



The FUSEE



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New! Improved! Ready for voting!

Countless roads to fun at our "Three Roads to Hutch" Convention

By Terry Davis
TLR Convention Director

Hutchinson, a progressive, hi-tech city of 14,000 just an hour west of the Twin Cities, welcomes National Model Railroad Association members to the 2009 Thousand Lakes Region convention, May 29-31, 2009.



The 18 members of Luce Line Railroad Club Inc., a 15-year-old 100-percent NMRA club, are organizing a day of clinics, a day of prototype tours and a day of home layout tours. Our headquarters will be the Best Western Victorian Inn (the Vic), 1000 State Highway 7 W.

Because recent TLR conventions were more expensive four-day events, the Luce Line group, with the TLR Board's encouragement, is planning a less expensive three-day gathering. Final cost details will appear with the registration form in the March 2009 issue of THE FUSEE.

Hutchinson can't match the scenic splendor Winona displayed for the TLR in 2007. Nor does it have the rail and water adventures that the TLR's 2008 convention in Duluth had, But there will be plenty to see and do in the 153-year-old city at the edge of Minnesota's Big Woods.

Registration and contest entries begin at 10 a.m. on Friday. Lunch will be on your own, but get set for a full afternoon of clinics, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Though Hutchinson no longer has rail service, we'll explore its rich 114-year rail history with clinics on each of its three former railroads – the Milwaukee Road, the Great Northern and the Luce Line (later the MN Western, M&StL and C&NW).

A quintet of modeling clinics

But don't fret, model railroaders. Friday's timetable is filled by a roster of five clinics by stellar modelers, including three NMRA Master Model Railroaders.

Highlighting the slate of modeling clinics is a two-hour, hands-on session in which each attendee will construct, paint and get to take home a Walther's 3-in-1 building. Leading the



Hutchinson's 1886 GN depot is one of the 2009 Convention's stops. Former Luce Line Railroad Club member Tom Wiprud owns the motor car and will have it at the depot for our convention. Photo by Terry Davis.

"Three Roads" continued on page 6

Your Thousand Lakes Region Board of Directors continues its active behind the scenes effort to provide and enhance service to our membership. Foremost, and the most visible Region initiative that takes a year to put together, is convention planning. Thanks to the efforts of Convention Director Terry Davis and his capable crew of Luce Line Railroad Club, Inc. members, the two-day event in Hutchinson next May looks like an excellent educational weekend with plenty of rail-related activity. It's also shaping up to be a good bang for your buck – especially in this economy where we're all taking a hard look at where we spend our money. The link to the YouTube video should be available on the TLR website in December – check it out.

The remainder of my column focuses on other recent significant events in the TLR. Most notable among these is the welcome and completely unexpected windfall from the north. TLR Canada recently gifted to the TLR over \$22,000 – profit from the 1983 National convention in Winnipeg. Our thanks to Stafford Swain and Nick Andrusiak for designating the TLR to receive this gift to support TLR programming for years to come.

The TLR board met October 18 in Fairmont, MN to conduct mid-year business. Division superintendents and those of you who read the summer FUSEE may recall our intent to set realistic goals as part of a strategic plan for this Region. Over a dozen suggestions received consideration. Based on our current resources we agreed on

two initiatives for the coming year.

First is our goal to provide support to the Divisions. Interest income from our investments (including the gift from TLR Canada) will fund a \$200 Convention Attendance Grant to support one member of each of active Division attending the convention in Hutchinson. Since it is a grant, each Division may decide how to award it. The recipient will receive \$200 at the convention's awards dinner this May. The amount will significantly offset convention registration, lodging, and meal expenses.

The second goal is to enhance education. FUSEE editor and MMR Gerry Leone has generously made available a series of DVDs he made after videotaping recent National convention clinics. Please see the article on page 3 for details. The DVDs are available for the mere cost of return postage. Divisions are welcome to borrow these excellent instructional videos on modeling – a new benefit from the region to you as Division members.

Although we're sorry to lose the Kashabowie and North Dakota entities from the formal designation as a "Division," we know that NMRA members still reside within those geographic boundaries and will remain active members for years to come.

Have a good winter.

TUNNEL VISION

by Editor Gerry Leone, MMR

Four years later: is everybody happy?

I've got this big bulletin board in my home office that's labeled "THE FUSEE" It's divided into four quadrants, one each for the current issue's "article needs" and "article haves" and one each for the same things for the next issue. But pinned below those are all THE FUSEES I've edited since Day One. I just counted 'em and realized that, with this issue, I start my 5th year as editor.

I seem to recall I took this position temporarily, and only for a year. But that may be just one of those urban legends you think is true, but it's really not. I dunno.

But this raises an important point with me. Since I've taken over the editorship, letters to the editor have come pouring in. Ok, I lie. Since I've taken over the editorship, I've received exactly zero letters to the editor. My assumption has always been "no news is good news." That, coupled with "ignorance is bliss," have brought you the last 16 issues of THE FUSEE. In other words, I'm thinking, if I haven't heard any complaints, maybe what's going into this newsletter is good. Or at least, is acceptable. Or at least, is inoffensive.

But now I'm asking: is everybody happy? Do you like what you see in this newsletter? Is there something you want to see more of? Less of? Is the type too small? Is the type too light? Is the type too "type-y?" Take a second and let me know your thoughts. Drop me an email at gerryleone@earthlink.net . Put "FUSEE" in the subject so I don't think your note is one more Russian pharmacy trying to sell me Viagra.

Any clubs out there that want to be in print?

In every issue I've included news about one or more of the TLR's Divisions, because I think every other Division kind of likes to know

what everyone else is doing. It dawned on me a few issues ago that clubs are a very important part of our Region, and part of many members' modeling experiences. So I'd like to include news about what some of the clubs in the Region are doing, too.

So if you're in a model railroad club, no matter how large or small, I'd love to hear what you've been up to. Hopefully FUSEE readers will, too.

Drop me a line or write a short article that can appear on our "News Around The Region" page. It doesn't have to be any lengthy work of literature, just a little "here's what we did" thing would be great. Sending photos along with it would be even greater.

Finally, sometime before Christmas we'll have put together another promotional video for the upcoming 2009 TLR Convention. Just like last year we'll be posting it on YouTube. But since it's not finished yet, I can't give you a link.

But keep checking our very own website, www.thousand-lakesregion.org. Once the video is ready, I'll have Dave Hamilton, our outstanding webmaster, put the link right there on the main page.

Here's to a fifth year!

<p style="text-align: center;">THANKS! Contributors to this issue (in order of matching syllables in their names):</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Paul Ullrich, Jay Davis and Les Breuer, MMR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Terry Davis and Barry Rockvam</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next issue's deadline: February 10, 2009</p>

TLR Board introduces two major programs designed to benefit all of our Divisions

The Fall meeting of the TLR's Board of Directors yielded two very exciting developments for the six Divisions of the Region. We'll outline those programs here. Details are still being worked out, so if you have any questions, please address them to one of your Board members, listed on page 11 of this issue.

\$200 Convention Attendance Grant for each Division

With its week-long schedule of 40+ clinics and dozens of layout and prototype tours, the annual National NMRA convention is perhaps the greatest education in the shortest amount of time a model railroader can get. It's also an excellent way to meet other modelers, share tips and techniques, and make new friends. Unfortunately, not everyone can afford to spend the time and money necessary to attend.

However, the TLR's annual Regional convention comes in a close second in terms of education, fellowship, and fun.

That's why the Board felt it was important that at least one member from each Division be able to participate in our convention and bring his or her experiences back to share with a local Division.

Therefore, the Board voted unanimously to bestow a \$200 TLR Convention Attendance Grant to each Division. The Grant will be used to offset much of the expense of attending the 2009 Thousand Lakes Region Convention in Hutchinson. The Grant is intended to be used by only one individual, rather than divided up among several.

The Divisions themselves can decide how to award this Grant. Here are several suggestions:

- the Division can sponsor a raffle, selling tickets for, say, \$5 each. The winner receives the Grant, and the Division makes money from the raffle;
- the Division awards the Grant to the individual who has contributed the most time and effort to furthering the Division or gaining new members;
- the Division holds a simple drawing at a well-publicized meeting to try to attract new members;
- the Division awards the Grant to the most financially deserving individual;
- the Division awards the Grant to the newest member.

These are just four of many possible ideas. Divisions are encouraged to develop their own way of awarding the Grant.

The Grant money itself will come from interest earned on the Region's investments, most of which were deposited by proceeds of the Winnipeg and St. Paul National NMRA conventions held in the Region in 1983 and 1999, respectively.

Each Division's Grand recipient will be recognized at the TLR's convention with a special name badge, as well as at the Banquet.

The \$200 Convention Attendance Grant will be awarded for the 2009 "Three Roads to Hutch" convention in Hutchinson, and results will be evaluated annually by the Board to determine the continuation of the program.

The Board is very excited about this Grant. It's a great way to share our greatest event – the convention – with more of our members, and

Gerry then contacted the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library (KML) and offered the edited DVDs for rental to all NMRA members, replacing the aging "Tape/Slide Clinics" of yesteryear. The KML accepted the offer of the 35 clinics, and all are now available for rental to NMRA members. (Doug Auburg, National Clinic Director, videotaped several clinics at the 2008 Anaheim convention, and passed them to Gerry for editing. These are now available from the KML as well.)


Gerry is now offering these same DVDs to the TLR's Divisions to supplement their regular meetings. Instead of having no presentation or a "same-old same-old" clinic, Divisions can borrow up to three DVDs to present to their membership. Most clinics run between 45 minutes and one hour, although there are several two-hour clinics available.

While these aren't professionally filmed clinics and are taped from the vantage point of the audience, they do offer a unique opportunity to see some of the best national clinicians presenting material that most Division members wouldn't ordinarily get a chance to see.

The full listing of available clinics with synopses is listed on the TLR's website, www.thousandlakesregion.org. Please order your DVDs early, so you can test them on your equipment, rather than being surprised on the night of a meeting!

Here are the rules:

- only a Division officer may request a clinic;
- up to 3 DVDs can be requested at one time; DVDs must be returned before new titles can be requested;
- the Region will pay postage to send the DVDs to the Divisions, but the Divisions will pay return postage. A return label will be provided;
- Divisions must return the DVDs within one month of receiving them;
- a charge of \$25 will be assessed for lost or damaged DVDs.
- clinics will be mailed by U.S. Postal Service, so the TLR cannot be responsible for the DVDs' arrival time.

Having a national clinic presented at a Division meeting is a great education opportunity for all TLR members. The Board hopes all Divisions make use of this great resource. 

The Grant to each Division will be used to offset much of the expense of one individual attending the 2009 TLR Convention.

will hopefully forge a more meaningful bond between the Divisions and the Region.

National Convention Clinic DVD Library available to Divisions

The second program is another direct result of the Board's strategic planning session.

In 2002, your editor and PR director, Gerry Leone, MMR, dragged his mini-DV camcorder to the Ft. Lauderdale convention, solely to videotape several clinics for his own enjoyment. He did the same thing at the 2004 Seattle convention, the 2005 Cincinnati convention, and the 2006 Philadelphia convention.

Alexandria club changes locations and names, but continues onward

By Barry Rockvam
AMRA Treasurer

The Alexandria Model Railroad Association's history goes back to the early '80s, when it was a modular club known as the Alexandria Railroad Modelers. Although the club had several homes, none was permanent. By 2000 the club found itself housed in a former church, but when the owner sold the property, the club was once again homeless.

In August of 2002, Central Square contacted the club, asking if they wanted to display layouts for a show they were hosting about railroads, complete with a singer and storyteller. When the Central Square manager discovered the club had no home, she offered the girls' locker room in the basement, free of charge. The club only needed to remodel the

space. Needless to say, it was a done deal, and in the Spring of 2003 the club's modules were moved in and became permanent. Soon after, they started hosting train shows in the gym above; those shows continued until 2007, when they moved them to Alexandria.

To help Central Square apply for grants to repair the building, the club became a bona fide non-profit and changed its name to the Lakes Area Model Railroad Association. At this point the club also became a 100% NMRA club, using the NMRA's 100% Club insurance to cover their train shows.

In January of 2008 the club found a new home in Alexandria, the area where most of the membership lived. The club renamed itself yet again, this time to the Alexandria Model Railroad Association.

The future looks bright for the AMRA. They plan to continue hosting train shows, and the 2009 show will be held at the fairgrounds in Alexandria's famed Runestone Center. The club hopes the shows will get more people in the area interested in model railroading.

Currently the club has 16 members



Now firmly housed in their new location, the Alexandria Model Railroad Association continues work on their layout. Pictured is the West loop.

who are carrying the bulk of the weight as far as rebuilding a new layout. Hopes are that more members will join as the layout gets more complete. Currently it runs on DCC using an NCE system. The club still carries on the tradition of running trains at shows, thanks to a donation of several modules to the AMRA by a group in St. Cloud. With a little reworking, the club built a modular layout that travels to shows in places like Willmar, Hutchinson, Staples, Starbuck, Benson, Glenwood and Brooklyn Park. Besides the train shows, the club also sets up the modules at a local nursing home several times a year.

The Alexandria Model Railroad Association meets every Monday evening from 7 to 10pm, and also occasionally on Saturday mornings. For more information, contact the AMRA, at 115 8th Ave. East, Alexandria, MN 56308. Or visit their website at www.geocities.com/lamrra.



Front l to r: Barry Rockvam, Frank Nelson, Dave Brosh; Middle l to r: Mark Rogalski, Dave Moeller, Lloyd Berger, Dave Warren; Back l to r: Tom Skuza, Norm Priebe, Ralph Johnstone; Not pictured: Tom Tolestead, Ben Glocke, Loren Kakac, Dennis Anholt, Darrel Barcomb, Bob Fennell



Twin Cities Division

Superintendent Ron Bodin addresses 40 members of the Twin Cities Division on October 9 as they attend their first meeting of the season at their new location, the Jackson Street Roundhouse in St. Paul.

The Division will hold its "almost annual" auction on Thursday, December 11 at the Roundhouse, and the general public is invited.

Twin Cities Division meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month from October through May, and begin at 7:00. Each meeting features one or two clinics, plus a modeling contest. For more information and a list of the season's clinic subjects, visit www.tcdnmra.org.

Almost-free modeling tools

By Lester J. Breuer, MMR

With the snow and cold weather in front of us, if you are like me you tend to spend more time at the modeling bench. I still spend a good deal of time there because the majority of the models I purchase still need assembly. To assemble models the basic tool is some type of glue; I'm guessing Cyanoacrylate or CA has the greatest use.

Normally CA applied to a model out of the container makes for a messy looking glue joint. Of course, we do not want that. A neat looking glue joint is usually obtained by applying a small amount of glue to the joint with an applicator – usually a wire dipped into the CA. A better applicator, in my opinion, is a needle with half the eye removed and inserted into a handle for easy use. Yet no matter what the choice of applicator, it must be inserted into the CA to apply it to the model glue joint. So we need another container.

In past years I have tried several containers to hold the CA and finally I have found one which I think is easiest to use: a bottle cap. Since I drink several bottles of water every day, obtaining bottle caps is no problem. Rather than throw the bottle caps in the trash I collect and recycle them for CA container use.

When I use CA I put only three or four drops in the bottle cap. If the bottle cap is left flat on the benchtop the CA is hard to get out, so I prefer to put it on a slant so the drops collect in the bottom for easy access. To get the slant on the bottle cap it needs a holder. I use a piece of foam with a circle the size of the bottle cap, cut out. This holds it in a slanted position. You can see my holder design in the photo.

When you look at the photo you see the bottle cap holder has two bottle caps rather than one. Why? Well the second bottle cap holds several drops of Zip Kicker. If you are not familiar with Zip Kicker it is an accelerator for CA. A touch of CA with an applicator followed by a touch of Zip Kicker with another applicator provides an instantly set glue joint.

Once in a while if you use the two bottle cap system, you may put the wrong applicator in the incorrect bottle cap (as I do). As a result you become an “unhappy modeler” and you have a ruined bottle cap. The bright side, you can simply throw the bottle cap in the trash and replace it with another one. Even if you




never make this mistake the CA will build up in the bottle cap that will require you to replace it. Again the bright side, you throw the bottle cap away and replace it with another one with no major time or material loss. Note, I said throw the bottle cap away – that means no cleaning of the CA container is necessary, which has always been the problem with the glass containers.

In addition to no cleaning, another benefit of the bottle cap is that it is reusable. Think of the bottle cap as having four positions: north, south, east, and west. You use one of the four bottle cap positions for the bottom. When CA hardens, you then turn the bottle cap so another position becomes the bottom to hold the fresh drops of CA. After the four positions are used up the bottle cap is moved to the trash and replaced by another.

And more benefits: the bottle cap has

other uses beyond a CA holder. One example is a container for mixing paint; you can probably think of dozens more.

The bottle cap is an almost-free modeling tool. It's a simple, easy-to-obtain, cheap, disposable CA holding container for modeling! 

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Featuring the Granite City O Gaugers' 18'x35' Modular Layout

“Three Roads” continued from page 1

session will be Miles and Fran Hale. They will provide the kits, paint, glues and tools.

Miles is the NMRA Board of Directors Western District representative, covering the



Howard Page’s fascinating Old Depot Museum in Dassel will be visited May 30 by TLR/NMRA members attending the 2009 convention in Hutchinson. The depot, which is actually the former Great Northern depot from nearby Cokato, is filled with railroad memorabilia from all across the country.

North and South Dakota portions of the TLR. An MMR (No. 80), since 1981, he’s been a professional R&D model maker for Kadee/Micro Trains, Woodland Scenics/DPM, Intermountain and New London Industries. His wife Fran is an expert professional modeler in her own right, author of Woodland Scenics’ “Scenery Manual,” and known for presenting scenery clinics at regional and national NMRA conventions.

While modelers are in the clinics, non-rails will be enjoying an afternoon of shopping in downtown Hutchinson, home to many unique shops including gift, antique, craft, scrap-booking, quilting and home stores. Included will be tea at a new tea house in one of Hutchinson’s finest Victorian homes.

After supper on your own, the day continues with a dessert reception at the nearby McLeod County Museum where Winsted resident Gary Lenz, perhaps the defini-

tive expert on the Luce Line, will present a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the railroad that reached Hutchinson in 1915.

TLR members may browse the museum’s fascinating collection, which includes an entire room of wildlife art by Hutchinson native Les Kouba, an Allis-Chalmers experimental fuel cell tractor on loan from the Smithsonian Institution and displays about each McLeod county city, including several railroad photos.

The night concludes at 9 p.m. back at the “Vic” with open projectors for TLR members to display their best railfan slides or digital images. This is something new, so

start gathering your best work now. To give everyone an opportunity, we’ll keep presentations to 40 images per photographer.

Saturday is a road trip

After breakfast on your own, we’ll bus to Glencoe, home of the Twin Cities & Western

Railroad, to the see original Milwaukee Road depot downtown and then visit the TC&W’s headquarters and modern two-stall shop. We hope to visit Seneca Foods, a vegetable packer and TC&W customer.

The bus will then head north to Dassel, where Howard Page has filled the restored and relocated former Cokato Great Northern depot with an amazing assortment of memorabilia from railroads across the country. Non-rails will be given maps to explore other antique shops and points of interest not seen on Friday.

A sandwich buffet lunch back at the “Vic” will be followed by visits (via your own vehicles) to Hutchinson’s lone surviving depot, the 1887-built Great Northern. There you can ride Tom Wiprud’s “speeder,” equipped with a five-chime air-horn.

Luce Line Railroad Club’s room at Hutchinson Mall will be open, too. There you can see the club’s 8-by-31 HO sectional layout and its 6-by-12 three-rail O-scale layout.

The day concludes at the “Vic” with social time followed by the banquet and presentation of various Region awards and contest winners. The Hales will give a short talk about their work and the NMRA, and we hope to have a special program about the TLR’s 60th anniversary. The night will conclude with an exciting Chinese auction, similar to what was presented at Winona.

Layout Sunday

After breakfast on your own, the convention’s final day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with the annual membership meeting.

Before heading home, there will be nine layouts at six homes to tour, including two homes in Hutchinson and FUSEE editor Gerry Leone (MMR) in Excelsior. Three double-deck HO layouts by Minnesota River Valley Division members within an hour or so west of Hutchinson will be open for those heading southwest, west or northwest.

The registration sign-up form will appear in the Spring FUSEE, due in your mailbox on or around March 1.

See next page for layout tours!



Friday’s tentative clinic schedule

At the Vic

- 12:30pm • Terry Davis, “Milwaukee’s Hutch Branch”
• Gerry Leone, MMR, “Easy, Realistic Model Railroad Photography : A Real-Time Demonstration”
- 1:30pm • Dave Zachmeyer & Terry Davis, “GN’s Hutch Branch/DAKR”
• Mike Engler & Jack Bergan, “Chalk Weathering”
- 2:30pm • John Givan, “Detailing and Painting First Generation Diesels”
• Lester Breuer, MMR, “Detailing an Athearn Boxcar”
- 3:15pm • Fran and Miles Hale, MMR, “Hands-On Building A Walther’s 3-in-1 Building”

At the McLeod County Museum

- 7pm • Gary Lenz, the Luce Line/Minnesota Western

At the Vic

- 9pm • Open projectors for railfan slides/images

Three Roads to Hutch Sunday layout tours 11:30 a.m. — 4 p.m.

In Hutchinson

Stan Koci: Two S-scale layouts in a garage. One is an 11'x11' portable American Flyer layout featuring almost all accessories built by A. C. Gilbert Co. This layout has been featured at train shows from Chicago to South Dakota. The second S-scale layout measures about 13'x20' in the shape of a horseshoe. It has 230 feet of track, a scratchbuilt 14-foot, curved trestle and 13 bridges, and is about 70-percent scenicked with a large number custom cast-in-place rock castings.

Terry Davis: Three layouts — The 16-year-old HO-scale Cat Creek Central is a 4'x8', half-scenicked freelanced layout with two-train operation, based on the Arkansas Southern in *Model Railroader's* "All Aboard - A Practical Guide to HO Model Railroading." The 40"x6' N-scale Cleveland, Mankato & Eastern, featured in NMRA's Nov. 1998 *NMRA Bulletin*, is a figure-eight, fully scenicked pike based on Atlas' HO-scale layout No. 105, "The Yardmaster." The third layout, the Frostbite Falls & Northern, is a freelanced 36"x42" winter layout under construction. The CM&E and FF&N have traveled extensively to model railroad shows in Minnesota, Iowa and South Dakota.

In Excelsior

Gerry Leone, MMR: The HO-scale Bona Vista Railroad, a freelanced pike set in the early 1950s Upper Midwest, was started in 2000. The BV was featured in *Model Railroader's* "Great Model Railroads 2008" and the recently built town of Eureka took First Place in *MR's* "Design A Scene" contest. (Those construction articles will run in *MR's* January and February 2009 issues.)

In Bird Island

Jon Bratt: The 36'x44' L-shaped HO layout, built in a 1999 basement reconstruction under an 1890 Victorian home, depicts the NP's Yellowstone Division. Of the 133 structures, 38 are scratchbuilt. More than 400 freight cars, 75 passenger cars, 60 diesel and steam locomotives, 3000 feet of track and 122 turnouts are put to use when 28 trains are run with DCC during the typical operating session. The trains accurately depict NP's trains running over the division on Oct. 1, 1955.

In Rural Sacred Heart

Brian Wordes: This 28'x25' HO layout is loosely based on the M&StL's "Western Extension," including Morton, MN, and LeBeau, SD, as well as a bit of the Milwaukee Road of Granite Falls. It is double-decked with a "mushroom," plus staging. Scenery is about 25 percent completed. Several structures are scratchbuilt. DCC is used with a card order system.

In Montevideo

John Givan: A free-lanced HO-scale, 14'x25' layout with a peninsula, based loosely on the GN's Willmar to Sioux City line, circa 1964-1969, and controlled by Wireless Easy DCC. It includes a six-track Sioux City yard on the lower level with a single-track main to Willmar. It interchanges with Milwaukee Road, Rock Island and CB&Q and C&NW. Track is Atlas and Micro Engineering code 83 on the mains, ME code 70 on spurs and sidings, and Atlas code 100 in the staging.



Stan Koci's vintage American Flyer layout



Terry Davis's N-scale CM&E layout



Gerry Leone's HO-scale Bona Vista Railroad



Luce Line Railroad Club Inc.'s three-rail O-scale layout



Jon Bratt's Northern Pacific layout

**Please don't
show up at
layout tour
houses early –
many owners
will be coming
from the
convention!**

Amended and Restated By-Laws of the Thousand Lakes Region of the NMRA

To be in full compliance with the NMRA's national by-laws, parts of the TLR by-laws needed to be rewritten by a corporate lawyer. The TLR Board took that opportunity to have the entirety of the by-laws examined and streamlined.

The following are those rewritten TLR by-laws, which will be voted upon by the members at the general membership meeting at the annual convention in Hutchinson on May 8-10, 2009.

Purpose

To promote greater fellowship among model railroaders, to advance the hobby of model railroading wherever possible and to do all things necessary for or incidental to the aforementioned purpose, the following By-laws are hereby authorized and adopted.

I. Membership and Dues

a. Any member of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. ("NMRA") who resides within the boundaries of the Thousand Lakes Region (as defined by the NMRA) shall be a member of the Thousand Lakes Region, Inc (TLR).

b. TLR membership is defined solely by membership in the NMRA; therefore, the TLR shall collect no membership dues.

c. Subscription to the TLR newsletter is voluntary and available to all TLR members upon application to the Treasurer and payment of the current subscription rate.

d. NMRA members who reside outside of the boundaries of the Thousand Lakes Region may subscribe to the TLR newsletter upon appli-

cation to the Treasurer, payment of the current subscription rate, and possible additional mailing charges. Individuals or institutions who are neither NMRA nor TLR members may subscribe to the TLR newsletter upon application to the Treasurer, payment of the current subscription rate plus additional mailing, and other charges as determined by the Board of Directors.

e. The subscription year shall be twelve months from the date of subscription.

2. Annual Convention and Business Meetings

a. An Annual Convention shall be held during the spring quarter of each calendar year.

b. A General Business meeting shall be held in conjunction with the Annual Convention.

c. No assessment shall be made against a member attending only the General Business Meeting at the Annual Convention.

d. Other conventions or rallies may be held throughout the year as may be decided from time to time by the Board of Directors.

e. The convention and rally registration fees may include an allowance for operating costs of TLR as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

f. Attendance at the Annual Convention and other conventions and rallies shall be limited to NMRA members, their spouses, and their children under sixteen years of age.

g. The Thousand Lakes Region Board of Directors shall have a mid-year meeting to be held by the end of October. The location shall be published in the newsletter preceding the meeting.

3. Officers

a. The Officers of TLR shall consist of a Board of Directors composed of seven members chosen from the members who are allowed voting rights as provided for in the NMRA regulations and who reside within the boundaries of the TLR region and elected at the General Business Meeting. The boundaries of the TLR region are as defined in the Regulations of the NMRA, Article VIII, Section 7(U).

b. The Board of Directors shall take office immediately following the meeting at which it was elected and shall select from its number a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a

"By-laws" continued on page 9

TrainToons

by Paul Ullrich



“By-laws” continued from page 8

Treasurer, a Convention Director, a Contest Director, and a Public Relations Director. The President shall always take office in an even-numbered year as required by the NMRA Regulations.

c. Each year four directors shall be elected. The Board of Directors shall designate three of the elected directors to serve two years and the other to serve one year.

d. Members of the Board of Directors may not serve more than five consecutive years except that an incumbent president may serve one additional year to complete the two-year term required by the NMRA By-laws.

e. In the event of a vacancy in the Board of Directors by reason of a change in residence to one outside the boundaries of the region, resignation, incapacitation, or death of the incumbent, the Board of Directors shall name a successor who shall hold office for the balance of the term.

4. Voting

Each member who is entitled to vote as set forth in the NMRA regulations and who is present at a business meeting shall be entitled to one vote. In the event of a tie, the incumbent Board of Directors shall determine the winner by majority vote.

5. Duties of Directors

The general management of the affairs of TLR shall be vested in the Board of Directors, however, the various officers shall be responsible for specific duties as follows:

a. President - The President shall:

- 1) Preside at all meetings of TLR and of the Board of Directors;
- 2) Be an ex-officio member of all committees;
- 3) Act as representative of the TLR to the Regional Advisory Council of the NMRA, or appoint such other TLR member to act as representative; and
- 4) Perform such other duties as, by custom, devolve upon a President or are conferred upon him by TLR or the Board of Directors. (Revised 10/1/2005).

b. Vice-President - The Vice-President shall be:

- 1) The aid and assistant to the President and shall assume the duties of the President in his absence or at his request; and
- 2) The Chairman of the Advisory Council.

c. Secretary - The Secretary shall:

- 1) Be responsible for the administrative functions of TLR;
- 2) Keep minutes of TLR meetings;
- 3) Provide an agenda for all meetings;
- 4) Notify members of meetings;
- 5) Have charge of all correspondence;
- 6) Be responsible for the maintenance and publication of the Administrative Manual; and
- 7) Be responsible for TLR archives.

d. Treasurer - The Treasurer shall:

- 1) Have charge of TLR finances;
- 2) Keep accurate records reflecting monies received, monies disbursed and balance on hand;
- 3) Collect all subscription fees and revenues from TLR sponsored activity;
- 4) Process membership applications and collect dues for the NMRA and in so doing act as an agent for the NMRA Board of Directors in the collection and accounting of dues;
- 5) Ensure that the books are ready and available for audit; and
- 6) Provide a report and financial statement at the General Business Meeting.

e. Convention Director - The Convention Director shall:

- 1) Be the representative of the President in working with the Convention Chairpersons; and
- 2) Establish a convention schedule to ensure rotation throughout the region.

f. Contest Director - The Contest Director shall:

- 1) Direct TLR contests in co-operation with the Convention Chairpersons and their committees.

g. Public Relations Director - The Public Relations Director shall:

- 1) Welcome new members;
- 2) Induce former members to restore themselves to good standing;
- 3) Secure as much good publicity for TLR as possible; and
- 4) Have executive responsibility for the publication of the quarterly newsletter.

6. Advisory Council

a. There shall be an Advisory Council consisting of the Vice President of TLR and the Division Superintendents.

b. Its purpose is to provide the Divisions with a voice in the affairs of TLR and to facilitate communication between TLR and the Divisions.

7. Divisional Organization

a. All division members must be NMRA and TLR members in good standing.

b. The first superintendent of a new division shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Vice-President.

c. Each division shall hold no less than one business meeting per fiscal year.

d. A division shall elect or appoint its own officers at annual meeting. Each division shall have no less than two officers.

e. No act of the division nor requirement of its by-laws shall conflict with the Constitution, By-laws, or other regulations of the Thousand Lakes Region or the National Model Railroad Association.

8. Standing Committees

The Board of Directors may appoint such Standing Committees as they deem necessary.

9. Indemnification

Any person who at any time shall serve or shall have served as a director, officer or employee of TLR, or of any other enterprise at the request of TLR, and the heirs, executors and administrators of such person shall be indemnified by TLR in accordance with, and to the fullest extent permitted, by Minnesota Statutes Section 317A.521 as it may be amended from time to time.

10. Priority

No act of TLR or requirement of these By-laws shall conflict with the Constitution, Regulations, By-laws or other regulations of the NMRA

11. Reserve Fund

a. There shall be a Reserve Fund to provide long-term financial stability for TLR.

b. The Board of Directors may appropriate monies to this fund at any time.

c. The Reserve Fund monies shall be invested in liquid, interest bearing deposits at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

d. The Reserve Fund shall be kept separate from the general fund.

e. Interest received is available to the general fund.

f. To expend capital from the Reserve Fund shall require a two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote of the members voting at any General Business Meeting, or at any special meeting called for this purpose.

g. Notice of Intent to expend capital must be published and distributed to all members prior to a vote taking place, and the amount and purpose of the expenditure is to be stated.

h. The fund capital shall be the total of the appropriations as set out in (b) less expenditures made as set out in (f).

i. Reserve Fund annual reports shall include balance of deposits, reserve capital, and interest available to the general fund.

12. Amendments

a. Notice of Motion to amend the By-laws must be published and distributed to all members prior to a vote taking place, and said notice to contain the paragraph number(s), heading(s) and statement(s) of the wording of the proposed amendment(s).

b. A two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote of the members voting at any General Business meeting, or at any special meeting called for this purpose, shall be required to amend these By-laws.

Minutes of the fall Board of Directors Meeting

October 18, 2008
Fairmont, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 CDT
Present were: Alan Saatkamp, Chris Dancy, Terry Davis, Gerry Leone, Jim Bernier, David Hamilton, Les Breuer and Jay Davis.

Old Business

The meeting started with the reading of the minutes from the last meeting. Alan asked to have the minutes approved as printed in the last FUSEE. Chris Dancy offered a first and it was seconded by Gerry Leone.

Treasurer Dave Hamilton told the Board that the balance from the Duluth Convention was a \$159.00 loss due to some extra expenses from the plaques. Stafford Swain contacted Dave to tell him that he was sending \$22,277.48 from TLR Canada. A discussion was held about putting the money in a different bank but it was decided that it would be kept at Wells Fargo for simpler bookkeeping. Another discussion was held on how to invest the money. Several ideas were thought of but a motion was made by Chris to have Dave put the money in the best possible investment he could find at Wells Fargo. The motion was seconded by Gerry. Motion carried.

Dave also reported on the website, saying the site averaged about seven hits a day. He thanked Jim for his help in keeping the train show schedule up-to-date. Alan asked for a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Gerry Leone offered a first and Chris Dancy seconded the motion.

Contest Director Jim Bernier handed out a list of all the contest entries and points awarded from Duluth. He also reported that he had not received any requests for judging this fall.

Gerry Leone presented a combined Public Relations and FUSEE Editor's report. In the PR position Gerry spent a full day in Hutchinson, MN with Terry Davis photographing and video taping all the points of interest for next year's convention. In the next few months he hopes to get a video out advertising the upcoming convention. Gerry received a request from Gerry Miller of Dubuque, IA for the TLR display board at a train show being held there in early November. Gerry Leone sent the display and NMRA material to him by UPS at the TLR's expense. Gerry Miller will send the display back after the show, also at the TLR's expense. Lastly, he provided a recap of the TLR's Duluth convention, which was published in the Twin Cities Division's newsletter, The Crossing Gate. He also plans to provide an overview of the Hutchinson convention in the next two issues of The Crossing Gate.

Gerry reported, as editor, that THE FUSEE remains at twelve pages and is published on time each quarter. The fall issue saw the second time that the printer addressed THE FUSEE electronically. This task formerly took Gerry the better part of an evening to do by hand, although he still has to apply the postage manually. The average number of issues printed continues to hover around the two hundred mark. The spring issue was again mailed to all NMRA members within the TLR boundaries. THE FUSEE continues to carry three advertisers: Brass Car Sides, the Granite City Train Show, and the Spud Valley Train Show. Alan asked for a motion to approve the report. Chris offered a first and was seconded by Dave.

Division Reports

Twin Cities

Dave Hamilton told the Board that he had attended their last meeting at the Jackson Street Roundhouse two weeks ago. Attendance was up and there were a lot of good entries in a special diorama contest.

Prairie Lakes

Jay Davis told the Board that the fall meet was held in Jasper, MN. The original meet site was supposed to be Ihlen, MN, but after confirming the reservations two weeks beforehand, the organizer was informed that the PLD had been bumped by a wedding. An alternative site was found at the Jasper Community Center. The highlight of the day was a tour of a cow pasture which was the site of a Great Northern Division point. Many building foundations are still visible, including the roundhouse, turntable pit and coaling tower. The meet was attended by over eighty people. Next spring's meet will be held in Spencer, IA at the Clay County Fairgrounds. The date has not yet been decided.

Dakota Southeastern

Alan Saatkamp reported that they had a successful summer with their second annual Sioux Rail operating weekend in June. In August, the superintendent provided an opportunity for two dozen young engineers to bang cars around on his portable switching layout during the Harrisburg, SD annual family fun night. In September, division members entertained nearly eighty train enthusiasts at the Sioux Falls Ronning Library. Gary Johnson operated one of two layouts on display and also gave a couple of clinics on landscape techniques. In October the DSED sponsored its third annual model train home layout tour, featuring five home layouts and the Sioux Valley Model Engineers Society layout at the Lyons Fairgrounds. The event drew about fifty guests. On November 22-23 the DSED will again take part in the seventh annual Trains at Christmas at the Fairgrounds. It will feature vendors, layouts, and giveaways.

Old Business (cont'd)

Terry Davis presented the Board the tentative schedule for the 2009 TLR convention at Hutchinson, MN on May 29-31 2009. Members of the Board volunteered for different jobs that needed to be done for the convention. A decision was held on how the money should be divided. Terry said the Hutchinson club didn't want the money divided. Gerry made a motion to give \$1.00 of each registration to the Hutchinson club. A second was offered by Alan. Les Breuer presented the Board with an historical booklet of convention locations and highlights of each convention that he had put together. Ideas were discussed on how to best present the Region's 60th Anniversary.

Gerry updated the Board on the Bylaws. He said he had received the Bylaws back from the lawyer on August 12. The Board amended section 2, paragraph G, which read "The meeting is to be held the third Saturday of October" to read, "The meeting will be held before the end of October." Also amended was section 2, paragraph C. The Board deleted the phrase reading, "The entire cost of the Annual Convention shall be borne by the individuals attending, except that," and kept the phrase following that, which reads, "No assessment shall be made against a member attending only the General Business Meeting" and added "at the Annual Convention."

Chris reported on the status of the TLR Divisions and if they were in compliance. He informed the Board that on August 7 he had phoned each Division superintendent and checked how each Division was coming on the compliance with NMRA regulations.

On September 28 Chris emailed the superintendents inviting them to the October Board meeting and attaching a partial agenda. He emphasized the importance of the meeting and several key agenda topics. It was decided by the Board that two Divisions were deemed inactive. The Divisions are Kashabowie and North Dakota. It was also decided by the Board that Chris should draft a letter explaining the Board decision to deem these Divisions inactive. Also, these inactive Divisions will be reported to the NMRA.

A discussion was held about the problem with Division boundaries using zip codes. Sam Sherman superintendent of the Minnesota River Valley Division expressed concern over the exact boundaries of his Division. No action was taken on the matter.

New Business

Terry Davis informed the Board that Paul Ullrich had been in contact with him and he and the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club have volunteered to host the 2010 meet in Winnipeg, Canada. Terry handed out a preliminary schedule of events and dates. The Board asked Terry Davis how the money would be divided for the convention. He said he was unsure what arrangements they were considering and told the Board he would contact Paul on the subject. Terry informed the Board that no one had come forward to host the 2011 convention.

The Board next tackled the administrative handbook. It was the consensus of the Board that it needed some updating and Les Breuer volunteered to take a look at it.

The secretary next passed out a list of candidates for the Bob Dew Award. A secret ballot was cast and given to the president.

Gerry Leone was asked by National if the TLR had an Education Chairperson. It was decided that we didn't have anyone that fit the job description. We also decided to remove the Scouting Coordinator from the masthead. It will be reported to National that these chairs are inactive.

The last topic that was taken on by the Board was the challenge of better relations with its Divisions. A lengthy discussion was held and two ideas were selected to try. The first was to offer one voucher to each Division valued at \$200.00 to be used to attend next year's Hutchinson convention. It was decided that each Division would select how they would give away the prize. The other idea, proposed by Gerry Leone, was for the region allow TLR Divisions to borrow clinic DVDs to show at meetings. Gerry had videotaped many clinics from the 2002-2006 National Conventions. The details of both of these projects are to appear in the Fusee. [Ed note: see story on page 3.]

Chris Dancy made a motion to adjourn and Gerry Leone seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 P.M.

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THE FUSEE is a quarterly publication of the Thousand Lakes Region of the National Model Railroad Association and is mailed to all subscribers. A subscription runs for one year and costs \$10.00. Mail subscriptions to the Treasurer.

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Changes of address should be sent to the Treasurer.

FUSEE Advertising

Commercial advertising from hobby shops, manufacturers, and other businesses with a model railroading interest is accepted. Pike ads are for individual layouts, model railroad clubs, or other non-commercial groups. All ads can be run in a single issue at the rate of 35% of the annual rate.

Ad size (HxW)	Annual Comm. rate	One time Comm. rate	Annual Pike ad rate
Full pg 9 1/8" x 7 1/8"	\$145.00	\$50.75	\$90.00
1/2 pg 4 1/4" x 7 1/8"	90.00	31.50	45.00
1/4 pg 4 1/4" x 3 1/2"	45.00	15.75	25.00
1/6 pg 4 1/4" x 2 1/4"	35.00	12.25	18.50
1/8 pg 2 3/8" x 2 1/4"	25.00	8.75	15.00
1/8 pg 3 1/4" x 2 1/4"	25.00	8.75	15.00
1/12 pg 2 3/8" x 2 1/4"	18.50	6.48	10.00
1/16 pg 1 1/8" x 3 1/2"	15.00	5.25	7.50

All advertising should be mailed to THE FUSEE editor as camera-ready artwork or electronic files (jpeg, tiff, gif, or EPS with outlined fonts). Payment must be enclosed and should be in U.S. funds, international money order, or by check drawn on U.S. Banks. Questions? Contact the Editor!

Subscribe to THE FUSEE!

If you're an NMRA member residing within the boundaries of the Thousand Lakes Region, you're automatically a TLR member. So why not keep up with what's happening in the Region? Use this form to subscribe to THE FUSEE. If your subscription has lapsed, use this form to renew.

I'm enclosing payment for: _____ New subscription
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Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____@_____

**Mail to: Dave Hamilton, Treasurer
18015 33rd Place N., Plymouth, MN 55447**



Winter 2008 / 2009

THE FUSEE

18015 33rd Place N.
Plymouth, MN 55447

INSIDE:

**Full details of our
2009 TLR Convention**

Almost-free tools

By-laws! (Whoo-hoo!)

Train shows & events in and near the Region

Compiled by Gerry Leone, Jim Bernier, and Terry Davis

Saturday, 12/13/08, Granite City Train Show, National Guard Armory, 1710 Veteran's Drive, St. Cloud, MN. Admission: \$3, kids under 12 free. Swap meet, operating layouts, kids' play area, door prizes. For more information call 320-255-0033 or email edward-dolson@cloudnet.com. www.granitecitytrainshow.com

Saturday-Sunday, 12/27-28/08, Great Train Expo, 10 AM - 4 PM, Canterbury Park, 1100 Canterbury Road, Shakopee, MN. Admission: \$7, under 12 free with adult. For more info: staff@trainexpoinc.com. www.trainexpoinc.com

Saturday, 01/17/09, Woodbury Flea Market, 10 AM - 3 PM, Woodbury Senior High School, 2665 Woodlane Drive., Woodbury, MN. Admission: ? . For more info: ic_geeps@yahoo.com

Saturday, 01/31/09, Great Tri-State Rail Sale, 9 AM - 3 PM, Civic Center, La Crosse, WI. Admission: \$3 (kids under 12 free). For more info, call 608-582-4761 or 608-784-0036, or www.lacrosseshortline.org

Saturday, 02/07/09, Greater Upper Midwest Train Show & Sale, 9 AM - 2 PM, Century College West Campus, 3300 Century Ave. N., White Bear Lake, MN. Admission: \$4, children under 12 free with adult. For more info: 651-429-2885

Saturday-Sunday, 02/21-22/09, Mad City Train Show, 9 AM - 5 PM, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI. Admission: \$9 (under 5 free with adult). For more info, contact Art Dawson, nkp284@yahoo.com

Saturday - Sunday, 03/21-22/09, LaCrosse & Three Rivers 28th Annual Show, 10 AM - 6 PM (Sat), 10 AM - 4 PM (Sun), La Crosse Center, 2nd & Pearl St., LaCrosse, WI. Admission: \$5 (under 11 free with adult), 50-cents off with food donation. For more info contact Mark Bell at 507-894-8077.

Saturday, 03/28/09, Luce Line Railroad Club Inc.'s Spring Raifest, 10 AM - 6 PM, Hutchinson Mall, 1060 State Hwy. 15 S., Hutchinson, MN. Admission: free. Flea market table info call 320-587-2279. Layouts paid for attending, call 320-587-8641.

Saturday, 04/04/09, Greater Upper Midwest Train Show & Sale, 9 AM - 2 PM, Century College West Campus, 3300 Century Ave. N., White Bear Lake, MN. Admission: \$4, children under 12 free with adult. For more info: 651-429-2885

Saturday, 04/18/09, Woodbury Flea Market, 10 AM - 3 PM, Woodbury Senior High School, 2665 Woodlane Drive., Woodbury, MN. Admission: ? . For more info: ic_geeps@yahoo.com

Saturday, 05/2/09, Alexandria Model Railroad Association's 14th Greater Minnesota Model Train Show & Sale, 10 AM - 4 PM, Runestone Community Center, 998 3rd Ave. West, Fairgrounds at the corner of Co. Rd. 82 and Co. Rd. 22, Alexandria, MN. Admission: \$3, under 10 free. Memorabilia, flea marketers, vendors and layouts. For more info, contact Dave Brosh, 320-283-5850 or lamrra@yahoo.com

Friday - Sunday, 05/14-17/09, Chicago & Northwestern Historical Society Des Moines Convention, Des Moines, IA. For more info: www.cnwhs.org/convention.pl

Saturday, 05/16/09, TCMRRM Train & Railroadiana Sale, 9 AM - 3 PM, Minnesota State Fairgrounds Education Bldg. Admission: \$5, children under 5 free. For more info: 651-647-9628 or hobbysalesinfo@tcmrm.org

Friday - Sunday, 05/29-31/09, Thousand Lakes Region Annual Convention, "Three Roads to Hutch," Best Western Victorian Inn, 1000 State Hwy 7 West, Hutchinson, MN. For more information see article on page 1, or contact Terry Davis at ptdavis@hutchtel.net

Sunday - Saturday, 07-05-11/09, NMRA National Convention, Hartford, CT. For more info: www.hn2009.org/home.html

If you're in the Thousand Lakes Region and would like your train show, swap meet, Division meeting, club meeting or other railroad/model railroad-related event listed in our calendar, please send it to Jim Bernier at jrbernier@hotmail.com by the deadline listed inside.