

# RPO

Summer 1998: Volume 6, No. 2

The RPO is the official publication of the Gateway Division of the Mid-Continent Region (MCoR) of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA)

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Advertising of interest to our membership is accepted for publication in the RPO. Contact the Editor or Treasurer for current rates and artwork size information. Please send submissions, suggestions, letters, and address corrections to:

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Articles may be submitted in any format (handwritten, typed or plain unformatted text on disk - either 3.5" or 5.25"), photo submissions are currently limited to 35mm slides or 35mm negatives (color or B&W). Articles may be sent by e-mail to [vlake@stlnet.com](mailto:vlake@stlnet.com)

Visit the Gateway Division on the Internet at <http://home.stlnet.com/~rlake>

## Superintendent's Desk

by Hank Kraichely

Well another summer is coming to an end and we are heading into the model railroading season. Let's all make a resolution to finish that modeling/layout project we have been planning so long.

I would like to open my column with a special THANK YOU to the 34 Division Members who worked at the Kansas City Silent Auction. Our group put in over 450 man hours and insured that Kansas City had a successful auction. I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of the Division and all of you for your dedicated efforts! Kansas City recognized our efforts and has already agreed to run our auction in 2001. Now that we are back from our summer vacations, I wanted to ask each of you to give some consideration to the following subject. Several members have expressed concern regarding the Fall Meet. Their concerns fall into several areas including the amount of effort required to run a 2 day show and the financial risk associated with using the Gateway Center in Collinsville. John Schindler spoke at our last meeting regarding this issue and I would like each member of the Division to form an opinion on this issue. I believe the Division is faced with 3 choices; stay at Gateway but run a 1 day show, move to a different location and run a much smaller meet and finally, continue to run the 2 day meet at our present location. Each of these options offer advantages and disadvantages. Reducing the meet to 1 day will reduce both our cost and manpower requirements. This option will also result in the loss of

some dealers who will not travel for a one day meet. It will also reduce the number of families who are exposed to model railroading since many of them come on Sunday. Finally, it will reduce revenues at the door since we will probably lose most of the people we see on Sunday.

Moving to a different location could reduce the Division's financial risk and manpower requirements. It will require the identification of a location with adequate space and parking and will reduce attendance of non-model railroaders.

The last option is simply to remain at Gateway and try to increase revenues. I believe that the present location is finest in the St. Louis area. I have never had a dealer or shopper complain about the center or the staff. The difficulty is the costs associated with this location. The last meet at BAC cost less than \$1,000 for the facility. The Gateway Center cost over \$5,000 last year and generated about the same gross revenue. This is a major concern. In 1997, the Division incurred approximately \$8,000 in expense and netted about \$1,000. This is a substantial financial risk for our group.

I would like each of you to form an opinion on this issue and be prepared to discuss it at our September meeting. We must make a decision before November 30 since Gateway will require a contract and a deposit then to secure the facility for next year. I am looking forward to seeing each of you at the Museum on the 21st.

Bring some tools and scenery materials we will be rehabbing the Museum's HO layout. It should be a fun evening and enable the Division to repay the Museum for the use of their room.

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## Division Call Board

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## On the Covers

Kevin Hampton shot this Burlington Northern Santa Fe engine with two different trail paint schemes (one on each side). On the back cover are photos of NMRA National Contest entries by local modelers John Lee and Don Taschner (more photos inside this issue). Photos by Rich Schumacher.

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## Special Issue to All NMRA Members

*by Venita Lake*

Once a year, the Gateway Division sends out its quarterly newsletter to all NMRA members who reside in the zip codes covered by the Division. This is it. Our not-so-subtle plan is to tell you about model railroad activities at the local level and to encourage you to participate. The annual \$3 membership requires that you be a paid member at both the national and region levels. All Division memberships run from July 1 to June 30. You will receive 4 newsletters and a member directory, and in the first year, an enameled membership pin worth \$5. In addition to monthly meetings, we have also had special events such as visits to other railroad clubs and hobby manufacturers, and, of course, the opportunity to share information and skills with local hobbyists. Even if you cannot make it to all of our monthly meetings, we think you will benefit from joining! As we come closer to our big year sponsoring the NMRA's National Convention in 2001, we'll keep you informed about our plans and (admittedly) try to get you involved. As you read the rest of this newsletter, you'll see that there is much

to be done to pull a convention together and support the model railroading hobby.

An application is enclosed. You may wish to renew your national and/or regional membership now as well. Or, come to the Fall Meet, also known as Gateway TrainExpo '98, in Collinsville, and you can join or renew then!

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## Gateway TrainExpo'98

Check the enclosed flyers for details on the Division Fall Meet on October 17 and the Train Show on October 17-18 at the Gateway Center in Collinsville, IL. Area clubs will be open to visitors on Friday night, October 16 and Train Show attendees will receive information on home layouts that are open for tour on Saturday and Sunday. Remember, home layout tours are one of the things that sets our show apart from the "professionals." Be sure to let your friends and neighbors, especially those who are on the verge of getting into trains, know about this event.

The drawing for the project layout will be on Sunday. If you have sold chances, be sure to get them turned in!

Finally, if you haven't already committed some time to work at the meet or show, call Jim Anderson or John Schindler to volunteer. Assistance at the gate, the Division recruitment display, the project layout, the attendance prize table, or the contest room is always welcome. Prior experience is not required.

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## Gateway TrainExpo '98 Clinics

Clinic co-chairs Rich Lake and Russ Watts have scheduled a range of clinics of interest to beginning model railroaders as well as more advanced hobbyists for the Gateway Getaway on Saturday, October 17:

*Dave Roeder* 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Construction techniques starting with constructing the backdrop and continuing through sky, clouds, buildings, and trees to produce a finished scenic backdrop.

### SCENERY FOR BEGINNERS

*Gregor Moe* 10-11 a.m.  
Building the basic land form. How to add basic scenery to a layout. It will cover the very basic methods of doing hard shell scenery.

### COMPUTERS AND MODEL RAILROADING

*Richard Schumacher* 10-11 a.m.  
Your home computer may be used in many ways to enhance your model railroading. A discussion of railroad paperwork (timetables, rulebooks, etc.), artwork (signs, decals) and a wide variety of other applications.

### SOLDERING TECHNIQUES

*Art Klittich* 10-11 a.m.  
Don't be afraid of brass. With the proper techniques you can conquer brass. This clinic will demonstrate techniques that any modeler can use successfully.

### RAILROADS DON'T OPERATE IN GHOST TOWNS

*Venita Lake* 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.  
Ways to make your structures and scenes look lived in; detailing interiors and when not to bother, and populating the streets.

### BACKDROPS FOR MODEL RAILROAD LAYOUTS

#### WHAT'S IN THE TOOLBOX

*Dan Osborn* 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
A discussion of necessary, useful, and nifty items to stock in your toolbox. This could be your shopping list for the day or your wish list for stocking stuffers.

#### BEYOND THE BASEMENT, A WAY OF MODELING

*Robert Amsler* 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
How to appropriately model a railroad according to the prototype.

#### MAKING CUSTOM CURVED TURNOUTS USING PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD TIES

*Russ Watts* 2-3 p.m.  
The title of this clinic says it all.

#### SCRATCH BUILDING TIPS AND SECRETS

*Tom Troughton* 2-3 p.m.  
The techniques used to construct the "Cimarron Mine" diorama featured in the July 1998 **NMRA Bulletin**. Also featured will be timber trestle, wooden buildings, and tunnel portal construction using CAD programs

#### FINISHED SCENERY

*Randy Meyer* 2-3 p.m.  
This clinic will take you from the hydrocal base coat to colored ground foam covered rock castings. A good follow up to Scenery for Beginners at 10 a.m.

#### REALLY, TRULY BASIC ELECTRICITY FOR MODEL RAILROADING

*Paul Metzler* 2-3 p.m.  
From the beginning fundamentals of electricity—OUCH—to the wiring of track, switches, and train operations. A

review of this mystical force that makes our model railroads run.

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## Gateway TrainExpo '98 Model Contest

*Saturday, October 17, 1998*

Check the enclosed fliers for information on the model and photo contests to be held on Saturday, October 17 as part of the Gateway Getaway and Train Show. Here's your chance to enter and display that model you have worked on so carefully.

Awards will be given in the following categories:

- Steam locomotives
- 1st & 2nd generation diesels
- 3rd & 4th generation diesels
- Freight cars
- Passenger cars
- Non-revenue cars
- Traction
- Whole train
- On-line structure
- Off-line structure
- Dioramas
- Under 18
- Prototype Color Print
- Prototype Color Slide
- Prototype B&W Print
- Model Color Print
- Model Color Slide
- Model B&W Print

This is a popular vote contest. In addition, several sponsored traveling awards, which are judged separately, will be made, and NMRA merit judging will be available too. Finally, participation prizes will probably be awarded to contestants in each category by a random drawing. (This depends on the number of

contributions we receive for the attendance prizes.)

Registration starts on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. with judging and awards presentation that same afternoon.

Questions can be addressed to Kevin Hampton (314-731-3653) or Jim Anderson (314-394-1305). We're looking forward to a great contest with LOTS of entries.

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## Dispatcher's Desk

*by Bob Amsler*

Operations can be somewhat intimidating. No matter how much you know about trying to emulate prototype practice on a layout, it will still make you nervous the first time you operate on a layout that is not yours. But this experience can be both fun and educational.

Recently I went to Kansas City and took part in KC OpSat '98. This event was hosted by a number of the Operations SIG members in Kansas City. It was a great event. I got to operate as a dispatcher on Rick McClellan's layout, which is based on the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad's operation in southwest Missouri with Springfield as the focal point.

When I first went, I was nervous. I had seen this railroad in one of the national magazines a few months prior to the National Convention in Kansas City. It looked like a great layout. When I heard Rick McClellan liked to operate, I knew I wanted to go to his layout. This was my chance.

I was very nervous when I learned that the only people at his layout who were

not real railroaders were myself, Rick, and Bret Overholdt. I was in an operating group with four Union Pacific dispatchers from Omaha and a retired track foreman. This made me think that I definitely was in the wrong group. I knew that I was going to make mistakes and that these guys would think my mistakes were so simple considering they all worked for Union Pacific. I began to regret that I ever asked to be the dispatcher on his layout.

Rick's layout is somewhat difficult to learn. He operates the Springfield Terminal of the Frisco and it looks like an "X" with Springfield at the center. The four arms of the "X" reach to Kansas City and Tulsa to the west and St. Louis and Memphis to the east. Rick is planning on installing CTC control on the layout. At this time he dispatches the layout using a "poor man's CTC." He has a schematic drawing of the layout on a panel on the dispatcher's desk. In addition he uses an "Order Sheet" with the stations in the center of the sheet from top to bottom. At the very top there is room to write down a train's number, engine consist, loads, empties, and caboose. (This is prior to the death of the caboose.) Even-numbered trains are on one side of the sheet and they all go in one direction and the odd-numbered trains are on the other side of the station names and are for the trains bound in the other direction.

This was difficult to work because while all of the stations were on the sheet, they were not in an order to show which leg of the "X" the stations were on. Springfield was in the center of all the stations just as it is the crossing point of the "X." However trains bound for St. Louis and for Memphis were on

the same side of Springfield on the sheet. Trains bound from Springfield to Tulsa and Kansas City were on the same side as each other. Therefore, it was possible to have station names listed in sequence on the sheet but they would not be on the same leg of the "X."

More than once this caused me to be very slow in trying to figure out where trains were and whether there was going to be a cornfield meet thanks to me. The engineers would call for authority and I would give it to the best of my ability. Whenever the engineers would pass a town or junction, they would "OS" me so I knew they were clear on the main up to that point.

Everything worked out fine. The dispatchers taught me prototypical communication patterns and I would use this as I learned it when I talked with them on the radios. In addition, I would keep them on their toes when they would forget to "OS" me. We even nearly had a cornfield meet when two different engineers overran their authority in the yard.

We all had fun that day. We ribbed each other when we made mistakes. It was very enjoyable and I am glad I went. I made some new friends (even got an invitation to come to the Harriman Dispatching Center and see how the pros do it) and learned more about operations. One thing I also realized was that I did not have to feel nervous. Everyone was there to have a good time.

This is the point of operations—people getting together to have fun operating trains in a prototypical manner and having fun doing it. I would encourage everyone to give it a try. Do not feel nervous or, if you do, do not let

nervousness keep you from giving it a try. You just might like it.

Until the next time, I hope all the signals you see are green over red.



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## Larry Long, MMR

Past President and Mid-Continent Region Trustee Larry Long died on April 20. Many of us knew Larry for his hard work for the hobby and his great clinics on Imagineering, done with Pat Harriman. The National Convention in Kansas City was dedicated to Larry, who was one of the original planning team for the KC convention.

Larry's personal railroad was the Missouri Valley, so we always knew which dark blue cars were his contest entries. The Mid-Continent Region has created two HO commemorative cars, available from Ken Thompson or at the Division's fall meet. The HO cars are Athearn complete with trucks and horn-hook couplers. They have all the proper dimension markings and would be right at home in interchange service or for display. The price is \$14 each plus \$2 shipping.

Missouri Valley Railroad 0173 is a 40 foot steel box car with roof walk, dark blue with yellow lettering. Missouri Valley Railroad 1991 is a 55 ton steel two-bay hopper car, black with white lettering. Larry became MMR #173 in 1991. The paint schemes and markings are authentic for the historic Missouri Valley Railroad, except for the car numbers, and were copied from cars that Larry actually ran on the MV.

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## Bob Dargue

by Venita Lake

Gateway Division member Bob Dargue passed away on August 5 after a heart attack. He was founder and president of AMI, maker of AMI Instant Roadbed for model railroads, and a generous supporter of the hobby and the Division, providing roadbed for use on our annual project layouts. My first recollection of Bob is at a track-laying session for the first project layout. He quietly watched us work with cork roadbed and "wet noodle" flex-track and afterward asked if any of us had ever tried AMI. Later he demonstrated its applications for streets and rock walls. More recently, he made a point of writing a note to my husband just to say how much he had enjoyed and learned from a clinic he had done—certainly not necessary, but greatly appreciated and an indication of his attention to people and the little things.

Bob's son Brandt sent along additional information about his father, some of which follows. As Hank Kraichely commented, "All I can say is Bob was quite a man!!!!!"

Robert Wilson Dargue, inventor of AMI Instant Roadbed, a unique, simple system for laying model railroad track, died at the age of 79 on August 5, 1998.

Bob Dargue was planning on publishing these memoirs as a book, so this effort will be continued.

Born in Brooklyn NY in 1918, in his parent's home, but he grew up in Midland Park, New Jersey. His grandfather and father owned Granite Textile Mill, which employed 70% of the town. Bob learned ethics by example

from his father who stated that "you should not take anything you haven't earned" as he paid his secretary for three postage stamps given to Bob. When the mill had to be closed due to the war, Bob Dargue watched as his father paid every employee a year's salary out of his own pocket.

Robert Dargue attended the CMTC (Citizen's Military Training Corp), a high school ROTC. He was earning a degree in Aeronautical Engineering at Upsala College and working for Wright Aeronautical when called to duty after the attack on Pearl Harbor and assigned to the 245th Coast Artillery at Fort Hancock, the only defensive Corp in the Army. He quickly signed up in the Coast Artillery Officers Candidate School (OCS) and went to Camp McQuade where he taught mobile equipment driving and mechanics. When the fort closed, he served for the rest of WWII in the South Pacific where he was wounded by an enemy grenade and awarded the Purple Heart.

After the war, Robert Dargue went to work for Gates Rubber Co. as an office engineer. He was quickly promoted to sales manager and moved to South Bend, Indiana to be closer to the major customer, Studebaker, Clark Equipment, and the rest of the automotive industry. Telling the person seated next to him on an airplane that he missed the East Coast, he was hired as sales manager for B. F. Goodrich. After Goodrich, he went to work as marketing manager for a small company called Prestite located in St. Louis, Missouri, which desperately needed help. After moving and agreeing to 2% commission and 5% the following year if the sales tripled, he learned that in only three days the production workers would be laid off.

Within those three days, he had made the largest order the plant had ever received and kept the plant from shutting down. By his second year, he earned a year-end bonus that was more money than the company president made. Robert Dargue's remarkable ethics prevailed when he agreed to almost one third of the amount and allowed the company to rewrite the contract.

Robert Dargue started his own business as a manufacturer's representative for Band-It Clamps greatly increasing their sales, and then started AMI.

Bob and his son, Brandt, used a product from the air-conditioning industry to hold model railroad track down without tacks and for streets and driveways. Upon seeing how realistic looking and extremely easy it was, he quickly realized there was another market for the product. Early testing revealed several problems with the industrial pipe wrap that made it unacceptable for model railroading. For instance, it melted some plastic track and was made to dry out and shrink around the pipe, and it had chemical fire retardants to meet building codes. Being in the rubber business for many years, Robert Dargue knew how to reformulate the product so that it became safe to all materials, is dimensionally stable, has an indefinite shelf life, and is non-toxic. He and son Lee, who was very much into radio-controlled airplanes and familiar with many hobby shops, set out to market it as AMI Instant Roadbed to hobby shops. Bob sent rolls and information to the leading model railroading magazines. *Model Railroader* magazine tested it, was impressed, and wrote an article about

it. Soon distributors were ordering it and selling it to hobby shops around the world.

Robert Dargue has been personally demonstrating Instant Roadbed at model railroad shows since. He was a familiar face to many and will be greatly missed. He usually drove, stopping at almost every hobby shop on the way, giving demonstrations and handing out counter displays. Many of those shops have been ordering ever since that first encounter and looked forward to Bob stopping by again. He always called himself the sales manager but a few people really knew that he was the inventor.

Proud of his country and heritage, and eager to help other people out, Robert Dargue was also a Shriner, a Dale Carnegie Institute instructor, a lifetime member of the Society of Automotive Engineers, and numerous other organizations.

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## Heartland Expresses Thanks for Division's Support

Gateway Division member Ken Thompson certainly succeeded in rounding up the necessary workforce to assist with the silent and live auctions at the National Convention in Kansas City in July. Approximately thirty-five Division members, spouses, and children combined to bring together what many believe is the biggest silent auction model railroading has seen. This was the Division's commitment to the Heartland Express made some time ago and the Turkey Creek Division has agreed to reciprocate in 2001 in St. Louis.

Any effort the size of a National Convention takes planning, organization, a lot of volunteers, and the ability to be flexible when surprises happen. The silent auction was only one small piece of a great convention, but perhaps part of one of the letters of appreciation will illustrate. This is from Bob Jefferis, silent auction chair, and Brad Morneau, live auction chair.

“Ken, please pass the word to everyone in the Gateway Division that all of the time, effort and really good work put into the Silent and Live Auctions at Heartland Express KC98 was truly appreciated....(Brad and) I couldn't believe how much time and effort you devoted to the auctions. I knew that Gateway Division had volunteered to help and frankly I wondered if there would be enough people willing to devote enough time to the auctions when there were clinics and layout tours to attend.

“Hours: I signed off on over 450 man/woman-hours of volunteer work by Gateway Division people who were over here spending their vacation time and money so that the auctions would work. The convention was looking for up to 12 hours per volunteer and several of you more than doubled that! And the hours weren't always the most convenient. On the night that things bought in the silent auction were being gathered together by buyer's convention number, I gave up and went home about 12:30 a.m. I had slept about 4 hours the night before and knew I needed to be back before 8:00 a.m. the next day. I learned the next morning that all of the things had been gathered and people went off to bed at 3:30 a.m.!!! WOW!

“Attitude: In spite of the long hours, everyone we were in contact with from Gateway was universally pleasant, regardless of the hour or situation.

“Ability: Brad and I agreed that we have never worked with a more dedicated AND intelligent group of people than those from Gateway.

“Comments: Of course there were a few people who complained about our running behind and one or two had other complaints. When we explained to people what was going on, those who complained about not doing things to the published schedule almost universally acknowledged the problem and wound up complementing us on how well things were going overall. The way the silent auction was closed—frequently a big bugaboo at these affairs—drew universal praise. I don't remember who offered the suggestion that we put the tablecloths up instead of picking up cards or who suggested that we have two groups of volunteers, each at a table, with only one table to close. But it was someone from Gateway that took charge, orchestrated the operation and ran it. (If my mind didn't play so many tricks with me, I'd name him, but you know who it was.) [The brigades were led by John Hardy and John Schindler. ed.] We were also told by auction customers that they had never been able to check out their purchases as smoothly or as rapidly.

“What we collectively did: We were expecting as many as 2000 lots for the auction after the 999 to which Madison's computer program limited entries. We had a total of 2785 lots entered, with 2211 sales in the silent auction and about 150 in the live auction. Gross sales were in excess of

\$70,000 with prices paid from \$1 up to \$1300 for an HO Tenshodo D&RGW 2-8-8-2 with factory paint from the first production run.

"We said it before and we'll say it again. THANKS, Gateway, for a great job, well done!"

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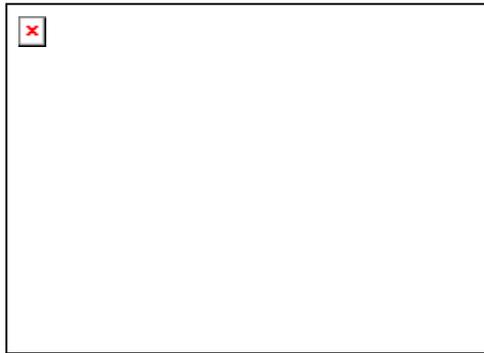
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# H O B B Y T O W N U S A

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## YOUR TRAIN HEADQUARTERS

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### Division Meeting Minutes for April 20, 1998

*Submitted by Ron Gawedzinski, Clerk*

7:14 p.m. Hank Kraichley called the meeting to order. Minutes: Richard Schumacher moved that the minutes for the March 1998 meeting be approved. Jack Templeton second. Approved.

Hank made an announcement regarding the death of Larry Long.

Treasurer Report: John Schindler stated the opening balance at 3/1/98 was \$6,533.14 and the closing balance at 3/31/98 was \$5,957. Jack

Templeton moved the March report be approved. Venita Lake second. Approved.

There were no new visitors.

Bridging the Centuries--2001 Committee: Bob Amsler not present. A member of the committee stated an ad was to be placed in the Kansas City Convention program.

Fall Meet/Train Show Coordinating Committee: John Schindler stated there will be a meeting on May 2, 3 pm, of all committee members at home of Jim Anderson. Decisions need to be made on exact dates of what is to be performed and what has to be accomplished. Clinics need to be filled. Looking for new layouts.

Old Business:

Custom Painted Cars: Richard Schumacher stated all artwork for the box car was sent in. MDC, however, said it would take 3 months to produce the double door box car as no inventory was in stock. A substitute single door version was chosen, which MDC said was in stock.

KC Silent Auction: No report was presented.

Gateway Coordinating Committee: Dan Osborn will put out a report sheet shortly.

Re-Rail: Hank is looking for someone to do the job. It requires contacting former members of the Division and NMRA and seeking their rejoining the groups.

New Business:

Museum of Transport Transportation Days August 1-2: Hank stated we need a coordinator for the event.

AP Status: Nothing to report.

Clinic Ideas--Ideas from Members: Ideas volunteered were--make trees;different color schemes for ground foam landscaping around tracks; making roads. Jeff Dollins volunteered.

Other Activities--Ideas from Members: Tour the Port Authority and Locks on Mississippi River.

Club Reports: Southern Illinois Train Club next meet on 4/18/99. Columbia Model Railroaders next meet on 10/4/98; have started on N scale modules; HO modules are progressing well.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Contests: Structures--A tie between the REA building by Russ Watts and the switch tower by Jeff Dollins. Thumbs--No. 4 turnout by Venita Lake. Next month contest: passenger car.

Dan Osborn, our new Region Achievement Program Chair, gave a talk on the National Achievement Program and the latest changes, updates and revisions. Some highlights are scratch building is now awarded 15 points instead of 25; both our region and division experienced a significant drop in participants from 1996 to 1998; judging guidelines have been updated. Remember —Do not be afraid to enter a model!!

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## Division Meeting Minutes for May 18, 1998

*Submitted by Ron Gawedzinski, Clerk*

Clinic: Rich Lake presented a clinic on Prototype Operations--Yards, How we adapt and fit it into our own model operations. Rich first informed us of his own RR background experience with Rock Island RR—working on train yard crews, their jobs, sizes and duties, and safety and operating rules. Humorous stories were told. He discussed how to apply some of these prototype practices to our own model RR yards. The clinic was entertaining and informative.

8:10 p.m. Hank Kraichley called the meeting to order. Minutes: Bob Amsler moved that the minutes for the April 1998 meeting be approved. Ray Magoffin second. Approved.

Treasurer Report: John Schindler stated the opening balance at 4/1/98 was \$5,957.53 and the closing balance at 4/30/98 was \$6,184.98. Bob Amsler moved the April report be approved. Rich Schumacher second. Approved. The Division made a loan of \$600 to the Bridging the Centuries-2001 Committee for a new booth, a 3 piece stackable display board, total cost \$1700, to be used at future national NMRA conventions.

Bridging the Centuries--2001: Bob Amsler stated the committee held a meeting last Monday, 5/11. Ron Gawedzinski will be a co-chairman of the Registration Committee. A new booth was purchased to use for advertising our area layouts and attractions. Sixty Eagle Club memberships have been sold to date. The name for the second membership group will be The Rocket Club. A 2001 web site is now available. Creative work has been completed on the logo design.

Fall Meet-Train Show Coordinating Committee: Jim Anderson said the group has to review time tables and see that things are held to schedule. Last meeting minutes were sent out. They are looking for clinicians.

Old Business:

Custom Painted Car: John Lee stated that reworked artwork on the car was completed and sent to 3rd Rail. Cars will be painted yellow. Waiting for the cars to be printed. Ken Thompson said 17 cars have been sold so far. He is taking orders now.

KC Silent Auction: Ken Thompson asked people going to the convention to please sign up for morning, afternoon and evening hours to work at the auction.

Gateway Coordinating Committee: Dan Osborn said he is waiting for club information; things are going slow.

Awards given out: Small structures--Jeff Dollins and Russ Watts; Thumbs--Venita Lake.

New Business:

July Activity in place of monthly meeting: There will be no division meeting in July because so many members will be attending the Kansas City convention. Also, no special activity will be planned in place of the meeting. Suggested future activities are visits to the Tri City Port Authority (Dan Osborn, contact) and the TRRA (John Hardy, contact).

Clinic Ideas—Ideas from Members: Rich Schumacher proposed giving an Internet Access Clinic, a clinic on how to use the Internet and what is available for model railroaders. John Lee moved to have the clinic at our June meeting. Randy Meyer second. Motion passed. Location will be SLCC Downtown Computer Lab, 300 S. Broadway.

Articles for the NMRA Bulletin: Hank Kraichley pitched for more articles to be sent in for publishing: you can get paid for the articles. Send in photographs too.

Other Activities—Ideas from Members: Railfan picture day and a visit to railroad related industry.

Other new items: Bob O'Neill requested members to help rehabilitate the very large train layout in our meeting room at the Museum of Transport. It is planned to perform maintenance at our September meeting.

Club Reports: Columbia Model Railroaders just bought a Digitrax Chief system. The O Gauge Club will be able to stay in the old train station; they are making improvements to the

building. First Tuesday of the month they are open for operations.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

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## Division Meeting for June 16, 1998

No regular business meeting was held in June. Approximately 25 members of the Division met at the St. Louis Community College's Downtown Center computing labs to learn more about the Internet from Richard Schumacher and try some hands-on browsing through railroad and modeling websites demonstrated by Venita Lake. Beginners and experts alike were spoiled by the college's super-fast systems.

No meeting was held in July because of the National Convention in Kansas City.

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## Gateway Division Mission Statement



*To promote the hobby of model railroading; to represent the member's interests and insure that everyone receives full value from membership at the local, regional and national level; and to provide education for members and the general public regarding the hobby of model railroading.*

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## Division Members Recognized at NMRA National Convention in Kansas City

*Photos by Richard Schumacher*

John Hardy was presented with the Mid-Continent Region's Ken Cline Award at the NMRA's banquet on Saturday night.

Other Division members received awards for their models at the business meeting Friday morning. While there is no award for irony, our favorite went to John Lee who received the Testor's "Best Finish" award for his BN (what else?) GP50 engine. If you have been to any of our meetings, you know that John works for Badger Air Brush and sells and paints with Modelflex Paints.



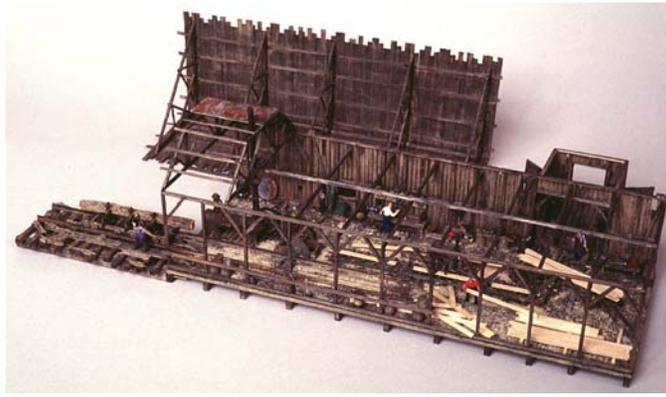
He did several hands-on clinics at the Convention. It's reassuring to know that the judging isn't "fixed." John's SLUT caboose received third prize.



Don Taschner carted home a number of plaques, both popular vote and judged. He received merit awards and honorable mention for his rail car shed and his saw mill.

The saw mill received the first place logging award from *Timber News* magazine and the first place popular vote for off-line structures.





Don's D&RGW C-21 narrow gauge steam locomotive was awarded third place in the judged voting.



Richard Schumacher received the honorable mention in the prototype color print contest. This KCS "Generations" photo appeared on the Summer '97 RPO cover.

In the Arts and Crafts Division, Richard Batt's wife Ann Devine won third place in the original design category for a cross-stitched map of the Mississippi River with symbols of each state it passes through. She received second prize for railroadians for a steam engine on a trestle cross-stitched on a baseball cap. Both entries won first place in the popular vote contest.

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## Eagle Club Count Down (173 so far)

The Eagle Club picked up a number of new members in Kansas City but it still has memberships available for those who wish to register early for the NMRA National Convention to be held in St. Louis in 2001. Membership is limited to 201. Early registration provides the Gateway Division's 2001 Committee with working capital to pay for promotion and the deposits necessary to put this event together.

Eagle Club membership provides advance registration for the convention, first chance to register for all tours, a special Eagle Club patch, an Eagle Club lacquerware pin, a limited edition coffee mug, and \$40 credit toward tours. If you are not yet a member of this select group, complete the enclosed form and submit it soon!

Our next section, the Rocket Club, which will provide a \$20 credit toward tours at an early registration rate of \$100.



### Eagle Club Membership Offer

Eagle Club - Gateway 2001 NMRA Convention  
PO Box 6846 - Chesterfield, MO 63006-6846

Mail this coupon and your \$125 check today!

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone and fax numbers:** \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_  NMRA# \_\_\_\_\_  Date \_\_\_\_\_

Offer Expires at 201 Eagle Club Members

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## Who's a Member?

Check the date on your mailing label to see if it's time (or past time) for you to renew your Division membership. All memberships run from July 1 to June 30 and annual dues are currently \$3. You must also have a current membership in both the NMRA and MCoR to be a Division member.

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## Mini-Contests Held at Division Meetings

Here are the categories for the monthly mini-contests so that everyone has time to prepare entries. Increase the competition and join the fun in this popular vote contest.

*September:* maintenance of way  
(carried over from August) and model  
and prototype photo

*October:* motive power  
watch for new categories

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## The Nominees Are?

Ken Thompson is chairing the nominating committee for 1999 Division officers. Please let him know no later than October 1 if you are interested in running for the position of Division Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Paymaster (Treasurer), Clerk (Secretary), or Gateway Division Director (representative on the Mid-Continent Region Board). All terms are for one year except that of the Division Director, which is for three years. Officers' responsibilities are outlined in the Division By-Laws published in the annual directory.

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## Chairs Needed

Are you tired of seeing the same old faces doing clinics month after month? Do you have other ideas for topics YOU would like to see covered at meetings? The Division needs a new Monthly Clinic Chair and you could have the chance to have a say.

We also still need a Membership Chair or pair of chairs to stay on top of renewals and recruitment. Division-level membership is one of the most valuable benefits of belonging to the NMRA because that is where we make our most direct contacts with other model railroaders, sharing what we know and want to know about the hobby.

Ideally this position and whatever committees might be developed would remind current members when it's time

to renew—the "ReRail" aspect of the job. In addition, recruiting new members is most often done at local shows and someone is needed to organize our efforts in this area.

If you can offer some of your time and energy to either of these jobs, please call Superintendent Hank Kraichely.

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## Earn AP Author Points

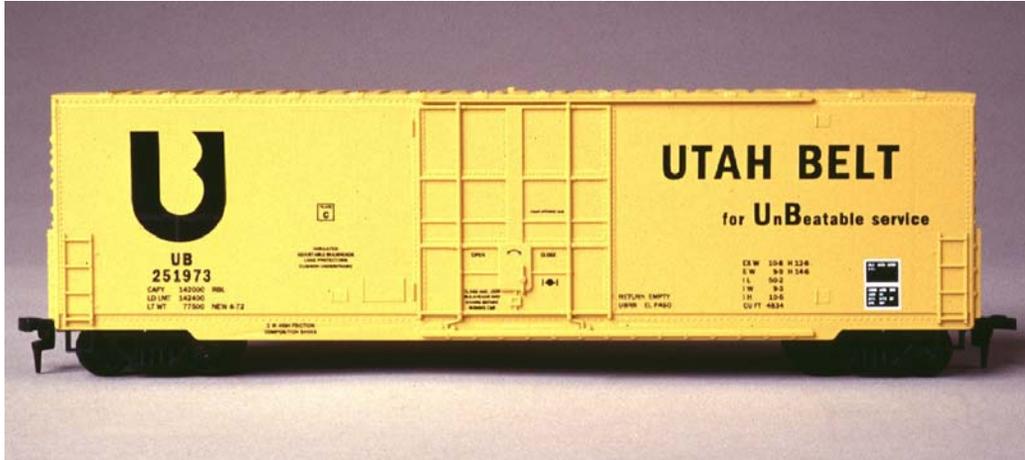
Send your photos and articles to the Editor, Venita Lake, to be included in future issues of the *RPO*. 35mm slides or negatives, and articles on paper or disk or via e-mail are all acceptable formats. Call about working from color prints. E-mail articles to [vlake@stlnet.com](mailto:vlake@stlnet.com) (plain text works well).

**Deadline for submission of the Fall 1998 RPO is October 21.** This issue will be sent with your ballot to vote for Division officers for 1999.



*Gateway Central V project layout on display at the Gateway Center GATS show, August 1998. John Winter and John Schindler chaired this layout. The drawing for this layout will be held at the Gateway TrainExpo, October 18.*

## A Very Special Limited Offer from the Gateway Division!



Eric Brooman's Utah Belt is famous for *Serving the Southwest* with *UnBeatable Service*. Now your railroad can receive interchange traffic loaded with the valuable goods shipped from along the Utah Belt's mainline.

The Gateway Division NMRA is offering a limited run HO boxcar, shipping now. A total of only 212 cars were made, in two road numbers. These MDC single-door RBL 50-foot boxcars numbered 251973 (shown here) and 252001 were produced exclusively for the Gateway Division by 3rd Rail Graphics.

| Use this form to order your cars now!                                     |  |
|---|--|
| Name  |  |
| Address   |  |
| City, State, ZIP  |  |
| Phone & e-mail  |  |
| Check # _____   | <input type="checkbox"/> Send me one car <input type="checkbox"/> send me both cars! |
| Gateway Division Utah Belt cars are \$14 each, plus \$2 shipping/handling |  |

Complete the coupon above and send it, with your check, to the Gateway Division, Box 510305, St. Louis, MO 63151-0305. Cars are \$14 each plus \$2 shipping.

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## Calendar of Events

Do you know of an event of interest to other Gateway Division members? Send the information to the editor so it can be listed here in future *RPOs*.

NMRA Divisions or St. Louis area clubs may have their events listed here by sending a description of the event, in the format shown here, to the Editor.

### Monday, September 21, 1998

Gateway Division Meeting  
7 pm, Museum of Transport  
Automotive Building: Hands-on  
clinics on scenery and repairs to  
MOT's layout

### Saturday, September 26, 1998

Gateway Central VI Project Layout  
crew meets at Richard  
Schumacher's for phase 2,  
trackwork, using LifeLike track  
system. All are welcome.

### Sunday, October 4, 1998

Columbia Model Railroaders Fall  
Model Railroad Swap Meet,  
Columbia Gymnastic Assoc. Hall  
(Turner Hall), 211 E. Cherry,  
Columbia, IL, 11 am - 3 pm. \$3,  
kids under 12 free with an adult.  
Info: Russ, 618/281-5337.

### Saturday, October 10, 1998

Boeing Employees' Railroad Club-  
St. Louis (formerly McDonnell-  
Douglas RR Club) railroad swap  
meet, Greensfelder Recreation  
Complex at Queeny Park, 550  
Wiedman Road, Manchester, MO  
63011, 10 am - 3 pm.. \$2, kids  
under 12 free. Call Wayne  
Schimmel (314) 668-6313.

### Friday, October 16, 1998

Self-guided Club Layout Tours in  
conjunction with Gateway  
Division's Fall Meet

### Sat - Sun, October 17-18, 1998

Gateway Division Fall Meet:  
Gateway Getaway and Train Show,  
Collinsville IL and self-guided home  
layout tours  
Contact Dan Osborn for tables.

### Monday, October 19, 1998

Gateway Division Meeting  
7 pm, VFW Hall, O'Fallon, IL

### Saturday, October 31, 1998

Southern Illinois Train Club and  
Columbia Model Railroaders Model  
Railroad Show and Sale, Centralia  
Recreation Complex, 115 E. 2nd  
Street, Centralia, IL. \$2 admission,  
children 10 and under free with  
paid adult. For information, call  
Randy Domineck, (618) 984-4474.

### November 5 - 8, 1998

Fall S Fest, hosted by Chicago  
Area S Gaugers, Matteson, IL. The  
1999 event will be in St. Louis  
October 29-31. Infor: Moe Berk,  
314/432-3417.

### Saturday, November 7, 1998

Toy Train Garage Sale, 3416  
Agnes, Alton, IL, 8 am till ? Table  
space available. Info: Chuck at  
618/462-4664 or Jim at 618/463-  
9477.

### Monday, November 16, 1998

Gateway Division Meeting  
7 pm, (location to be announced)  
Division holiday party for members  
and family only.

### Sat.-Sun., November 28-29, 1998

Great American Train Show,  
Gateway Center, Collinsville, IL, 11  
am - 5 pm

### Saturday, December 5, 1998

Great St. Louis Train Show,  
Lutheran High School South, 9515  
Tesson Ferry Road, St. Louis, MO  
63123, 10 am - 4 pm. \$4, kids 12

and under free with an adult. Info:  
Marty's Model RR, 314/638-8250.

Sunday, December 6, 1998  
Southern Illinois Train Club Model  
Railroad Show and Sale, 11am -  
5pm. Rend Lake College gym, Ina,  
IL. Adults \$2, children 12 & under  
free with paid adult, Family \$5.  
Tables are \$10 for 2 1/2' X 8'.  
Contact Randy Domineck, 814  
Chamness Rd, Royalton, IL 62983  
618/984-4474.

June 17-19, 1999  
Mid-Continent Region Convention,  
Omaha, Nebraska.

Future NMRA National Conventions

|      |                     |
|------|---------------------|
| 1999 | St. Paul, MN        |
| 2000 | San Jose, CA        |
| 2001 | St. Louis, MO       |
| 2002 | Fort Lauderdale, FL |
| 2003 | Toronto, Canada     |

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## Where's the Meeting?

Meetings in odd numbered months (January, March, May, July, and Sept.) are held at the National Museum of Transportation in west St. Louis County. From I-270, take Dougherty Ferry Road west to Barrett Station Road and go south to the Museum.

Meetings in even numbered months (the other ones) are held in Illinois at the VFW Hall at 221 W. 1st Street in O'Fallon, IL. Take I-64 to State Route 50 (O'Fallon exit). Turn east on 50 toward O'Fallon, go approximately 1/2 mile and turn left onto State Street. Continue on State to Oak Street. Turn right on Oak, cross the railroad tracks and immediately turn left onto First Street. The VFW Hall is on the right about halfway down the block.

Division meetings are the third Monday of each month with the clinic portion starting at 7:00 pm. The business meeting follows the clinic after a short break. Illinois meetings may be interrupted occasionally for train watching activities.

Meeting locations are occasionally changed to allow for special programming. Every effort will be made to notify members well in advance. If you did not attend the previous month's meeting, you may wish to check the Gateway Division web pages or call a Division officer to confirm meeting locations.

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## Pat on the Back

Congratulations to those Division members who have not only done the required work, but have also gotten the paperwork together! Achievement Awards were presented to Richard Schumacher for Association Official and to John Lee for Master Builder - Motive at the August Division meeting.

In addition, Golden Spike Awards were presented to Ken Thompson and John Schindler.

The following Gateway Division members presented clinics at the National Convention: Bob Amsler (on two topics!), Rich Lake, John Lee (on three topics!), Randy Meyer, Dan Osborn, and Rich Schumacher. They even had attendees at the "odd slots" on Friday night and Saturday morning!

And last, but certainly not least, thanks to all of the Division members and their families who spent time in KC sticking every (almost 2,000) attendee's name badge with the Gateway 2001 logo or working booths and otherwise helping the 1998 and the 2001 conventions.

Good work!

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## Directory Update

Corrections and additions:

**Bob Amsler's** home phone number is correct under his name entry, 314/353-9131, but if you call the number listed twice in the Directory's Division Call Board, you'll reach his parents. His e-mail address is [ramsler@aol.com](mailto:ramsler@aol.com)

**Bob O'Neill:** Correct home phone is 314/822-0426.

**Chris Thies** has moved down the street. His new address is 5451 Cologne, St. Louis, MO 63116, phone 314/752-9361.

**Daniel Van Meter's** work phone is 314/428-3700. His e-mail address is [ICcaboose@compuserve.com](mailto:ICcaboose@compuserve.com) and updated information says he and Michelle have an HO home layout with about 200 feet of track and more to come. They use multiple cab and the layout features a steel mill from the 1985-95 period.

Add e-mail addresses for:

**Paul Metzler:** [prmetzler@msn.com](mailto:prmetzler@msn.com)

**Randy Meyer:**  
[rmeyer@sun.hazelwood.k12.mo.us](mailto:rmeyer@sun.hazelwood.k12.mo.us)

**Rob Monroe:** [RMonroe582@aol.com](mailto:RMonroe582@aol.com)

**John Schindler:** [shinbabe@juno.com](mailto:shinbabe@juno.com)

**Ken Thompson:** [rrspken@aol.com](mailto:rrspken@aol.com)  
Also remove Ken's work number.  
He has retired.

**Richard Zellich:** Add  
h 314/326-3026 or 314/349-0594  
w 314/331-4729  
e [zellich@i1.net](mailto:zellich@i1.net)  
<http://www.i1.net/~zellich>

The trackwork session is Saturday, September 26 at Rich Schumacher's home. The first public layout showing will be at the November GATS show.

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## Pike Registry

Only five dollars will remind others for the next four issues of the *RPO* that you have (at least) come up with a name for your pike – or are seriously thinking about it – or know your own name ... Send your money and content to the *RPO* editor Venita Lake for bragging space.

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## Gateway Central VI

The benchwork has been completed for the next Gateway Central (1999) project layout. Trackwork comes next!

