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Your name could be here!

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On the Cover
Once again we had lots of beautiful entries in the model and photo contests that were part of the Division’s 2005 Annual Fall Meet. See photos of the winning entries starting on page 5. This water tower was constructed by Randy Meyer. Photo by Richard Schumacher.

Superintendent’s Desk
by Mike Thomas
This Superintendent’s Desk column closes out my two years as Gateway Division superintendent. Much of what I’ve written here in these columns has been appeals for volunteers to step up and take on one job or another. There remains as much to be done as ever, but I want to take this last opportunity to thank those who have contributed to the success of the Gateway Division during my terms in office.

First, thanks go to my predecessor, Bob Amsler, who left things running so smoothly that momentum has done much of my work for me. Thanks also to my fellow officers: Rich Laux, who was Assistant Superintendent during my first term (and who continues to bring refreshments for all our meetings at Trinity), and Bill Levin, Assistant Superintendent during my second term; these two have been responsible for rounding up clinicians each and every
month. Paymaster Dave Lyon has collected dues and subscription fees, written checks, doled out 50/50 winnings, balanced bank statements, issued monthly reports, and guarded the cash box. Bob Boedges had been a Division member for less than a year when he was elected Clerk, and he’s spent the past two years sending us all monthly meeting reminder postcards, recording minutes, and volunteering for a wide variety of jobs beyond his duties as Clerk. As he has done for five years now, Jim Anderson has represented the Division to the Mid-Continent Region and reported back to the Division on the doings of the Region. This has involved a great deal of travel on Jim’s part, as only one of the Region’s semi-annual board meetings in all that time has been here in Saint Louis.

The Achievement Program is one of the NMRA’s most visible and important activities, and I want to thank Don Taschner for continuing as Gateway Division AP Chair. Don organizes merit judging of models for any member who asks, processes paperwork for AP certificates, and runs the popular-vote model and photo contests at our Fall Meet – for several years now he has been assisted at the Meet by Chris Oestreich. Of course, Don and Chris wouldn’t have much to do if it weren’t for all the folks who enter the contests each year; so thanks go to all of you, as well. You can see the winners of the 2005 voting elsewhere in this issue of the RPO, and on our website.

Speaking of the RPO and the website, Richard Schumacher has been responsible for both for many years. There are many reasons that the Saint Louis area in general and the Gateway Division in particular have a high profile among model railroaders nationwide, but the Gateway Division website, www.gatewaynmra.org, is certainly a big part of it. Richard posts notices of upcoming events, photos of contest winners and project layout construction, archives of RPO articles, and links to other websites of interest. He also takes the vast majority of the photos that appear both on the website and here in the RPO. And while the RPO reaches 300 members one issue a year, and 120 subscribers the other three issues, the website is visited by tens of thousands of people. I will be taking over from Richard as RPO editor at the end of the year, but he will continue in the more technically demanding job of webmaster.

The efforts of the RPO editor wouldn’t mean much without someone to take charge of printing and mailing. Venita Lake has done those jobs and a great deal more in her role as Membership Chair. Besides delivering masters to Hi-Tech Copies, and picking up the completed press run, then addressing, stuffing, sealing, stamping, and mailing envelopes, Venita has compiled (and printed and addressed and stuffed and sealed and stamped and mailed) our annual membership directory, recruited new members at train shows, phoned lapsed members to encourage them to renew, compiled lists of hobby shops and club layouts, and surveyed members to see what other services they might find useful. Venita is retiring from these multiple duties (because she’s taken on more volunteer work for National) and I can’t possibly name them all (Rick Lake, Mike Barry, Gary Gross, John Hardy, Bill Levin, Richard Schumacher, John Hardy, and on and on) but obviously general chairman John Schindler deserves to be singled out. The convention we hosted was well attended, and quite profitable – which is more than many host divisions can say.

Another “cast of thousands” (well, dozens) Division project is our annual project layout. Bob Boedges and Mike Satke began work on the Gateway Central XIII in the fall of 2003. While Bob and Mike are responsible for building these two most recent layouts, Tom Bousman has hauled it all over town, Brad Joseph (who ran the show for the Gateway Central XI) and Brian Post have dealt with getting us signed up with the various train shows, and dozens of you have turned up to work selling raffle tickets.

Hank and his crew deserve a round of applause for providing both members and non-members with this annual Saturday full of trains. Brian has organized and sold the vendor tables, Randy Meyer has cadged door prizes, Jim Anderson coordinates our space and furniture needs with the church, Ken Thompson and Dave Lyon and others have worked registration, Dave Scharnhorst hauls his layout down from Quincy every year, Don Taschner and Chris Oestreich, as mentioned before, run the contest room, probably a dozen people have given clinics, and half a dozen have opened their home layouts to tours. I think getting together like this is one of the most important things we do for ourselves each year, so thanks to everyone who helps make it happen.

If one day full of trains is good, three days full of trains is great. In June 2004 the Division hosted the Mid-Continent Region’s annual convention. It took a lot of people to put this on, and I can’t possibly name them all (Rick Lake, Mike Barry, Gary Gross, John Hardy, Bill Levin, Richard Schumacher, John Hardy, and on and on) but obviously general chairman John Schindler deserves to be singled out. The convention we hosted was well attended, and quite profitable – which is more than many host divisions can say.

Another “cast of thousands” (well, dozens) Division project is our annual project layout. Bob Boedges and Mike Satke began work on the Gateway Central XIII even before they’d finished giving away the GCXII at the Fall Meet in November. While Bob and Mike are responsible for building these two most recent layouts, Tom Bousman has hauled it all over town, Brad Joseph (who ran the show for the Gateway Central XI) and Brian Post have dealt with getting us signed up with the various train shows, and dozens of you have turned up to work selling raffle tickets.

Every member who has given a clinic at a monthly meeting or at the Fall Meet or at the Regional convention deserves our thanks Every member who has opened a home layout to visitors or brought a

Find photos of our project model railroads at www.gatewaynmra.org/project.htm

Coming Next Issue

Mike Thomas will be taking over as the RPO editor with the next issue. Please support his efforts by providing him with articles and photos for publication.
Gateway Division 2005
Model & Photo Contests
photos by Richard Schumacher

The November 5, 2005 Gateway Division Annual Meet at Trinity Lutheran Church was another success. Great clinics, oodles of swap tables with a large variety of products in many scales, plenty of door prizes, model railroads on display and to visit, the drawing for the Gateway Central XII (2005) project railroad, and, of course, lots of great entries in the model and photo contests.

Color versions of these photos are available for viewing online at http://www.gatewaynmra.org/models05.htm

Diesel Locomotive First Place, William Wehmeir

Diesel Locomotive Second Place, Jeremy Janzen

Diesel Locomotive Third Place, Dave Roeder

Caboose First Place, Dave Bartz
William F. Schumacher Spirit of Railroading Award
Caboose Second Place, Brad Slone

Freight Car First Place, Dave Bartz

Freight Car Second Place, Chris Oestreich

Freight Car Third Place, Richard Schumacher

Passenger Car First Place, Dave Bartz
Whole Train First Place and **Gateway Western Award**, Chris Oestreich

Passenger Car Third Place, Brad Slone

Whole Train Second Place, Richard Schumacher

Maintenance of Way First Place and **Best of Show**, Don Taschner

Whole Train Third Place, Jeremy Janzen

Passenger Car Second Place, John Carty
Online Structures Second Place, Patrick Fontaine

Online Structures First Place and WHGK Architects Award, Dave Roeder
Online Structures Third Place, Don Taschner

Offline Structures Second Place, Glenn Koproske
Offline Structures Third Place, Randy Meyer

Detail shot of Don’s bridge

Offline Structures First Place, Don Taschner
Prototype Color Photograph First Place, Brian Post
Marvin's Camera Award

Prototype Color Photograph Second Place, Gregor Moe

Prototype Color Photograph Third Place, Bradley Hufnagel

Model Color Photograph First Place, Gregor Moe
The 2005 Annual Meet swap tables offered a wide assortment of items.
Once again, the Quincy “Big Bridge” modular layout was on display, featuring captivating animation and the massive Mississippi River (lift) bridge.


Upcoming Division Meeting Clinics
by Bill Levin
20-Feb (IL) Richard Lake
Wood Structures - Painting & Staining
20-Mar (MO) Hank Kraichely
Planning & Building the CB&Q
16-Apr (IL) Brian Post
DCC Tricks & Basic Decoder Programming
15-May (MO) Bob Johnson
Layout Operations
19-Jun (IL) Pete Smith
Scratchbuilding Buildings using Styrene
17-Jul (MO) Tim Hessel
Animation Projects using Electronics
21-Aug (IL special meeting location – meet at OC Joseph Chrysler)
Brad Joseph
Prototype Passenger Cars
18-Sep (MO) Brian Post
DCC Sound Decoder Comparison & Programming
16-Oct (IL) Gary Hoover
Prototyping San Bernardino
20-Nov (MO) Ron G and Bill Levin
Railroad Trip Video - Northeast Canada and Peru
18-Dec (IL) Bob Boedges
Railroad Operations - Switch lists and other systems

Mark Your Calendar
Our 2006 Annual Gateway Division Fall Model Railroad Meet and Train Show will be held November 4, 2006, 9am to 3pm, at Trinity Lutheran Church in West St. Louis County (Clayton Road and 141).

Bring your models and photos for the contests, and watch the drawing for the Gateway Central XIII project layout!

photos by Richard Schumacher
For the third year, the Missouri Botanical Garden offered their highly successful “Gardenland Express” holiday flower and G gauge train show. The layouts include models of St. Louis landmarks, as well as crowd-pleasing ski lifts, circus tents, and quaint structures.

The highlight of this year’s display was a new model of St. Louis Union Station.
The Gateway Central XIII (2006) project railroad operating and on display at the Thanksgiving weekend (Gateway Center) train show. The trackwork and main structures are complete, and basic scenery has been roughed in. Carved from the extruded foam sheets used to construct the layout. Photo by Richard Schumacher.

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