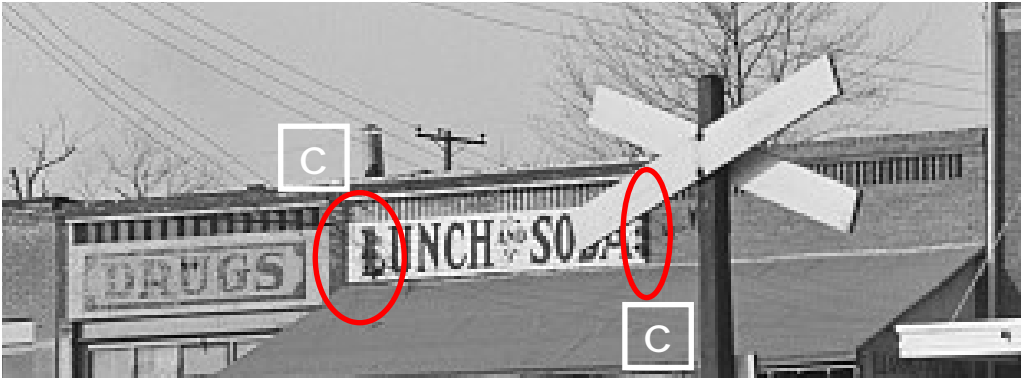
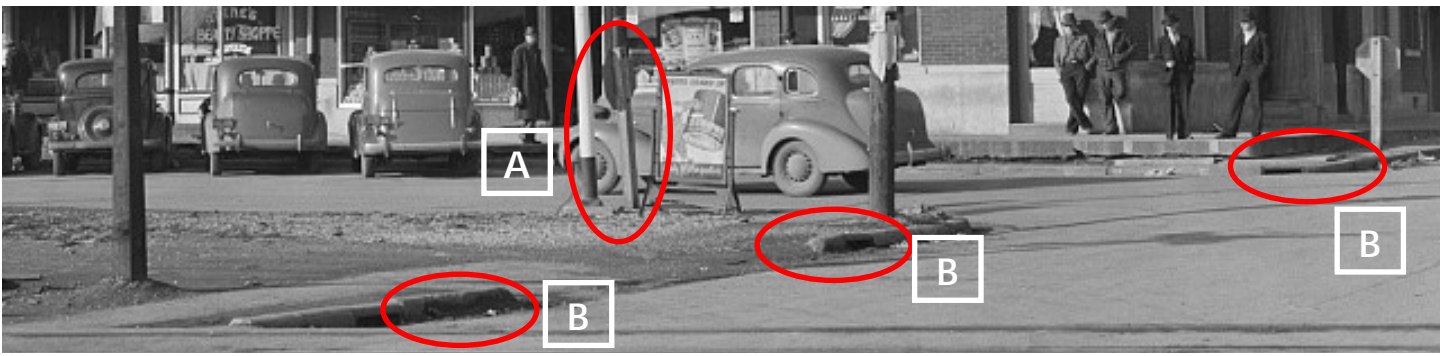
By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

Structural Elements is a regular feature where we will examine both rail and non-rail structures and scenes to bring attention to the details that you can incorporate into your models and layout. Mundane details tend to be overlooked as our eyes are looking for the unusual or interesting. Through this feature, we want to highlight the ordinary and often overlooked details.



Top Left: Photo taken in January 1939 of businesses in Carrier Mills, Illinois. The building on the corner housed a bank and grocery store. Continuing left was a beauty parlor, café, and drug store. The tracks in the foreground belong to the New York Central's Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway (CCC&StL), also known as the Big Four Railroad. The depot stood to the left of the photo and on the foreground side of the tracks. The last Conrail train ran through town in 1982. Photo Credit: Rothstein, A., photographer. (1939) *Street corner. Carrier Mills, Illinois.* Carrier Mills Saline County United States Illinois, 1939. Jan. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2017777055/>.

Above: Approximately the same location in August 2022 (over 83 years later). The only thing remaining is the building at the far left of the photo. Photo Credit: Jeff Cooper



- A. Stop sign set at eye-level height for drivers
- B. Three storm drains in less than 1/2 block
- C. Three-wire electrical service connection
- D. Light on top of sign post facing gas pumps
- E. Decorative curl added to sign brace
- F. Supplemental sign advertising that "Gulf Cards Accepted"
- G. Free-standing gas station advertising sign
- H. Base of sign post different color
- I. Beauty shop sign painted on plate glass window
- J. Store ads on grocery store windows
- K. Hand bills attached to utility pole
- L. Exterior lights on bank
- M. Stone columns give bank a more substantial appearance
- N. Branches of cross-buck mounted on each side of sign post
- O. Team track wheel stops
- P. Small mound of dirt at base of sign post

In Memoriam

On behalf of the Gateway Division, we offer the families and friends of those who have passed our sincerest condolences. We wish you peace and comfort during these difficult times.

Robert Latta



Robert A. Latta passed away Monday, April 4, 2022, on his 90th birthday after a wonderful day. Beloved husband of Katherine Latta and the late Kahla Latta; father of Robert (Susan) Latta and Stuart (Mary) Latta; stepfather of Russel and David French; grandfather of Ryan (Caitlin), Kristen, Robert, James (Molly), and Carolyn; great-grandfather of Henry; uncle of Mary Newmaster, Tom Seela, Julie Spencer, and Sue Collins; cousin of Andrew Coultas; dear friend to many. He was predeceased by his sister, Carol Spencer.

Bob was born in St. Louis, Missouri to Earl and Roberta Latta in 1932. He attended four high schools including Country Day and Punahou in Honolulu. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1955 with a degree in Animal Husbandry. While at Iowa State, he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and General Chairman of Veisha, a campus wide celebration. After he married Kahla Roberts from Perry, Iowa in December 1955, he worked with his father on a family cattle ranch in Montana, and later moved back to St. Louis to run Busch and Latta Painting Corporation until he retired. He was fortunate to find love again with Katherine after being widowed in 2012.

Bob was an avid golfer (complete with a hole-in-one) who was always a popular tournament partner, but mostly for his handicap. A devout opponent of the foot wedge. He was a model train enthusiast, computer whiz with all the latest gadgets, master tinkerer, and world traveler. He was proud of his Scotch Irish Heritage but never mentioned what he wore under his kilts. He will be greatly missed. *Source: Obituary as it appeared on the Schrader Funeral Home website.*



4-4-0's Jupiter and #119 under steam and on display at Golden Spike National Historical Park in July 2019.

Photo credit: Jeff Cooper

Editor's Observations: Connections

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

I've been a member of the NMRA since 2005 but this year's convention in St. Louis was only my third national convention. I went to the National conventions in Kansas City in 2018 and in Salt Lake City in 2019. Once I discovered what really happens at these conventions by attending the one held in Kansas City, I was over the moon. Up until that point, I had no idea what to expect. I always thought that the national conventions were attended by modelers who were more skilled or advanced than I was or who were only interested in segments of the hobby that did not appeal to me. Nothing could be further than the truth. What I discovered is that the convention is simply a large group of people from across the country (and the world) who have one thing in common: a passion for model railroading.

I am compiling my thoughts 2 days after the end of the convention so that my impressions are fresh in my mind. So how did the St. Louis 2022 convention compare to the others I've attended? It was different. Not "good different" or "bad different", just different. And what was different? The simple answer is "me." At my first convention I did a little bit of everything from clinics to Modeling with the Masters to prototype tours to layout tours. In Salt Lake City, I switched it up a bit and did more layout and non-rail tours and less prototype tours. For St. Louis, my primary focus was on layout tours, and my goodness, did I ever see some awe-inspiring work. The difference in "me" from my first convention to the St. Louis convention also lies within the fact that I am more comfortable. I am more comfortable knowing that not everyone is at the same modeling level or tries to impose the "right way to model" on anyone. I am more comfortable that I am seeing familiar faces, and not just the people in our own division. I am more comfortable knowing that it is not a group of "insiders" who shun "outsiders." It is an assembly of people who simply have a passion of the hobby.

I could run down a list of what all that went right and the few things that could have used improvement at the convention; however, as someone who has organized (agonized might be a better word) over a 1-day event with 300 attendees, I have a great deal of appreciation for those organizers and volunteers who handled this convention for a much larger number over an entire week. As such, I do not dwell on what did not go as expected because there is bound to be issues when you are dealing with hundreds of moving parts mostly involving humans. Overall, I was very satisfied with the convention. Thanks to everyone who made it happen!

With the flood of cherished memories of days gone by that filled my mind, that moment was worth the price of admission.

Instead, I would rather talk about my takeaways from this convention. As I look back at the past week of the National convention, all of my thoughts center around one common denominator: connections. Certainly, the most obvious connection is with other model railroaders. They may model differently than I do and they may have different interests within the hobby than I do, but we share the commonality of our love for trains. It was great to finally meet people in-person when I've only seen them on Zoom until now. It was great to reconnect with those I've met in the past whether at a hobby shop, train show, or at a prior convention. It was great to meet new people who share the same interest in our hobby.

I also feel a greater connection to St. Louis. I live about two hours away but I frequently attend concerts and ballgames and shop in St. Louis; however, I went to different areas of the city and greater metropolitan area where I've never been. I met many new faces on the layout tours and that gives me a heightened appreciation for

St. Louis by interacting with those who call it home. In addition, by taking the TRRA excursion, I now have the memories of crossing the Mississippi on a train and seeing the St. Louis skyline from a bridge where I've seen countless trains cross. After that excursion, as I cross the Mississippi over the Poplar Street Bridge, I will now glance over with the memories of taking a train over the MacArthur.

Attending the National Convention is not only about trains (at least for me it isn't). It is also about connecting with my other interests, such as travel, Cardinals baseball, and music. While in town, I made my way to 2 Cardinals games (something I haven't done since before the pandemic) and also to some record stores. I tried numerous restaurants I had never been to before. So, for me, the National Convention is an excuse to connect with the destination and feed some of my other interests. As a side note, when I go to Busch Stadium I generally sit on the top row along the first base side of the stadium. It is shady and there always seems to be a breeze even on the hottest days. I can also watch trains go by. So even with Cardinals baseball I can make a connection to railfanning.

Because of the convention, I feel a greater connection to the hobby. I was able to trade ideas with other modelers, pick their brains about very specific things (such as the C&M...thanks, David), and also share information about coal mines in Illinois (albeit I am no expert on the subject by any stretch of the imagination) to an attendee who had no idea that Illinois sits on top of huge coal reserves. I also spoke with many vendors at the National Train Show not only about new products, but also other happenings in the industry. And did I mention those fantastic layouts? To be able to see in person what I've only seen in the model railroad press was incredible.

Finally, Michael Gross, the keynote speaker at the closing banquet, eloquently summed up his connection to the hobby, which is also the same connection that many of us have. He told the story of he and his grandfather sitting on an empty baggage wagon at the depot to watch trains pass by. In his world, and in mine, model railroading is also a connection to the past. It is a connection to fond memories of family, friends, and my hometown. Mr. Gross' heartfelt story flooded my memories with my connections to my past with my grandpa helping me with my Lionel trains in his basement or the days he would take me down to the tracks to watch trains. He would always have me count the number of cars in the train. At the time I didn't realize that he was teaching me to count. What better way to engage a youngster in learning than connecting it to something that is of interest. With the flood of cherished memories of days gone by that filled my mind, that moment was worth the price of admission.



As a side note, when I go to Busch Stadium I generally sit on the top row along the first base side of the stadium. It is shady and there always seems to be a breeze even on the hottest days. I can also watch trains go by. So even with Cardinals baseball I can make a connection to railfanning.

Content Needed for the RPO

By Jeff Cooper, Clerk and RPO Editor, Gateway Division

The RPO is looking for content for our newsletter. That content can range from full articles to short half-page articles to interesting photos. As long as the subject relates to trains or model railroading, you're good.

Assistance with Articles: Are you uncomfortable writing an article? That's OK. We can help. It may take a little longer to get published based on deadlines, but we can help you write your article. Just reach out and we can work on your ideas together.

Photos: You do not have to be a professional photographer to get your photos in the newsletter. We know that photography can be intimidating, but having an expensive camera or photostacking software is nice but not required. With the advancement of cell phone cameras, you can take pictures that we can use in the RPO. Just make sure they are not blurry. Also know that your depth of field will not be as good as it would be with a digital camera and/or photostacking software although some new cell cameras are getting really advanced. Also, if taking photos of your layout or models, it is better not to use the flash. The flash creates harshness in both colors and shadows in your photos, so take the photos without the flash if you can. Just make sure your subject is well-lit. As a tip, if you take an indoor photo with your cell phone without the flash, make sure to stage your subject. By not using the flash, things in motion (such as a train running on a layout) tend to be blurry and unusable. Finally, with all photos, be sure to provide the credit for who took the photo and a caption to describe what we are seeing.

Copyrights: Make sure that the work you are submitting is your own. If necessary, use quotations and attributions for content not your own. Plagiarism is never acceptable. Another example of a copyright issue is Google. Google Earth or Earth Studio can be used for purposes of research, education, film, and nonprofit use without needing permission. If you are following Google's terms of services and you're attributing properly, you can use their maps and imagery; however, you cannot use Google Street View imagery in print without permission from Google. In regards to photos, make sure that the photos you are submitting are your own or by permission of those who hold the copyright. Just because you found a photo on the internet does not mean you can use it. If you are using someone else's photo, we will need verification that they have granted permission for you to use the photo. None of us at the RPO are copyright attorneys, so please make it easy on us with your submissions.

Topics: So, like we said, we are looking for content. The following are some ideas to jumpstart your creativity:

- Articles on prototype railroads (including operations, locomotives, passenger, and rolling stock), industries, towns, and structures
- A photo tour of your layout
- A project you are currently working on (not everything has to be in its final finished form to be interesting).
- Photos from a railfanning event or from a visit to a railroad museum
- How-to articles on layout construction, DCC, scenery, trackwork, layout design, painting/decaling/weathering, and layout operation to name just a few possible how-to topics

Those are just some ideas. Don't limit yourself to that list. We want to use the RPO to educate our members and also to give all of you an outlet to show off your accomplishments, whether it be related to prototype or modeling. As long as the topic involves trains or model railroading, the options are wide-open. Submission information is on the last page of this newsletter.

Meeting Minutes for July 18, 2022

Business Meeting:

Superintendent Willie Richter called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A reminder was given that meeting may be recorded. He also mentioned that attendees need to state their name when speaking and to mute their lines to prevent background noise when not speaking.

New Members/Visitors Recognition

Willie Richter asked if there were any new members or visitors attending the meeting. There was one new member at the meeting (Craig Stiegemeir).

Membership Report

David Lowell reported that the Division has 220 members and the Region has 865 members. The numbers have been stable. Dan Knipp asked about the dues allocation from the Region. Mr. Lowell reported that the Division has not yet received the allocation as National will not distribute any funds to the Region until 100% of the Divisions in the Region update their numbers.

Financial Reports

Willie Richter presented the May 2022 financial statement. There was only one transaction during the month which was interest earned on the Division bank account.

Minutes from the June 20, 2022 Meeting

Willie Richter presented the minutes from the June 20, 2022 meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

Old Business

Convention Update: Jim Ables provided an update of the 2022 convention. Mr. Ables reported that Eric Brooman is withdrawing from the layout tours and K-10 has been added to the layout tours. Mr. Ables encouraged Divisions members to attend the convention. Mr. Ables also requested volunteers for the convention. Dave Ackmann asked how many have registered for the convention. Mr. Ables reported that there are approximately 600 total registrants including spouses/partners and children. Mr. Ables believes travel costs and COVID are impacting registration numbers. Venita Lake asked for assistance with her layout during the layout tours. Carl Wessel asked if he gets credit towards the convention for his time running the streetcar for the convention attendees at the museum. Mr. Ables reported that Mr. Wessel needs to send him an e-mail with the number of hours. Mr. Ables further stated that layout owners need to report layout helpers to him and that the members would be credit towards registration fee or to the Division. Joe Visintine expressed his disappointment in the number of cancelled activities. Mr. Ables noted that many activities had to be cancelled as no one was signing up for them and that for a bus to run requires approximately 50% of the seats to be sold.

Local Presenters: Dan Knipp reported that local presenters are needed for the return to the hybrid in-person/Zoom meetings. Mr. Knipp noted that in the past 2 years, only 6 Division members conducted presentations with the remainder being visitors or recordings. Dave Ackmann, a Division member, is scheduled to present in September at the first hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting. His topic will be related to a new way to create models with 3D printing. Mr. Ackmann will be doing this presentation for NMRax and at the National convention.

Election Committee: Dale DeWitt reported that he, Hank Kraichely, and Don Head are the Nominations/Elections committee. The first meeting was held on July 9, 2022 and they have their agenda for the tasks that need to be completed. The candidate selection process will begin on September 1, 2022. On October 1, the committee will close the nominations process and report on the candidates interested in the positions. The committee will develop the election process based

on the number of nominations received. Mr. DeWitt is keeping Mr. Richter informed of the committee's activities and progress.

New Business

July Board Meeting Report: Willie Richter reported that the July Board meeting was held on July 11, 2022 and that the Board discussed the Division survey results, in-person meetings, and investing part of the treasury. The Clerk, Jeff Cooper, noted that the minutes for the Board meeting had not been prepared and submitted at the time of this meeting. Dave Ackmann volunteered to go to the church in advance of the first hybrid meeting in September to assist with testing the equipment. Jim Ables reported that he is hoping to do the testing at both the church and VFW and he would let Mr. Ackmann know when it is scheduled.

General Announcements

Upcoming Events: Willie Richter made the following general announcements of upcoming events:

- Iron Spike Swap Meet Third Saturday March through October, ironspike.org
- Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet, Collinsville, July 29 & 30, 2022, stlrpm.com
- Gateway 2022 NMRA National Convention, Gateway 2022, August 7-13, 2022, https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event_id=13724
- Model Train Tailgate Swap Meet, The National Museum of Transportation, August 27, 2022, tnmot.org
- Boeing Employees' Railroad Club – St. Louis Railroad Swap Meet, September 17, 2022, berrc-stl.com

Kirkwood Gathering: Glenn Koproske asked when the Kirkwood gathering was going to be during the convention. David Lowell reported that it was Tuesday evening and will start around 6 p.m.

Christmas Party: Glenn Koproske asked if there was going to be a Division Christmas party this year. Willie Richter indicated that it is unlikely for 2022 and that there would be further discussion when reviewing the survey results.

RPM: Dan Knipp reported that the RPM is still looking for volunteers to assist with the event. Jim Ables offered to send out an e-mail to the Division members.

Presentation

Dan Knipp presented the results from the Division member survey. Highlights of the results are as follows:

- There were 63 responses out of 186 valid e-mail addresses of the 220 Division members. It was a 34% return rate which is about the typical response rate.
- 46% of the respondents do not regularly attend meetings with 36% stating they do not attend due to other commitments, 15% stating it is too far to drive, and 12% stated they simply do not want to attend.
- 88% of the respondents are in favor of doing hybrid meetings
- 86% of the respondents are in favor of having quarterly in-person events on a Saturday with 64% stating that the quarterly in-person event should take place of the monthly meeting.
- 73% of the respondents want presentations on model railroad operation sessions, 73% want presentations on scenery topics, 60% would like to see weathering presentations, DCC topics came in at 56%, and layout design is favored by 52% of the respondents. Other presentation topics included photography, contest judging, signaling, prototype operations, and the achievement program.
- 25% of the respondents said they would do presentations and another 43% said maybe. Mr. Knipp noted there have been 6 Division members do presentations in the past 2 years with 15 to 16 visitors or recordings. Mr. Knipp commented that we would be better off if our own members would do presentations.

- 86% of the respondents would like to go on layout tours, 70% would like to see the return of the Fall meet, 66% are in favor of train show attendance, 65% would like to go on prototype tours, and 60% would like to participate in operating sessions. Mr. Knipp noted that historically the Division has had difficulty in getting volunteers for the Fall Meet and Train Shows. Other activities mentioned include preparing layouts for operations, model contests, railfan photo safaris, swap meets, and show-and-tell presentations.
- 27% of the respondents said they would assist with the activities with another 51% said they might assist with the activities. Mr. Knipp noted that we will need more help if we are going to do more activities and specifically mentioned that we need a chairperson to run the Saturday events.
- Support for a Facebook Group was very low so the Division will not pursue setting up the group.
- The majority of the respondents indicated that 2 hours is the right length of time for member meetings.
- 79% of the respondents are in favor of inviting members from outside of the Division to our meetings.
- 68% of the respondents are in favor of charging members lower fees than non-members for shows and meets.
- Suggestions for making membership more valuable include increasing the number of in-person meetings, more hands-on clinics/presentations, more social interaction, shorter business meetings, sessions for those with less than MMR skills, creating a membership map/directory, working with the Boy Scouts, virtual bull sessions, and ensure regular updates to the website, newsletter, and Facebook. Mr. Ables noted that there are strict guidelines regarding privacy and a membership map/directory. Members would have to opt-in for the Division to share information.

Upon reporting the survey results, the members in attendance discussed the results and offered suggestions including:

- Having the Division booth at train shows include the timesaver layout and members doing actual live modeling.
- Having in-person Saturday meetings with hands-on activities. Discussions included possible locations.
- Re-starting the Model Railroading 101 and 102 programs.
- Mr. Ackmann requested the raw data from the survey. Mr. Knipp and Mr. Ables will de-identify the results and get the data to Mr. Ackmann. Mr. Ackmann suggested that we personally solicit those respondents who stated that they would or might do presentations to encourage them to do so.
- Mr. Ackmann offered to coach members on how to do presentations. It was also mentioned that we may want to do a presentation on how to do presentations.
- Mr. DeWitt reported that he and Bill Linson would be willing to get the membership directory updated.
- Mr. Head stated that the past trips to the UP shops and Monticello Railway museum were excellent and would look forward to those types of activities and also in-person meetings.
- Mr. Miller that he could possibly present a session on animation in January (approximately) and a session on scenery/trees/shrubs in March or April.
- Mr. Beckman encouraged all in attendance to volunteer to do just one thing and that it would make a big difference.
- Mr. Wessel encourage members to revisit the content from James Kanbb's presentation on getting new members and engaging members.

- Mr. Ackmann noted that the Division has 220 members and we have about 10% attend the Zoom meetings. Mr. Ables noted that historically the largest in-person meeting for the Division was about 40 people.
 - Mr. Ables noted that technology is a barrier to many.
 - Mr. Oestreich said he is willing to lead a show-and-tell presentation regaled to last year's Big Boy visit but would need help with the presentation.
 - Ms. Lake requested that the comments from the survey be made available. Mr. Ables reported that he will attempt to distribute them.
 - Mr. Ackmann recommended the Board make 3 to 5 SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound) goals and keep membership updated on the goals and progress.
- Mr. Richter closed the discussion period with noting that getting back to in-person meetings in September is very important and that changes will be forthcoming in the Division. He stated that these changes will take planning and time to implement, but the Board is interested in bringing more value to the members.

Next Meeting: Willie Richter announced the next meeting will be August 15, 2022 through Zoom and the clinic/presentation is still to be determined.

Adjourn: Willie Richter adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Cooper, Clerk, Gateway Division

Upcoming Train Shows and Events

October 29, 2022: Halloween Trains at the Library, Grant's View Branch, 9700 Musick Avenue, St. Louis, MO; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

October 30 and December 4, 2022: Chicago Great Midwest Train Show, DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, IL; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; trainshow.com

November 12, 2022: The Dupo Train Show, American Legion Hall, 200 South 5th Street, Dupo, IL; 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

November 12 & 13, 2022: Trainfest 2022 Annual Model Railroad Show, Exposition Center at Wisconsin State Fair Park, 8200 West Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; train-fest.com

November 19, December 3, December 17, and December 31, 2022: Metro East Model Railroad Holiday Open House, Old Fire House at the Corner of School and Summit Street, 180 Summit Street, Glen Carbon, IL; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; trainweb.org/memrc

November 26 and 27, 2022: Great Train Show, Gateway Center, One Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; trainshow.com

December 17, 2022: Christmas Trains at the Library, Meramec Valley Branch, 1501 San Simeon Way, Fenton, MO; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

December 31, 2022: Sierra Nevada & Indian River Railway Open House, at the home of Brian Post, 248 Pardella, St. Louis, Missouri 63125. Lemay Ferry to East on Bayless, then South on Pardella (Be careful to obey the 35 MPH speed limit on Bayless.) Green-colored house. Come to the side door and go downstairs (No need to knock.) Bring a Digitrax throttle if you have one; You can run your engines or cars but the engines must have a decoder and the cars must have metal wheels. For more information call Brian Post at (314) 249-6986

Meeting Minutes for September 19, 2022

Business Meeting:

Superintendent Willie Richter called the Zoom meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. A reminder was given that meeting may be recorded. He also mentioned that attendees need to state their name when speaking and to mute their lines to prevent background noise when not speaking. Mr. Richter announced that this is our first in-person/Zoom hybrid meeting and participants need to speak one at a time so that the virtual participants can hear and understand what is being said.

New Members/Visitors Recognition

Willie Richter asked if there were any new members or visitors attending the meeting. There were 5 first-time attendees.

Minutes from the July 18, 2022 Meeting

Willie Richter presented the minutes from the July 18, 2022 meeting. *Dale DeWitt moved and Ron Gawedzinski* seconded approval of the July 18, 2022 regular Division meeting minutes. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Financial Reports

Bill Levin presented the August 2022 financial statement. Mr. Levin noted that we received the deposit back from the Kirkwood Depot, we earned interest of \$6.05, and there were expenses of \$119.88 related to the website and \$25 for State of Missouri corporate registration fees. Jim Ables noted that the 2022 convention organizers are working on closing out the convention and the payment related to Division volunteers will be coming soon. Glenn Koproske asked how funds from the 2001 convention were used and Mr. Ables explained how the funds have been used over the years. In addition, Mr. Ables noted that the Division received approximately \$10,000 from the disbursement of the Don Ayers estate a few years ago. *Bob Miller moved and Dave Roeder* seconded approval of the August 2022 financial report. *The motion was carried by unanimous vote.*

Old Business

Local Presenters: Willie Richter noted that local presenters are needed. The Division will begin quarterly hands-on clinics on Saturdays in 2023 and 3 to 4 presenters will be needed for each quarterly event.

Election Committee: Dale DeWitt reported that he, Hank Kraichely, and Don Head are close to finalizing the nominations process for the Superintendent and Paymaster positions. All members received either an e-mail or paper notice requesting nominations. The nomination process will close September 22nd. Mr. DeWitt will forward the nominations to the Clerk. Based on the number of nominations, the Board will have to decide whether a formal election will be necessary or if the process can be handled by acclamation if there is only one nominee for each open position.

New Business

Convention Wrap-up: Jim Ables provided the post-convention update to the membership. Mr. Ables thanked all the volunteers who assisted with the convention. He reported there were between 700 and 800 attendees with a large number of walk-up registrations. He reported that there were no major difficulties encountered. Finally, the organizers are in the process of closing out the convention and the payment to the Division for the volunteers will be forthcoming.

RPO Newsletter Editor: Willie Richter announced that the Division Clerk, Jeff Cooper, will be taking over as editor for the RPO. Mr. Richter thanked Mr. Cooper for his work and his commitment to Division activities.

Achievement Award Certificate Presentations and Program Update: David Ackmann, Achievement Program Chair, presented Greg Gramlich with his certificate for Electrical Engineering and his Golden Spike Award. Mr. Ackmann presented Glenn Koproske with his certificate for Electrical Engineering and David Lowell his certificate for Association Official. Mr. Lowell presented Mr. Ackmann his certificates for Electrical Engineering and Association Volunteer. Mr. Ackmann noted that a workgroup has been formed to work on the Structures certificate and there are currently 5 participants. The group met virtually in mid-September. Any Division members who are interested in earning their Structures certificate are welcome to join the workgroup, as well as anyone who is simply interested in learning more. Interested members can contact Mr. Ackmann at dackmanns@charter.net.

Lifetime Achievement Award: The Lifetime Achievement Award presentation was tabled and will be conducted at a future meeting.

RPM: Dave Roeder noted that the Collinsville RPM, which is the largest RPM in the U.S., held their annual meet in July. There were over 650 paid attendees, over 3,000 models, and 69 vendors and historical societies. There were 2 layout tours and Mr. DeWitt took photographs at the meet. Mr. Roeder noted that the meet occupied 28,000 square feet and additional volunteers will be needed in 2023 since the space is so large. Mr. Roeder thanked the Division for recruiting their members to be volunteers at the meet and presented the Division with a check for the volunteer time.

50/50 Drawing: Tom Gaffuri won the 50/50 drawing and received \$26.

Equipment for Hybrid Meetings: Jim Ables noted that to improve the hybrid format of our meetings the Division will need to purchase a second laptop and a pan/tilt/zoom camera. Mr. Ables requested authorization to spend up to \$800 for the equipment. Discussion amongst the membership ensued and Mr. Ables was asked if \$800 was enough. Mr. Ables and Mr. Richter noted that we are taking an incremental approach so that we do not end up buying equipment that we don't need and that we piece together the right types of equipment. *The motion for Mr. Ables to spend up to \$800 to purchase equipment to improve virtual meetings was carried by unanimous vote.*

General Announcements

Upcoming Events: Willie Richter made the following general announcements of upcoming events:

- Iron Spike Swap Meet Third Saturday March through October, ironspike.org
- Pacific Eagles Train Show, September 24, 2022, Pacific Eagles Hall, Pacific, MO
- 31st Annual Greater St. Louis Metro Area Train Show, October 8-9, 2022, Kirkwood Community Center
- Halloween Trains at the Library, October 29 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Grant's View Branch, 9700 Musick Ave, St. Louis, MO
- 19th Annual Train Show, November 5, 2022, Liberty Park Convention Hall, Sedalia, MO
- Dupo Train Show, November 12, American Legion Hall, Dupo, IL
- Trainfest, November 12-13, 2022, Exposition Center at Wisconsin State Fair Park, West Allis, WI; train-fest.com
- Great Train Show, November 26-27, 2022; Gateway Convention Center, Collinsville, IL; trainshow.com
- Great Midwest Train Show, September 4, October 2, October 30, December 4, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, IL; trainshow.com
- Sierra Nevada & Indian River Railway Open House, at the home of Brian Post, 248 Pardella, St. Louis, MO, December 31, 2022, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Presentation

Dave Ackmann presented *Automating CAD For Model Railroad Structures Using "Generators."* When it comes to building structures for your model railroad, many basic items like walls and roofing contain regularly repeating objects. 3D printing makes the creation of repeating objects easier than traditional methods, but using standard Computer Aided Design to create an exact model of what is desired can be problematic. In this clinic Dave Ackmann presented how he developed computer programs to design such objects (shake shingles, windows and many more), allowing him to specify design parameters and then automatically calculate a precise 3D model to his specifications, all without having to learn or use a traditional CAD package. The programs are available for free. You no longer need great manual dexterity to create many 3D structure models.

Feedback on the First Division Hybrid Meeting: Willie Richter asked those on Zoom how well the first hybrid meeting went. Virtual attendees reported that for the most part the hybrid meeting worked well and considered the first run to be a success. Recommendations included the need for additional microphones and virtual members requested that attendees speak one at a time and limit side conversations as the microphones pick up everyone talking. It was requested that whomever is speaking state their name as sometimes they are not in view of the camera and those online cannot tell who is speaking. Zoom participants also need to mute their lines as background noise interfered with hearing the in-person meeting.

Next Meeting: Willie Richter announced the next meeting will be October 17, 2022. The in-person site will be at the VFW in O'Fallon, IL and a Zoom link will be emailed to those members who cannot attend in person. The clinic/presentation is still to be determined.

Adjourn: Willie Richter adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Cooper
Clerk, Gateway Division



The Louisville & Nashville built this depot in Hartselle, Alabama in 1914. It was in use until the 1960's. It stood vacant until 1976. Today, the depot is home to the Hartselle Chamber of Commerce and plays host to many civic events and affairs. Photo credit: Jeff Cooper



In 1915, the Louisville & Nashville built their freight house in Hartselle just down the street from their passenger depot. Today, the old L&N freight house is home of the Freight House Restaurant and Catering. Photo credit: Jeff Cooper



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rpoeditor@outlook.com

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The finest thing about a hobby is that you can't do any pretending about it.

You either like it or you don't.

Dorothy Draper, American Interior Decorator, 1889-1969

November is National Model Railroad



NATIONAL
MODEL
RAILROAD MONTH

How will you celebrate?