

## 2006 Gateway Division Fall Meet



Pete Smith's *A. C. Brown & Son Fisheries*

**First Place, Offline Structures**

**WHGK Architects Award**

**Best of Show**

# RPO

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of the Gateway Division  
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## On the Cover

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

## Superintendent's Desk

by Bill Levin

2007 is off to a great Model Railroading start with the Gateway Division focused on improving our programming and promoting membership in the NMRA and Gateway Division. Our programming this year is centered around three major activities. First, is our monthly clinic programs have been excellent and I thank and recognize the clinicians for the first quarter: Brian Post presenting "Basics of DCC: Decoder Installation in Non-Dcc Ready Locos"; Curt Regensberger presenting "Prototype and Modeling Steel Making Operations" and Gary Hoover presenting "Backdrop Painting with Sponges". These great clinics have contributed to increasing our members' knowledge and attendance is up on both sides of the river. So if you want to learn more about modeling and enjoy fellowship with other modelers, join

us at one of our meetings. If you are working on your layout and including an interesting industry or scenery technique, please take the time to put together a short presentation that can be one of our monthly meeting clinics. You do not have to be a presentation pro, just provide useful information. Another new idea this year is an upcoming monthly meeting where members will receive a free kit to start to assemble—attendance at the meeting is required to receive the kit. Look for your meeting notifications as to the date and particulars.

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

With regard to promoting membership in the NMRA, we are working in two ways to increase our membership. First, we attended the Collinsville Train Show with the Project Layout to attract members and raise funds. Elsewhere in the RPO we recognize and thank those members and organizations that contributed materials and time to build this fantastic demonstration model railroad layout (See pictures in another article). Our booth was in a good location at the Collinsville show and this was the only major train show before the Fall Train Meet. Thanks so much for all the members that helped

transport, operate, promote the hobby and sell raffle tickets at the Train Show. Volunteers will be needed when we take the layout to shopping malls several times before the Fall Meet to promote membership in the NMRA and to raise funds.

Second, we are working on member retention. At our last Illinois meeting we started a member survey of Illinois members by some of our Illinois members. We will be surveying Missouri members soon. More on the member surveys in the next RPO.

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

Bill Levin

314-878-2119

[wmbill@hotmail.com](mailto:wmbill@hotmail.com)

## Operations on the Webster Groves & Fenton RR using Computer Spreadsheet

by Dave Roeder MMR

### Early operations

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

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

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

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

#### The details of operation

The railroad has a single track main line with a loop for continuous running, but during operating sessions the railroad runs as a point to point layout. I re-set the

jobs between each monthly session. The schedule is done in excel spreadsheet with a separate sheet for each train order. A master schedule sheet provides the dispatcher with the overall game plan and each train order has notes describing the details of the switching moves. Sidings are all numbered and turnouts are lettered. The control panels have full details showing numbered sidings as well as lettered turnouts. Manual ground throws are all close to the fascia. I have made ¼" diameter metal discs soldered to .031" music wire with the turnout letters on them to assist crews in identifying the various powered turnouts in the switching areas. These can be rotated sideways for photography making them invisible.

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

#### # 108 The Valley Park Cement Train

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

#### Train #108 Valley Park Cement Train Originates Lindenwood Yard

Power: BN GP39-2 # 2713, BN GP38-2 # 2264

Note: Pick up a Caboos before departing Yard

Drop off Valley Park Sub Track

SP	490457	Cov. Hopper	36 FT.	GREY	11
UP	219343	Cov. Hopper	36 FT.	GREY	11
BN	430052	Cov. Hopper	36 FT.	GREEN	11
GN	409	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	GREEN	11
BN	161843	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	GREY	15
BN	277001	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	GREY	15
SLSF	78903	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	GREY	15
SLSF	79086	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	GREY	15
MKT	36124	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	RED	15
C&NW	95200	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	YELLOW	15
BN	39089	Hopper-Rock	41 FT.	BLACK	11
BN	679089	Hopper-Rock	41 FT.	BLACK	11
UB	252001	Box Car	50 FT.	YELLOW	11

Total: 13

Pick up

Webster YardTrack

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

Total: 4

Pick up

Destination: Lindenwood Yard Track

BN	277041	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	GREY	4
BN	216104	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	GREY	4
BN	453077	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	GREEN	4
BN	511992	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	GREEN	4
BN	446100	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	GREEN	4
GN	3038	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	GREEN	4
NP	6338	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	GREEN	4
NP	6389	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	GREEN	4
NP	6390	Cov. Hopper	34 FT.	GREEN	4
BN	244002	Hopper-Rock	41 FT.	BLACK	4
BN	267003	Hopper-Rock	41 FT.	BLACK	4

Total: 11

### Caboose tale

The BN had gotten rid of cabooses by the 80's, but as late as 1993 there were still some holdouts, including one in the Hall Street Yard in north St. Louis. The yard crew used it to eliminate long walks in the cold when blocking cuts of grain cars. The story was that it had been taken off the books but escaped the cutting torch. It was lost to the BN but not to the yard crews who made good use of it.

### Getting out on the road

When train #108 is ready to depart, the crew (one person) takes the train order from the dispatcher and checks the consist. (A copy of the train order for #108 is included. This is the paperwork carried by the engineer. Pencils are provided for use in marking off cuts of cars on the train order as they are blocked.) This train has 2 locomotives placed back to back since it has to move West first, then East for two more moves. The engineer pulls down the yard lead to clear the switch for the caboose track. A reverse move allows him to pick up the next caboose in line. Train #108 is not released until the switching crew (two people) over in Valley Park have blocked the empties and communicated this to the dispatcher. After getting clearance for the move, train #108 pulls out and proceeds directly to Valley Park. Upon arrival, they drop off 13 cars per the

orders and then wait until the switching crew puts 15 cars on the rear of what was the front of the train coming in to Valley Park. The caboose is also placed at the opposite end of the train as it came in.

The next move takes the 15 car train out on to the single track main heading East to the Webster Groves Yard. Sometimes traffic on the main will require #108 to hold a siding while some other work is done. If all goes as planned, #108 arrives in Webster Yard where the yardmaster accepts 4 set outs from the front of the train. The remaining 11 cars and caboose then request permission to head East once again returning to Lindenwood Yard. The train enters Lindenwood Yard from the East and pulls into yard lead #4. This ends the job.

### Plan it, Build it, Run it

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

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## Gain Additional Information When You Sign Up for Email Notification

Gateway Division is offering two ways for you to get more information by email. First is to receive **Meeting Notifications** and **other Divisions' newsletters** by email. The benefit of opting in for Meeting Notifications is that we will send other Divisions' newsletters that we receive electronically to you in this manner. Only by opting in to the Meeting Notification email can you receive these other newsletters. Second is to receive the **RPO Publication** by email. The major benefit of this email is that all the pictures are in color. Because of cost considerations, the RPO is not published in color. If you are currently receiving these publications by mail, and choose to receive them by email, please email this request to [wmbill@hotmail.com](mailto:wmbill@hotmail.com).

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## First Quarterly Gateway Division Layout Tour Resounding Success

text & photos by Bill Levin



Action on Don Taschner's HO/Hon3 layout



Switching on Don's layout

New to the Gateway Division programming this year are quarterly Layout Tours. This provides members that have layout to share their layout with more members. Prior to this program, the Division was limited to Fall Meet



Dave Bartz's layout

even having limited tours did not allow all members to see all the layouts within the open hours of the tour. Quarterly Layout Tours solve both these problems and

provide increased value to our members. We all thank Don Taschner, Ed Bailey, Gary Hoover, and Dave Bartz for sharing their layouts with us.



Night operations on Dave's Santa Fe

## Need for Volunteers

As a volunteer organization, we depend on members to help operate the Division. Some members work full time while other are retired, so time available varies based on work and personal schedules. We are developing a long term strategy for the Division where duties are divided into smaller tasks so that volunteers have specific activities that do not become burdensome yet allow for effective Division operation. To accomplish this goal we are currently looking for volunteers in the following areas:

Email communications manager – manage the list and mail Meeting and RPO emails (content is provided so this is a logistics position)

Merchandise Sales – attend meetings/Fall Meet and sell Division

merchandise/remit moneys to Treasure (not responsible for ordering merchandise)

Membership Retention Chair – review reports, call members who haven't renewed their membership to encourage rejoining, and manage the membership survey effort

New Member Chair – work on programs to recruit new members

Clinician Program Chair – identify clinicians to present at monthly meetings and Fall Meet

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

## Division Minutes

*Recorded by Ron Gawedzinski, Clerk*

### Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2007

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

#### BUSINESS MEETING

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

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

#### Minutes of the October and December 2006

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

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

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

**RPO Report:** Mike Thomas said the RPO was taken to the printer on Saturday, January 13. It should be mailed to members the week of January 22. He said the deadline for submitting articles and pictures for the next RPO would be April 1. For future RPO's, the deadline is July 1 and October 1. Hank Kraichely commented that 59 members requested their RPO and monthly meeting reminder be sent to them by e-mail. This RPO will be the first sent by e-mail.

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

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

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

**Old Business:** None

#### New Business:

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

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

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

**Membership Enhancement:** Hank commented on another item the officers discussed, namely, retaining and encouraging participation from inactive members. We have 240 NMRA members active in our Division area but only about 110 on our Division rolls (of which about 35 to 40 attend our meetings). The idea is to create a simple questionnaire, of five or six questions, and contact the inactive members. We would gather information about what's going on with them, get their e-mail address, check their phone number and then find out why they haven't joined our local group. We would like to get 20 members to volunteer to contact 10 inactive members each by phone to conduct the survey. Hank passed around sign up sheets and asked members to please sign up.

**Computer Graphics Volunteer For Poster Design:** Hank stated we are looking for a volunteer, who doesn't have to be a member, who is very good at computer graphics, specifically photographs and artwork. This person would design posters for a new membership booth display. The designed posters would be printed on vinyl to hang from posts about five to six feet high, fold up and are easily moved. They would be used at Train

Shows, Mall Events and our Fall Meet. We'll have more details on this at a future meeting.

**Project Layout XIV (14):** Hank reported that Bob Boedges has volunteered to design and build the new project layout for 2007. We're looking for people to help him. Hank passed out sign up sheets for volunteers to build it, to donate items to it, to transport it and to sell raffle tickets and operate it at Train Shows and Mall Events. At this point, Tom Bousman reminded Hank that at our October 16, 2006, meeting, the membership voted to suspend the building of the project layout for at least one year. Discussion took place. Bob reminded Hank and others the reason for the vote was that we couldn't get volunteers to Chair the project, nor store, move, schedule or sell it. Today, Bob said he would coordinate building it, Mike Thomas would store it and Bob would make his vehicle available if someone volunteered to transport the layout. Brian Post made the motion, "I move that we reinstate the Project Layout for 2007." Seconded by Rich Laux. Much discussion took place. The sign up sheets were passed around to all members and returned. Hank reported nine names to help build the layout, 10 names to donate items, 15 names to staff the booth at one of the shows and three names to move the layout. The vote was taken and the motion passed.

Hank then stated he would entertain a motion, "To fund the building of the Project Layout XIV (14) not to exceed an amount of \$600." Tom Bousman made the motion as stated by Hank. Seconded by Brian Post. The motion passed.

**Wood Loading Dock:** Hank reported he has negotiated with Blair Lines for HO and N laser-cut wood loading dock and ramp kits to be made available to our members at a very attractive price (retail HO \$16.95, N \$11.95). Hank said Bill Levin thought maybe what we want to do is offer this kit free to members who volunteer for this year's projects and other members could pay something towards the price of the kit. Hank asked members to put their names on the list going around if you are interested in the kit so he can get an accurate count on how many to order. Later in the spring of the year (May 21 Monday, Trinity Lutheran Church) we're going to schedule a meeting evening to build this kit as a group. The Division will provide the glue and some tools to build the kit.

**Announcements:** None.

**50/50:** Rich Laux won \$15 in the drawing.

**Adjournment:** Richard Lake moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bob Boedges and approved at 9:18 pm. The next meeting is February 19, 2007, at VFW Hall, O'Fallon, Illinois.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tom Bousman, Acting Clerk

## Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for February 19, 2007

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

### BUSINESS MEETING

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

**Visitors:** The Division welcomes guest Ralph Kniepkamp.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** David Lyon, Treasurer, was not present. Bill Levin distributed printed copies of the Treasurer's Report for the period January 15 through February 18, 2007. The balance in all funds as of February 18, 2007, was \$26,846.57. There were no questions and the report was accepted as presented.

**Monthly Meeting Clinician Report:** Hank Kraichely announced he has a clinic scheduled for March, "Backdrop Painting with Sponges" by Gary Hoover. April is open. In May, a special group activity meeting to build a laser-cut wood loading dock and ramp kit from Blair Lines, provided free by the Division only to members attending the May meeting. June, July and

August are open. There will be a clinic, with no date scheduled yet, on "Programming Decoders Using A PC" by Bill Levin and Brian Post. (Hank is looking for clinicians; the clinics could be on a prototype RR, your RR, some experiences you have or a modeling project.)

**Gateway Layout Tour Schedule:** Hank stated during the first quarter of 2007 there will be a Saturday Layout Tour on March 31, from 9 am to 1 pm, covering layouts in North St. Louis County and St. Charles. In the second quarter, on June 30, layouts on the Illinois side will be on tour. There is a sign-up sheet available for our Illinois members wanting to show their layouts. September 29 is the date for the third quarter and December 29 is the date for the fourth quarter. The Layout Tour is for members only and will not be open to the general public. (Any member who is interested in having her/his layout on the tour please notify Hank and indicate the Saturday you would prefer.)

**Merchandise Report:** Hank Kraichely reported Ken Thompson finally sold the last of the Gary Hoover freight cars. Hank said we are still selling wheel sets but that he forgot to bring them to this meeting. He does have 33" and 36" HO wheel sets available. They are \$6.00 a package. Anyone interested in buying the HO wheel sets as well as other gauges, like O and N, should see him after the meeting.

**RPO Report:** Mike Thomas said the RPO went out about a month ago. It's the first RPO that went out by hard copy as well as e-mail. He said the deadline for submitting articles and pictures for the next RPO would be April 1 but try to get submissions at least a week to ten days earlier. (For future RPO's, the deadline is July 1 and October 1.) Hank Kraichely asked if anyone would be interested in handling the e-mail (RPO and monthly meeting notice) for the Division, as he would appreciate it if he could transfer that responsibility.

**Director's Report:** Jim Anderson reported he was unable to make the Board of Director's meeting scheduled in Kansas City, Missouri. Bob Amsler was at the meeting and reported that Randy Meyer got his MMR (Master Model Railroader) Award. Also, there is an issue before the Region, under the new NMRA regulations, that the NMRA gives back money to the Regions for carrying out NMRA programs. They (the regulations) also require the Regions to give back a portion (of the money) to the local Divisions for every member for the NMRA programs. Right now the Region is trying to figure out how to do it. One final thing is the Region is going to take a good hard look at itself and try to figure out what

it ought to be doing. A Committee will be established to accomplish this task.

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

**Project Layout XIV (14):**

Building Report – Bob Boedges reported the layout is complete as of today. There is a little device on the table that is showing pictures of the completed layout. The budget was \$600 and to date we spent \$488. Donors included Atlas Model Railroad Co., Dave Lyon, Jim Anderson, Hank Kraichely, Rich Laux and Bob Boedges. Construction members were Bob Boedges, Mike Satke, Dave Roeder, Dick Wegner, Don Gathright, Ron Gawedzinski, Dave Lyon and Tom Bousman. Bob said we still need trucks and automobiles (as in vehicles), grade crossing gates, cross bucks, two flat cars (as in railroad), lumber loads and roof top details.

Show Schedule – Bill Levin said the project layout would be shown at the Great Train Expo, Collinsville Convention Center, Collinsville, Illinois, Saturday and Sunday, March 24 – 25, 2007, 10am – 4pm.

Layout Staffing and Moving Volunteers – Bill Levin said there are sheets for volunteer workers to sign up for the show either as layout staffing or moving the layout. Bill mentioned showing the layout at shopping centers initially sometime in April, after Easter. After that, it would be shown in the fourth quarter 2007. Someone mentioned that our Division Fall Meet is on November 3, when we normally pick the winner for the layout. So we would visit shopping centers before that date.

**Old Business:**

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

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

to call 10 names each, ask the questions and return the results to Bill.

**E-mail Of Meeting Notices And RPO:** Bill mentioned members did not have to receive both the meeting notices and the RPO by e-mail. A meeting notice can be sent by e-mail and the RPO by regular mail if the members let Bill or Hank know. Hank said this month only 39 out of 59 members received the e-mail meeting notice. He was unable to send 20 notices. A question was raised about the lack of a renewal date on the e-mail notice. Bill said that issue would be addressed. (Hank Kraichely asked if anyone would be interested in handling the e-mail (RPO and monthly meeting notice) for the Division as he would appreciate it if he could transfer that responsibility.)

**Computer Graphics Volunteer For Poster**

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

**New Business:** None

**Announcements:** Bill Birdsell mentioned the Metro East Model Railroad Club is going to have an open house this Saturday, February 24, 10am – 3pm, at the Old Village Hall, Glen Carbon, Illinois. Also, on Sunday, February 25, there will be a model train show in Springfield, Illinois, at the State Fairgrounds, Orr Building, 9am – 4pm.

Gregor Moe said anyone attending the model train show in Springfield, Illinois, on Sunday, February 25, please feel free to stop by and visit Gregor and see his layout in Chatham, Illinois, at 35 Greentrail Dr.

Ron Gawedzinski mentioned the Boeing Model RR Show would be on Saturday, March 17, at Queeny Park, St. Louis, Missouri, 10am – 3pm.

**50/50:** Venita Lake won \$22 in the drawing.

**Adjournment:** Tom Bousman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Birdsell and approved at 8:35 pm. The next meeting is March 19, 2007, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Ballwin, Missouri.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ron W. Gawedzinski, Clerk

**Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2007**

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

**BUSINESS MEETING**

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

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

**Minutes of the February 2007 Meeting:**

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

**Treasurer's Report:** David Lyon, Treasurer, distributed printed copies of the Treasurer's Report for the period February 19 through March 18, 2007. The balance in all funds as of March 18, 2007, was \$26,524.47. There were no questions and the report was accepted as presented.

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

**Gateway Layout Tour Schedule:** Hank Kraichely stated there would be a Division First Quarter Member Home Layout Tour on Saturday, March 31, 2007, from 9 am to 1 pm, covering five

layouts in four homes in North St. Louis County. He said there are a limited number of directions' handouts available here on the table. If more are needed let Hank know and he will send them to you. (In the second quarter, on June 30, layouts on the Illinois side will be on tour. September 29 is the date for the third quarter and December 29 is the date for the fourth quarter. The Layout Tour is for members only and will not be open to the general public. Any member who is interested in having her/his layout on the tour please notify Hank and indicate the Saturday you would prefer.)

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

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

**Director's Report:** Jim Anderson reported the Mid-Continent Region Annual Convention would be in Lenexa, Kansas, (Kansas City area), on Saturday, August 4, 2007. The Turkey Creek Division is the sponsor.

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

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

**Project Layout XIV:**

Building Report – Bob Boedges reported the layout is even more done as of today. The detailing is finished. It has the Atlas power pack and the sound controller for the locomotive. And the water is almost dry now. It will be ready for the Collinsville train show on March 24 – 25.

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

Show Schedule – Bill Levin said the project layout would be shown at the Great Train Expo, Collinsville Convention Center, Collinsville, Illinois, Saturday and Sunday, March 24 – 25, 2007, 10am – 4pm. We will be doing some additional shows at the Malls. We were considering the Westfield Malls, Chesterfield, Mid-Rivers and possibly West County.

Layout Staffing and Moving Volunteers – Bill Levin said there are still some time slots on Saturday and Sunday for volunteer workers to sign up for the show as layout staffing. Please sign the sheets going around the room. Remember, you can get into the show free.

#### Old Business:

**Volunteer Lists:** Bill Levin talked about a Volunteer List To Make Phone Call Survey Of Division Members. [We have about 280 members in the Gateway Division. We never see most of these members attending meetings either here in Missouri or in Illinois. The idea is what can we do to first improve communications with them (getting their e-mail addresses) and second to get them to come to meetings.] Bill has developed a short, five-question survey. We would like to find volunteers tonight from the Missouri side to call fellow Missouri members (about 213) during the next two months. We need about 15 volunteers to call about 14 names each, ask the questions and return the results to Bill. Any member who would be willing to help out to do this please put your name on the volunteer list and Bill will be in touch with you.

**E-mail Of Meeting Notices And RPO:** Bill Levin said we have already discussed this issue earlier in the meeting.

**Computer Graphics Volunteer For Poster Design:** Bill Levin said Mike Peters, a Division member, has volunteered to do graphics work on the posters for our booth in use at train shows and malls. Mike is preparing some samples of train things that he thinks will look good. Poster size will be either 2 feet by 6 feet or 8 feet, either

vertical or horizontal. Bill hopes to have some examples to show at the next meeting.

**May Meeting, Wood Loading Dock:** Hank Kraichely said that at our forthcoming May 21 meeting another concept that we are implementing this year to add more contact, more value to coming to the Division meetings, is the Division is going to provide each member who attends the meeting in May a laser-cut wood loading dock ramp kit from Blair Line for free. In HO it lists for \$16.95, in N it lists for \$11.95. A member has to be at the May meeting to get a free kit but it's well worth it. The Division will provide the glue and some tools to build the kit. N scalers should let Hank know who wants a kit. Unfortunately, Blair Line does not make this kit in S scale. It does make a Z scale kit. The Division has decided that any kits that are left over, or for members who can't make the May meeting, we will sell the members' kits for \$5.00 each.

#### New Business:

**Donate Tools For Upkeep Of Project Layout:** Bill Levin mentioned that in taking the project layout around to various locations frequently there's a need to have tools and sundry things to maintain or repair the layout. He asked if any members would like to donate the following tools to keep in the project layout toolbox: glue, hobby knife, regular & needle nose pliers, screwdrivers. Please let Bill know.

**Donate Model RR Material And/Or Time For Small Layout At THE CEDARS – JCA Retirement Facility:** John Hardy, fellow member, has been asked by the JCA Retirement Facility (located just West of the Mason Rd. overpass, on the South Outer Rd. of US Highway 40/164) to install a small model railroad layout, approximately 5 feet by 20 feet. He is asking Division members to support this activity in two ways. First, please consider donating any surplus HO scale, Code 100 nickel-silver, standard gauge, flex track and turnouts, structures, rolling stock and scenery material that you might have laying around. Second, please consider volunteering your time to assist in the design and construction of this layout as you are very welcome to join John, Rich Kemp and Dale Dewitt, another Division member. They work on the layout either on Tuesday or Wednesday morning at 9 am until 2 pm. Please contact John at 636-677-8270 or e-mail him at [4helixhardy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:4helixhardy@sbcglobal.net).

**Announcements:** Moe Berk mentioned the American Flyer S Gaugers of the St. Louis Area

is hosting the Fall S Fest, November 2 – 4, 2007, at the Marriott Airport Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri.

Dan Engle brought samples of pre-cut and pre-shaped homosote roadbed manufactured by California Roadbed Co.

Don Taschner mentioned he has 46 years of Railroad Model Craftsman magazines to dispose of. If anyone is interested he'll make a good deal.

John Hardy mentioned he has two large cartons of Division history. He would like them to find a new home. Bill Levin said he would take them.

**50/50:** Moe Berk won \$26 in the drawing.

**Adjournment:** Tom Bousman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dick Wegner and approved at 8:30 pm. The next meeting is April 16, 2007, at VFW Hall, O'Fallon, Illinois.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron W. Gawedzinski, Clerk

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## Coming Events

**MAY 6, 2007** MID-AMERICA TRAIN & TOY SHOW (formerly "Mid-America Train Meet"), BTC Exhibit Hall, I-435 and Front Street, Kansas City MO, 9am –2pm, Adm: \$5 adults, 12 & under, free, 7am early bird adm, \$10 ea. Trains, models, RR collectibles, toys, train movies, door prizes, operating layouts. Free parking. Info: Steve & Sherri Stich, P.O. Box 369, Leavenworth, KS 66048 or 913-651-5864. Directions: From I-435, exit 57 west (Front St) to Universal Ave. and turn right at stoplight. Or, from I-35, exit Front St. and continue east to Universal Ave., then turn left at stoplight.

**MAY 11-13, 2007** GARDEN RAILROAD HEART OF AMERICAN SHOW, Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS, 1-day pass\$10 or 3-day pass \$25, [www.hagrs.com](http://www.hagrs.com) P.O. Box 296 Grandview, MO 64030

**MAY 26 - 27 2007** 7TH ANNUAL PARSONS KATY DAYS MODEL RAILROAD MEET AND SHOW, Labette Community College Multipurpose Bldg. NW corner of Heacock and Broadway streets, Parsons, Ks, Sat: 8am - 4 pm, Sun: 12noon until 3 pm, Admission is Free and Dealer tables are available at \$15 each for the swap meet. Event will include large swap meet, modular layout setups, modeling contest.

Excursion train rides available with the festival events. For more information please visit [www.katydays.com](http://www.katydays.com) or [www.cvmrc.com](http://www.cvmrc.com).

Contact: Bob Wintle 2712 Morton Parsons, Ks. 67357 [rwintle@terraworld.net](mailto:rwintle@terraworld.net)

**AUG 4, 2007** MID-CONTINENT REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION, Lenexa Community Center, Lenexa, KS; hosted by the Turkey Creek Division, Co-Chairs: Brad Morneau (913) 897-0669, [bmorneau@kc.rr.com](mailto:bmorneau@kc.rr.com), and Louis Seibel, [l-seibel@comcast.net](mailto:l-seibel@comcast.net), (913) 393-3495; Committee Chairs: Paul Richardson, MMR, Model & Photo Contests; Bob Jefferis, Swap Tables & Railroad Groups. Activities planned for this year's meet include: Clinics – a full slate of clinics covering many aspects of the hobby, Model & Photo Contests – by NMRA judging and Poplar vote. Each model (up to a maximum of 5 models) you enter in the model contest will automatically qualify you to be entered in to a special drawing to receive a \$50.00 gift voucher. Special Youth Award for the best overall youth model entry. Door Prizes – Additional door prizes will be set aside for advance registrants. Display Layout and Layout Tours – In addition to the display layout at the meet, several local modelers will be opening their homes to layout tours in the afternoon and evening. Layout tour maps will be available for collection with your registration.

Swap Tables and Railroad Groups – Expect to find more than 70 tables from area dealers, local hobbyists and other railroad groups. For information on tables contact Robert Jefferis at [jeffbobj@swbell.net](mailto:jeffbobj@swbell.net). Food and Refreshments – Scout Troop 92 will have food and refreshments available during the show.

Southern Illinois Train Club Nov.2007 show

**NOV 18, 2007** SOUTHERN ILLINOIS TRAIN CLUB SHOW New Location: Benton Civic Center, Benton IL 11am-4pm Sunday; more info: Randy Domineck 814 Chamness Rd. Royalton IL.618-984-4474

**JAN 26-27, 2008** TRAIN AND CIRCUS SHOW, Cisco, IL, I-72 Exit 156 between Decatur, IL, and Champaign, IL; 10:00 - 4:00 both days, breakfast and lunch available, 65 Vendor Tables, 5 Layouts: N, HO, O, and G Donation \$3.00, [trains@ciscojunction.com](mailto:trains@ciscojunction.com) <http://www.ciscojunction.com>.



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## Division Officers

### **Superintendent**

Bill Levin

### **Assistant Superintendent**

Hank Kraichely

### **Clerk (Secretary)**

Ron Gawedzinski

### **Paymaster (Treasurer)**

Dave Lyon

### **Division Director**

Jim Anderson

## **MEETINGS:**

The Gateway Division meets on the 3rd Monday each month, at 7:00 P.M.

Odd numbered months: Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road at Hwy 141 (Woods Mill), Ballwin, MO

Even numbered months: VFW Hall, 221 West 1<sup>st</sup> St., O'Fallon, IL

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## NMRA MCoR Region & Gateway Division

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) is a world-wide organization dedicated to all aspects of model railroading. In order to bring the most benefit to its members, the association is subdivided into Regions, and each Region has a number of local Divisions. The Gateway Division is part of the Mid-Continent Region, which represents Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and parts of Iowa and Illinois.

The Mid-Continent Region is represented on the NMRA's Board of Trustees. It publishes a quarterly bulletin, *The Caboose Kibitzer*, and holds an annual convention meeting that usually includes modeling clinics, local tours of layouts or prototype facilities, and model contests.

The Gateway Division is well represented on the regional and national levels of the NMRA. Its members actively promote the modeling hobby through local monthly meetings, this quarterly newsletter, an annual train meet in the fall, participation in area train shows and other events, and a comprehensive website. Annual subscriptions to the Gateway Division publications are \$3, with all subscriptions running from July 1 through June 30. In addition to the quarterly newsletter, a member directory is published listing names, addresses, and information about individual modeling interests. New members also receive a Division membership pin.

Membership is open to anyone from the beginner to the most advanced modeler, of all ages, so that everyone can share questions and knowledge of the hobby. Visitors are welcome at the monthly Division meetings listed on our website, [www.gatewaynmra.org](http://www.gatewaynmra.org)

## **How to Join**

Visit our website, complete the form at <http://gatewaynmra.org/membership.htm>