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Rail Op Weekend

by Phil Bonzon, MMR

The April 20th deadline for Gateway Rail Op Weekend registration is fast approaching so you need to get your registration in or you are going to miss a fun weekend of prototypical operations.

Rich Lake is giving a clinic at the next Gateway meeting, April 18, on how to operate for the first time on an unfamiliar layout. Rail Op Weekend is for both first timers and “old hands”. There is fun for both and we have seven great layouts available.

Last year’s Rail Op weekend was a great success and everybody wanted to continue having Rail Op weekends, so look over the layouts that will be open for operations and sign up on-line at:
http://www.gatewaynmra.org/railop.htm

Hobby Shop Listings

The Gateway Division membership directory which is sent out to all members each October contains at the back a listing of local hobby shops and other resources. We depend on our members to keep us informed about new hobby shops opening and old shops closing.

Ron Gawedzinski reports that Corner Hobby in Belleville and Green Caboose in Alton have both closed, and that Hobby Station in Kirkwood is now in the process of selling off inventory and closing. In addition he tells us that Scott AFB Hobby Shop does not carry model railroad products.

On the plus side, a new shop is listed: All Aboard Trains, 4676 Gravois Road, House Springs 63051, (636) 375-3133

If anyone has been to All Aboard Trains, let us know what it’s like!

GatewayNMRA website statistics

by Richard Schumacher

Web Analytics Reports for the www.gatewaynmra.org website for the month of February 2011

PDF Documents with report details are attached. The attached pdfs are considered GatewayNMRA confidential information.

Note that when comparing these numbers with a prior month, there are only 28 days in February (vs 30/31 in others)

19,425 visits (note that this number has been adjusted to reflect only actual human visitors)

83,594 pageviews (note that this number reflects only visitors to html web pages, does not include pdfs or image-only views)

715 pdf downloads (this only reflects downloads through a link on the gatewaynmra.org website)

626,737 jpg image views/downloads
2,794,600 hits
29.42 GB bandwidth

Traffic: 63.57% organic search, 22.14% referrals, 13.41% direct, 0.88% other

Referring sites sent 4,301 visits via 401 sources

Search sent 12,349 total visits via 7,213 keywords

Campaign traffic sent 171 visits via 1 campaigns

1. Feed: GatewayNMRA (Gateway Division NMRA, Your Gateway to Model Railroading Fun) 171

2. gatewaynmra.org website 83,594 times

293 page titles were viewed a total of 83,594 times

Visit our website at www.gatewaynmra.org

On The Cover

A derrick car sits near the roundhouse on the large scale modular layout at last September’s 30th National Narrow Gauge Convention.

photo by Mike Thomas
Top Content by Title
1. Small HO Scale Model Railroad Layouts with Track Plans | Gateway Central Train Layout 9,932
2. Model Trains and Model Railroads | Gateway Division NMRA | Gateway to Model Railroading Fun 3,647
3. Scale Model Railroad Download Page | Signs, Interiors and Backgrounds 3,338
4. Directory of St. Louis Area Model Railroad and Train Layouts 2,432
5. 4x8 HO Scale Model Railroad Layout Display at the Missouri Historical Society 2,196
6. HO Scale Small Switching Model Railroad | Designing the Gateway Central XV 2,042
7. Model Railroad & Model Train Article Library | Tips, Tricks, Photos & Techniques 1,938
8. 2010 Train Show Railroad Model and Photo Contest | Gateway Division NMRA 1,919
9. Trains and Railroads in the Civil War 1,893 1,619
10. Model Railroad DCC | Digital Command Control for Model Train Layouts 1,608
11. 2005 Riverport Theme Model Railroad Layout | Gateway Central XII (2005) | Gateway NMRA 1,587
12. 4x8 HO Model Railroad Track Plan | Gateway 2001 National Train Show Model Railroader Magazine Layout 1,529
14. Contest and Award Winning Train Models and Photos | Gateway NMRA 1,389
15. Small HO Scale Model Railroad Layout | Gateway Central IX (2002) Project Train Layout 1,327
16. Jacob Libhart City Streetcar HO Scale Small Model Railroad Diorama 1,217
17. John Kalin Rio Grande Southern Sn3 Scale Model Railroad Layout | Page 1 of 3 1,199
18. HO Scale Model Buildings and Structures on the Missouri History Museum Train Layout, Page 1 1,184
19. Build a Small HO Scale Switching Layout | Track Plan & Parts List 1,153
20. Greater St. Louis Area Model Railroad and Train Layouts | Page 3 | K-O | Gateway NMRA 1,141
21. Designing Model Railroad Operations | Quick Start Techniques and Examples 1,129
22. Greater St. Louis Area Model Railroad and Train Layouts | Page 1 | A-B | Gateway NMRA 1,063
23. 4x8 HO Scale Small Model Railroad Layout | Gateway Central IV | 1997 Project Train Layout 1,002
24. Basics of Building Plastic Structures for your Model Railroad, with step-by-step photos 968
25. Greater St. Louis Area Model Railroad and Train Layouts | Page 2 | C-J | Gateway NMRA 944
26. Dave Roeder Webster Groves & Fenton HO Scale Model Railroad Layout | Page 1 of 3 933
27. Photos of the Missouri History Museum Model Railroad Layout | Page 1 of 2 896
28. Warehouse & Industrial Background Building Photos for Model Railroads 860
29. DCC (Digital Command Control) Power Bus Wiring for Model Railroads 828
30. Gateway Central VIII (2001) Small HO Scale Model Railroad Layout | Article with photos and trackplan 783

Top Content by URL
1. /project.htm 6114
2. / (home page) 6109
3. /download.htm 2412
4. /articles/civil-war1.htm 2008
5. /mhslayout/mhslayout.htm 1452
6. /dcc dccdecoders.htm 1281
7. /project15.htm 1257
8. /layouts.htm 1140
9. /dcc.htm 924
10. /designs.htm 1068
11. /projectmr.htm 1062
12. /models.htm 1005
13. /project09.htm 1001
14. /project10.htm 955
15. /project12.htm 955
16. /structure.htm 924
17. /library.htm 913
18. /layouts/gc15/project15-trackplan.htm 827
19. /layouts.htm 826
20. /project04.htm 750
21. /layouts.htm 699
22. /dcc/powerbus.htm 690
23. /mhslayout/mhsbuildings1.htm 690
24. /mhslayout/mhs-dpm.htm 572
25. /models.htm 563

Officers' Planning Meeting
January 15, 2011
OFFICERS PRESENT: Hank Kraichely, Superintendent Bill Linson, Assistant Superintendent Phil Bonzon, MCoR Director Don Ayres, Clerk Dave Lyon, Paymaster Ron Gawedzinski, Activities Coordinator Sue Linson, Hostess Extraordinaire

Hank presented an agenda at the beginning of the meeting:
First item on Hank's agenda was to ask the officers if they think we need a "mission statement". National has one. Ron pointed out that we already have something similar in

Interesting Referring Sites
1. cs.trains.com 208
2. en.wikipedia.org 116
3. modelrailroadforums.com 102
4. opsig.org 83
5. findhow.com 70
6. wiringfordcc.com 55
7. nmra.org 36
8. knol.google.com 32
9. barchester.webs.com 29
10. railserve.com 26
11. railmerchants.net 21
12. all-model-railroading.co.uk 21
13. freerails.com 18
14. microengineering.com 17
15. trainsarefun.com 17
16. ehew.com 13
17. mcor-nmra.org 11
18. modelclub.gr 10
19. railmerchants.net 10

Volume 19, No. 1 — Spring 2011
Division Minutes by Don Ayers

Meeting Minutes for January 17, 2011

CLINIC – This month’s clinic featured two of the Division’s Master Model Railroader’s. Don Taschner talked about various techniques related to structure building. Then, Dave Roeder discussed scratch building freight cars. Thanks, guys!!

BUSINESS MEETING – The Superintendent called the meeting to order at 8:19 PM. There were 35 members present, and 5 guests, including Don Taschner’s wife Doris, and new member Gary McCullough’s wife Cheryl. Craig and Debby Noah were visitors and are just getting started. Dick Aegerter is also just getting started in the hobby.

Minutes of the December Meeting There was a motion to approve the December minutes. Seeing no comments or requests for correction, the minutes APPROVED as read. Approved minutes are published in our quarterly publication, the RPO.

Old Business “Modeling with the Masters”. John Heitzman volunteered to come in and judge our next contest again this year, so another AMB kit will be the basis for this year’s contest. The officers came up with a list of 5 or 6 kits that retail for under $35. John will be asked to help us focus in on one particular kit to maximize kitbashing possibilities. There will be two competition categories. Expert and regular. He asked if anyone was interested in getting any other sizes of wheelsets from Intermountain. Hank asked if anyone interested in purchasing an HO gauge standards gauge. Nobody indicated an interest.

Merchandise Report Don said there was “nothing unusual” in this month’s report. The $210 for rent was our annual donation to the VFW hall in O’Fallon for the use of their meeting room every other month. The report was APPROVED as read.

Treasurers Report Dave reported that there are 47 packs of the 33” wheelsets available, and a few odd standards gauges. He asked if anyone was interested in getting any other sizes of wheelsets from Intermountain. Hank asked if anyone interested in purchasing an HO gauge standards gauge. Nobody indicated an interest.

RPO Report Mike Thomas was not present. No report.

Directors Report The Regional Convention will be held in St Louis in 2012. Hank will have more on this later. The next K-10 Hobbies booth at the upcoming train show in St Charles. There will be seven layouts open this time. Watch for registration to open on our website, at www.gatewaynmra.org.

CLINIC – This month’s clinic featured two of the Division’s Master Model Railroader’s. Randy Meyer started by talking about plaster molds, both homemade and store bought, and his technique for applying them to the layout. Phil Bonzon then talked about building award winning engines with a focus on men of the models. Of course, he brought along several models for us to admire. Thanks, guys!!

Ron then talked about possible upcoming joint activities with the National Railway Historical Society. A copy of the annual Officers Planning Meeting minutes was available that has this info. Nothing is locked in at this time. He also pitched some of the events that NRHS is doing this year.

Achievement Program (AP) Report Don Taschner presented Greg Moe Certificates for Electrical, Scenery, and Civil. He also presented Greg Merit Awards for his cars that he entered in the contest at our Fall Meet. He’s going to be an MMR in no time! Bonnie Moe was presented a Merit Award for her flat car, also earned at the Fall Meet.

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report Bill ran down the list of kits scheduled for the year (also enumerated in the Officers Planning Meeting minutes). Next month is part 2 of “Modeling with the Masters”. Old Business The 2010 Officers Planning Meeting was held in January 2010. The following item remains open: Recruitment – No report this month. OPEN.

New Business Annullments Gateway Division will have a booth at the upcoming train show in St Charles. 50/50 – Thirty three dollars was collected, and Taschner won the drawing and took home $18.50. The building contest was won by the layout entered by $16.50. Mike Thomas won the Mark Twin Hobbies gift card.

Adjournment Greg Moe made a motion to adjourn the business meeting at 8:55 PM. SECONDED, and PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted, Don Ayers, Gateway Division Clerk

Meeting Minutes for February 21, 2011

CLINIC – This month’s clinic featured two of the Division’s Master Model Railroader’s. Randy Meyer started by talking about plaster molds, both homemade and store bought, and his technique for applying them to the layout. He then went on to tell about his painting technique to create realistic scenery. Phil Bonzon then talked about building award winning engines with a focus on men of the models. Of course, he brought along several models for us to admire. Thanks, guys!!

BUSINESS MEETING – The Superintendent called the meeting to order at 8:20 PM. There were 37 members present, 4 guests.

Minutes of the January Meeting The minutes were APPROVED as read with one correction. Approved minutes are published in our quarterly publication, the RPO.

Treasurers Report Dave said there was “not a whole lot unusual” in this month’s report. He did bring to light an error that he had made and explained his correction as shown in the report. He volunteered to be fired for his mistake, but we were all smart enough not to do it! The report was APPROVED as read.

Merchandise Report Tim talked about stock levels of the HO scale wheelsets that we sell at a great savings to members. He opened the floor for discussion on a future purchase. Some interest was expressed. Greg Moe made a motion to order another increment of various sizes of the Intermountain wheelsets and trucks. Dick Aegerter seconded. MOTION PASSED.

RPO Report Mike Thomas was not present. No report.

Directors Report The Regional Convention will be held in St Louis in 2012. Hank will have more on this later. The next K-10 Hobbies booth at the upcoming train show in St Charles. There will be seven layouts open this time. Watch for registration to open on our website, at www.gatewaynmra.org.

Achievement Program (AP) Report Don Taschner was not present. No report.

Monthly Meeting Clinician Report In March, Brian Post will demonstrate scale matching of dissimilar locomotives using Digital Command Control.

In April, Rich Lake will speak on model railroad operations – just in time for our rail-op weekend!

Old Business The 2010 Officers Planning Meeting was held in January 2010. The following item remains open: Recruitment – No report this month. OPEN.

New Business The new shirts were brought up as a new business item. The shirts were...
ordered from a vendor in Illinois where we do not have tax exempt status for our non-profit org. We will have to pay tax on our purchases. Shirt prices are now $34.51 and $39.90 if you want your name applied to the shirt. (And an additional $3.21 for 2XL and larger sizes.) Members thanked Don with a hearty round of applause for heading this effort. Orders are being accepted, and several were already taken tonight prior to the business meeting.

As Phil previously announced, the 2012 Mid Continent Regional Convention will be hosted by the Gateway Division. Hank had a list of committee chairs with many positions already filled. He passed the roster around and requested more volunteers to sign up. A place to hold the convention is being looked into now. Hank announced John Hardy is the Facilities chairman. He is thinking we would try to schedule it in the first few weeks of June, and several schools and Community Colleges have been approached. The schedule for these conventions is typically Thursday afternoon/evening registration, a full day of activities on Friday and Saturday, with “get away day” on Sunday. OPEN ‘till next fall!

Announcements

Jim Ables has volunteered to send out email announcements to the membership. He has encountered over 50 bad email addresses for members. If you are not receiving your announcements, email him at gateway.division@charter.net and he will add you. Dave Roeder mentioned that there will be another train show at Dreamland Palace. Details below. Dave also invited us all and our families to his house to help him celebrate 15 years of monthly operations on his “Webster Grove and Fenton RR”. The open house is Sunday, April 10, from noon until 5. Thirty dollars was collected, and Randy Meyer won the drawing and took home $15. The treasury was likewise enriched by $15. Larry Wodell won the Mark Twain Hobbies gift card.

Adjournment

Phil made a motion to adjourn the business meeting at 8:56 PM. Dick Wenger SECONDED, and the motion PASSED by an overwhelming majority.

Respectfully Submitted,
Don Ayres, Gateway Division Clerk