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

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On the Cover
Aerial view of the Gateway Central XII (2005) project railroad. HO scale, 4’x7’, river port switching with continuous run. See the layout photo tour starting on page 6. Photo by Richard Schumacher.

Superintendent’s Desk
by Mike Thomas

This is the first issue of the RPO to go out to the entire newly-expanded membership of the Gateway Division of the NMRA. If you live within our boundaries – zip codes 62001 through 62299, 62410, 62434, 62436, and 62801 through 62999 in Illinois and 63001 through 63399 in Missouri – and are a member of the NMRA, then you are automatically a member of the Gateway Division. If you haven’t been active in the Gateway Division before now, we welcome you. Among your rights as a member of the Division, you may run for office, and may vote in elections. Enclosed with this mailing is a post-card ballot which you should mark, stamp, and return. We do not, this year, have any contested races, and so we have not asked the candidates to write position statements; I can assure you that everyone who has agreed to run has a history of volunteer work with the Division, including holding office. As always, space if provided for you to cast a write-in vote if you wish.

Articles, photos and any other materials for publication are to be sent to the Editor. No payment can be made for publication of any materials. Regular issues are published quarterly: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Subscription to the RPO is one of the services provided by membership in the Gateway Division. Send membership applications and renewals to the Division Treasurer.

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

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You are also welcome to attend our monthly clinic and business meeting, which is (almost always) held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. We alternate locations between west St. Louis County (Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road, at the southeast corner of Clayton and Highway 141) and O'Fallon, Illinois (the VFW hall at 221 West First Street) so that all of our far-flung members have a fair chance of getting to a meeting. The Illinois meetings are in February, April, June, August, October, and December and the Missouri meeting are in January, March, May, July, September and November.

The November meeting is always our holiday party and pot-luck, which a good many people attend. To keep the party festive we skip the business meeting and the clinic is generally a video or slide show of a good scenic railfan trip shot by one of our members – who have shown us everything from excursions on the Alaska Railroad to live steam in Zimbabwe, and most points in between. It’s important to note that this year’s holiday party will be the second Monday, November 14, instead of the usually third Monday, in order to avoid crowding too much into Thanksgiving week. We will once again be in the gym at Trinity Lutheran, and you should bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Let Jim Anderson know if you expect to attend so he can be sure enough tables and chairs get set out; if you don’t see him at the October meeting, give him a call at 636-394-1305.

If you’d like to receive a post card each month reminding you that a meeting is coming up (we usually put them in the mail about a week before the meeting) we’ll put you on the regular mailing list, but we have to ask you for a $3.00 subscription fee to cover the cost of postage. That same annual subscription fee will also bring you all four issues of the RPO. Subscription checks made out to “Gateway Division NMRA” may be mailed to our Paymaster, Dave Lyon, at 284 Oakleigh Woods Drive, Ballwin, MO 63011.

Whether you pay a subscription fee or not, you’ll continue to receive this one issue of the RPO each year, which will keep you in touch with some of what the Division is doing. We will also mail you a membership directory listing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses for all of our members. If you want even more information, you can always check our website www.gatewaynmra.org for announcements, calendar of events, model and prototype photos, and a great deal more – we even have maps (courtesy of Expedia.com) of how to find our monthly meetings!

Another benefit of membership is our occasional purchase of bulk quantities of some common modeling supplies. In the past it’s been Jay-Bee wheelsets and Boley vehicles. Right now we’re taking orders for Intermountain metal wheelsets, which are available in 33” and 36” sizes in HO ($6 per 12-axle pack), 33” and 36” sizes in N scale to fit standard trucks and 33” diameter for Micro-Trains trucks ($5 per 12-axle pack), and 33” diameter in O scale ($6 per pack). Hank Kraichely has kindly volunteered to keep track of orders, so if you’re interested in quality insulated brass wheelsets, give Hank a call (636-394-5151) or see him at the next meeting. Hank will also be ordering additional wheelsets ‘on spec’ so even if you don’t pre-order he may be able to supply what you need – just one more reason to turn up at a monthly meeting!

And before I close out this column, I want to encourage everyone to attend our Fall Meet on Saturday, November 5, at Trinity Lutheran Church. We get under way at 9:00 am with coffee and donuts, and we’ll have clinics, display layouts (the MZ&D ‘Big Bridge’ layout from Quincy, the local Free-Mo modular group, and our own Gateway Central XII project layout – which is featured in this issue), a popular vote model and photo contest with 40 tables of vendors’ merchandise, door prizes, and end the day with home layout tours. If you’d like to enter a model in the contest (anyone may enter their models and photos), you can speed up the entry process by having the paperwork filled out in advance; the contest entry form is available on our website (the “NMRA Contest Entry Form #901” link is in the right sidebar column halfway down on http://www.gatewaynmra.org/trainshow.htm) so you can download it, print it out, fill it in, and bring it with you. This meet is open to the public, so bring family and friends. Admission is $4, with children age 12 and under admitted free. More information on the Fall Meet is available, as always, on our website.

Again, welcome to the expanded membership of the Gateway Division. We have a lot to offer and a lot to do, and we hope you’ll be an active part of it. Mike Thomas, 314-664-0680 mathomas@speakeasy.net

Division Holiday Party
All Gateway Division members are welcome to attend our annual holiday party!
November 14, 2005, the second Monday 7:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church (see our website for maps and directions) Bring a salad, side dish or desert to share
Let Jim Anderson know if you expect to attend; if you don’t see him at the October meeting, give him a call at 636-394-1305.

Division Officers

Coming Next Issue

Find signs to print for your model railroad at www.gatewaynmra.org/download.htm
A Bachmann E-Z Command DCC throttle controls the engines on this layout, one of which is sound equipped. Care needed to be taken selecting the rolling stock, as the freight cars have to navigate the tight 18” radius curves.

Attend Model Railroading Clinics, Talk Trains
Help yourself to coffee and donuts (for as long as they last), look over what’s being offered at the swap tables, check to see if you’ve won a door prize, take your pride-and-joy model or photo to the contest room, and settle down in one of the clinic rooms and learn something new.

A railroad clinic is a presentation on some particular aspect of model railroading or prototype railroading (the real thing). Usually a clinic runs from 45 minutes to an hour long and may allow time for questions. Model railroaders love to share their experience with others through demonstrations, slides, samples, and even hands-on-try-it-yourself presentations. This “how to” aspect is one of the best ways to learn about the many facets of modeling. Clinics on present-day railroads, as well as long-gone and merged railroads, provide background on how the real railroads do things, from operations to laying track and building stations to the kinds of equipment and freight or passenger service to be found. They help the modeler to build and operate a more realistic railroad.

Watch the Construction of a Small Model Railroad Layout
Throughout the Fall Meet, the Gateway Central Crew will be working on the next Gateway Central project railroad. See firsthand modeling techniques by local experts, ask questions, learn how to ballast, wire, create scenery, detail scenes, and plant model trees. Ask questions, watch what they are doing, and offer to help!

Home Layout Tours
Some members will open their homes to tours on Saturday afternoon and evening, beginning around 4 pm. Directions (maps) and information about these layouts will be available at the Fall Meet.

Gateway Central XII Layout Tour
This side of the layout has the only passing siding and a small yard (at right) with a switchback siding to Peter Piper’s Pickled Perch Packing Plant (at left). Although the harbor acts as a scenic divider, you can best view the details of the barges and grain elevator from this side. The 4’x7’ size is the largest layout that would fit in the trucks available for Bob and Mike to transport the layout.
The mountain end offers a nice vista of the harbor with the lift bridge at the far end, and has an access panel to the tunnel in case of derailments. The mountains were constructed by gluing additional foamboard to the base and carving to shape. Masonite fascias, cut to match the edge of the scenery, add a finished appearance to the edge of layout.

The highway bridge side features sidings to the ADM grain elevator and Gateway Marine Fuels. This side also has nice cross-harbor views, this time of the dock and a kitbashed river towboat. The culvert (at right) was carved out of the foamboard base. The highway bridge is a Rix "Modern Highway Overpass" kit with the piers modified for the steep climb. The turnout under the Soo Line covered hopper provides an interchange siding connection to the "rest of the world" and also an easy way to expand this layout in the future.

The (non functional) lift bridge was kitbashed from Atlas bridge components. It is the focal point of this end of the layout, and effectively divides this scene from the rest of the harbor area. Note the reflection of the grain elevator in the epoxy resin "water." This large of a pour took longer to "dry" than expected – the water was still tacky when the layout was first displayed at the "World’s Greatest Hobby" show at the America’s Center.

A Bachmann E-Z Command DCC Throttle is used to control the engines on this layout.
The other "focal point" structure on this layout is the kitbashed ADM grain elevator. This structure has a complex conveyor system designed by Mike and Bob for this specific site.

Details of the kitbashed grain barge loading conveyor.
The kitbashed river towboat is moored at the scratchbuilt dock next to the packing plant.
Details of the river towboat.

Figures at work, or in conversation, add to the details and realism of your layout scenes.

Peter Piper's Pickled Perch Packing Plant ships in boxcars and reefers using a siding that runs through the packing plant.
Across the harbor entrance from Peter Piper's is the Gateway Marine Fuels oil trans-shipment and storage facility.

Gateway Marine Fuels office and pump building is a kitbashed Pikestuff model.

The rail siding can hold two tank cars next to the storage tanks. Note the ladders and walkways, and the spillage containment wall surrounding the tanks.
An oil barge is tied up at the trans-shipment complex. A Walthers kit was used to model the elaborate piping on the river side of the office and pump house.

Details are what make the scene. Note the hoses, piping, valves, ladder, barge details and workman on the platform.

The key structures on this layout are the grain elevator with its intricate conveyor system and the harbor entrance lift bridge. Both are fine examples of kitbashing with readily available plastic models – using common parts, but providing a result unique to this layout.
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