

Official Publication of the Gateway Division NMRA



# RPO

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The RPO is the official publication  
of the Gateway Division  
of the National Model Railroad Association

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Mike Thomas

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Mike Thomas

## This Issue's Contributors:

Few & far between.....

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## On the Cover

The Gateway Division's May meeting was a tour of Metrolink's operations center and shops in mid-town Saint Louis..

## Editor's Note

This is the second RPO in a row to contain little more than announcements and minutes of meetings: no model photos, no how-to articles, no prototype data, no product reviews.

I can't print what I haven't got.





Like every other aspect of the Gateway Division, the RPO depends on volunteer efforts. Please send along a photograph or two, a modeling tip, a cartoon, or anything else you think the members would be interested in reading.

Mike Thomas

## Condolences to Gary Gross & John Hardy

Two of the Division's long-time members lost loved ones in July. Gary Gross's father died after a long illness, and John Hardy's wife, Juanita, died from complications following knee replacement surgery. Many members will remember Juanita as the organizer of the 2001 National Convention banquet in the Great Hall at Union Station. Our condolences go to both Gary and John.

# JOINT PICNIC


  
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**"COME RIDE THE MINIATURE STEAM LOCOMOTIVE"**

*Have Some Fun At Our 1<sup>st</sup>. Get Together Of Two Fine Train Groups.*

**Make Some New Train Friends**

The St. Louis Chapter NRHS and The Gateway Division NMRA are having a joint picnic on September 6, 2008 at the Wabash, Frisco and Pacific RR in Glencoe MO. 11 am to 4 pm. Food, train rides and attendance prizes will be furnished by the two organizations. Food will be served at 12:30 pm. Menu includes water, soda, hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, baby carrots, baked beans, American style potato salad, Cole slaw, ketchup, mustard, bred n' butter pickles, relish, potato chips, and cookies. Anyone wishing to donate railroad related attendance prizes, the items will be added to the chapter and division prizes. Bring lawn chairs, as seating may be limited.



In order to make sure there is enough food and drink available, we require reservations by August 19, 2008. Contact Ron Gawedzinski at [rwgawed@yahoo.com](mailto:rwgawed@yahoo.com) or 314-846-5559 and let him know who is coming, spouses, children and grandchildren are welcome. There will be sign up sheets at your chapter or division meeting.

**THIS IS A NON-ALCOHOL EVENT, ANYONE BRING ALCOHOL TO THIS PICNIC WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE.**

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## 2008 St. Louis Railroad Prototype Modeler's Meet

The FOURTH ANNUAL St. Louis RPM Meet will be held on Friday, Aug 15th and Saturday, August 16th at the Gateway Convention Center, One Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234. Collinsville is 12 miles east of metro St. Louis on I-55/70. Meet Hours: 9 AM to 10 PM both days.

The heart of this event is YOUR MODELS! Bring your models - finished or "in progress" - for display. All scales, gauges are welcome. Bring locomotives, rolling stock, structures and any models pertaining to prototype railroading for presentation & discussion. Attendees brought 1000+ models in 2005 and 2006! There will be no contests or awards. Our purpose is to share information, present your best modeling techniques, and meet your fellow modelers from around the United States.

In addition to model displays, presentations by nationally-recognized modelers and historians are scheduled. An operating FreeMo layout will be on display. Historical Societies and select local vendors will also be in attendance. A pre-RPM social is planned. Door Prizes! More details on the back of this page. All this and more in 10,000 fully-carpeted sq. ft. at the professional Gateway Center!

JOIN US...AND BRING YOUR MODELS!

Hours: 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M both days. Admission: \$20.00 Friday &

Saturday, \$15.00 Saturday only. Kids under 14 free with paid adult admission. Vendor set-up at 7:15 AM Fri. Sales end at 6:00 P.M. Saturday. Contact John Golden at [Golden1014@yahoo.com](mailto:Golden1014@yahoo.com) (812) 929-7181

or Dan Kohlberg at [paducah@mindspring.com](mailto:paducah@mindspring.com) for meet info. The Gateway Center Website is: <http://www.gatewaycenter.com/> Lodging info can be found at [http://travel.yahoo.com/p-map-475520-map\\_of\\_collinsville\\_il-i](http://travel.yahoo.com/p-map-475520-map_of_collinsville_il-i)

### CLINICS

Presentations will run from 9:30 AM to 8:30 PM both days. This year's line-up includes:  
Ed Hawkins - *Missouri Pacific AC&F-Built Express Baggage Cars*  
Pete Smith - *Scratchbuilding in Styrene*  
Mike Moore & Clark Propst - *A Tribute to Soph Marty*  
Tony Sissons - *Scratch Building Prototype Turnouts*  
John & Dan Kohlberg - *The Illinois Central Gulf Sparta District, 1972-1986*  
Mont Switzer - *Tools, Tips and Techniques*  
Stan Rydarowicz - *Modeling Transition-era SFRD Refrigerator Cars in HO*  
Chad Hewitt - *Intermodal Topic*  
Dave Roeder - *Scratchbuilding Structures*  
Brian McQuitty - *Researching Abandoned Lines*

### SPECIAL EVENT: GATEWAY RAIL SERVICES TOUR

Join us on Thursday at 3:00 PM as we tour vintage passenger cars undergoing restoration at Gateway Rail's Madison, IL facility. See the Mark Twain Zephyr under restoration! 30-person limit; contact Dan Kohlberg at

[paducah@mindspring.com](mailto:paducah@mindspring.com) for reservations.

### PRE-RPM MEET SOCIAL

By popular demand, we'll meet at Bandana's BBQ on 4 Commerce Drive next to the Gateway Center at 6:00 PM on Thursday, August 14th. <http://www.bandanasbbq.com/Flash/home.htm>

### VENDORS

60 tables of elite vendors, including Tangent Scale Models, AMB, WrightTrak, Bob's Photos, Moloco, Rail Yard Models, Funaro & Camerlengo, Proto:87 Stores, ICG Custom Decals, Badger, Big Four Graphics, SC Model Works, Mountaineer Precision Products, Stan Rydarowicz, Red Board Hobbies, Mike Gruber Photos, and more!

### RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The TRRA, MoPac, Wabash, C&NW, Central of Georgia, Penn Central societies and more will be here with books, maps, and prototype info to aid your modeling.

John Golden  
Bloomington, IN  
Co-Hosting the 2008  
St. Louis RPM Meet  
15 & 16 August, 2008  
Gateway Convention Center,  
Collinsville, IL

Check out photos from the 2006 St. Louis RPM Meet at [http://www.pbase.com/golden1014/2006\\_st\\_louis\\_rpm\\_meet&page=all](http://www.pbase.com/golden1014/2006_st_louis_rpm_meet&page=all)

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## NMRA Patent Challenge Update

*You may already have seen this press release in Scale Rails, but we reprint it as a token of thanks to Gateway Division member Bob Amsler, NMRA General Counsel, without whom this (apparently successful) challenge would not have been made.*

### Real Rail Effects fails to respond to NMRA DCC-sound patent challenge

The deadline for Real Rail Effects, Ltd. (RRE) to respond to an NMRA patent challenge has passed, with no response from RRE.

RRE was granted a patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) based upon a claim that the technology for using sound with DCC was invented by RRE. The NMRA, with the technical and financial support of a number of DCC manufacturers and hobbyists around the world, filed a challenge to the RRE patent.

The NMRA filed the challenge because we believe that the claims in the RRE patent application were not supported by the facts. The NMRA was aware that prior art and other evidence existed which negated RRE's patent.

The NMRA felt that, should it remain in force, the RRE patent posed a threat to modelers and manufacturers of DCC equipment because it would both increase the costs to modelers and unfairly restrict manufacturers who provide decoders with sound. Therefore, the NMRA coordinated an

industry- and hobby-wide effort to have the patent overturned. The NMRA submitted evidence from a number of sources raising substantial questions about the validity of the patent.

On February 11, 2008, the USPTO issued a ruling granting the NMRA's patent re-examination request. The examiner stated in the ruling that there was a substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider the prior art important in determining the patentability of the application of RRE.

After the examiner at the USPTO determined that the position of the NMRA had merit and compelled a new analysis of the patent, RRE had two months to respond to the re-examination request. The deadline for a response has come and gone, and RRE made no reply. The NMRA is now very hopeful that a favorable decision will be announced and that the position of the NMRA and its supporters will be vindicated.

The NMRA considers this a clear triumph for the modeler and the model railroad industry. We are proud to have led the challenge team that has made this victory possible.

www.NMRA.org  
 Robert J. Amsler, Jr.  
 General Counsel, National Model Railroad Association, Inc.  
 nmralegal@charter.net

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## Jim Anderson Earns Ken Cline Award

Gateway Division Director Jim Anderson was presented with the Ken

Cline Award at the Mid-Continent Region annual convention in Branson in May. This award is given by the last three recipients, in recognition of outstanding service to the Mid-Continent Region and to the Hobby of Model Railroading.

Kenny Cline served as Secretary/Treasurer for Several terms, as Vice-president for 1 two year term (1977 & 78) and served as President for one year term (1979) before passing away in office. Allan Pollock, his Vice-president, complete his uncompleted term.

The highest award that the Mid Continent Region can bestow upon an individual is that of the KEN CLINE AWARD. This award, established by the MCoR BOD in June of 1981, is given annually to someone in recognition of service to the Region, the NMRA, and the hobby in general. The following, with a little editing, are the words of Warren Weston MMR telling us about his good friend, Ken Cline.

"...it was suggested that I put some memories down so that you might also know Ken Cline better. Ken, Kenneth R. Cline lived in Independence, MO with his wife Irene, and raised three daughters.

"Ken has a B.S. in Education and a M.S. in Guidance and Counseling. He was employed by the Independence School District as a visiting teacher (truant officer). We had started a new model club (HO) that had finally found a home in the basement of a hobby shop on East Lexington near the square. During this era (the early 60's) we moved across the street to another

basement that was more accessible and business-like. By accident, we found that we could get rid of most of our trash just by wrapping it up to look valuable, then carrying it to the top of the stars. By the time we got back up with another load to take home, the first package was gone. Bill Herd linger, Tom Bennett, Larry Kombrink, David Wade, Chuck Schrivener, Ken, and this writer, were some of the members of this group.

"After a heart attack in the Mid 50's, Ken moved from modeling airplanes and boats, to TT scale model railroading. Later came HO and then he saw the "true light" of modeling as spoken by Swede Norlin; Sn3. Model building was always good therapy for Ken. He built a 10'x20' Sn3 layout in his \* basement, and the S Gang; Jim Phelps, Dave Engle, Mike Kane, Dave Pausell, Pete Bellos, Jim Graham, Dick Y. Wholf, and others would get together. At the 1970 Convention, he took a First Place for his Rio Grande work gondola.

"Ken was later appointed Area Director

and under his tutelage we had our first Area Meet. Starting at the Carousel on Troost for just gab sessions. From here the idea just grew. Elected to the first of five terms as Secretary/Treasurer in 1972, he served the Region well. During this time he received Achievement Awards for Association Official and Association Volunteer. Awarded the Kenny John Memorial Award in 1974 at Des Moines he went on to be elected Vice President in 1977, and Region President in 1979. Just starting his second term as President, he suffered congestive heart failure on September 5, 1980, and died. His San Juan Railroad was now silent.

"Ken was a dedicated modeler and most importantly, a person in service to modelers. He was quiet and jovial with his good humor to keep things running smoothly. He has been missed, and it is good to remember him with the Ken Cline Award".

Jim is at least the tenth NMRA member from the Saint Louis area to receive the award.

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Year	Recipient	Award Location
1981	Jack C. Rice	Tulsa MCoR Convention
1982	Joseph J. Bothman	St. Louis MCoR Convention
1983	Arthur C. Brown	Omaha MCoR Convention
1985	Allen Pollock	Little Rock MCoR Convention
1986	James D. Hammer	Kansas City MCoR Convention
1987	John C. Kalin	Oklahoma City MCoR Convention
1988	Robert A. Lenz	Des Moines MCoR Convention
1989	Ronald E. Williams MMR	St. Louis MCoR Convention
1990	Robert M. Dye	Omaha MCoR Convention
1991	David Halpern MMR	Springfield MCoR Convention

1992	Ronald D. Morse Sr. MMR	Tulsa MCoR Convention
1993	Larry R. Long MMR	Kansas City MCoR Convention
1994	G. Patrick Harriman MMR	Carthage MCoR Convention
1995	Peter T. Bellos MMR	Des Moines MCoR Convention
1997	Dean Windsor MMR	Little Rock MCoR Convention
1998	John W. Hardy	Kansas City National Convention
1999	Randolph P. Meyer MMR	Omaha MCoR Convention
2000	Richard E. Napper MMR	Ames MCoR Convention
2001	Kenneth S. Thompson	St. Louis National Convention
2002	Larry R. Alfred MMR	North Platte MCoR Convention
2003	Joe B. Robertson MMR	Olathe, KS MCoR Convention
2004	Robert J. Amsler Jr.	Collinsville, IL MCoR Convention
2005	Whitney D. Johnson	Topeka, KS MCoR Convention
2006	W. Marty Vaughn MMR	Council Bluffs, NE MCoR Convention
2007	Thomas E. Shook MMR	Lenexa, KS MCoR Convention
2008	James Anderson	Branson, MO MCoR Convention

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## Division Minutes

*Recorded by Ron Gawedzinski, Clerk*

### Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for April 2008

**Clinic:** Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Assistant Superintendent Tim Stout presented the guest speaker for tonight's program, himself. Tim explained and showed how he made the transition from his first layout, a freelance road, to his existing layout, modeled after Walsh Junction, Sorento, Illinois. Walsh Junction is where the Union Pacific and BNSF railroads meet, which just happens to be outside the front door of Tim's home. Thank you, Tim, for a very informative presentation, giving us some insight as to how to model a prototype railroad location into a model layout.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the business meeting to order at 8:10 pm. There were 10 members and no guests present.

Copies of the minutes of the March 17, 2008, meeting were distributed. The minutes were accepted as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave Lyon, Treasurer, was not present. Jim Anderson distributed printed copies of the Treasurer's Report for the period March 17 through April 20, 2008. The balance in all funds as of April 20, 2008, was \$25,768.67. Dick Wegner asked what is the \$550.98 Miscellaneous expenditure? Hank explained that is for the new laptop computer and case. The monthly report was accepted as presented.

**Merchandise Report:** Tim Stout reported we have no wheel sets left – no 33", 36" HO and no more N. We need to decide how many to buy. We still have a few NMRA track gauges – O, Sn30 and N. Hank explained the minimum buy from Intermountain is 100 sets, or 1,200 axles, with a package set containing 12 axles. Dick Wegner made a motion, "I vote we purchase a minimum order of 100 packages of 33" HO scale

wheel sets from Intermountain providing that the price is the same as we have paid in the past." Ron Kraus seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**RPO Report:** Mike Thomas was not present. Hank said Mike called him to say that he is very busy with work and, as a result, the RPO would be getting out next week. If you have something for the RPO you might be able to get it to Mike as soon as possible. Mike needs articles and pictures, with captions, as he has none on hand.

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

**Achievement Program (AP) Report:** Don Taschner was not present. Hank said that Don called and reported that John Carty's three AP Certificates – Motive Power, Cars and Structures – have been approved. Don has them. Hank reported that Don is in ill health and to keep him in your prayers and thoughts.

**Monthly Meeting Clinician Report:** Tim Stout reported on the clinics he has scheduled for the rest of the year: May 19 – MetroLink Rail Center Complex Tour. This replaces our meeting next month. June 16 – possibly Pete Smith, make-n-take kit. July 21 – Marty Vaughn, MCoR AP Chairman, on what the NMRA AP is all about. August 18 – John Carty, on traction. September 15 – possibly Jim Ables, on making a video of your model railroad layout. October 20 – possibly Greg Moe on window treatments for buildings. November 17 – Christmas Party. December 15 – open.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

**Member Phone Call Survey** – Bill Levin was not present. No report.

**Quarterly Layout Tours** – Hank asked members for comments on the First Quarter 2008 home layout tour. A number of members considered it quite good and enjoyed the tour. Hank said there would be a Second Quarter home layout tour in late June. It would be in the South County St. Louis area.

**Electronic Communications** – No report was made.

**Division Activities Outside the Normal Meeting** – Ron Gawedzinski was not present. Hank reported information Ron had given him.

Gateway Div. Visit To Quincy Society Of Model Engineers Layout – Hank said he has the

sign up sheet at the front table for the trip this Saturday, April 26, to Quincy, Illinois, to run trains on the Quincy Society Of Model Engineers Club layout. There are five people signed up now. It's not a long drive; it's less than two hours. You should be home between 8:00 and 9:00 PM. Members are encouraged to go and sign up. People would meet at Trinity Lutheran Church (TLC) parking lot at 8:00 AM. Brian Post and the Lakes both have maps on how to meet Larry Stoll at the restaurant in Quincy.

Gateway Div. Visit To American Model Builders – Hank reported on Saturday, May 31, 2008, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, we will be touring American Model Builders. There is a sign up sheet at the front table for this trip. John Hitzeman, owner of AMB, is going to take the group on a tour and explain how they design models and cut them on the laser cutter. There is a limitation of no more than 20 people to make the tour. You can bring a friend but be sure when you sign the sheet make sure you mark on there that you are bringing someone else with you.

Joint NMRA-NRHS Visit To WF&P Railway, Glencoe, Missouri – Hank said on Saturday, September 6, 2008, we will be going to the WF&P Railway. They are going to have a private operating session on that Saturday for the Gateway Division and the St. Louis Chapter NRHS. It will give us a chance to go right up to the steam locomotives, talk with the guys about how they work, ride on the trains and then have a picnic in the picnic area. More details will come later after a meeting between the two groups in the near future. Keep it in mind and write it down so that you set the time aside.

Joint NMRA-NRHS Visit To UP Car Shop, Desoto, Missouri – Hank reported on Saturday, October 4, 2008, the Gateway Division and the St. Louis Chapter NRHS will be touring the UP Car Shop in Desoto, Missouri. He said this Division has visited the site at least three times over the last fifteen years. There is nothing to sign up or do yet but keep it in mind, write it down so that you set the time aside. We might rent a bus or carpool.

Laptop Personal Computer Needed For Division – Hank said the new laptop personal computer is here. He summarized what went on the past two months to acquire the laptop pc. Hank mentioned that a software package would also be acquired. Jim Ables said we could purchase the Office version for \$129 at Sam's and that would give us Power Point, Excel and Word. Also, we could get a free Anti-Viral software program downloaded from the Internet. These additional purchases would still be under

the maximum expenditure of \$700 as approved by the membership at the March meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Laser Pointer – Ron Kraus asked if we have a laser pointer? Hank said we do not have one. Ron said it would be helpful to have one to use on future clinic presentations. Ron also asked if there is such a thing as a self-contained microphone? It would be useful for the Officers and others who give reports. Hank said we could take that under advisement and talk about it at a future meeting. Ron volunteered to look into the two items. Hank stated the laser pointer is an excellent idea. Jim Ables made the motion to include the purchase of a laser pointer along with the software package for the new laptop personal computer as long as it does not exceed the maximum expenditure of \$700 as approved earlier. Ron Kraus seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Donation For Roof Repair At VFW Hall – A member reported that the VFW group is looking for anybody that holds meetings here to help donate money to fix the roof as it leaks real bad. Hank said he would stop out there and get the name of whoever is responsible for this and give him a call and see what he says.

**Announcements:** Jack Templeton mentioned he had window material to give away free.

**50/50:** There was \$16.00 collected for the 50/50 drawing and Thomas Kues won \$8.00 in the drawing.

**Adjournment:** A member moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by another member and approved at 9:10 PM.

The next meeting is May 19, 2008, 7:00 PM, MetroLink Rail Center Complex, St. Louis, Missouri. There will be no business meeting but a tour of the facility.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Stout, Acting Clerk

## **Gateway Division Meeting Minutes for June 2008**

**Clinic:** Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Assistant Superintendent Tim Stout presented the guest speaker for tonight's program, Hank Kraichely. Hank gave a presentation on the operation of his CB&Q – Hannibal Division railroad. He explained and showed a series of digital photographs of trains doing various jobs on his layout, including the switch lists and waybills used to control the

flow of traffic. Thank you, Hank, for a very informative presentation.

#### **BUSINESS MEETING**

Superintendent Hank Kraichely called the business meeting to order at 8:30 pm. There were 13 members and one guest present.

**Visitors:** Dorothy Martin was out guest. The membership welcomes you.

Copies of the minutes of the April 21, 2008, meeting were distributed. The minutes were accepted as presented. (There was no need to vote on accepting the minutes. Also, there were no minutes from May 19 as we visited and toured the MetroLink rail center complex.)

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave Lyon, Treasurer, distributed printed copies of the Treasurer's Report for the period May 19 through June 15, 2008. The balance in all funds as of June 15, 2008, was \$25,091.43. There were no questions on the monthly report and it was accepted as presented.

**Merchandise Report:** Tim Stout let Hank Kraichely report on what wheel sets he ordered. Hank reported he bought the minimum amount of 33" HO wheel sets to get the maximum discount, 100 packages or 1,200 axles, 12 to a package. In addition, he ordered 20 near scale 33" HO wheel sets for Gregor Moe. Hank mailed the check to Inter Mountain last week. The price will remain the same at \$6.00 each per package. The wheel sets should arrive in the next two weeks.

**RPO Report:** Mike Thomas was not present. No report.

**Director's Report:** Jim Anderson commented the MCoR Convention in Branson, Missouri, May 15 – 18, was a good convention. A number of Gateway Division members were there. The mid-year Board of Director's meeting took place at the convention; no real issues came up. Wichita, Kansas, will be the site of next year's (2009) MCoR Convention; the following year (2010) it will be in Iowa. On a tragic note, Jim reported that the son of Charles Fennen, MCoR member, was one of four Boy Scouts killed recently by a tornado in Iowa. Hank asked Ron Gawedzinski, our Clerk, to send a condolence card to Charles Fennen from the Gateway Division.

Jim mentioned at the MCoR Convention Banquet he was the recipient of the Kenneth Cline Memorial Award in recognition of outstanding and dedicated service to the Mid-Continent Region, NMRA, and to the hobby of model railroading.

The members at our meeting gave Jim a round of applause.

**Achievement Program (AP) Report:** Hank reported that Don Taschner has cancer and is being treated for it. He said Don sent him a note officially resigning both of his positions with the Division, one is the AP Chairman and the other is the Contest Chairman at the Fall Meet.

Hank said he has asked someone to work on the Contest for the Fall Meet but that person will need help. We are also looking for someone to take over as the AP Chairman. Hank asked if anyone at our meeting would be interested in that job? No one volunteered. Hank asked Tim Stout to check with Ron Gawedzinski if he sent a get-well card to Don from the Division.

**Monthly Meeting Clinician Report:** Tim Stout reported on the May 19 – MetroLink Rail Center Complex Tour. There were about 20 of our members for the tour who were first given an overview of the facility and what we were going to see. We saw the Operations Room where they dispatch all the trains. The employees explained what the different blocks meant along with all the moving colors. We then got to walk through the maintenance facility where they work on the trains. It was remarkably clean and well kept. It was a very impressive operation.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Member Phone Call Survey** – Bill Levin was not present. No report.

**Quarterly Layout Tours** – Hank had no report.

**Electronic Communications** – Dave Bartz was not present. No report.

**Division Activities Outside the Normal Meeting** – Ron Gawedzinski was not present. Hank reported information Ron had given him.

Gateway Div. Visit To Quincy Society Of Model Engineers Layout – Hank said the trip, scheduled for Saturday, April 26, to Quincy, Illinois, to run trains on the Quincy Society Of Model Engineers Club layout was canceled due to a lack of participation. (Note: Ron plans on rescheduling a visit sometime in the near future.)

Gateway Div. Visit To American Model Builders – Hank reported on Saturday, May 31, there was a tour scheduled at American Model Builders. That was postponed because John Hitzeman, owner of AMB, had a schedule conflict. It's now been rescheduled to Saturday, August 23, at 11 AM. There will be sign up sheets at the July and August meetings. John is going to take the group on a tour and explain how they design models and cut them on the laser

cutter. There is a limitation of no more than 20 people to make the tour. You can bring a friend but be sure when you sign the sheet you mark on there that you are bringing someone else with you.

Joint NMRA-NRHS Picnic At WF&P Railway, Glencoe, Missouri – Hank said on Saturday, September 6, 2008, we will be going to the WF&P Railway (12 inch gauge small scale steam trains). They are going to have a private operating session on that Saturday for the members of the Gateway Division NMRA and the St. Louis Chapter NRHS; we will have the whole place to ourselves. Hank reported that the committee established between the two groups, of which he is a member, decided that this event would be a treat for the membership of the two groups. There will be no expense to any member. Everything will be provided – the food, the drinks, all the paper goods and the snacks. If you need something special then you would want to bring that yourself. Keep it in mind and write it down so that you set the time aside.

Joint NMRA-NRHS Visit To UP Car Shop, Desoto, Missouri – Hank reported on Saturday, October 4, 2008, the Gateway Division and the St. Louis Chapter NRHS will be touring the UP Car Shop in Desoto, Missouri. There is nothing to sign up or do yet but keep it in mind, write it down so that you set the time aside. We might rent a bus or carpool.

**Division Laptop Personal Computer & Laser Pointer** – Hank had no report.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

2008 Fall Meet – Hank reported that our Division's 2008 Fall Meet would be on the first Saturday of November, November 1, at Trinity Lutheran Church. We could use some additional help for the Contest Chairman. Hank proceeded to describe what is done in the contest room. Hank asked if there is anybody who would like to work in the Contest Room? Don Ayres volunteered to help Bob Boedges.

Jim Anderson asked the question if we have confirmed what groups would be showing their layouts at the Fall Meet. Hank said no, not yet. Hank asked if any member would volunteer to call these groups and get their space requirements. No one volunteered.

Brian Post would handle getting the dealers for the Fall Meet. Tim Stout volunteered to set up clinicians for the Fall Meet.

**Donation For Roof Repair At VFW Hall** – Hank reported at the last meeting held in the VFW Hall a VFW member asked if our Division would be

interested in making a donation for the replacement of their roof. Hank described in detail the problems caused by the leaking roof. Ron Kraus made the motion, "The Gateway Division give the VFW Hall \$100 to help replace their roof." Jim Ables seconded the motion. Discussion took place. Bob Amsler recommended the amount be increased to \$500. Ron Kraus amended his original motion to be, "The Gateway Division give the VFW Hall \$500 to help replace their roof." Jim Ables seconded the amended motion. The motion passed. Dave Lyon would issue the check to the VFW tonight.

**Announcements:** Ron Kraus mentioned while attending the MCoR Convention in Branson, Missouri, he and Dick Wegner stopped at Hollister, Missouri, and visited a hobby shop that was very nice. Ron also mentioned he got a post card in the mail from Mark Twain Hobby Shop announcing a special sale of 20% off everything in the store this weekend of June 20 – 22 but you do have to have the post card.

A member mentioned that Reynolds Hobby Shop, Dupon, Illinois, is going out of business. He will continue to do train shows.

Bill Birdsell mentioned the Metro East Model Railroad Club, Glen Carbon, Illinois, was going to have an open house on Friday, June 20, 5 PM to 10 PM, and Saturday, June 21, 4 PM to 9 PM.

Bob Amsler said the National NMRA is planning to revamp the national convention system. They are setting up a committee that would advertise in Scale Rails, Model Railroader and RMC magazines about a survey to all hobbyists to get feedback, trying to increase attendance. St. Louis was the second highest convention with over 2,500 people; Madison, Wisconsin had more than us. Also, Bob mentioned the NMRA won another legal round in the patent challenge it made against Real Rail Effects, Inc., involving DCC and sound.

**50/50:** There was \$20.00 collected for the 50/50 drawing and Moe Berk won \$10.00 in the drawing.

**Adjournment:** Tom Bousman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Anderson and approved at 9:30 PM.

The next meeting is July 21, 2008, 7:00 PM, Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Rd. at Woods Mill Rd., Ballwin, Missouri.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tim Stout, Acting Clerk

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## Division Officers

### Superintendent

Hank Kraichely

### Assistant Superintendent

Tim Stout

### Clerk (Secretary)

Ron Gawedzinski

### Paymaster (Treasurer)

Dave Lyon

### Division Director

Jim Anderson

