2006 Gateway Division Fall Meet

Pete Smith’s A. C. Brown & Son Fisheries

First Place, Offline Structures

WHGK Architects Award

Best of Show
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On the Cover

Richard Schumacher faithfully photographs all the model contest winners at each of our Fall Meets. More photos of Pete Smith’s fishery, along with photos of the first, second, and third place models in all the categories, can be found at www.gatewaynmra.org/models06.htm

Superintendent’s Desk

by Bill Levin

2007 is off to a great Model Railroading start with the Gateway Division focused on improving our programming and promoting membership in the NMRA and Gateway Division. Our programming this year is centered around three major activities. First, is our monthly clinic programs have been excellent and I thank and recognize the clinicians for the first quarter; Brian Post presenting "Basics of DCC: Decoder Installation in Non-Dcc Ready Locos; Curt Regensberger presenting “Prototype and Modeling Steel Making Operations” and Gary Hoover presenting "Backdrop Painting with Sponges". These great clinics have contributed to increasing our members’ knowledge and attendance is up on both sides of the river. So if you want to learn more about modeling and enjoy fellowship with other modelers, join us at one of our meetings. If you are working on your layout and including an interesting industry or scenery technique, please take the time to put together a short presentation that can be one of our monthly meeting clinics. You do not have to be a presentation pro, just provide useful information. Another new idea this year is an upcoming monthly meeting where members will receive a free kit to start to assemble—attendance at the meeting is required to receive the kit. Look for your meeting notifications as to the date and particulars.

Second, the newly initiated Quarterly Layout Tours have started with the first one on March 31 with about 40 members visiting four layouts in north St. Louis County. I thank Don Taschner, Ed Bailey, Gary Hoover, and Dave Bartz for sharing their layouts with us. If you did not get to these layouts on the Tour, you can see a sampling of pictures in another article in this RPO. These tours are an excellent way to get ideas for your own layout, see excellent workmanship, and inspire you to spend some time on your own layout. Third, is our Fall Train Meet in November. Both during and after the show, I always tell the event chairman tells me that it will be expanded this year so there can be more vendors and layouts.

With regard to promoting membership in the NMRA, we are working in two ways to increase our membership. First, we attended the Collinsville Train Show with the Project Layout to attract members and raise funds. Elsewhere in the RPO we recognize and thank those members and organizations that contributed materials and time to build this fantastic demonstration model railroad layout (See pictures in another article). Our booth was in a good location at the Collinsville show and this was the only major train show before the Fall Train Meet. Thanks so much for all the members that helped transport, operate, promote the hobby and sell raffle tickets at the Train Show. Volunteers will be needed when we take the layout to shopping malls several times before the Fall Meet to promote membership in the NMRA and to raise funds. Second, we are working on member retention. At our last Illinois meeting we started a member survey of Illinois members by some of our Illinois members. We will be surveying Missouri members soon. More on the member surveys in the next RPO.

Look forward to see all of you at a future meeting.

Bill Levin
314-878-2119
wmbill@hotmail.com

Operations on the Webster Groves & Fenton RR using Computer Spreadsheet

by Dave Roeder MMR

Early operations

The Webster Groves & Fenton RR was planned from the start as an operations oriented railroad. I wanted lots of switching and as many rail side industries as possible to create traffic. Compromises had to be made. The time period of the 1980’s made some of the switching somewhat fanciful and the train lengths were shorter than prototypical, but operations came first. I started out in 1994 as soon as the track work was down and some scenery was in place. The first sessions were very informal using hand written switch lists made up

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on the spot. I would invite a random group of guys over and we would run the switch lists as best we could. These early switch lists were the basis for my emerging operations schedule. I soon realized that the computer was a much more efficient way to keep switch lists. The next step was to get organized and put the trains in some sort of order. Since I was not interested in doing it exactly like the real railroad, it was a simple matter to number the trains I had staged in the main yard and send them out in that order.

It soon became apparent that we had too many through trains, so I started tweaking the schedule to create a total of 12 jobs that could be done in about 3 hours with a crew of 6 or 7 people. I was not able to eliminate all of the through trains on my first pass at a schedule. This was caused by not having enough trackside industries and not having industries that matched the freight we were trying to deliver. You can’t have coal hoppers at a grain elevator or tank cars at a rock quarry. I had way too many flat cars with nice loads and no place to deliver them. I had boxcars with roof walks and gondolas with rivets. This was when I entered into the brutal phase of “thinning the herd”.

I had to get rid of any freight cars that did not fit the era or were of no use on the railroad. I gave some away, sold some; and in general just took them off the layout and hid them in boxes. The layout now runs with 220 freight cars. I will not add more, if I get something newer or better, then something else goes. It is a discipline that must be adhered to if I want to run 12 trains as scheduled.

The details of operation

The railroad has a single track main line with a loop for continuous running, but during operating sessions the railroad runs as a point to point layout. I re-set the jobs between each monthly session. The schedule is done in excel spreadsheet with a separate sheet for each train order. A master schedule sheet provides the dispatcher with the overall game plan and each train order has notes describing the details of the switching moves. Switching moves are numbered and turnsouts are lettered. The control panels have full details showing numbered sidings as well as lettered turnsouts. Manual ground throws are all close to the fascia. I have made ¼” diameter metal discs soldered to .031” music wire with the turnout letters on them to assist crews in identifying the various powered turnouts in the switching areas. These can be rotated sideways for photography making them invisible.

Other operational aids include clearly marked names on all major areas of activity, place names and directional arrows for all destinations mentioned on the train orders. These items are all generated on the computer in excel spreadsheet using Microsoft word art and draw. I provide hooks to hold the clipboards with train orders and schematics as well as cup holders for beverages. The most common requests are for more cup holders. The floor is covered with black foam rubber interlocking squares and I have numerous bar stools for seating. I provide various devices for uncoupling cars since everyone seems to prefer a different type. The most recent is a ¼” wood dowel sharpened in a pencil sharpener.

# 108 The Valley Park Cement Train

The paperwork for train #108 is typical of the jobs run on the WG&F during one of the monthly sessions. This train is blocked and has the power attached. It sits in Lindenwood yard ready to go lacking only a crew and a caboose. We run cabooses because I like the looks of them on the rear of the freights.

Train #108 Valley Park Cement Train Originates Lindenwood Yard

Power: BN GP39-2 # 2713, BN GP38-2 # 2264
Note: Pick up a Caboose before departing Yard
Drop off Valley Park Sub Track

| SP | 490457 Cov. Hopper 36 FT. GREY | 11 |
| UP | 219343 Cov. Hopper 36 FT. GREY | 11 |
| BN | 430052 Cov. Hopper 36 FT. GREEN | 11 |
| GN | 409 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. GREEN | 11 |
| BN | 161843 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. GREY | 15 |
| BN | 277001 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. GREY | 15 |
| SLFS | 78903 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. GREY | 15 |
| SLFS | 70086 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. GREY | 15 |
| MKT | 36124 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. RED | 15 |
| C&NW | 95200 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. YELLOW | 15 |
| BN | 39089 Hopper-Rock 41 FT. BLACK | 11 |
| BN | 679089 Hopper-Rock 41 FT. BLACK | 11 |
| UB | 252001 Box Car 50 FT. YELLOW | 11 |
| Total: | 13 |

Pick up Webster Yard Track

| MP | 819780 Flat car 60 FT. MINERAL RED | 9 |
| SLFS | 6789 Gondola 50 FT. MINERAL RED | 9 |
| BN | 276205 Box Car 40 FT. GREEN-HI CUBE | 9 |
| WSX | 328 Flat car-mill 40 FT. RED OX | 10 |
| Total: | 4 |

Pick up Destination: Lindenwood Yard Track

| BN | 277041 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. GREY | 4 |
| BN | 216104 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. GREY | 4 |
| BN | 453077 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. GREEN | 4 |
| BN | 511992 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. GREEN | 4 |
| BN | 446100 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. GREEN | 4 |
| GN | 3038 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. GREEN | 4 |
| NP | 6338 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. GREEN | 4 |
| NP | 6389 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. GREEN | 4 |
| NP | 6390 Cov. Hopper 34 FT. GREEN | 4 |
| BN | 244002 Hopper-Rock 41 FT. BLACK | 4 |
| BN | 267003 Hopper-Rock 41 FT. BLACK | 4 |
| Total: | 11 |
Caboose tale
The BN had gotten rid of cabooses by the 80’s, but as late as 1993 there were still some holdouts, including one in the Hall Street Yard in north St. Louis. The yard crew used it to eliminate long walks in the cold when blocking cuts of grain cars. The story was that it had been taken off the books but escaped the cutting torch. It was lost to the BN but not to the yard crews who made good use of it.

Getting out on the road
When train #108 is ready to depart, the crew (one person) takes the train order from the dispatcher and checks the consist. (A copy of the train order for #108 is included. This is the paperwork carried by the engineer. Pencils are provided for use in marking off cuts of cars on the train order as they are blocked.) This train has 2 locomotives placed back to back since it has to move West first, then East for two more moves. The engineer pulls down the yard lead to clear the switch for the caboose track. A reverse move allows him to pick up the next caboose in line. Train #108 is not released until the switching crew (two people) over in Valley Park have blocked the empties and communicated this to the dispatcher. After getting clearance for the move, train #108 pulls out and proceeds directly to Valley Park. Upon arrival, they drop off 13 cars per the orders and then wait until the switching crew puts 15 cars on the rear of what was the front of the train coming in to Valley Park. The caboose is also placed at the opposite end of the train as it came in. The next move takes the 15 car train out to the single track main heading East to the Webster Groves Yard. Sometimes traffic on the main will require #108 to hold a siding while some other work is done. If all goes as planned, #108 arrives in Webster Yard where the yardmaster accepts 4 set outs from the front of the train. The remaining 11 cars and caboose then request permission to head East once again returning to Lindenwood Yard. The train enters Lindenwood Yard from the East and pulls into yard lead #4. This ends the job.

Plan it, Build it, Run it
There is no substitute for running trains to gain experience and confirm your general direction as the railroad takes on a more finished look and the operating crew becomes more familiar with your overall operation scenario. Early operation sessions pointed out the need for changes in rolling stock and a switch from 6 axle to 4 axle diesels. These are things I did not see when doing the track plan. A good track plan is a requirement, but you also need to have operation experience to create a smooth running railroad.

Gain Additional Information When You Sign Up for Email Notification
Gateway Division is offering two ways for you to get more information by email. First is to receive Meeting Notifications and other Divisions’ newsletters by email. The benefit of opting in for Meeting Notifications is that we will send other Divisions’ newsletters that we receive electronically to you in this manner. Only by opting in to the Meeting Notification email can you receive these other newsletters. Second is to receive the RPO Publication by email. The major benefit of this email is that all the pictures are in color. If you are currently receiving these publications by mail, and choose to receive them by email, please email this request to wmlbill@hotmail.com.
Need for Volunteers
As a volunteer organization, we depend on members to help operate the Division. Some members work full time while others are retired, so time available varies based on work and personal schedules. We are developing a long term strategy for the Division where duties are divided into smaller tasks so that volunteers have specific activities that do not become burdensome yet allow for effective Division operation. To accomplish this goal we are currently looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- Email communications manager – manage the list and mail Meeting and RPO emails (content is provided so this is a logistics position)
- Merchandise Sales – attend meetings/Fall Meet and sell Division merchandise/remit moneys to Treasure (not responsible for ordering merchandise)
- Membership Retention Chair – review reports, call members who haven’t renewed their membership to encourage rejoining, and manage the membership survey effort
- New Member Chair – work on programs to recruit new members
- Clinician Program Chair – identify clinicians to present at monthly meetings and Fall Meet

Please consider helping in one of the above roles. If you are retired, you can be a big help to the Division by taking on one of these duties. Contact Bill Levin at wmlbill@hotmail.com to get more information.

Division Minutes
Recorded by Ron Gawedzinski, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2007

Clinic: Assistant Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Superintendent Bill Levin was at work out of town. Hank introduced Brian Post, who gave a clinic on “Basics of DCC; Decoder Installation in Non-DCC Ready Locomotives; and Discussion of New Sound Systems Available – Tsunami and Others.” Brian gave good, practical advice and suggestions, along with helpful drawings, on each of the three subjects in his clinic. Thanks, Brian, for a very informative clinic.

BUSINESS MEETING

Assistant Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the business meeting to order at 8:18 pm. There were 27 members and two guests present.

Visitors: The Division welcomes guests Hal Wilcox and Ed Bailey.

Minutes of the October and December 2006 Meetings: The minutes of the October 16 and December 18, 2006, meetings were distributed. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer’s Report: David Lyon, Treasurer, distributed printed copies of the Treasurer’s Reports for the periods December 18, 2006, through January 14, 2007, and January 1 through December 31, 2006. The balance in all funds as of January 14, 2007, was $26,852.07. There were no questions and the reports were accepted as presented.

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report: Hank Kraichely distributed printed copies of the 2007 Calendar of Events, which shows dates for meetings, with clinic topics, train shows, MoCor Regional and NMRA National conventions, and our Fall Meet. (An excellent reference calendar; be sure and get one at the next meeting if you missed this meeting.) Hank says he has clinicians scheduled for February, “Steel Industry Prototype and Modeling Same” by Curt Regensberger, and March, “Backdrop Painting with Sponges” by Gary Hoover, but he is looking for clinicians for future months. The clinics could be on a prototype RR, your RR, some experiences you have or a modeling project.

RPO Report: Mike Thomas said the RPO was taken to the printer on Saturday, January 13. It should be mailed to members the week of January 22. He said the deadline for submitting articles and pictures for the next RPO would be April 1. For future RPO’s, the deadlines is July 1 and October 1. Hank Kraichely commented that 50 members requested their RPO and a monthly reminder be sent to them by e-mail. This RPO will be the first sent by e-mail.

Director’s Report: Jim Anderson stated the Board of Director’s meeting scheduled in Kansas City, Missouri, this past Saturday was cancelled due to bad weather. The BOD will try to reschedule it during the first half of February.

Achievement Program (AP) Awards Report: Don Taschner reported he had an AP certificate for Venita Lake as an Author. The membership gave Venita a round of applause. Don also mentioned that Randy Meyer would soon be receiving his Master Model Railroader (MMR) Award as well as an AP certificate for Cars.

Merchandise Report: Hank Kraichely reported he had 33” and 36” HO wheel sets available. They are $6.00 a package. Anyone interested in buying the wheel sets should see him after the meeting.

Old Business: None

New Business: Overall Plan To Improve The Division In 2007: Hank Kraichely commented on the new officers’ planning meeting held this past December. Two areas to focus on are programming and membership. With programming, we plan to generate more interest among the membership by doing more things that would be interesting to them. With membership, we plan on working to enhance our membership of the Division and the NMRA and new ways to do that.

Saturday Layout Tour: Hank stated there will be a Saturday Layout Tour on March 31, 2007, from 9 am to 1 pm. There will be as many as four to five layouts as close as possible in a geographical area to minimize driving distance and time. After this, he plans on doing a Saturday Layout Tour on the last Saturday of each quarter -- June 30, September 29 and December 29. Hank asked if any member is interested in having her/his layout on the tour to please sign up on the sheets being passed around and indicate the Saturday you would prefer.

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Joint New Membership Effort And Fundraising: Hank reported the officers decided that the division would do at least six events this year for a joint new membership and fundraising effort. Three events, for the very first time, will be held at three Malls (Mid Rivers, Chesterfield and West County), and three events will be at train shows (!!!). The new bo1 is to be determined). The Project Layout will be at all six events. We would be selling raffle tickets and have a table for recruiting new members, the prize being $10 NMRA membership for six months. Hank stated Bill Levin has already talked with the management of the three Malls and the cost of having there is approximately $150 to $200 per Mall for one weekend (two Saturdays and one Thursday) in the fall of 2007. Hank then asked for a motion, to "authorize the Division to spend up to $600 to rent Mall space for the three malls for three two day weekends." Limited discussion took place. Brian Post made the motion as stated by Hank. Seconded by Rick Weger. Further discussion took place. The motion passed. (Note: For this event effort to succeed, we will need volunteer staff to the booth for Train Shows and the Mall Events. Please consider giving just a couple of hours or so of your time. It will be a great help, and you can get into the Train Shows free. So put your name on the sign up sheet. Thanks.)

Memberships Enhancement: Hank commented on another item the officers discussed, retaining and encouraging participation from inactive members. We have 240 NMRA members active in our Division area but only about 110 on our Division rolls (of which about 35 to 40 attend our meetings). The idea is to create a simple questionnaire, of five or six questions, and contact the inactive members. We would gather information about what’s going on, get their e-mail address, check their phone number and then find out why they haven’t joined our local group. We will ask them and get their name on the list going around if you are interested in the kit so he can get an accurate count on how many to order. In the spring of the year (May 21 Monday, Trinity Lutheran Church) we’ll have a meeting to build the kit. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide the glue and some tools to build the kit.

Announcements: None.

Adjournment: Richard Lake moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bob Boeddeke and approved at 9:18 pm. The next meeting will be on February 19, 2007, at VFV Hall, O’Fallon, Illinois.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Bousman, Acting Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for February 19, 2007

Clinic: Superintendent Bill Levin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Bill introduced Curt Regensberger, who gave a clinic on "Prototype and Modeling Steel Making Operation." His presentation showed pictures of the prototype steel making operation and how he modeled the same, from the raw materials to the finished products to the assortment of specialty firms using those finished products. Thanks, Curt, for a very informative clinic.

BUSINESS MEETING

Superintendent Bill Levin called the business meeting to order at 7:50 pm. There were 27 members and one guest present. Bill took a minute to talk about our chapter for this year. He wanted to improve programming in both quality and quantity, covering clinics, home layout tours and other things. Second, we’re going to go after new members in an innovative way by going to shopping malls, attracting "baby boomers" and kids.

Visitors: The Division welcomes guest Ralph Knepkamp.

Minutes of the January 2007 Meeting: The minutes of the meeting of the 15, 2007, meetings were distributed. The minutes were approved as presented.

Treasure’s Report: David Lyon, Treasurer, was present. Bill Levin distributed printed copies of the Treasurer’s Report for the period January 15 through February 18, 2007. The balance on hand January 1, 2007, was $26,846.57. There were no questions and the report was accepted as presented.

Monthly Report: Hank Kraichly announced he has a clinic scheduled for March, "Backyard Painting with Sponges" by Gary Hoover. April open. May, in a special group activity meeting to build a laser-cut wood loading dock and ramp kit from Blair Lines, provided free by the Division only to members attending the May meeting. June, July and August are open. There will be a clinic, no date scheduled yet, on "Programming Decoders Using A PC" by Bill Levin and Brian Post. (Hank is looking for clinicians; the clinics could be on a prototype RR, your RR, some experiences you have or a model railroad project.)

Gateway Layout Tour Schedule: Hank stated during the first quarter of 2007 there will be a Gateway Layout Tour on March 31, from 9 am to 1 pm, covering layouts in North St. Louis County and St. Charles. In the second quarter, on June 30, layouts on the Illinois side will be on tour. There is a sign-up sheet available for our Illinois members wanting to show their layouts.

September 29 is the date for the third quarter and December 29 is the date for the fourth quarter. The Layout Tour is for members only and will not be open to the general public. (Any member who is interested in having her/his layout on the tour please notify Hank and indicate the Saturday you would prefer.)

Merchandise Report: Hank Kraichly reported Ken Thompson formally sold the last of the Gary Hoover freight cars. Hank said we are selling wheel sets but that he forgot to bring them to this meeting. He does have 33’ and 36’ HO wheel sets available. They are $6.00 a package.

Anyone interested in buying the HO wheel sets as well as other gauges, like O and N, should see him after the meeting.

RPO Report: Mike Thomas said the RPO went out about a month ago. It’s the first RPO that went out on card copy as well as regular printed copy. He said the deadline for submitting articles and pictures for the next RPO would be April 1 but to get submitted in time at least a week before our next meeting. (For future RPO’s, the deadline is July 1 and October 1.) Hank Kraichly asked if anyone would be interested in submitting articles and topics for the RPO and monthly meeting notice) for the Division, as he would appreciate it if he could transfer that responsibility.

Director’s Report: Jim Anderson reported he was unable to make the Board of Director’s meeting scheduled in Kansas City, Missouri. Bob Amster will report to the next meeting.

Randy Meyer got his MMR (Master Model Railroader) Award. Also, there is an issue before the Region, under the new NMRA regulations, that the NMRA gives back money to the Regions for carrying out NMRA programs. (Right now the Region is trying to figure out how to do it. One final thing is the Region is going to take a great hand look at itself and try to figure out what
to call 10 names each, ask the questions and return the results to Bill.

E-mail Of Meeting Notices And RPO: Bill mentioned members did not have to receive both layouts in four homes in North St. Louis County. He said there are a limited number of directions’ meeting notice can be sent by e-mail and the RPO by regular mail if the members let Bill or on the Illinois side will be on tour. September 29 was raised about the lack of a renewal date on is the date for the third quarter and December 29 is the date for the fourth quarter. The Layout the e-mail notice. Bill said that issue would be addressed. (Hank Kraichely asked if anyone would be interested in handling the e-mail (RPO and monthly meeting notice) for the Division as he would appreciate it if he could transfer that responsibility.)

Computer Graphics Volunteer For Poster Design: Bill said Mike Peters, a Chapter member, has volunteered to do graphics work on the posters for our booth at train shows and malls. Mike is preparing some samples of things that he thinks will look good. Bill hopes to have some examples to show at the next meeting.

New Business: None

Announcements: Bill Birdsell mentioned the Metro East Model Railroad Club is going to have an open house this Saturday, February 24, 10am – 3pm. Another volunteer list is being passed around for staffing the layout at changing centers sometime in April, after Easter. After that, it would be shown in the fourth quarter. Someone mentioned that our Division Fall Meet is on November 3, when we normally pick the winner for the layout. Some would visit shopping centers before that date.

Old Business: Volunteer List: Bill Levin and Hank Kraichely said a volunteer list for transporting the project layout is being passed around. The layout’s size is 48 inches wide by 80 inches long by 24 inches high. Another volunteer list is being passed around for staffing the layout at the Great Train Expo. If you have not already signed up at last month’s meeting please sign up now.

Volunteer List to Make Phone Call Survey of Division Members: We have about 280 members in the Gateway Division. We never see most of those members attending meetings either here in Illinois or in Missouri. The idea is what can we do to first improve communications with them and second to get them to come to meetings. Bill has developed a short, three-question questionnaire. We would like to find volunteers tonight from the Illinois side to call fellow Illinois members (67). We need about 6 – 7 volunteers to call 10 names each, ask the questions and return the results to Bill.

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2007

Clinic: Assistant Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Hank introduced the guest, Gary Holmes, who gave a clinic on “Backdrop Painting With Sponges.” Gary showed the step-by-step applications he used to paint the mountain backdrops for his model railroad layout. Using a prototype picture as a guide, Gary used simple materials, such as wax paper for stencils, and cheap, small sea sponges to paint ridgelines and mountain scenery, to create the illusion of depth for the layout’s backdrops. Thanks, Gary, for a very informative clinic.

BUSINESS MEETING

Semi-Annual Meeting: Bill Levin called the business meeting to order at 7:45 pm. There were 36 members and three guests present. Bill took a minute to remind members of the information for this year to improve our programming and membership, to try to get more people involved in the organization and make it a positive organization to belong to.

Visitors: The Division welcomes guests John Meyer, Patty Bousman and Rita Berk.

Minutes of the February 2007 Meeting: Copies of the minutes of the February 19, 2007, meeting were distributed. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer’s Report: David Lyon, Treasurer, distributed printed copies of the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending January 31 through April 18, 2007. The balance in all funds as of March 18, 2007, was $26,524.47. There were no questions and the report was accepted as presented.

Monthly Meeting Clinic Report: Hank Kraichely announced April 4 is open. (In May, a special group activity meeting to build a laser-cut wood loading dock and ramp kit from Blair Lines, provided free by the Division only to members attending the May meeting. June, July and August are open.) (Hank is looking for volunteers; the clinic could be on a prototype RR, your SMS, some RR experiences you have or a modeling project.)

Gateway Layout Tour Schedule: Hank Kraichely stated there would be a Division First Quarter Member Home Layout Tour on Saturday, March 31, 2007, from 9 am to 1 pm, covering five layouts in four homes in North St. Louis County. He said there are a limited number of directions handouts available here on the table. If more are needed let Hank know and he will send them to you. (In the second quarter, on June 30, layouts on the Illinois side will be on tour. September 29 is the date for the third quarter and December 29 is the date for the fourth quarter. The Layout Tour is for members only and not open to the general public. Any member who is interested in having their layout on tour please notify Hank and indicate the Saturday you would prefer.)

Merchandise Report: Hank Kraichely reported he brought 33” and 36” HO wheel sets. They are $6.00 a package. He did not yet order the HO 33” near scale wheel sets. Anyone interested in buying the HO wheel sets as well as other details, like O and N, should see him after the meeting. Dave Lyon mentioned Ken Thompson has made available NMRA Standards gauges for sale.

RPO Report: Mike Thomas said the deadline for submitting articles and pictures for the next RPO would be April 1 but try to get submissions to him at least a week to ten days earlier. (For future RPO’s, the deadline is July 1 and October 1.) Hank Kraichely mentioned some members’ e-mail providers seem to be screening the e-mail RPO out. Bill Levin complimented the e-mail RPO as a first class publication. Mike also stated we need to work on how we maintain our mailing lists. There seems to be something being sent on e-mail that gets what by regular mail and by e-mail. Bill said we would work it on.

Directors’ Report: Jim Anderson reported the Mid-Continent Region Annual Convention would be in Lenexa, Kansas, (Kansas City area), on Saturday, October 27, 2007. The Turkey Creek Division is the sponsor.

Achievement Program (AP) Awards Report: Don Taschner presented Randy Meyer with an NMRA AP Certificate For Car Master Model Railroader (MMR) Award and the NMRA Special MMR Plaque. The membership gave Randy a round of applause.

Don then presented Ed Bailey with an NMRA AP Certificate For Golden Spike. The membership gave Ed a round of applause.

Project Layout XIV: Building Report – Bob Boedges reported the layout is even more done as of today. The detailing is finished. It has the Atlas power pack and the sound controller for the locomotive. And the water is almost dry. It will ready for the Collinsville train show on March 24 – 25. Productions of the Gateway Division NMRA Volume 15, No. 1  The RPO 12

Respectfully Submitted,
Ron W. Gawedzinski, Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,
Ron W. Gawedzinski, Clerk

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Total cost to date is now $542.38. The budget was $600. Bill said the only reason he was able to keep the cost down is because Atlas Model Railroad Co. and several members contributed so much stuff. He still needs contemporary vehicles, like pick-up trucks and personal cars. Hank Krachely commented on how generous Atlas Model Railroad Co. was to four project layout, including sending lots of brochures and catalogs. Bill Levin thanked Bob Boedges for being in charge of building the layout. The membership gave Bob a round of applause.

Show Schedule – Bill Levin said the project layout would be shown at the Great Train Expo, Collinsville Convention Center, Collinsville, Illinois, Saturday and Sunday, March 24 – 25, 2007, 10am – 4pm. We will be doing some additional open house events. For more information please visit http://www.ciscojunction.com. Donation $3.00, trains@ciscojunction.com. You can see more pictures and enjoy some train sounds at http://www.ciscojunction.com.

MAY 6, 2007 MID-AMERICA TRAIN & TOY SHOW (formerly “Mid-America Train Meet”), BTC Exhibit Hall, I-435 and Front Street, Kansas City MO, 9am – 5pm; Admission: $15 adults, $10 seniors, $10 children. Trains, model railroad, Railroad Groups – Attend and enjoy the biggest free train show in the Mid-Continent Region. Free parking. Info: Steve & Sherri Stich, P.O. Box 369, Leavenworth, KS 66048 or 913-651-5864. Directions: From I-435, exit Front St. and continue east to Universal Ave., then turn right at stoplight. Or, from I-35, exit Front St. and continue east to Universal Ave., then turn left at stoplight.

MAY 11 -13, 2007 GARDEN RAILROAD HEART OF AMERICAN SHOW, Overland Park Convention Center, 1101 Springmill Rd., Overland Park, KS, 1-day pass $10 or 3-day pass $25, www.hagr.com P.O. Box 296 Grandview, MO 64030

MAY 26 - 27 2007 THIRTEEN PARSONS 27TH DAYS MODEL RAILROAD MEET AND SHOW, Labelle Community College, Multipurpose Bldg, NW corner of Heacock and Broadway streets, Parsons, KS, Sat: 8am - 4 pm, Sun: 12noon until 3 pm. Admission is Free and Dealer tables are available at $15 each for the swap meet. Event will include large swap meet, modular layout setups, modeling contest.

Excursion train rides available with the festival events. For more information please visit www.katysouth.com or www.cvmr.org.

Contact: Bob Wintle 2712 Morton Parsons, KS 67357 wintle@terraworld.net
**Division Officers**

**Superintendent**  
Bill Levin

**Assistant Superintendent**  
Hank Kraichely

**Clerk (Secretary)**  
Ron Gawedzinski

**Paymaster (Treasurer)**  
Dave Lyon

**Division Director**  
Jim Anderson

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**MEETINGS:**
The Gateway Division meets on the 3rd Monday each month, at 7:00 P.M.  
Odd numbered months: Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road at Hwy 141 (Woods Mill), Ballwin, MO  
Even numbered months: VFW Hall, 221 West 1st St., O’Fallon, IL

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**NMRA MCoR Region & Gateway Division**
The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) is a world-wide organization dedicated to all aspects of model railroading. In order to bring the most benefit to its members, the association is subdivided into Regions, and each Region has a number of local Divisions. The Gateway Division is part of the Mid-Continent Region, which represents Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and parts of Iowa and Illinois.  
The Mid-Continent Region is represented on the NMRA’s Board of Trustees. It publishes a quarterly bulletin, The Caboose Kibitzer, and holds an annual convention meeting that usually includes modeling clinics, local tours of layouts or prototype facilities, and model contests.  
The Gateway Division is well represented on the regional and national levels of the NMRA. Its members actively promote the modeling hobby through local monthly meetings, this quarterly newsletter, an annual train meet in the fall, participation in area train shows and other events, and a comprehensive website. Annual subscriptions to the Gateway Division publications are $3, with all subscriptions running from July 1 through June 30.  
In addition to the quarterly newsletter, a member directory is published listing names, addresses, and information about individual modeling interests. New members also receive a Division membership pin.  
Membership is open to anyone from the beginner to the most advanced modeler, of all ages, so that everyone can share questions and knowledge of the hobby. Visitors are welcome at the monthly Division meetings listed on our website, www.gatewaynmra.org

**How to Join**
Visit our website, complete the form at http://gatewaynmra.org/membership.htm