In This Issue
Superintendent’s Desk ....................... 2
Gateway Central XI .......................... 3
World’s Greatest Hobby on Tour .......... 4
Building the Gateway Central XII .... 6
Division Officers .................................. 7
2004 Fall Meet, Contest Winners .... 8
Creating Custom Decals ...................... 14
Division Minutes ................................. 16
Website Statistics for Dec. 2004 .... 20

On the Cover
Mike Satke & Bob Boedges kitbashed a custom barge loading grain conveyor system for the grain elevator on the new Gateway Central XII project railroad which was first displayed at the WGH on Tour St. Louis show. Photo by Richard Schumacher.

Superintendent’s Desk
by Mike Thomas

Ask yourself: What does the Gateway Division do? Well, we have meetings once a month; somebody gives a clinic, followed by a business meeting – you get a postcard every month reminding you about it. And we put out the RPO, which you’re now reading, four times a year, plus a membership directory. We build a portable project layout called the Gateway Central every year, and take it to the Great American Train Show and the Museum of Transportation’s Family Fun Days and sell raffle tickets for it. We’ve had a Fall Meet the last couple of Novembers, and of course we hosted the National Convention in 2001 and will host a Mid-Continent Region Convention in a few years (like we did this June). You knew all that, right? So what’s my point?

Well, my point is something you also know, whether you think about it much or not: none of these events and activities...
as well. Show coordinator Dave Swanson said he believes the event is well on its way toward fulfilling its goal of introducing new people to the hobby. “At St. Louis, 87 percent of those who came to the event said they’d never attended a train show before,” Swanson said.

33,000 Attend World’s Greatest Hobby on Tour in St. Louis

by Venita Lake

The World’s Greatest Hobby program, sponsored by the Model Railroad Industry Association, had the right idea when they selected St. Louis as the location for its second WGH on Tour event. America’s Center in downtown St. Louis was packed on January 8-9, 2005, and the Gateway Division, NMRA, was there to promote the hobby and membership in the NMRA.

Admission was $9 for adults and FREE for those 16 and under. The event was widely publicized on television and in the newspapers, and a well-advertised family health event with free admission at the same time may have helped attendance as well. Show coordinator Dave Swanson said he believes the event is well on its way toward fulfilling its goal of introducing new people to the hobby. “At St. Louis, 87 percent of those who came to the event said they’d never attended a train show before,” Swanson said.

This is a program designed to showcase model railroading and is intended to be exciting for model railroaders and fun for the whole family. Among the advertised attractions were operating model railroads, an exhibition on the Walt Disney Railroad Story, 200 booths of manufacturers and retailers, 100 trains for kids to operate (Thomas the Tank Engine Train Playland), Choo Choo Charlie the Railroad Robot, and demonstrations, seminars, and new products. In promoting the program to potential exhibitors, the organizers have emphasized that this is not just for die-hard modelers and it is appropriate for St. Louis as well.

Gateway Central XI

by Mike Thomas

Thanks to Brad Joseph, MMR and his crew for all their work on the Gateway Central XI. This was our first-ever N scale layout, and turned out great. Building it on a hollow core door was a clever idea for a strong, stable, lightweight base. Kato Unitrak simplified track laying, made for flawless operation – not something N scale if known for. Jim Agnew, Don Ayres, Jim Ables, and Ron Kraus were responsible for much of the construction. Additional building kits were assembled by Don Taschner, Richard Schumacher, and others – some of the finished kits turned up on the layout when Brad had his back turned, so we don’t know for sure who built them. We do know that Red Board hobbies in Belleville gave us discounts on materials, and Ken Thompson donated a GP38.

The layout had its first showing at our 2003 Fall Meet, and was on display at three Great American Train Shows, the Mid-Continent Region convention, and the Museum of Transportation’s Family Days. Transportation of the layout and selling raffle tickets required a cast of dozens, if not thousands. Hank Kraichely, Rick Lake, and Venita Lake were prominent among the layout haulers, and train show workers included everyone named above plus John Schindler, Rich Laux, Bob Boedges, Bill Levin, Ron Gawedzinski, and pretty much everyone else you can think of. Bob and Pru Johnson provided hauling for the trip from the Wentzville GATS show to the lucky winners in Maryville, Illinois, who planned to give the layout to their grandson.

Financially, the GCXI was enormously successful. We sold $1,566 worth of raffle tickets, and received another $380 in appearance fees from GATS; expenses were $553.85, so our net proceeds were $1,392.15, about $200 more than the previous layout. The project layout is our biggest single source of income each year, and in very rough approximation, the profit from the Gateway Central covers our printing and mailing costs for the RPO for a year. Thanks again go to Brad and everyone who helped – and thanks, too, to the crew of the Gateway Central XII, which is already making the rounds of the train shows! Brian Post is in charge, and Bob Boedges and Mike Satke are taking the lead on construction.

Next Issue

Photos of the Missouri Botanical Garden’s 2004 Gardenland Express. We need articles – please write one and send it to me for publication!

The RPO Newsletter of the Gateway Division NMRA • Winter 2005
railroad Association, as well as model railroad manufacturers and publishers, need to keep current modelers interested in the hobby and tell future and wanna-be model railroaders about its many aspects and how to get started. We have a lot of enthusiasm for the hobby within our membership and we should share it.

Our current project railroad was on display right at the front door where we gave on-going answers on how to build a portable layout. We also sold raffle tickets as our annual fundraiser, raising a total of $565, our second highest amount at a single event in the years we have been building such layouts. We had a 10’ x 10’ booth where we promoted membership in the National Model Railroad Association, answered questions about modeling and activities in our area, and encouraged people to check out our impressive web site. As a result we added several new members during the show and a number of people took information away with them. Who knows? Someday we may read about the latest Master Model Railroader who got his first Thomas the Tank Engine train set when he was part of the stroller crowd in St. Louis.

Building the Gateway (Riverport) Central XII

Photos by Richard Schumacher

**Develop the Concept**

Industrial river inlet

Geographical location (Eastern US - Consider the railroad road name you have chosen)

Industry selection (ADM Grain, Shell fuel oil, Peter Piper’s Pickled Perch Packing Plant)

**Plan the Layout**

Determine the layout size to insure portability (consider the size of transporting vehicles)

Determine the type and weight of structural materials for portability (Foam board, 1”X 4” framework, folding legs)

Determine the placement of major geographic forms (river inlet, etc.)

Design the track plan taking into account the placement of the selected industries

(Check the “footprint” for the industries selected to be sure you have allowed enough room)

**Build the Framework**

Lay Out the Track and Adjust the Plan as Necessary

Pin the track to the foam board, and run trains to be sure of clearances, etc.

Lay out the footprint of the industries you have selected using the base pieces from the kits themselves or paper patterns cut to the correct size

Glue the track to the foam board (No roadbed was used due to the industrial nature of the layout with all of the track representing “yard” track)

See the color version at: http://www.gatewaynmra.org/layouts/gc12/gc12preview.jpg
Wire the Layout
The selection of the Command Control system resulted in a simple wire connection with insulated joiners necessary only at the curved turnouts.

Cut Out the River Inlet and add Hills and Tunnels
Cutting can be accomplished using a hot foam cutter, saw, electric knife, etc. Foam board is used for all land forms, built up in layers, carved with a Surform tool, and covered with Sculptamold. Coloring on this layout used Rit Dyes, and Woodland Scenics ground foams secured with diluted white glue.

Build and Place the Industries Selected
The industries on the Riverport Central are basic plastic kits with added scratch built parts for barge loading. Some of the structures are “kit bashed” using a variety of commercially made parts used to create unique structures such as the lift bridge. The wharf and dock areas are “scratch built” using a variety of scale lumber pieces.

Place Roads, Packing Lots, etc.
Roads and parking areas are constructed from AMI Instabase sheets, and Instant Roadbed. Grade crossings are hand laid using individual scale 8”x10” lumber cut into 8’ lengths.

Finish the Scenery
Cut out depressions “below grade” Add ground foam and other textures Add trees either kit built or commercially made

Add Exterior “Profile Boards”
Use masonite, or luan plywood, and paint a neutral color.

Gateway Division 2004
Fall Meet & Contests
photos by Dave Lotz

1st&2nd Generation Diesels, First Place, Blair Drazic
1st&2nd Generation Diesels, Second Place, John Carty
1st&2nd Generation Diesels, Third Place, John Carty
Steam Locomotive, First Place, Jack Stroker

Steam Locomotive, Second Place, John Carty

Caboose, First Place, Don Taschner
William F Schumacher Spirit of Railroading Award

Caboose, Second Place, John Carty

Whole Train, First Place, Rich Laux

Maintenance of Way, Second Place, Rich Laux
Maintenance of Way, First Place, Don Taschner

Freight Car, First Place, Chris Oestreich

Freight Car, Second Place, Chris Oestreich

Whole Train, Second Place & Gateway Western Award, Chris Oestreich (coal train)
Whole Train, Third Place, Venita Lake (cookie train)

Online Structures, First Place & Third Place, John Carty

Online Structures, Second Place, John Carty
Custom Decals

text & photos by Richard Schumacher

A big problem when you freelance your own railroad is how to get the decals you need for your rolling stock. Although many vendors offer custom decal services, most have a substantial minimum order and design service charges. This is “ok” when ordering lettering for your home road, since you’ll need multiple sets, but what do you do if you want a unique “one of” kind of car?

The two cars on the opposite page are examples of custom “one of” cars. Both are rolling stock for local industries on the Lake’s el&el Railroad – the Archer chemical plant in Junction City (Archer is Venita’s family name) and Langtry Paper at the end of the branchline in Lillie, La.

Both of these are examples of “word processor” decals. The original artwork was created in Microsoft Word by carefully selecting, formatting and sizing the lettering. All of the lettering needed to be created for the tank car. Since a “data only” boxcar was used for the paper car, I only had to make the road name, “return when empty,” and reporting marks.

Two things are critical when designing your decals – use typefaces that are appropriate to the era you are modeling, and don’t make the lettering too large. Overside lettering, especially for dimensional data, is a common error. Typically, HO dimensional data is only 3.5 to 4 points in size. Reporting marks and road names are larger – but still only in the 7 to 9 point range.

Printing black decals is easy – you use decal paper designed for a laser printer. White and color decals are much harder to print – a normal inkjet won’t work, since the results are transparent colors. The hard-to-find ALPS MD-1300 prints with opaque colors and even metallics, and many decal services use that model.
Division Minutes

Recorded by Bob Boedges, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for June 21, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent Mike Thomas at 7:04 PM. Superintendent Thomas introduced the clinic. These are a Few of My Favorite Tools. Short presentations of a variety of modeling tools were made by Richard Lake, Mike Thomas, Randy Meyers, Dave Roeder, Ken Thompson, Venita Lake, and Brian Post. The membership thanks all of these members for their presentations.

Business Meeting

The business meeting was called to order by Superintendent Thomas at 8:11 PM.

Visitors: No visitors or new members were in attendance.

Minutes of the May Meeting: The minutes of the May Meeting were distributed. There were no additions or corrections. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Ken Thompson and seconded by Richard Lake. The corrected minutes were Approved by a voice vote of the membership.

Treasurer’s Report: A printed copy of the one month treasurer’s report (May 18 through June 20, 2004) was distributed. A motion to accept the report was made by Ken Thompson and seconded by Randy Meyer. John Schindler asked for discussion concerning the “$1,000.00 correction” itemized in the report. The item was explained by Ken Thompson as the adjustment for checks that have not yet cleared. The report was Approved by a voice vote of the membership.

Superintendent Thomas reminded the membership that the Division dues are due as of June 30. Jim Anderson was collecting dues in the absence of Dave Lyon.

AP Awards: Don Taschner did not have any awards to present. He also reported his disappointment with the contest results from the Regional Convention. He had only 58 entries from the 208 people attending the convention. 35 of the entries were from 3 people. 22 merit awards were presented based on the work of the regional judges. There were some very nice models in the contest.

Merchandise Sales: Wheel sets are still available from John Hardy. All of the remaining sets are 33”.

Project Layout: Brad Joseph reported that a great deal of discussion centered around the NMRA Regulations Ballot. Officially the answer will probably come out of the Seattle Board of Trustees meeting at the National Convention. However, Jim indicated that he believes it passed. He is a member of the “Life After the LRP” committee which is charged with the implementation of the new regulations if they pass. He indicated that there were many details not completely thought out and that implementation may take at least a year.

Everything is on hold until after the national. He also reported a lot of favorable comments with regard to the regional convention the Gateway Division recently hosted. Next year the regional will be held in Topeka, KS. The date of the convention was not available. He also indicated that the AP Program participation is down and there was discussion concerning ways to increase interest. A new regional patch is being designed and hopefully will be available at the August meeting. The patch will be similar with the addition of the southern Illinois to the logo.

Old Business:

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Merchandise Sales: Wheel sets are still available from John Hardy. All of the remaining sets are 33”.

Ken Thompson reported that he still had Gary Hoover cars for sale and would be sending some to the National Convention.

RPO: The Winter Edition has been delivered. The Spring issue is going to press. The Summer issue deadline for articles, etc. is still the end of June.

Membership Directory: Venita Lake reported that she is “up to the Js.” She will still accept input from any member that would like to update his or her information.

Project Layout: Brad Joseph reported that a problem has arisen with our good friends who produce the Great American Train Shows. He indicated that we were notified in 1996 that we would not be allowed to sell raffle tickets at any future shows. The concern is with regard to our ownership and their monetary policies. If approval of our ticket sales is not forthcoming, we will have to reevaluate the entire Project Layout program. We will have one more GATS show followed by the Fall Meet where the winner will be announced. After that time we will need to be working on the next layout.

The RPO Newsletter of the Gateway Division NMRA ● Winter 2005

15

16 Newsletter of the Gateway Division NMRA ● Winter 2005

The RPO
Regional Convention Report: John Schindler reported that the convention was a resounding success. We finished with 208 registrations. The model contest was a bit under supported. The clinics were well attended and the modelers seemed to be happy with the numbers in attendance and the interest given to their work. The door prize drawing was really excellent as was the Banquet. The slide show presentation that accompanied the model awards really enhanced the presentations. Venita Lake received the Larry Long award. The train show attendance was acceptable for June and there were no complaints from the vendors. We also made a profit of $800.00. The drawing for the weekend use of a new car donated by the Oliver C. Joseph Dodge Dealership has not been completed and will be taken care of before the next meeting.

Future Clinic Presentations: Superintendent Thomas announced the following clinic sessions for future Gateway meetings:
- July 19: Jerry Smith – Open House at Augusta Station (No business meeting)
- August 16: Dave Roeder – Background Painting
- September 20: Hank Kraichely – New Thinking for a New Layout
- October 18: O’Fallon Caboose

Treasurer’s Report: A printed copy of the one page treasurer’s report (July 20 through August 16, 2004) was distributed. A motion to accept the report was made by Bob Amster and seconded by Ron Gawedzinski. The report was Approved by a voice vote of the membership.

Treasurer’s Report: 2004 Mid-continent Regional Convention Income and Expense Summary: Superintendent Thomas reported that he was in receipt of the report prepared by Dave Lyon. The final profit figure was higher than originally reported due to the receipt of the hotel room rebate. The final total profit was $1,143.31.

Directors Report from the Board of Trustees: Jim Anderson reported that the new NMRA regions were approved by the membership. The single membership dues will be in place by September of 2005. The new Board of Directors will decrease from 17 to 9. The current trustee’s term will expire just prior to the national meeting in Cincinnati next year. The new board will be elected by then. There will be ballots issued after the first of the year. A nominating committee is looking for candidates for the new board and regional presidents will nominate a candidate for their regions. There will also be board members from Canada, Australia, and Europe. There is a great deal of work to be done. The long range planning committee will be meeting in Chicago on the last weekend in September.

Jim also reported the NMRA membership has been declining over the past several years. A new plan called the “rail pass membership” has been implemented to try to attract new members to the organization. The program began on June 1st and will run until the end of August in 2005. The program features $9.95 six months non-renewable membership. During this time the short time members will receive all national, regional, and local publications.

Old Business:
- AP Awards: Don Taschner reported that he received his awards for structures and cars. He is working on his electrical award. He does not have any other candidates or awards to report.
- Storage Facility: Superintendent Thomas indicated the need for a physical location to store the materials that the Division owns. Brad Joseph volunteered his home for this facility. Bob Boedges indicated that he would take care of the inventory records and distribution. He asked the membership to let him know what they have. One of our laser pointers is missing.
- UMSL Request: Superintendent Thomas reported that the Division has been asked by the University Of Missouri St. Louis to help publicize some continuing education courses on Transportation in American Life. The fall semester course will be on aviation and the spring semester will be devoted to trains. These courses will be available for credit if desired. They will be sending brochures as soon as they are available. We may include this information in the RPO.

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Future Clinic Presentations

Superintendent Thomas announced the following clinic sessions for future Gateway meetings:
- October 18 – O’Fallon Caboose
- November 15 – Holiday Party – Clinician to be determined.

Other Business
Question with regard to an accounting from the National Headquarters on the Presidential Fund. Superintendent Thomas reported that no such accounting has been received.

Lionel Collectors Society
Looking for layouts for their convention next July.

Adjournment
A motion to adjourn was made by Randy Meyer and seconded by Rick Lake. The motion was Approved by voice vote of the membership.

www.gatewaynmra.org
Website statistics for December 2004:
- Page Views: 81,790 (~2,636 per day)
- Visits: 53,635 (~1,730 per day)

Future Clinic Presentations:
- RPO: The Spring and Summer issues will go to the printer at the same time and will be mailed with the new directory
- Project Layout: Brad Joseph was not present to give a report. Superintendent Thomas reported that we are at the Museum of Transport and we sold $215.00 worth of tickets. We have a Certificate of Appreciation from GATS for the Feb. 2004 show. The next GATS show is on the weekend of September 24th and 25th.
- Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Randy Meyer and seconded by Rick Lake. The motion was Approved by voice vote of the membership.

Attendance:
There were 38 members in attendance.

Visits: 53,635 (~1,730 per day)

“Hits”: 2,525,998 (~8,143 per day)