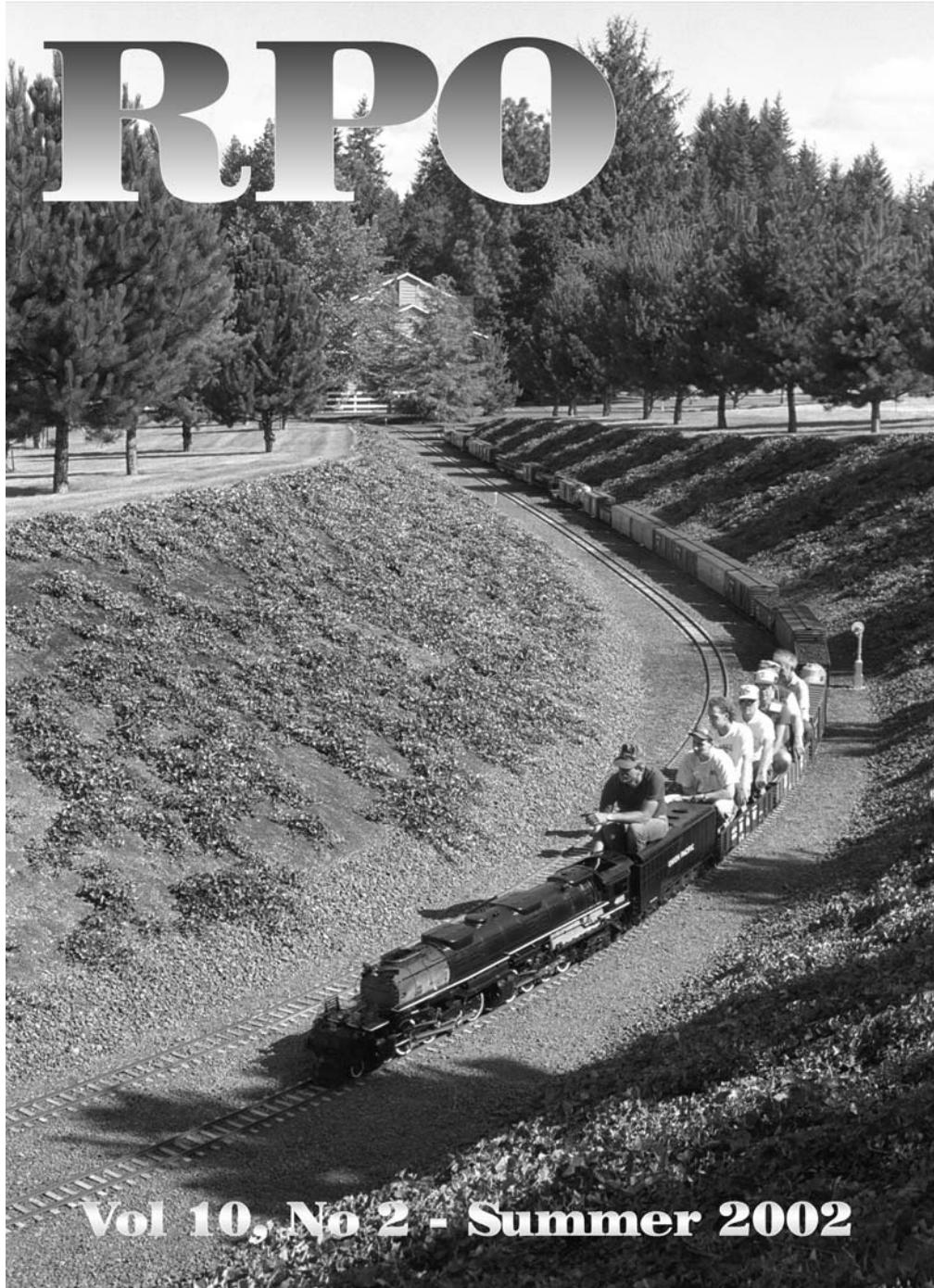


RPO



Vol 10, No 2 - Summer 2002

RPO

Summer 2002: Volume 10, Number 2

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

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“Portland Rose”

by Richard Schumacher

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On the Cover

Perhaps the ultimate “garden railroad.” Live steam home railroad on tour from the Portland NMRA National convention. This layout features a ride-through timber bridge and tunnel. Photo by Richard Schumacher.

Superintendent’s Desk

by *Robert Amsler*

As you are reading this, the Fall Meet and the Family Fall Festival at the Museum of Transport are fast approaching. Also, we are progressing on work on the layout we will donate to the Missouri History Museum. With all of this going on at once, it is clear that model railroading is active in St. Louis.

By the time you read this, the Division will have participated in the Open House at the Museum of Transport. I hope that everyone had a good time. I know that we put our best foot forward and represented the hobby in the best manner.

The Fall Festival is October 20, 2002, at the Museum of Transport. At this event we will display the current project railroad for the last time and then auction it off. It is important that anyone who can help at this event do so. We need to sell tickets for the project railroad. The funds from this railroad will keep us going over the

next year. Of course, we also want to promote the hobby as well. We need all the members we can get. I enjoy model railroading and we need to share this with others.

The Fall Meet is set for November 2, 2002, at Trinity Lutheran Church. As usual, there will be clinics, layout tours, swap tables, and the contests. I would encourage everyone to bring a model or photograph for the contest. You never know what you could win if you do not enter. Also, this is a good time to catch up with members if you have not seen them in some time.

Also, in October, we will present the Museum of History layout to the Museum. It will be part of a larger display in the Museum in Forest Park. A number of members are working hard on this and we could always use a few more hands. I want to especially thank Richard Laux for allowing us to use his home for building this layout. Many others have helped also such as Dave Bartz, Venita Lake, and Richard Schumacher in the planning and building. Thanks to all.

Finally, we really could use some help on the next project layout. This is currently stored in an officer's house. We need someone to take this project on, to be the display chairman. This person is responsible for making sure the layout is delivered to, and removed from, events like the GATS shows. The officers are willing to help with guidance. We will have this layout up and running at the Fall Meet in November. If you have ever wanted to try your hand, please let one of the officers know.

Hope you all had a great summer and I look forward to seeing each of you at the next meeting and the upcoming events.

Gateway Division 2002 Fall Meet

by Michael Thomas

On Saturday, November 2, the Gateway Division's Annual Fall Meet will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church (site of our regular Missouri-side meetings). Admission is \$3.00. Doors will open at 9:00 am, with coffee and donuts available while they last. We'll have clinics, model and photo contests, door prizes, swap tables, and the first public appearance of the latest edition of the Gateway Central project layout.

Clinics include Don Koproske demonstrating a product called RealRoad used to simulate asphalt and concrete paving, Kevin Hampton telling us about revisions and redesign of his great CSX layout, Jim Ables demonstrating the new Trainz computer simulator, and Dave Roeder showing how to ballast and detail trackwork, and then how to make trees and related scenery.

Bring your models for our popular-vote contest in all the usual categories; Achievement Program merit judging will be available. Popular voting will also be held on model and prototype photos and slides.

Swap table space is available to members in good standing on a first-come-first-served basis; call Mike Thomas at 314-664-0680 or 314-771-0680 to reserve a table.

The Gateway Central X project railroad will be just beginning to take shape by early November, and the meet will serve as an open work session for anyone who wants to lend a hand ... maybe apply some of those skills you'll have just learned in the clinics!

And of course we will have layout tours. Rather than stretch the meet through dinnertime Saturday, we thought we'd try Sunday afternoon tours. A number of Division members will have their home layouts open to visitors on the afternoon of Sunday, November 3. Maps, directions, and opening times will be available at the meet on Saturday.

Membership News

by Venita Lake

As I write this, the plans have been to complete the newest version of the membership directly and mail it to members at the same time we mail this *RPO*. If it's enclosed, we met our goal. However, since the Lake household is currently experiencing dire computer difficulties (*Where oh where has my C: drive gone?*), it may be arriving separately later.

In any case, the last directory was issued in May 2001 and a new one is now overdue. Please check your entry and let me know if there are changes or corrections to be made. I have been updating my computer file version from 1999 with information from a number of sources and there are bound to be mistakes. And some of you have really BAD handwriting! Send corrections to Venita Lake at 5851 Waterman Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112-1515 or by email to vlake@mindspring.com.

A few comments about NMRA membership: Your renewals for the national membership and the Mid-Continent Region now come together. They should be renewed at the same time and membership in both is required for membership in the Gateway Division. The NMRA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and,

as such, contributions are tax deductible. The general rule for such groups is that the value of the monthly publication, the *NMRA Bulletin*, is not deductible (\$22 per year), but anything you pay above that amount without receiving direct value may be claimed as a charitable contribution. Return address labels don't count as "value." At \$6 a year for MCoR and \$3 for the division, you are getting more than your money's worth back in publications and the escalating costs of printing and mailing them! These extra costs are funded by income from train shows and raffle tickets for the project railroads and profits from successful conventions. They are successful because we have had great volunteers, past and present, who have worked hard to support our activities. Thanks!

Gateway membership for everyone runs from July 1 through June 30. For those who join sometime in mid-year, we are fairly generous in determining the expiration date. Check your mailing label to see if you are paid up. You must be current on all of your memberships to vote in the division election in November. Send your renewals to Ken Thompson, Treasurer, at 911 Queensbridge Road, Ballwin, MO 63021-6709 or pay at the next division meeting. If you send Division dues to the national office, we will probably never see them here in St. Louis!

Do you have a Division "Gateway to Model Railroading Fun" enamel lapel pin? With the first year of membership at \$3 we provide a pin worth \$5! If we have missed you in recent transfers of member responsibilities, please let Venita Lake know. (314-727-7378).

2001 Annual Contest

model photos by Richard Schumacher

It's almost time again for the Gateway Division Annual model and photo contests held at our annual fall meet. To inspire your entry, here are the winners from last year's event.

Entries are accepted in the following categories:

Model Contests

Steam Locomotives
Old Diesels
New Diesels
Freight Cars

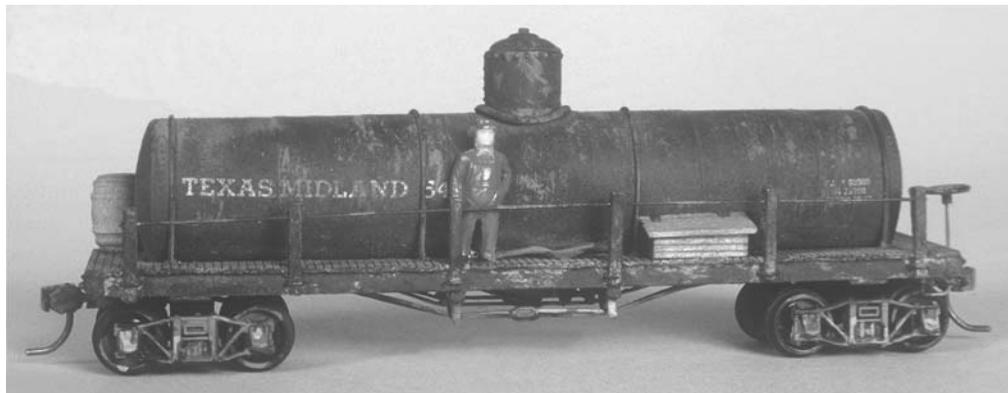
Passenger Cars
Caboose
Maintenance Equip't
On-line Structures
Off-line Structures
On-Line Diorama
Off-Line Diorama
Whole Train

Photo Contests

B&W Prototype Print
Color Prototype Print
Prototype Slide
B&W Model Print
Color Model Print
Model Slide



Freight Car, First Place 2001, Don Taschner



Freight Car, Third Place 2001, Don Taschner



Freight Car, Second Place 2001, Jim Anderson



Passenger Car, First Place 2001, David Reed



Maintenance of Way, First Place 2001, David Reed



3rd&4th Generation Diesels, First Place 2001, David Reed



1st&2nd Generation Diesels, First Place 2001, Jim Anderson



1st&2nd Generation Diesels, Second Place 2001, Jim Anderson



1st&2nd Generation Diesels, Third Place 2001, Jim Anderson



Caboose, First Place 2001, Hank Kraichely



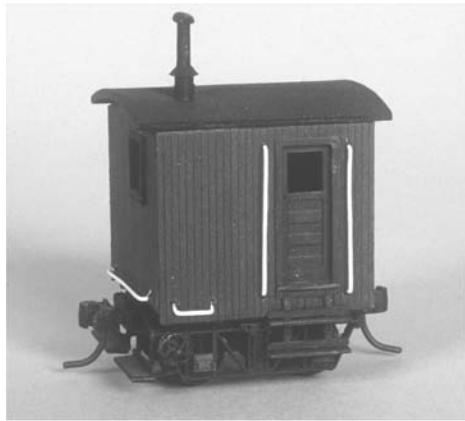
Whole Train, First Place 2001, David Lotz



Whole Train, Second Place 2001, Mike Barry



Whole Train, Third Place 2001, Rick Lake



Caboose, Second Place, Don Taschner



Online Structures, Third Place, Rick Lake



Offline Structures, First Place, Venita Lake



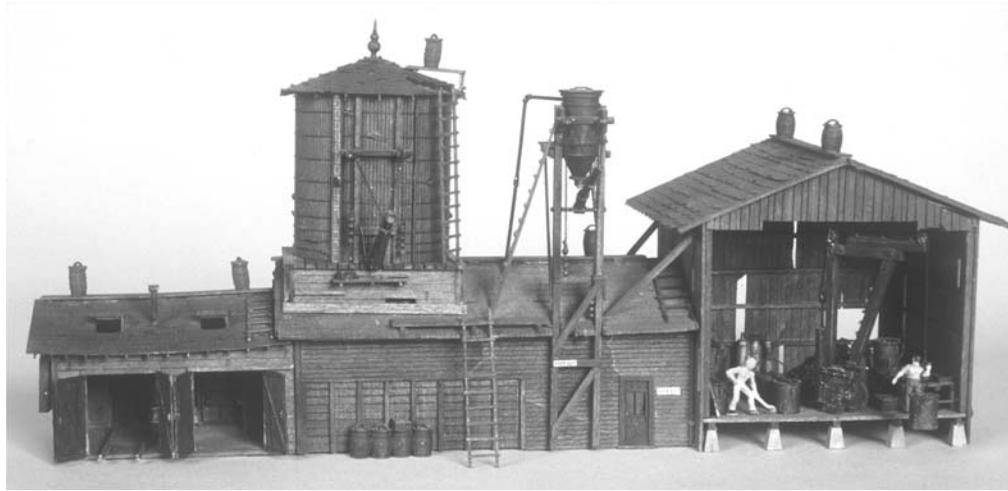
Online Structures, Second, Venita Lake



Dioramas, First Place 2001, Russ Watts



Dioramas, Second Place 2001, Rich Laux



Online Structures, First Place 2001, Don Taschner



Offline Structures, Second, Don Taschner



Model Color Print, First, Don Taschner



Model Color Print, Second, Jack Templeton



Model Color Print, Third, Jack Templeton



Model Color Slide, Second, Chris Oestreich



Model Color Slide, Second, Chris Oestreich

St. Louis Central 2002

by Venita Lake

We're going to be a part of the History Museum! At the May Division meeting, members approved a budget of \$2,000 to build a 4'x8' layout for a forthcoming exhibit at the History Museum in Forest Park. The exhibit, entitled "Our World in Miniature: Trains, Dollhouses and Other Miniatures," will run from October 5 through January 23.

The History Museum asked if we could build a working layout as a feature of the exhibit after locating us through our website, which features over 60 photos taken during the NMRA's National Train Show here in St. Louis in July 2001 as Division members and their families built a similar layout in the Dome. The layout design, by Richard Schumacher and Venita Lake, in the July 2001 Model Railroader appeared with some modifications, and the actual convention layout and the current museum layout have greater detail and a more workable plan. In its most recent version, a few changes are being made because some kits are no longer available.

A number of Division members have been involved in on the layout's

construction this summer. Rich Schumacher has reworked parts of the original plan. Rich Laux has volunteered his home and workshop for building the project (and while they were at it, he and Dave Bartz have purchased materials and built the framework for the next annual division project railroad). Venita Lake has purchased structure kits, track and other materials and drafted an able crew of builders including Don Ayres, John Leahy, Bill Beilstein, Bob Amsler, Randy Meyer, Russ Watts, Dave Lotz, Rick Lake, Hank Kraichely, Paul Fries, Brad Joseph, James McDonald, Mike Thomas, Don Taschner, Glenn Koproske, Rich Laux, Ken Thompson, Rich Schumacher, and herself.



In addition, tentative plans are being made for guest appearances during the exhibition. These potentially include a demonstration of layout construction, similar to that during the convention, as we work on the division project layout during the opening day,

hands-on tree making and/or structure or car building, and train talks. The World's Greatest Hobby program will be providing booklets, videos, and other support. Several modular groups are also expected to set up displays periodically during the exhibition.

If you wish to volunteer for activities at the museum, please contact Venita Lake, Rich Schumacher, or Hank Kraichely.

World's Greatest Hobby Update

by *Andy Sperandio*

Our World's Greatest Hobby segment on the NBC "Today Show" was a big success. On the Thursday before Father's Day our spokesperson Michael Gross was interviewed



on the air and showed both the HO layout from our "Building Your First Model Railroad" video and a portable garden layout provided by WGH sponsor Bachmann Industries. Michael also showed models representing the various scales from G to Z and got in two mentions of the greatesthobby.com website. The combination of those mentions and a link from the "Today Show" site on MSNBC brought more visitors to greatesthobby.com on one day than we had in the entire previous month. It was great national television exposure for model railroading.

Links to GreatestHobby.com

Many model railroad clubs now have their own Web sites. This is becoming

a popular way to share the hobby with other modelers and friends. It can also help to introduce newcomers to model railroading, and we'd like all WGH-participating clubs that have Web sites to link them to greatesthobby.com. You can do this by going to this site, clicking on "Link to us" at the bottom of the page, and following the instructions you'll find there. You can also download the WGH logo to use on your site. This will help anyone who finds your site to also learn about the World's Greatest Hobby.

Workshops for New Hobbyists

Has your club begun holding workshops to help newcomers to the World's Greatest Hobby? Now is the best time to start planning and publicizing your club's helping hand for new hobbyists. The "Building Your First Model Railroad" video and the other materials the campaign has provided should give you a good start on this.

Remember that if you need more copies of the WGH booklet or any other campaign items, you can e-mail your requests for materials to customerservice@kalmbach.com, or telephone 877-426-5082. Please plan ahead and allow at least two weeks for delivery.

Get Ready for Model Railroad Month

Has your club begun planning an open house for November, National Model Railroad Month? Letting the public see your club's model railroad in action is a fine way to promote the World's Greatest Hobby. If all of our participating clubs make a concerted effort to hold open houses this November, it's bound to have a great effect. It's definitely not too early to

start getting ready for your National Model Railroad Month open house.

We'd also like to remind you of the Stew Marshall Challenge, for every club in the WGH campaign to get their own stories in their local media, print or TV, for National Model Railroad Month. Your club's open house, beginner's workshops, or train show would all be good "hooks" for feature stories, because they'll show your group making the effort to share the hobby you enjoy with your neighbors. Again, there's no better time than today to start working toward this goal.

Your Feedback

We'd like to hear from you about any WGH workshops that you present, and any other World's Greatest Hobby-related events your club sponsors or participates in. We'd like to share your successes and anything you learn with the other clubs.

Recruiting

As grass-roots supporters of the campaign we now have 599 model railroad clubs, 911 ambassadors, and 668 hobby shops.

Thank you very much for your support and participation.

Why Join the NMRA

by *Tony DeMasi*
RanTrak President, Richmond VA
www.rantrak.org

To Join or Not to Join

OK, I admit it; I am the eternal optimist. In my humble opinion, I would love to see our club be a 100% NMRA club. I started collecting N Scale equipment in the late 60s early 70s. My dad was part owner in a hobby shop and I

would work on the weekends to help out. Instead of cash, I got paid in trains. My first N Scale train set was an Aurora Postage Stamp collection. It came with track, a power pack, a diesel, and a few cars.

It was something-different back then. Being a collector of horribly oversized trains at the time, I know these little sets intrigued me. Once I set up a loop and I was hooked. Seeing that I could have more trains and operation in the same area made it a perfect scale in my opinion. So I packed away my HO brass and cars and started my N Scale empire.

Now I must admit that Gordon is right in pointing out that the NMRA is for folks who run larger trains. I was not interested at the time in joining the organization early on, because of money concerns, and I was young then without a car. I did not see the need for a teenager to join. Then I got caught up in N Scale and never looked back. By the early 80s, I got side tracked, and left the hobby. A divorce sometimes has that effect on you.

It was not until I went to a Science Museum Show in 1993, in Richmond, that I decided to get back in the swing of things. Yes, I read the ads in

Model Railroading about joining the NMRA, but I had heard stories and was led to believe that the Ntrak organization was the way to go. So I joined Jim Fitzgerald's group and began to build modules. It was not until I went to the NMRA convention in Altoona, PA last year that got me thinking about it again.

After spending the weekend there and watching fellow Ntraker's involved in contests I decided this might be something for me. Groups were filling out papers in order to enter their items

and were quite serious about their chances to win. "How can this be?" I thought to myself. N Scale guys thinking they can win a contest against HO guys in the NMRA? They must be nuts. Well not only did they enter, but also all three were judged, and came away with some impressive awards! Two had taken first prize and one finished third. All were different categories and that sure impressed me!

Where was the bias I had heard about? The horror stories about being turned away and told that they could not judge their work? This sure was strange.

Yes there were no wide-open arms so to speak, but just the same, the ice had surely melted. We still have a long way to go but slowly N scale is being welcomed in.

Conventions on being put on by Ntrak clubs in the NMRA leadership. The MER divisions are appointing N Scalers to board positions. Our club even had the President and Vice President of the MER, come to our meeting, and asked us to join and put on a regional convention in 2002. That invite was accepted by 15 members of our club, and is being organized now. Good relationships take time to grow, and trust does not come over night. You have to prove it. It took me four years to entice a certain editor I know!

<g> So for myself I will take a chance that with some of my input, I just might make a difference. The more N Scalers who follow suit, the more we influence things, up and down the line.

The facts are they have set industry standards that every one of us enjoys today. If you have any engines from back in the seventies you know what I mean. DCC would be a nightmare

without the standards helped set by the NMRA and the manufactures working together. Let's not forget the rivet counters and what they bring to the table. If you want to learn about prototypical railroading there is no place better to go. They have their own library for you to do research in. There is a host of other reasons also. But the most important reason to me is that they are the largest group of model railroaders in the world and I want to be part of that.

Maybe my scale can represent a fair portion of actives within it. If you put in the time, you reap the rewards! Just look at our club and how it has grown because of that work ethic. We know as a group how to educate and entertain the public. That is what we bring to the table. For most of us, the NMRA brings the knowledge, backing and support of the manufactures to us. It is a fair trade I think. It is certainly a good return on my investment! After all, I would have 24,000 members to drive nuts! Do the math folks.

This is just one man's opinion. I think everyone has to see if the NMRA is right for him or her. I not would look at it as; I can buy another engine if I do not pay the dues, but as a down payment on my future in the hobby!

A hobby is what you make of it for yourself. We all want different things out of it. On the other hand, you must keep it growing with the help of like-minded individuals, whose goal is to see more N scale up front and center. Do not wait for someone to do it for you, you will have to do it yourself! As a group we make the fun! Let's bring it to the next level!

Division Minutes

Recorded by Dave Bartz, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2002

The meeting began with a clinic given by John Schindler, on "Starting Over". John gave a polished slide presentation on the steps that should be taken or at least considered when beginning a new model railroad layout. John's new layout the, the "Ottertail Valley Railroad," will be built in a new finished basement. John will have the advantage of starting from the "ground up" and be able to follow all the steps he outlined in his presentation.

John, related 3 major areas that need careful and detailed consideration when thinking about starting a new layout:

1. the physical plant or space the layout will occupy
2. the prototype information used to model the layout
3. the actual layout track plan, construction and operational procedures

John discussed each of the above steps in detail giving examples of bad decisions as well as the good choices. Thank you John, for a professional and at times humors presentation.

The business meeting began at 7:40 pm and was opened by Superintendent, Bob Amsler.

Visitors: Don Block, who models in HO scale using steam, was welcomed to our meeting.

Minutes: Jim Anderson moved to accept the minutes of the March 18, 2002 meeting as presented and John Hardy gave the second. Approved.

Treasurer's report: John Hardy moved to accept the treasurer's report of April 14, 2002, which had a positive balance of \$41,651.74. Randy Meyer gave the second. Approved.

Old Business:

Dues: Ken Thompson announced that any members that have had their dues expire prior to June 2001 were dropped from membership as of March 1st 2002.

Gary Hoover cars: Ken Thompson reported that we still have approximately 260 Gary Hoover cars remaining to be sold.

2001 Convention Merchandise: Ken Thompson reported that he still has items left. The last selling of clothing items will take place at the Region Convention in May. After that the remaining clothed will be donated to St. Louis charities. Ken will take the Convention and specialty RR cars to the National Convention in Fort Lauderdale. The unsold cars will remain with the Gateway Division until all are sold.

Bob Amsler reported that the "back drops" which had been used to display the promotional information for our 2001 convention have been sold to a model group in Cincinnati. Ken Thompson stated the money for that sale was included in the treasurer's report.

Clinics: Mike Thomas reported that the July clinic will be the St. Charles Model Railroad club and they will host an operating session. Mike, is working with Dave Rader to present a clinic in August or September.

Hank Kraichely reported that on Sunday, June 2, 2002, there would be home layout tours in Illinois. The tours will be held between 1:00 and 4:00 pm.

Awards: Don Tachner presented the following certificates:

Dave Lyon, Golden Spike
Dave Bartz, Association Volunteer
Jim Anderson, Association Volunteer

Congratulations to the above members!

New Business:

Donations: Bob Amsler outlined the Gateway Division Officer's recommendations for the amounts and designated recipients of the surplus funds generated by the Gateway 2001 Convention. Bob listed the following 5 items which would be individually moved and seconded from the "floor" and then voted on by the membership:

1. That the Gateway Division maintains our \$12,000.00 CD @ 4.25% interest and \$10,000.00 in our money market account @ 1.74% interest.
2. That we donate \$1,000.00 to the Big Bend Model Railroad Club for repair of their roof.
3. That we donate \$1,000.00 to the NRHS to help retire the debt of their refurbished coach railroad car.
4. That we hold \$2,000.00 for future model railroad special projects, such as a possible layout at Union Station.
5. That we donate \$15,000.00 to the NMRA as a challenge grant for special well defined projects.

John Hardy moved that we maintain our \$12,000.00 CD and \$10,000.00 in our money market account. Randy Meyer gave the second. Approved.

Rick Lake moved that we donate \$1,000.00 to the Big Bend Model Railroad Club for repair of their roof. John Hardy gave the second. After much discussion the motion was Approved.

Paul Metzler moved that we donate \$1,000.00 to the NRHS to help retire their debt for refurbishing a prototype railroad coach. Rick Lake gave the second. Approved.

Rick Lake moved that we donate \$2,000.00 to a future model RR project such as a layout at Union Station. Randy Meyer gave the second. Many questions were asked about the Union Station layout. Bob Amsler reported that there was very little definite information available at this time.

John Hardy moved to table this motion until more information is available. Don Taschner gave the second. The move to "table" was Approved.

Pete Smith moved that we donate \$15,000.00 to the NMRA in the form of a "challenge grant" with the Gateway Division donating \$1.00 for each \$1.50 the NMRA received as donations from others. The money to be used as operating funds for projects such as publishing special books or other projects that would generate an income to replenish to operating capital. John Hardy gave the second. There was much discussion concerning this motion and the details to be used in defining the challenge grant to the NMRA.

Pete Smith moved to amend his motion to change from the \$1.00 to \$1.50 ratio, to a \$1.00 to \$2.00 matching fund ratio. John Hardy gave the second. Discussions continued.

Pete Smith again amended his motion to add a 5-year time limit on our challenge grant to the NMRA. Rick Lake gave the second. After additional discussion, the question was called and the motion including both amendments was Approved.

Randy Meyer reported that we have received a check from "Model Railroader" for \$330.00, from the sale of the Gateway 2001 layout built at the Convention. Randy gave the check to Ken Thompson and suggested that the money be used for future Gateway project railroads.

Region: No report

Local Clubs: Bill Birdsell reported that on April 27th the Illinois Traction Society would hold several clinics in Edwardsville, IL. This event will last Saturday through Sunday and will include a banquet on Saturday night. The clinics are "no charge".

50:50: collected \$49.00 and was won by Craig Brown.

Adjourned: Rick Lake moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:35 PM and Randy Meyer gave the Second. Approved.

Division Minutes

Recorded by Dave Bartz, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for May 20, 2002

In lieu of a clinic presentation for the evening a "home layout tour" was offered for our members at the homes of: Bill Beilstein, John Leahy and Dave Roeder. The Gateway Division thanks these 3 members for their hospitality towards the rest of our members.

Superintendent Bob Amsler opened the business meeting at 7:00 pm.

Visitors: Harold Holmes, Eric Martin and Wayne B. were welcomed to our meeting and invited to join our Division.

Minutes: Rick Lake moved to accept the minutes of the April 15, 2002 Meeting as presented and Randy Meyer gave the second. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Rick Lake moved to accept the treasurer's report of May 19, 2002, which had a positive balance of \$40,098.48. Gregor Moe gave the second. Approved.

Old Business:

Donations: Randy Meyer moved that we that we spend up to \$2,000.00, for materials and build a 4'x8' model railroad layout. The layout is to depict a post-world war II era, St. Louis style city with trains that ran in the city during that time period. The layout is to be given to the History Museum in St. Louis, and is to be on display from October 2002, through January 2003. The layout will be very similar to the layout built for the Gateway 2001, Convention. Venita Lake gave the second. Approved.

Awards: Don Tachner presented the following certificate:

Dave Lyon, Association Volunteer.
Congratulations to Dave!

Region: Ken Thompson reported that approximately 900 boy scouts earned the Railroad Merit Badge at the Boy Scout Jamboree held in Ames, Iowa the first weekend in May. The region gave financial assistance to the event.

New Business:

Rick Lake moved that we direct our Regional Director, Jim Anderson, to make a motion at the next Mid-Continent Regional Board Meeting that the Region donate a minimum of \$20,000.00 to the NMRA to help further the interest in "model railroading." Gregor Moe gave the second. Approved.

Adjourned: Rick Lake moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:20 PM and Randy Meyer gave the second. Approved.

DCC Decoders, Part 1

by Richard Schumacher

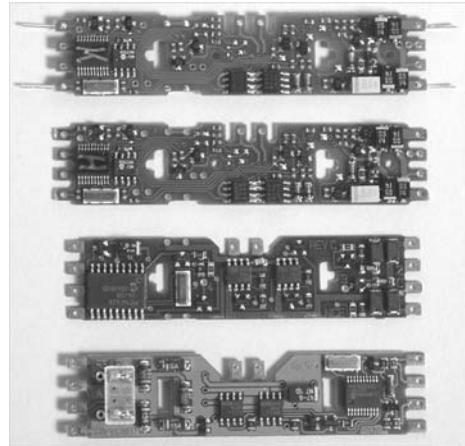
Current production Atlas and Kato HO scale engines have the standard 8-pin NMRA medium DCC plug. However, space is sometimes very tight inside these engines, limiting the decoders that will fit or requiring removal of weights (see our webpages showing installations of decoders in these models). Older model Atlas and Kato engines (which includes older model Stewarts, as they also used a Kato mechanism) do not have a DCC plug, which requires hard wiring a decoder, sometimes with limited space.

Four manufacturers (Atlas, Digitrax, North Coast and Soundtraxx) make DCC decoders shaped to replace the engine's original circuit board (which contains the circuitry required for lighting, and the connections between the trucks and motor). Some of these decoder installations use the existing clips to connect the trucks and the motor, or those connections may be soldered for extra reliability. Although marketed as "plug and play," almost all installations will require some soldering to connect lights, and the installation

may take anywhere from 30 minutes to two hours (mostly depending upon the lighting issues for a specific model engine).

These lighting board replacement decoders make for a cleaner and very reliable installation in Atlas/Kato/older Stewart engines without a DCC plug, and may be the best option in newer engines where space is at a premium, or where you desire sound (using a Soundtraxx KT100LC or AT100LC decoder).

Pictured, from top to bottom: Digitrax DH150K, Digitrax DH150A, NCE DA-SR, Atlas 340.



The easiest decoder "installation" I've had is with the Atlas "Master Series" engines where an Atlas-Lenz decoder comes pre-installed. An easy to access plug changes it between DC and DCC operation.



Gateway Division Clinicians Wanted

We still need clinics for December and beyond. If you know something other people don't then you're qualified to conduct a clinic. And if you don't think you can fill an hour, we can pair you up with another short clinic for the evening. We especially need more hands-on how-to modeling workshops and more in-depth prototype clinics. Call Mike Thomas at 314-664-0680 or 314-771-0680.

Renew Your Gateway Division Membership!

Is this the last issue of the *RPO* you will receive? Write and mail your check for only \$3 per year for Gateway Division membership to:

Gateway NMRA Membership
PO Box 510305
St. Louis, MO 63151-0305

Calendar of Events

September 16

Gateway Division Meeting, 7pm
Trinity Lutheran, West County, MO
Clinic: Our Division achievement program chairman, Don Taschner, will give us some encouragement and pointers on having a model judged by AP standards - how to look critically at your own work (and improve it where necessary), and how to explain it to others (all those forms and paperwork have a purpose).

October 5

Missouri Historical Society, 10am
Forest Park, St. Louis City, MO
Clinics: Opening day of the new modeling exhibit. See the new St. Louis Central 2002 layout, participate in clinics to the public, watch the Gateway Central X (2003) project railroad construction.

October 20

Family Fall Festival, 1pm to 5pm
Museum of Transportation
West St. Louis County, MO
Gateway Central IX (2002) Project Railroad on display, the winner is drawn at this event.

October 21

Gateway Division Meeting, 7pm
VFW Hall, O'Fallon, IL
Clinic: Dave Roeder will conduct a slide show tour of his Webster Groves & Fenton Railroad, a bridge line set in the mid-1980s in St. Louis and featuring lots of highly detailed urban and industrial scenes.

November 2

Gateway Division Annual Meet
Trinity Lutheran, West County, MO
Event: Bring your model and photo contest entries, enjoy clinics, talk trains with other modelers.

November 18

Gateway Division Party, 7pm
Trinity Lutheran, West County, MO
Event: Our Holiday Potluck! Mark your calendars now; instructions about what to bring will be forthcoming.

Maps and directions to the above locations are on the Gateway Division website, www.gatewaynmra.org