



RPO

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of the National Model Railroad Association

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On the Cover

Plumbette Brothers Mine employees keep the hoist at the top of the headframe well maintained on Ax Kramer's On3 Ozark Mineral Belt Railroad, just one of many layouts toured during February's Sn3 Symposium.

Upcoming Clinics

by Tim Stout

May - Tour of Metrolink Operations Center in Downtown St. Louis.

June - TBD

July - Marty Vaughn will speak on the Achievement program (AP) awards program.

August - John Carty will speak about traction.

September - TBD

Editor's Note

I apologize for how late I am getting this issue of *The RPO* to press – my day job has been all together too demanding of late. You can help get our publishing schedule back on track by submitting articles, photos, announcements, or product reviews for the next issue. Deadline is July 1.

Mike Thomas

Superintendent's Desk

by Hank Kraichelyt

Everyone should take note that our May meeting will be replaced by a tour of the MetroLink shops and dispatch/security center. We will have a guided tour by the VP of Engineering and Facilities so any and all operations questions will be answered.

Also, every member of the NMRA (living in the Division boundaries) is automatically a member of the Gateway Division. Why not come to one of our monthly meetings and meet some great people and share the great hobby of model railroading?

Finally, it would be great if members could supply their email addresses or update one that has changed recently. The Division would like **all** NMRA members to receive meeting notices, special activity information and articles of interest related to the hobby or the actual railroads. Don't miss out on information, a meeting or a activity get a monthly email from the Division.

Director's Report

by Jim Anderson

I.General Comments

The Division continues to meet on a rotating basis between the VFW Hall in O'Fallon, IL and Trinity Church in Chesterfield, MO. The average monthly attendance continues to hold in the 25-40 range. Meeting announcements are communicated by postcard to members who have paid their annual \$3/year subscription fees or via e-mail to members who prefer this method of communication. Meeting info is also posted on the Gateway website which is www.gatewaynmra.org.

II.Division Monthly Meetings/Clinics(January through May 2008)

-January: "Maintenance on the Metrolink"(Scott Grott, Acting Chief of Metrolink Operations)

-February: "The Great Train Story-Chicago Museum of Science and Technology"(Tom Bousman)

-March: Experiences Working For BN, Rock Island, Cotton Belt, and UP Railroads"(John Russel)

-April: How Model RR Design Is Influenced By Nearby Prototype Operations"(Tim Stout)

-May: "Metrolink Rail Center Complex Tour"

III.Fund Raisers

For the first time in several years, the Division has decided not to build and raffle a project layout. This will be reconsidered again in 2009. The Division continues to sell attractively priced HO and N scale wheel sets.

IV.AP Activity

Three AP certificates to Jim Carty: Motive Power, Car Building, and Structures

V.Membership Activity

As previously reported, the Division continues to be challenged in terms of retaining members and adding new active members. The membership nucleus remains essentially the same. The March membership information furnished by Rich Napper included the following: 137 CK subscribers, 235 active NMRA members, 431 inactive NMRA members for a total of 666 in the Gateway Division territory. Hank Kraichely, Gateway's Membership Chairman, reported that NMRA data showed 252 NMRA members in Division 10 territory. In addition there are 86 Gateway members who are current with their \$3/year subscription fees.

The quarterly layout tours on specific weekend dates to visit Division member layouts continues to do well. Attendance is very good.

Another series of events has been planned/started to increase membership activity for the Division.

-April 26: Operating session at the Quincy, IL Model RR Club

-May 31: Tour of American Model Builders facility

-Sept. 6: Picnic and riding the Wabash, Frisco, and Pacific RR in Glencoe, MO

-October 4: Tour of UP Desoto, MO car and engine repair shops

Mike Thomas continues to do an excellent job as Editor of the Division publication the RPO. If any MCOR member has an article they'd like to have included in a future RPO please submit the info

to Mike Thomas. Mike is always looking for articles to include.

The Gateway website, managed by Rich Schumacher, continues to be busy. Stats from March include the following:

-Hits for entire site: 2,791,382(90K+/day)
-Page views about 4731/day
-Visits per day: 2364
-Search engine referrals: 10,744

VI. Officers/Department Chairs for 2008

Superintendent: Hank Kraichely
Assistant Superintendent: Tim Stout
Division Director: Jim Anderson
Paymaster: Dave Lyon
Clerk(Secretary) Ron Gawedzinski
Membership Chairman; Hank Kraichely
Monthly E-Mail Notice Manager: Dave Bartz
AP Chairman: Don Taschner
RPO Editor: Mike Thomas
Gateway Website Manager: Richard Schumacher
Fall Meet Chairman: Bob Boedges

Website Statistics

Reported by Richard Schumacher

Report for www.gatewaynmra.org for the month of March 2008

Page Views: **146,675** (about **4,731/day**)
Visits: **74,119** (about **2,390/day**)
International Visits: **9.36%**
Average Number of Visitors per day on Weekdays: **2,364**
Average Number of Visitors for the entire Weekend: **4,892**
Bandwidth – data transferred during the month: **23,938,486 KBytes**
Successful Hits For Entire Site: **2,791,382** (about **90,044/day**)

Upcoming Events

Gary's Switching List

Compiled by Gary Hemmingway for the Mid-Continent Region NMRA

The Switching List contains all known Mid-Continent Region, NMRA, train shows and Division meetings. It also lists all known club shows and swap meets in the Mid-Continent Region (IA, IL, MO,

AR, NE, KS, OK). To list your event, send it to: email garyonho@cox.net, or Gary Hemmingway, 3201 SW Stone Ave., Topeka, KS 66614. To subscribe, or unsubscribe, to The Switching List send an email to the above link. Look for us on the MCoR web site: www.mcor-nmra.org.

Train Shows & Meets:

JUL 23 – 26, 2008 – UNION PACIFIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONVENTION, Capital Plaza Hotel & Maner Conference Center, Topeka, KS, Info: Larry Tiffany liffany@cox.net, 2140 NW 53rd Terr., Topeka, KS 66618

AUG 2, 2008 – TURKEY CREEK DIV TRAIN SHOW, Lenexa Community Center, 13420 Oak, Lenexa (Pflumm & Santa Fe Dr), KS, Clinics, Model & Photo Contests, Door Prizes, Display Layouts & Layout Tours, Swap Tables & Layout groups, Food & Refreshment, Info: Robert Hollowell, 2013 SE Stratford, Blue Springs, MO 64014-4047.

Division Directors, Train Show Chairs, or Club Show Chairs: ANY MORE EVENTS IN 2008? Get your information to Gary at any of the above addresses. Let's get the word out about your next event! The Switching List is a service of Mid-Continent Region, NMRA.

Gateway Division Clinicians Wanted

We always need clinics for upcoming meetings. 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 Tim Stout at 217-272-4159 or email at tstout@guthlighting.com

Division Minutes

Recorded by Ron Gawedzinski, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for January 2008

Clinic: Assistant Superintendent Tim Stout called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Tim introduced Mr. Scott Grott, Acting Chief MetroLink Operations, who gave a presentation on maintenance issues involving MetroLink. Mr. Grott discussed MetroLink history, facts, structures and systems, traction power and signals, the fleet, the yards and the Operations Control Center. He also discussed issues such as track inspections, what they do, how they schedule them and what type of contingency plans are in place in case they find a problem. He gave an 18-page handout to the members. Thanks, Mr. Scott Grott, for a great presentation, very informative and interesting.

BUSINESS MEETING

Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the business meeting to order at 8:15 pm. There were 17 members and three guests present.

Visitors: Leland Walker, Mark Rhoads and Jay Janzen were our guests. The membership welcomes all of you.

Hank Kraichely mentioned that Jeremy Janzen, son of Jay and a Gateway Division member, has made available to the Division a copy of the four clinics he videotaped at our Fall 2007 Meet. Any member who might want a copy of this should see Hank after tonight's meeting. Hank thanked Jeremy for making the copy available to the membership.

Minutes: Copies of the minutes of the December 17, 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 December 17, 2007, through January 20, 2008, and January 1 through December 31, 2007. The balance in all funds as of January 20, 2008, was \$26,358.94. There were no questions and the report was accepted as presented.

Merchandise Report:

Tim Stout commented the Division needs to consider reordering 33" and 36" HO wheel sets in the near future. There are some N wheel sets available. Bill Levin stated he would like the

Division to find a vendor who sells HO resistor wheel sets. Tim and Bill will try to find such a vendor and report back to the Division. Hank said we would hold on ordering more wheel sets until we receive information from Tim and Bill.

RPO Report:

Mike Thomas reported the RPO went to the printer this morning. It should be mailed over the weekend. The email copy should go out tomorrow, according to Bill Levin. Mike said the deadline for submission of articles and pictures for the next RPO is April 1, 2008. He needs articles and pictures, with captions, for the RPO as he has none on hand.

In response to a question from Hank as to when Bill would transfer the email communications responsibility to Dave Bartz, Bill said since Dave is switching his carrier it will probably be four to six weeks before the transfer is complete.

Director's Report:

Jim Anderson reported what went on at the MCoR Director's meeting on January 5, 2008. First, a program, associated with the Achievement Program website, is to be made available to any current NMRA member to go into the database to find out what AP Awards that individual may have received.

Second, the AP efforts for the Region, as well as our Division, are not where we would like them to be. Marty Vaughn, MCoR AP Chairman, has volunteered to come to any of the Division meetings and give a very interesting presentation on what the NMRA AP is all about. Jim said he would talk with Tim Stout to see if that would be something he would be interested in doing.

Third, a couple of years ago the NMRA said they would refund to the Regions each year \$2.00 for every NMRA member that resided in the Regions. Each Division is now going to get 50 cents of that \$2.00 refund. So with about 285 members we should receive about \$150 a year. MCoR has been collecting the \$2.00 for two years. Jim made a motion at MCoR that the Divisions get caught up on receiving their share.

Fourth, in the Caboose Kibitzer, the MCoR magazine, the Editor would like to put in a Regional Club Roster. Each Division would be asked to provide a list of model railroad clubs in their area. Hank said he would provide Jim a copy of local clubs as listed in our 2007 Membership Directory.

Finally, in regards to MCoR Conventions, Jim said this year's Convention would be in Branson, Missouri, May 15 – 18. For 2009, the Division in

the Wichita, Kansas, area would take it on. In 2010, it would be in Iowa. In 2011, the location is open.

Achievement Program (AP) Awards Report:

Don Taschner was not present. No report.

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report: Hank Kraichely said Tim Stout would talk about this under New Business – Planning.

Project Layout XV (15): There is no Project Layout. No report.

Old Business:

Member Phone Call Survey – Bill Levin said he is still waiting for responses back from members doing the survey. He would follow up with the members.

Disposition Of Old Award Plaques – Hank Kraichely said this was an item the new Officers were supposed to discuss at their 2008 Planning Meeting in January but forgot to do. The background on this issue is that we have a couple of traveling plaques with at least 10 years' or more of winner's nameplates on them but with no room for more names. The question is what to do with them? Hank asked the members if they have any suggestions as to what the Officers should do with the plaques. One suggestion was to place the old plates on the back of the plaques and put new plates on the front. Another suggestion was to take all the old names and place them close together on a single plate, leaving more space for new names. Another suggestion (made at the December 17, 2007, meeting) was to take the plates off the existing plaques, mail the plates to the individual names on them and free up space for new nameplates. The Officers deferred the item.

New Business:

Hank Kraichely said he and other Officers would report on the major topics and/or decisions made at the Annual Planning Meeting held January 19, 2008,

2008 Budget – Dave Lyon stated we are working on a Budget. It's going to look similar to the report for January 1 through December 31, 2007, as handed out at tonight's meeting. The idea is to get an idea of what we think we might be spending. It should be ready for the February meeting.

Project Layout – Hank Kraichely reported the Officers decided not to have a Project Layout for the 2008 – 2009 time period. There were a number of reasons for the decision but the main

one was the lack of volunteer manpower required for the various phases.

Clinics – Tim Stout reported a number of clinics are planned for 2008. February is still open. In March, John Russell, retired railroader, will talk about his experiences working for the Rock Island and Cotton Belt railroads. Other months are still open. However, a number of other subjects were discussed, like a tour of the MetroLink Operations Center in April or May (a number of members at the meeting expressed interest in going). Other topics discussed were painting and weathering – members bring a freight car or locomotive and learn to weather it, build a kit – hands on experience, and scratch building structures – hands on experience using styrene. In these instances the Division would provide the supplies, like acrylic paint, chalk, styrene, glue. We would ask experts like Greg Gray to lead a clinic on painting and weathering and Pete Smith to lead a clinic on building a structure from styrene. Hank said if any member has an idea for a clinic or would like to personally present a clinic to please call him or Tim. A member expressed an idea to have the same clinic at meetings on the Missouri side and the Illinois side.

Quarterly Layout Tours – Hank Kraichely reported the tentative dates and locations for the home layout tours in 2008 are as follows: March 29 – West County, June 28 – South County, September 27 – Illinois, and December 6 – To be determined.

Electronic Communications – Ron Gawedzinski talked about Electronic Communications for the Division in 2008.

First, Dave Bartz has graciously volunteered to be the new head of Electronic Communications for the Division. He is taking over from Bill Levin. Bill would set Dave's system up and train him. Since Dave is switching his carrier it will probably be four to six weeks before the transfer is complete.

Next, the Division would like to expand the usage of EC among the members. We will continue sending monthly meeting notices and the RPO. We plan to add the sending of monthly meeting minutes and special announcements, such as, quarterly home layout tour information – when, where and directions.

The key to our EC program being successful is to minimize the burden on Dave by notifying him as soon as possible if your email address has changed and if you have received or have not received email from Dave. If you want to receive email and have not submitted your email address

then notify Dave. Bill Levin commented to members to check their Spam filters to accept email from Dave in place of Bill so that it doesn't refuse Dave's email.

Recruiting New NMRA Members – Hank Kraichely said the Officers discussed various ways and places to recruit new members including having our Division booth at train shows, Museum of Transport special events, and displays at local libraries and Boy Scout activities. If anybody has any other ideas or suggestions about places that we might want to go to educate people on our Division and the NMRA see one of the Officers or send Hank a note.

Division Activities Outside the Normal Meeting – Ron Gawedzinski talked about Division activities outside the normal meeting. The Officers discussed what could we do different or new to retain interest by existing members and also try to draw in new members. Some things we took a look at are going to visit prototype places or having one-day train trips, giving members an opportunity to socialize with fellow members or others. Ron briefly discussed five possible events and polled the members to see what their interest was in going and if he should pursue this further.

First, a Joint Venture Day Trip With Members Of The St. Louis Chapter NRHS (National Railroad Historical Society). Both groups have something in common, they're interested in prototype railroads and we're interested in model railroads. A Saturday trip on a private passenger car to Kansas City, Missouri, or Chicago, Illinois, cost about \$80 round trip. A day trip on a bus to the Monticello Railroad Museum, Monticello, Illinois. Costs – bus, unknown at this time. 12 out of 18 members expressed an interest in going.

Second, a Day Trip On Amtrak For Division Members Only. A Saturday trip to Kansas City or Chicago. Cost ranges can be significant, depending on how early or late reservations are made: Kansas City, coach, round trip, \$50 - \$116; Chicago, coach, round trip, \$46 - \$130. 11 out of 18 members expressed an interest in going.

Third, a Picnic For Division Members Only Or With Members Of The St. Louis Chapter NRHS. Two places: WP&F Steam RR (12" gauge small scale), Glencoe, Missouri; Live Steamers RR (small scale), Eureka, Missouri. In the fall, on Saturday or Sunday. Costs for food – minimal – share with Division/St. Louis Chapter NRHS, about \$5 each. 11 out of 18 members expressed an interest in going.

Fourth, a Tour Of Prototype Facilities For Division Members Only. Places of interest: UP Desoto Shops, Alton & Southern Railroad, TRAA, MetroLink, Manufacturers' Railroad. On a Saturday. If any member has the name of a key person within the mentioned places for Ron to contact he would greatly appreciate in knowing the name. 16 out of 18 members expressed an interest in going.

Fifth, a Day Trip To The Quincy Model RR Group, Quincy, Illinois. Go by carpool or rented vans. On a Saturday. Costs -- gas and/or van rental. 14 out of 18 members expressed an interest in going.

With the high interest shown in the events Ron said he would start pursuing making contacts with people and reporting back to the membership on his results. Again, he stressed if anyone has names of people he can contact to please let him know as soon as possible.

Announcements: Ken Thompson mentioned the Amtrak Station in Kirkwood, Missouri, in the foreseeable future would have a ticket machine. What that means if you have a reservation already, put your credit card in and get your ticket. You still have to make a reservation in advance.

50/50:

There was \$20.00 collected for the 50/50 drawing and Matt Martin won \$10.00 in the drawing.

Adjournment:

A member moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by another member and approved at 9:15 PM.

The next meeting is February 18, 2008, 7:00 PM, VFW Hall, 221 West 1st Street, O'Fallon, Illinois.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron W. Gawedzinski, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for Feb. 18, 2008

BUSINESS MEETING

Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the business meeting to order at 7:05 pm. There were 14 members and no guests present.

Visitors: There were no visitors.

Minutes: Copies of the minutes of the January 21, 2008, meeting were distributed. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Lyon, Treasurer, was not present. Hank Kraichely distributed printed copies of the Treasurer's Report for the period January 21 through February 17, 2008, and a Budget Report for the period January 1 through December 31, 2008. The balance in all funds as of February 17, 2008, was \$25,735.19. There were no questions on the monthly report and it was accepted as presented.

Hank commented he asked Dave at the Annual Planning Meeting in January 2008 to prepare a Budget for 2008 so that we could get an idea of what we think we might be spending. The Budget you see is based upon 2007 receipts and expenditures and has been adjusted to remove the expenditures and income associated with the Project Layout that will not be built in 2008. Dick Wegner asked the question if the Budget receipts reflect money (under \$300) we're supposed to get back from the NMRA through MCOR as mentioned by Jim Anderson at last month's meeting. The answer is no because it's uncertain when MCOR will release the funds to our Division. Jim said he would follow-up with the MCOR Treasurer. Another member asked what was included in the Rent figure. It was explained it covered rent for the two monthly meeting sites for sure. It may include other items but we don't know for sure so we'll ask Dave to provide answers at the next meeting. Hank will also ask Dave to add in the projected money to be received from MCOR. The Budget was accepted as presented.

Merchandise Report: Tim Stout was not present due to his father's sudden illness. Hank said we have very few 36" HO wheel sets in stock. We have about 40 packs of 33" HO wheel sets on hand. Hank asked how many members would be interested in purchasing resistor wheel sets (needed if you run with DCC)? Several members expressed interest. Neither Tim nor Bill Levin was present to report back on finding a vendor for the resistor wheel sets.

RPO Report: Mike Thomas was not present. Hank said the deadline for submission of articles and pictures for the next RPO is April 1, 2008. Mike needs articles and pictures, with captions, as he has none on hand.

Hank commented that when members submit articles to the RPO it counts towards the Author Certificate under the Achievement Program.

Director's Report: Jim Anderson had no report. (Note: The MCOR Convention for 2008 will be in Branson, Missouri, May 15 – 18, full registration is \$45.00.)

Achievement Program (AP) Report: Don Taschner was not present. Jim Anderson reported Marty Vaughn, MCOR AP Chairman, has volunteered to come to any of our Division meetings and give a very interesting presentation on what the NMRA AP is all about. Jim said he would talk with Tim Stout as to what month Marty could give his presentation.

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report: Tim Stout was not present. See Hank's comments under Old Business – Clinics.

Old Business:

Member Phone Call Survey – Bill Levin was not present. Hank said Bill is looking for any questionnaires that are still out and have not been returned. If any member still has the forms Bill needs them.

Clinics – Hank reported on some of the Clinics that are scheduled/planned/possible to occur. In March, John Russell, retired railroader, will talk about his experiences working for the Burlington, Rock Island, Cotton Belt and Union Pacific railroads. He'll cover switching operations on the old 21-track Rock Island yard in north St. Louis City and reminisce about the old days. Possibly in April, Tim Stout will cover designing/building his layout based on the Walsh Junction, where the UP and BNSF meet, in front of Tim's home. In the spring; a possible tour of MetroLink facilities in St. Louis; a hands-on clinic weathering freight cars and buildings with Greg Gray, with members bringing their own equipment and the Division providing materials such as chalk and paint; a make-n-take clinic using styrene with Pete Smith, with members building a railroad section house or other structure and the Division providing materials such as styrene and glue. Also, John Russell may return to discuss present day railroad operations of a UP local from St. Louis to Jefferson City. A DCC based clinic is planned. A clinic on window treatments for buildings by Greg Moe is planned. A member asked the question if the same clinic could be held at both the Missouri and Illinois meeting locations. Hank said he would approach three of the clinicians to see if they would be interested in duplicating their clinics.

Electronic Communications – Hank asked if every member who gave us their email address are receiving the monthly meeting notice and the RPO? Members said yes. Hank then asked if there is anyone here who has not given us their email address who would like to receive those items by email? No response.

A member asked the question if we are posting the RPO on the Division's website. Hank said he did not know but would follow up with Rich Schumacher.

Division Activities Outside the Normal Meeting

– Hank said if any member has an interest in participating in activities on a Saturday, like a prototype tour, a rail fan outing or riding on a train or riding on a private railroad car (reference five possible events as described in the meeting minutes for January 21, 2008) see Ron Gawedzinski after the meeting. A majority of the people in St. Louis last month said they were interested in doing something like that. Again, let Ron know if you are interested.

Ron said he approached the St. Louis Chapter NRHS group and there is a fair amount of equal interest and support within their group of doing something on a joint basis. He stated if anyone has names of people he could contact at prototype locations or other places to please let him know as soon as possible. Ron Kraus suggested contacting Larry Stoll, a Division member, and a member of the Quincy, Illinois, Society Of Model Engineers, to see about arranging an operating session on their club layout as it is well worth going to see. Ron said he would call Larry and check to see what Saturdays are best for their group and get back to our group. (The last time Gateway Division members visited the Quincy group to run trains was on October 25, 1997.)

Quarterly Layout Tours – Hank reported the First Quarter 2008 home layout tour will be on Saturday, March 29, 9 am – 1 pm, in West St. Louis County. Hank is looking for new layouts to see. Members will be notified either by email or regular mail as to directions.

New Business:

Laptop Personal Computer Needed For Division – Hank discussed the need for the Division to have its own laptop personal computer rather than rely on individual members providing one. He wants to avoid the problems of borrowing a laptop pc. He gave reasons for such a need, for example, clinician power-point presentations or showing DVD's, having the Division's Clerk make email notifications, provide support to the Treasurer or provide support at the Fall Meet. Hank said he is not looking for approval tonight but discussion and opinions from the members whether or not the Division should buy a laptop pc.

Discussion took place. Members talked about how much should the laptop cost, what software programs and hardware would be needed and

should a new or used laptop be purchased. Hank appointed Tom Bousman and Jim Ables to come up with a specification for the laptop and accessories that would cover us for a few years, at least, and email it to Hank so he can bring the subject up at the next meeting.

Announcements: Ron Gawedzinski requested members to notify him as soon as possible if they hear a fellow member or member's spouse or immediate family member is seriously sick or has passed away so that he, as Division Clerk, can send a card to that member's family from the Division.

Robert Amsler (NMRA Legal Counsel) said the NMRA recently won the first legal round on a DCC and sound patent challenge it made against Real Rail Effects, Inc. There is one more round to go. (See Scale Rails, June 2007, page 3, President's Car column, "NMRA leads DCC and sound patent challenge.")

50/50:

There was \$24.00 collected for the 50/50 drawing and Jim Anderson won \$12.00 in the drawing.

Adjournment:

A member moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by another member and approved at 7:55 PM.

The next meeting is March 17, 2008, 7:00 PM, Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Rd. at Woods Mill Rd., Ballwin, Missouri.

Clinic: Assistant Superintendent Tim Stout was not present to give his clinic due to his father's sudden illness. Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM. Hank introduced Tom Bousman who showed a video, "The Great Train Story", describing the construction and operation of the exceptionally large HO scale model railroad at the Chicago, Illinois, Museum of Science and Technology. Thanks, Tom, for showing a really great video.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron W. Gawedzinski, Clerk

Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for March 17, 2008

Clinic: Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. Assistant Superintendent Tim Stout presented the guest speaker for tonight's program, John Russell,

retired railroader, who worked for the Burlington, Rock Island, Cotton Belt and Union Pacific railroads. John talked at length and in great detail about his experiences working in switching operations on the Rock Island railroad's 21 track Carrie Ave. Yard located in north St. Louis City. Thank you, John, for a very informative presentation, giving us some insight as to how a prototype railroad operates.

BUSINESS MEETING

Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the business meeting to order at 8:40 pm. There were 26 members, including one new member, and one guest present.

Visitors: Phil Bonzon was our new member and Michelle Zellich was our guest. The membership welcomes both of you.

Minutes of the February 18, 2008 Meeting:

Copies of the minutes of the February 18, 2008, meeting were distributed. The minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Lyon, Treasurer, distributed printed copies of the Treasurer's Report for the period February 18 through March 16, 2008, and a Budget Report for the period January 1 through December 31, 2008. The balance in all funds as of March 16, 2008, was \$25,907.20. There were no questions on the monthly report and it was accepted as presented.

Dave commented on the Budget Report for 2008. This is an estimate based upon 2007 actual receipts and expenditures. Dave answered two questions that were asked at last month's meeting. The first question, "Where is the money shown on the Budget that we're supposed to get back as part of the National NMRA dues through MCOR?" Dave said he emailed the MCOR Treasurer and asked him how much are we supposed to get and when are we supposed to get it? He has yet to hear from the MCOR Treasurer. The second question, "What goes into the figure for Rent?" Dave explained it covers the payment that we make to Trinity Lutheran Church for five months of the year, the payment that we give to the VFW Hall in O'Fallon, Illinois, for six months of the year, and the payment we make to Trinity Lutheran Church that we use for the Christmas Party. He said he would probably put the Christmas Party Rent under the Christmas Party Category in the Budget for the next year.

Merchandise Report: Tim Stout said we sold all the 33" N scale wheel sets. We have a few NMRA standard gauges as well as a few On30 and N gauges. We have some 36" and 33" HO

wheel sets on hand. Tim said it looks like we're going to have to reorder wheel sets in the near future. Hank asked members if they see the need for some more 33" or 36" wheel sets in the future? There was no response.

RPO Report: Mike Thomas was not present. Hank said the deadline for submission of articles and pictures for the next RPO is April 1, 2008. Mike needs articles and pictures, with captions, as he has none on hand.

Director's Report: Jim Anderson had no report. He commented the MCOR Convention for 2008 would be in Branson, Missouri, May 15 – 18. (Full registration is \$45.00.) That's also where the mid-year Board Of Director's meeting takes place.

Achievement Program (AP) Report: Don Taschner was not present. Hank reported that John Carty has submitted three AP Certificates – for Motive Power, Car Building and Structures. They're in process in the Region.

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report: No report was made. (Possibly in April, Tim Stout would cover designing/building his layout based on the Walsh Junction, where the UP and BNSF meet, in front of Tim's home. In the spring: a possible tour of MetroLink facilities in St. Louis; a hands-on clinic weathering freight cars and buildings with Greg Gray, with members bringing their own equipment and the Division providing materials such as chalk and paint; a make-n-take clinic using styrene with Pete Smith, with members building a railroad section house or other structure and the Division providing materials such as styrene and glue. Also, John Russell may return to discuss present day railroad operations of a UP local from St. Louis to Jefferson City. A DCC based clinic is planned. A clinic on window treatments for buildings by Greg Moe is planned.)

Old Business:

Member Phone Call Survey – Bill Levin was not present. Hank said Bill is looking for any survey forms that are still out and have not been returned. If any member still has the forms Bill needs them.

Quarterly Layout Tours – Hank reported the First Quarter 2008 home layout tour will be on Saturday, March 29, 9 am – 1 pm, in West St. Louis County. 25 copies describing the four layouts on tour and how to get to them are made available to members here tonight. There is the possibility of a fifth layout to be on the tour. Hank is looking for new layouts to put on the tour for future quarters.

Electronic Communications – No report was made.

Division Activities Outside the Normal Meeting:

Visit To Quincy Society Of Model Engineers Layout – Ron Gawedzinski said he talked with Larry Stoll, of the Quincy, Illinois, Society Of Model Engineers. The following arrangements have been made. We would travel to their site to run and operate trains on their layout on Saturday, April 26. It would be an all-day affair. We would be leaving by car-pool from Trinity Lutheran Church (TLC) parking lot at 8:00 AM. We would arrive at Quincy about 10:00 AM and have an early lunch there. We won't be stopping for breakfast on the way up so eat before you go. After lunch we would proceed to the QSME layout and spend the rest of the afternoon operating trains until 4:00 PM, at which time we would say good-bye to our hosts and stop for supper in Quincy. Then we would drive back to St. Louis to TLC, arriving back about 8:00 PM.

Ron said the QSME layout uses Digitrax DCC. They said we could bring our own DCC equipped locomotives but please make sure they run well before you bring them. They use 5 channel Maxon headsets, with channel B, and 49-megahertz radio, the older style. They have plenty but if a member wants to bring his/her own they could do so. Their layout uses Digitrax DCC, with plug in or radio throttles, and has Digitrax receivers. Members can bring their own Digitrax throttles if they wish. If anyone is interested in going please sign the sign up sheet at the front table, giving your name, email address and telephone number. This information will also be made available at next month's meeting at O'Fallon, Illinois.

Joint NMRA-NRHS Visit To Live Steamers Group, Eureka, Missouri – Ron gave an update on a possible joint group visit with the St. Louis Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, to the Live Steamers (LS) Group (7 ½ inch Gauge Small Scale Steam And Diesel-Gas Powered Trains), Eureka, Missouri. He and Rick Sprung (NRHS) spoke with a member of the LS group. They have six operating sessions open to the public. The length of the railway is 1,000 feet. In order for the LS to arrange a special day just for our two groups, not open to the public, they would have to buy additional insurance at a cost of \$600. So Ron and Rick decided for now not to pursue an event at the Live Steamers.

Joint NMRA-NRHS Visit To WF&P Railway, Glencoe, Missouri – Ron gave an update on a possible joint group visit with the St. Louis

Chapter, NRHS, to the WF&P Railway (12 inch Gauge Small Scale Steam Trains), Glencoe, Missouri. He spoke with Steve Martz, President, WF&P. Steve said his group would be interested in having our two groups spend a day at the WF&P. They could make a Saturday available just for us and not the general public. They have picnic tables and two pavilions available. Steve said send him a letter, describing the details of what we would like to have and do, and what month and date we would like to do it. (Steve would bring the matter to the WF&P's Board meeting on Monday, April 7.)

Ron said he and Rick (Sprung, NRHS) talked it over and decided September would be our first month choice, with Saturday dates 9/6, 9/13 or 9/27 good for us. We also decided to ask Steve if there were some special things the WF&P might be able to do for us to make this a special day for our two groups, for example, a tour of the facilities, pointing out what it takes to keep the equipment running and the track maintained, a double- or triple-head running of engines, photo run-bys of the trains, and what it takes to be a WF&P member. This event would be a picnic style get-together, using the WF&P facilities from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Ron said he and Rick haven't got into the details as to what type of picnic operation this would be. The two groups might provide soda and water but we have not talked about types of food yet. Ron sent a letter to Steve Martz on March 13 describing what our two groups would like to do, also asking what the group rate would cost. He'll see what sort of response he gets back and then report it to our two groups. Ron said he and Rick are also checking a couple of other areas to see if they can get something else going.

Laptop Personal Computer Needed For Division

– Hank reviewed the need for the Division to have its own laptop personal computer rather than rely on individual members providing one. He brought this item up as New Business at last month's meeting. He wants to avoid the problems of borrowing a laptop pc. He repeated the reasons for such a need, for example, clinician power-point presentations or showing DVD's, having the Division's Clerk make email notifications, provide support to the Treasurer or provide support at the Fall Meet. Tom Bousman and Jim Ables (not present at this meeting) were appointed by Hank at last month's meeting to come up with specifications for the laptop and accessories. Hank asked Tom to provide a report on their findings tonight. Tom reported on a number of details related to memory, hard drive, DVD burner, screen size, normal attachments, security firewalls and

possibly getting some equivalent software free. He gave an estimated cost of \$550 at Best Buy for the laptop only, with a number of the specs he just described. Next week it would be \$700. Discussion took place. Rich Lake made the motion, "We authorize the purchase of a Division laptop with the minimum specs we just talked about with a maximum expenditure of not more than \$700." Seconded by Dick Wegner. Discussion took place. The motion was approved. Hank asked Tom to pursue the purchase.

New Business:

None.

Announcements: Rich Lake said the El Dorado and El Reno Railroad has finally resumed operations.

Hank Kraichely said he got a call from Kevin Hampton today. Kevin is moving from Illinois back to St. Louis and has some plywood and other material available for free to a model railroader, as he doesn't want to move it to his new house; also, he has available for sale portions of his freight yard. See or call Hank.

Ron Gawedzinski mentioned Brian Post, fellow Gateway Division member, had a recent operation related to heart treatment. He has not heard how the operation came out but Brian is supposed to be home today. Ron said he is going to send a get-well card from the Division.

Ron Gawedzinski repeated what he said at the O'Fallon meeting last month, that is, he requested members to notify him as soon as possible if they hear a fellow member or member's spouse or immediate family member is seriously sick or has passed away so that he, as Division Clerk, can send a card to that member's family from the Division.

Jim Anderson asked Hank if he was going to mention anything about the meeting notices. Hank asked the members if they received a meeting notice in regards this particular meeting – a post card or email? A number of members said they did not receive email notices. Hank said Dave Bartz's server apparently decided he was trying to send out spam and refused to email a number of messages. There were no problems with the post cards.

50/50:

There was \$33.00 collected for the 50/50 drawing and Bill Birdsell won \$17.00 in the drawing.

Adjournment:

A member moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by another member and approved at 9:40 PM.

The next meeting is April 21, 2008, 7:00 PM, VFW Hall, O'Fallon, Illinois.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron W. Gawedzinski, Clerk

Division Officers

Superintendent

Hank Kraichely

Assistant Superintendent

Tim Stout

Clerk (Secretary)

Ron Gawedzinski

Paymaster (Treasurer)

Dave Lyon

Division Director

Jim Anderson