



The FUSEE



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Winter 2004 / 2005

Write-in candidate Breuer becomes TLR Trustee

The results of the election for the Thousand Lakes Region's Trustee were announced in email by NMRA Secretary Dave Liesse on October 29. By popular vote, write-in candidate Les Breuer of Minneapolis became the new TLR Trustee, effective on that day.

The Trustee election ballot appeared in the *Bulletin* section of the October issue of the NMRA's *Scale Rails* magazine. The TLR's incumbent Trustee, Mike Penn, was the only candidate listed. At that time Breuer announced his write-in candidacy in an email letter sent to the TLR Board of Directors. As a response, Penn posted a letter to the Thousand Lakes Region website (www.thousandlakesregion.org) in which he agreed to step down should he win the election (see sidebar). In the end that step proved unnecessary since Breuer won by a majority of the votes. Penn also recently resigned as Editor of THE FUSEE.

The deadline for Trustee voting had been extended beyond the October 7 date for both the Thousand Lakes and Northeast Regions, due to the slow delivery of *Scale Rails* to the Canadian portions of those areas. The ballot committee chair did note that while the numbers of votes changed as a result of the extension, the results did not.

Les Breuer is no stranger to the ranks of the NMRA. In 1981 he helped found the Twin Cities Division and became its first Superintendent. Following that, he served a year as the TLR Vice President, and moved on to President and Trustee – a position he held from 1984-1987. In 1998 he became the TLR Historian and edited the TLR's 50th anniversary history booklet in 1999.

We look forward to Les's tenure as Trustee, and wish him the best of luck. We also want to thank Mike Penn for his years of service to the TLR as both Trustee and FUSEE Editor.

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The past is present with minutes of several bygone TLR General Membership and Board Meetings.

The view from the cab

As with any organization, changes are a constant, and the TLR is no different.

First, let me announce the election of our new Trustee, Les Breuer. He will have a short term that ends with the adoption of the new board and organization outlined in the NMRA's Long Range Plan. Les will represent us at the Winter President's meeting.

Second, we have a new editor, Gerry Leone, Gerry has graciously assumed the position from Mike Penn. With editing both THE FUSEE and THE CROSSING GATE, I'm sure Gerry will be busy in the future; I hope his modeling time doesn't suffer too much.

Third, as many of you know, Mike Penn has been struggling in recent times. The TLR Board and membership thank him for all of his past and present contributions, and look forward to the time when he'll again be able to offer his contributions to us and the hobby.

Fourth, the 2005 Regional convention will be special. It's a joint venture with the Chicago and Northwestern Historical Society, a day longer than usual, and features a swap meet. Make reservations early – I hope to see an excellent TLR representation there. We'll have a number of bylaw issues to vote on, as well as yearly election of officers. So it's important to attend.

The holidays are traditionally a special time for model railroading. Folks with layouts, even under-the-tree layouts, should invite the neighborhood kids (even the big kids) over to see it. It is a good time to introduce the younger generation and their parents to model railroading. Let the kids run the trains, and who knows, maybe you'll find a helper for your layout or the next president of his own railroad.

'Tis the Season, Happy Holidays! *Bruce Selb, President*

A new engineer for The Work Train

Yup, you're right. THE FUSEE looks a little different. That's bound to happen when you get someone new sitting in the Editor's chair.

And that's me, Gerry Leone, the guy who temporarily succumbed to some friendly arm-twisting by both the TLR President and Treasurer. I say "temporarily" because I agreed to take on this job for... well, let's just say "a while." So consider this an invitation: we're looking for a permanent editor.

Ok, a brief 30-seconds on me: Since April of 2003 I've been the Editor of the Twin Cities Division's newsletter, THE CROSSING GATE, as well as the webmaster. If all goes well I'll be eligible for my MMR certificate by the end of this year. My basement's full of a partially finished freelanced HO railroad, The Bona Vista. In real life I write ads for a living and write articles for both *Model Railroader* and *Railroad Model Craftsman*. Time's up.

Let's rewind back to THE FUSEE. Maybe one of the things you noticed was that it's packed with articles – "meat," I like to call it. Since this newsletter may be the only contact many of you have with the Region in the course of a year, I believe it alone should be worth the price of membership. So I plan to fill it to the brim with meat, which you'll hopefully enjoy. And if the size of the type seems a bit too small, consider that to be good news – it means there's a lot to chew on.

But I can't do it without input from the members. And that's you. This is a big Region with lots of varied interests and I'd love to print something from everywhere. Train show write-ups. Division updates. Layout pictures. How-to articles. Railfanning trips. Memoirs. I'm not picky. But it won't happen until you pick up a pen or boot up your computer and contribute. Don't worry about grammar or spelling, just get it to me. I'll do the body work for you.

With that in mind, I'd like to thank everyone who has already contributed. What it says to me is that there are a lot of folks out there who want to help get this Region fired up again. I hope you're one of them, too. *Gerry Leone, Editor*

To all members of the Thousand Lakes Region....

In the October issue of the NMRA's Scale Rails/Bulletin, it was announced that I was running for the TLR Trustee to the NMRA once again and there was a ballot in there with my name on it for you all to fill out and return to the NMRA.

Recently there has been some concern voiced regarding my performance as Trustee by the membership. To be totally truthful and honest, I have to agree with them in full. I have not lived up to the expectations of the position and feel that it would be in the best interest of the TLR if I now step aside and take my name off the ballot.

In an email that I and the Board of Directors recently received, Lester Breuer has stepped forward and asked to have his name placed to be used as a write-in candidate. I whole heartedly endorse him as a write-in for the position. So do the region a favor and write in Lester Breuer in the space provided.

I apologize to ALL for my lack of performance as the Trustee. I did what I could do but fell short due to personal and professional constraints. Please forgive me.

Lester, it's all yours now.

Sincerely,

Mike Penn

Editor's note: This letter was posted to the TLR's website and is reprinted here for the benefit of those who don't have internet access.

Contributors to this issue:

Jim Bernier
Terry Davis
Ray deBlicke
Ron Einarson
John Hotvet, MMR
Lloyd Stresman
Dave Vos
Pat Walker

Deadline for next issue:

February 10, 2005

TLR and C&NWHS can look forward to a memorable convention at “River City 2005”

By Terry Davis
TLR Public Relations Chair

It took place more than four years ago, but Thousand Lakes Region members who traveled to Winnipeg in May, 2000 for the “Millennium Express” convention still talk about it.

After May 2005, TLR members will likely talk for years about “River City 2005,” the region’s first joint convention with the Chicago & North Western Historical Society. This unique event is set for May 19-22, 2005, at the Hanford Inn in Mason City, Iowa. You don’t want to miss it!

First discussed more than three years ago,



“River City 2005,” is the brainchild of recent past TLR President Gordy Miller. Miller and fellow TLR members belonging to the C&NWHS have long been torn over which organization’s annual convention to attend. They are on the same weekend whenever the TLR convention is in the U.S.!

After attending the Winnipeg meet, a joint meet with the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific special interest groups, Miller began pushing for a TLR/C&NWHS joint effort. He has led the way ever since, including serving on the committee that planned C&NWHS’s Bandana Square convention at St. Paul in June to get background on how a C&NWHS convention is put together.

Miller, formerly a Prairie Lakes Division superintendent, and now TLR convention

chair, did much of the initial legwork. In July 2004, a committee of about 10 people began meeting monthly at Mason City to flesh-out the details. Many of them served on C&NWHS’s St. Paul committee with Miller. Others are Prairie Lakes Division members, official host of the TLR portion of the event.

The tentative schedule is for check-in to begin 4 p.m. Thursday, May 19. A special reception for early arrivals, the TLR and C&NWHS boards, guest clinicians and the local Union Pacific employees club will be downtown at Music Man Square at 6 p.m. The day will conclude with an old-timers reunion and open showing of slides by members.

Friday, May 20, is scheduled to be Tour Day, with bus visits being arranged to UP and IC&E yards, Iowa Traction’s headquarters, the former Rock Island roundhouse at nearby Manly, Iowa, and such local industries as Holcim Cement, an alcohol plant and others. Annual general membership meetings for the groups are scheduled for 4-6 p.m. A reception and entertainment follows at 6:30 p.m. Slide shows begin at 9 p.m.

Train Day is Saturday, May 21. There are tentative plans to ride a UP Operation Lifesaver train in the morning if it can be scheduled. Convention attendees also will be shuttled after lunch to the Iowa Traction RR for trolley rides. Modeling and prototype clinics will run simultaneously in opposite sides of the banquet room throughout the afternoon.

The joint banquet begins at 6:30 p.m. with a featured speaker, raffles and the C&NWHS auction. Slide shows will close out the night.

Following the contest awards breakfast that begins at 7 a.m. Sunday, convention attendees will be able to attend a flea market at the hotel being organized by Prairie Lakes Division members John and Jay Davis beginning at 9 a.m. The event will open to the public at 10 a.m. and continue until 1 p.m. Local layouts will be open for tours until 3:30 p.m.

Events for spouses not interested in the rail activities are being organized by Miller’s wife, Bonnie. There will be the option of lunch or dessert at Marjorie’s Tea House and tours of Meredith Willson’s nearby boyhood home and homes designed by Frank Lloyd Wright or his students. Also possible is a shopping trip for antiques at nearby Clear Lake.

All 70 rooms at the Hanford Inn have been reserved for the convention, but because attendance is expected to exceed 300, additional blocks of 20 rooms have been set aside at three nearby motels. Room costs range from \$60 to \$65 per night. Reservations must be made by April 15.

Convention registration is expected to be about \$100, with \$15 extra for the non-rail event and \$10 for the Thursday evening reception. People not belonging to either the TLR or C&NWHS will pay an additional \$15 fee, so it is cheaper to join the TLR at \$8 dues and get the great FUSEE as a bonus!

Also planned is a special three-pack of Bowser two-bay covered cement car kits lettered in HO scale for the C&NW, M&StL and CGW, all lines that served Mason City and covered by the C&NWHS. The three-pack will cost about \$30. They may be ordered when registering and picked up at the convention.

Final schedule details, costs and registration materials will be forthcoming in the next issue of THE FUSEE and C&NWHS’s *North Western Lines*, both due about March 1. Information will also be sent to Division publications within the TLR.

The NMRA's Long Range Plan finally gets approved... so now what?

The following article appeared in the Pacific Coast Region's newsletter, "Branch Line." It's a very good overview of the after-effects of the LRP which should be of interest to all TLR members. - The Editor

By Ray deBlieck,
Trustee, Pacific Coast Region

After years of wrangling, and what seemed like endless board meetings arguing over wording, the vote is finally in. The membership, by a vote of 2221 to 536, which works out to just over 80% affirmative, has approved the new Regulations (bylaws). The new Regulations replace the current Constitution and Bylaws, and is the enabling document of the NMRA Long Range Plan. The current bylaws, which governed the election, required this vote be a 2/3 majority.

What now, you might ask? I am going to try and tell you, but please keep in mind that full implementation will be based on some motions that will be presented at the midyear BOT meeting in January. What I write here is subject to revision. As a member of the BOT Implementation Committee, I have been working on this for almost a year. Our efforts really intensified when news of the election results were made known to the committee about a week prior to the Seattle BOT meeting.

At the Seattle BOT meeting, a timetable for implementation was agreed upon. There are several areas within the Regulations that will have to be implemented in sections. I'll try to cover the main areas, but as always if you have any questions, please contact your Region's Trustee.

First, let's talk about the actual Regulations. With the exception of areas specifically set forth with effective dates within the Regulations, and some things that cannot, for administrative reasons, be implemented now, they are effective immediately. There are two primary areas that will not take effect until sometime in 2005. Those are the new Board of Directors and Single Membership. I'll

discuss each separately.

Board of Directors:

The new Regulations spell out how this process will work. The new Board of Directors will replace the existing Board of Trustees once the new Board of Directors is elected and seated. The change from Trustees to Directors, as well as use the term "Regulations" instead of constitution and/or Bylaws, are requirements of Ohio law. It is in Ohio that the NMRA is incorporated. The election is to take place in 2005. BOT has set a timeline that will result in the new board being seated at the Cincinnati meeting.

In order to accommodate that, some changes to the current Bylaws were necessary. The section on Trustee elections was deleted, and all Trustee terms were set to expire at 12:01 AM the morning of

"After years of wrangling, and what seemed like endless board meetings arguing over wording, the vote is finally in."

that Cincy meeting. Trustee terms expiring on March 31 (mine included) have been extended to the same time and date as the rest of the Trustees. The reason for these changes was to avoid having to hold a second national election for Trustee terms that would end up being only three months long, primarily to avoid the cost of having two separate Boards in Cincinnati. In addition, if a new Trustee were elected, he or she would assume the position on April 1, and leave office before their first meeting.

The new Board will be selected in an election to take place in the same time frame that the next Trustee election would have taken place. That means a ballot in *The Bulletin* (which is contained within *Scale Rails*) in the winter, with the election completed in the spring. The Nominating Committee is currently working on nomi-

nations and will have a slate of nominees ready in time for the election. All other provisions for nomination are currently in effect. Nominations and the election will follow procedure set forth in the newly adopted Regulations. If you are interested, don't waste any time.

Single Membership:

The Board has set September 1, 2005, as the effective date of single membership. A lot has to happen prior to that date. Among the dependencies that will need to be dealt with are: Database issues, changing and updating Regional and some divisional Bylaws, and setting up the necessary procedures.

The toughest change we need to deal with is the Database. The current Database software has been in use since 1998. A Database committee has been formed. It is headed up by newly elected EVP Mike Brestel. They are hoping to have a recommendation ready prior to the January midyear meetings and have a new system up and running sometime in the Spring.

The committee's first chore is to contact various users and put together a list of user requirements. That means they are going to set up the Database not only on Chattanooga's requirements, but also on the needs of others who will be using it. This will include Regions and Divisions as well as various department and other entities within the entire NMRA structure. Any and all suggestions are welcome. If you have any interest in this area, or have a need to work with the new Database, please, we need your input. Send comments directly to your Trustee, who will forward them to the committee. They will, in turn, respond directly to users.

One known requirement is access to the membership Database by Regional and Divisional membership services personnel. This is long overdue and is recog-

"Long Range Plan" continued on page 10

Minnesota River Valley Div: a handful of members, a ton of activities

By Terry Davis, MRVD member

The Minnesota River Valley is a small but active Division of the Thousand Lakes Region. Its 20 members are concentrated in or near the cities of Granite Falls, Hutchinson, Montevideo, Morgan and Willmar, and Renville County, MN.

Division members typically meet monthly at members' homes from September to April, taking December off. The meetings usually include a tour of the host's home layout, a clinic, videos and/or slides and a model "show-and-tell" session. Three members, Jon Bratt of Bird Island, Brian Wordes of Sacred Heart and John Givan of Montevideo, all former MRVD superintendents, have large double-deck home layouts started in HO with helixes. They often are monthly meeting hosts.

Current officers are: Superintendent Del Sheets of Raymond (XXX) XXX-XXXX; Assistant Superintendent Sam Sherman, a Minnesota Prairie Lines MOW worker from Franklin; Secretary Leon Lentz of Willmar; and Treasurer Marlene Radunz of Spicer. Wordes is the editor of the MRVD Newsletter. Dues are \$5 per year.



Former MRVD Super Wayne Spiess discusses the details of his switching module at the Hutchinson Model RR show last October.

In February, 2004, the MRVD had its annual open house at the Willmar Public Library. About six small layouts were operated for about 100 people who attended to learn more about the hobby. The Division donated subscriptions for *Model Railroader* and *Classic Toy Trains* to the library, as well as the latest Walther's HO and N catalogs.

In March, about 12 MRVD members had their monthly meeting at the Hutchinson Mall home of Luce Line Railroad Club Inc. They brought trains to operate on

LLRC's HO, American Flyer and three-rail layouts. The two groups have some common membership and co-host the popular Hutchinson Model Railroad Show each October.

In June, a handful of MRVD members traveled to St. James, Minn., to visit the club there during Railroad Days. It was the Division's annual summer outing. Past summer events have taken place at the Milbank Trainfest and Currie, Minn.'s End-O-Line Railroad Park.

On Oct. 9, 2004, about 10 MRVD members helped with another successful Hutchinson show. The Division receives 10 percent of the proceeds. Next year's show is scheduled for Oct. 1, 2005, at the McLeod County Fairgrounds.

The Minnesota River Valley Division has four events already planned for 2005. On Jan. 8, the monthly meeting will take place at the home of Loren Eisenbarth, 613 Gallagher St., Morgan. The Willmar Library open house is Feb. 5. Superintendent Sheets hosts the March 12 meeting at 608 Cofield St. S., Raymond. Bud Radunz is host for the annual meeting, April 9, at 6730 60th St. N.E., rural Spicer.

No. 1 Northern Div: two busy years of tours, clinics & shows

By Ron Einarson, Superintendent

In 2003 and 2004, we were busy! The first activity the Division participated in during this time period was a tour of the Steel Rolling Mill at Selkirk sponsored by the Selkirk Model Railroad Association (SMRA). Unbelievable to see 16" to 22" square red hot steel flowing through the system like wet noodles. The main focus of the plant now is making grader blades and runners for elevators. Great tour of 1+ hours by Peter Hall.

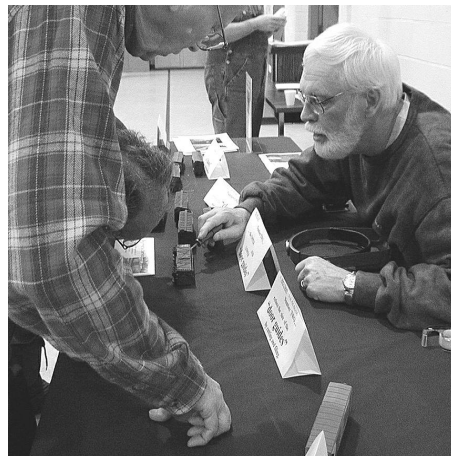
Next was Railway Days sponsored by the Midwest Rail Museum, with lots of prototype displays and some running modular groups.

The Winnepeg Model Railroad Club Fall Show was another super success. The club managed to make a very large donation to the Children's Hospital Wish Fund. The No. 1 Northern Division put on a clinic on making easy lineside poles. Numerous other displays and modular layouts from "N" to "O" were there for all to see.

The WMRC meetings have featured No. 1 Northern Division Beginner's Clinics, which ranged from easy upgrading of turnouts to basics of laying flextrack.

In Autumn, Fred Headon, MMR, released the first in a series of books detailing the history of railroading in Manitoba. This one spans the period from the 1880s until post World War I.

In November of 2003 the SMRA held their Fall Open House and unveiled their new layout. The group had designed it using CAD drawing, cut everything, made up sections and put it together in a matter of weeks. In addition, the Gateway Western modular railway was reacquired for the WMRC and is up and running, thanks to lots of work parties. Wiring, scenery, track work, structures and all those other hundred little things we do seemed to be a pleasure when one sees the results. The layout helped us gain more active members as well as new members. April saw successful open houses at the Selkirk club and WMRC. May brought



Fred Headon, MMR, goes over the fine points of boxcar upgrades during one of the Division's Beginner's Clinics.

the WMRC annual banquet windup, and plans for the WMRC 50th Anniversary kept lots of us busy over the summer.

That's it from the Great White North...Keep 'em on the rails.

Want your Division or club featured in THE FUSEE? Write up an article and send it in! See Page 10 for details.

The Thousand Lakes Region's Public Relations Update

By Terry Davis
TLR Public Relations Chair

After being left to stagnate for several years, I'm in the process of trying to revive the office of Thousand Lakes Region public relations chair. After a one-year term on the TLR board as vice president, I was elected to a two-year term in May, 2003, at Thunder Bay and shifted to public relations chair.

One of my main goals this term has been to increase the region's recognition among modelers in the region. To do so, I convinced the board to authorize the purchase of a pair of lightweight promotional displays that could be taken to shows and meets. The region's wooden tri-fold display was so heavy few wanted to lug it to shows.

I am still finalizing some of the material that will be displayed. One set will eventually be based in the Canadian portion of the region to move back and forth between Winnipeg and Thunder Bay. The other can be used at shows south of the border.

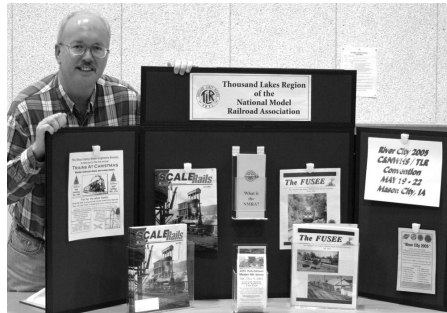
I've attended shows when I can. In October 2003, my wife, Patrice, and I took the old wooden display to our local Hutchinson show and a small show in St. Cloud. The lightweight display made its debut at the TLR's 2004 meet in Grand Forks.

This fall, the display has been shown at the small Glenwood, Minn, show in September, and at the large Prairie Lakes Division fall meet in Windom and the 10th Hutchinson Model Railroad Show, both in October. By the time you read this, I hope to have attended the Sioux Valley Model Engineers Society's third annual Train at Christmas show at the Sioux Falls, S.D., fairgrounds Nov. 20-21.

The display will be at the joint TLR/Chicago & North Western Historical Society convention, "River Rails 2005," at Mason City, May 19-22, 2005.

The display appears to be working. I've talked to several people at each show about the TLR and NMRA. Membership forms and promotional material for both have gone out. The 20-member club at Glenwood has invited me to speak at one of their future monthly meetings about the benefits of TLR/NMRA membership. They are considering becoming a 100-percent NMRA club or possibly joining through the neighboring Minnesota River Valley Division.

The displays could be used at shows and flea markets in the Twin Cities area as well, or occasionally at the Twin Cities Division's monthly meetings. Anyone wishing to set up the display (a card table



PR Director Terry Davis poses with one of the TLR's new promotional displays.

or other small table is necessary, often provided free by the show hosts), please contact me at: Terry Davis, (ADDRESS & PHONE DELETED FROM WEB VERSION), or e-mail me at: davis@hutchinsonleader.com.

My future goal is to focus even more on membership recruitment and a re-entrance effort of former TLR/NMRA members. That will include developing a small tri-fold handout with membership form for the Region. I'd like to re-enlist many before River Rails 2005.

I am also an ambassador of the World's Greatest Hobby campaign and the two jobs often overlap. In May, I gave a presentation on model railroading and train travel to a group of about 75 3M company retirees in Hutchinson. In October, I gave basically the same presentation to about 25 3M administrative assistants, engineers and officials at the Hutchinson plant. In recent years, I've also given three presentations on model railroads and local Hutchinson railroad history at the McLeod County Museum.

If you are aware of any friends that are former members, send me their name and address so I can send them some materials and perhaps bring them back to the "World's Greatest Hobby."

Achievement Program Update

By John R. Hotvet, MMR
TLR Achievement Program Chair

We have processed one Golden Spike Award and 13 Achievement Certificates since our last report in THE FUSEE, not counting the three certificates received by Fred Headon, MMR, during this period and reported in the last FUSEE.

In addition to Fred's three certificates, Jim Wetzler of Granada, MN received his Association Official certificate, John O'Brien of St. Paul, MN received the Master Builder - Scenery certificate, Neil Maldeis of Edina, MN received two certificates: Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical and Master Builder - Cars, Gerry Leone of Excelsior, MN received two certificates: Master Builder - Structures and Master Builder - Cars, John Hotvet of Minneapolis, MN received the Association Official, Dr. Thomas Mauszycki of Winona, MN received three certificates: Association Official, Association Volunteer, and Model Railroad Author, and Dave Jasper of St Paul Park, MN received three certificates: Master Builder - Scenery, Model Railroad Engineer - Civil and Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical.

Most of these were processed during the

so-called slow model railroading months of summer. Congrats to everyone on their achievements.

One modeler received the Golden Spike - Ken Zieska of Plymouth, Minnesota.

Last October the Great American Train Show was held at River Centre in St. Paul, and the Twin Cities Division sponsored a model contest at the show that was judged to NMRA standards. Several Merit Awards were issued for models that achieved a point total equal to or greater than 87.5 points. I mention this so that modelers are aware that there are other venues besides the annual TLR contest where they can get their models judged for AP awards.

It has been a while since I discussed the requirements for the various AP certificates, and next issue I will start the review of each certificate. There have been some changes to the requirements for several of the certificates. Two people recently caught me in an error, where requirements had been changed for one certificate and I had not kept up with the recent changes. Of course, for those with internet access, you can check out the program by going online to www.nmra.org and getting the information first-hand.

With our new TLR website, the whole Region is only a click away

By Pat Walker, TLR Webmaster

It's baaaaccckkkk! After having disappeared for awhile and been missing in action, you can now keep in touch with the TLR on a daily basis. Yup, the Region website is back up and ready for visitors at thousandlakesregion.org. It has undergone some major changes, and has been redesigned, hopefully for the better. On the left side of each page is a menu that will take you to all the major sections of the site. The menu is extremely helpful, since the site has over one hundred pages and is constantly growing.

The hope is to make thousandlakesregion.org a place for all things TLR. There is the ever-important schedule of events within the region, photos of contest award winners, candid convention photos and stories, favorite prototype photos, information about and links to Division sites, TLR history, and more. Future convention information – always something of great interest – will be on the site, and will be kept as up to date as possible.

We're working on setting up links to sites of interest to model railroaders within the region, like hobby shops, manufacturers, clubs, railfan spots, whatever. But we need your help. Let us know what you would like on – and from – the TLR website. Under consideration are a TLR email list, forums for discussions with other region members and on-line versions of older editions of THE FUSEE. There are some surprises that will be popping up from time to time, so be sure to bookmark the site, and return to it often.

Please take a look at thousandlakesregion.org, and send in your comments, suggestions, and links. The site may be good, but with your help it will be great!

You can visit us online at www.thousandlakesregion.org

How NSP unloaded power poles back in the '50s

By Dave Vos

I recently built three loads of power poles to use as flatcar and gondola loads on my Cumberland Northern Railway. During the early part of my career at Northern States Power Company (NSP) I used to help deliver and set poles used for replacement or new construction in the west Twin Cities Metro area.

The sources for these poles were four commercial pole yards: Republic Creosoting in St. Louis Park, jointly served by the Milwaukee and M&St.L. railroads, and three on the Soo Line; Naugle Pole Co. in Brooklyn Center; another in North Minneapolis adjacent to Humboldt Yard, and Bell Pole Company in New Brighton. The poles were delivered to Northern States Power on flat cars.

During this time, it never occurred to me to pay attention to how those poles were unloaded from railroad cars on to the storage rack where we would pick them up.

At the union retirees meeting I attended recently, I ran into Clarence, who was the yard man at the NSP Edina Service Center during those years. Here's what he told me.

NSP's Edina Service Center was the Minneapolis area storage and pick-up point for power poles in the '50s, 60s, and 70s. There was a big wooden rack that held a good supply of poles about three feet off the ground. The poles were delivered to us aboard flatcars by the M.N.&S. railroad on our spur that paralleled the mainline. We also received power transformers, cross arms, and other material in boxcars.

We had a small Bantam truck crane to handle the heavy work. To unload a flatcar, we would wrap the crane cable around all the poles and snug up on it so it squeezed the pole load together. Then on the unloading side

of the car, we'd either lift or cut the 4x4 or 4x6 wooden stakes that held the load on the car. Sometimes the poles would shift a bit, but the cable held them secure in a bunch. The load was usually held together by iron wire or Signode strapping. We'd have to cut all those ties, also. You had to watch out because sometimes ties were under a lot of strain and they'd really fly when you cut them.

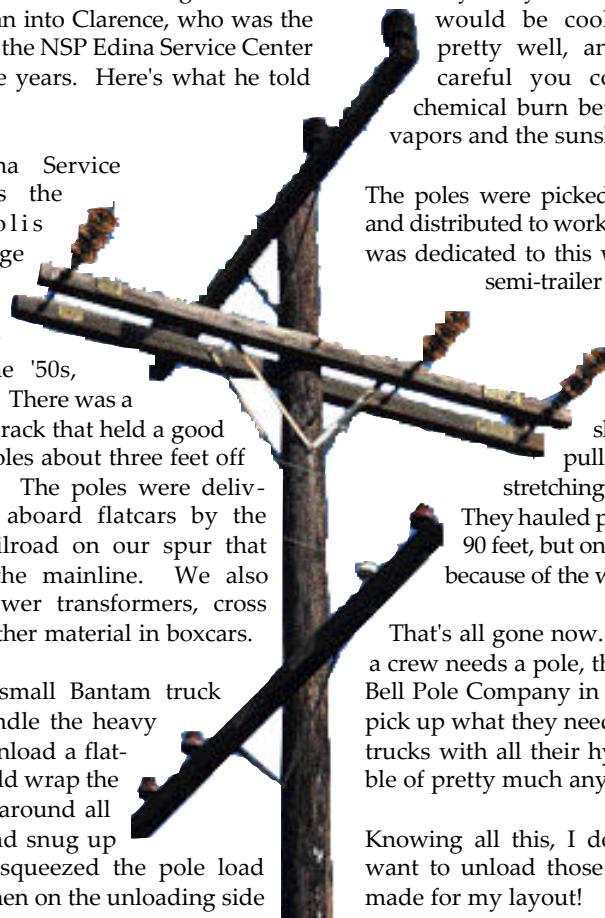
We'd lay some 4x6s between the flatcar and the pole rack and then slowly loosen the crane cable. The poles – at least the first bunch – would sort of unload themselves as they rolled from the top of the load onto the rack. We always kept them under control with the crane cable. Later on we'd have to help them off the cars using a cant hook and sweat. The last few could sometimes be a challenge if the rack was full and it was uphill. Occasionally we'd use the crane. We'd run a loop of cable around a half-dozen or so poles, then lift them over onto the rack.

The worst time was a hot, sunny summer day. By late morning the sun would be cooking the creosote pretty well, and if you weren't careful you could get a nasty chemical burn between the creosote vapors and the sunshine.

The poles were picked up from the rack and distributed to work sites by a crew that was dedicated to this work. They used a semi-trailer rig with an open, rack-type trailer, like a log truck. They could make this trailer shorter or longer by pulling some pins and stretching the center beam. They hauled poles as long as 80 or 90 feet, but only a couple at a time because of the weight.

That's all gone now. Nowadays, when a crew needs a pole, they just drive up to Bell Pole Company in New Brighton and pick up what they need. The modern line trucks with all their hydraulics are capable of pretty much anything.

Knowing all this, I don't think I'll ever want to unload those three pole loads I made for my layout!



Minutes of previous Membership and Board of Directors meetings

The following are the minutes of various TLR meetings, as recorded by the TLR Secretary. They are printed in reverse chronological order (i.e. most recent first). Sorry for the small type, but we're making up for lost time. These should've been published at the time they occurred.

-The Editor

THOUSAND LAKES REGION INC. NATIONAL MODEL RAIL ASSOCIATION INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA MAY 23, 2004

President Gordon Miller called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. Among those in attendance were: President: Gordon Miller, Vice President: Bruce Selb, Treasurer: John Hotvet, Secretary: Lloyd Stresman, Contests: Thomas Mauszycki, Public Relations: Terry Davis, Conventions: Charles Durrenberger, Trustee and Education: Mike Penn, Bluffs and Rivers Superintendent: Bill Jensen, Twin Cities Superintendent Lynn McCall. 23 members were present.

Minutes of May 25, 2003 annual general meeting in Thunder Bay were accepted as read. Motion made by Miles Rohan. Seconded by Lynn McCall. Carried.

Treasurer's Report. Moved by Fred Headon. Seconded by Jim Platt. Carried

President's verbal report was received.

Trustee Report. NMRA mid-winter Board of Directors meeting was held in Cincinnati, Ohio. Membership awaiting results of vote on Long Range Plan. This report will be submitted at Seattle convention July 2004. There was general discussion of implications of changes within NMRA.

Vice President's Report. Website, TLR brochure, display boards were discussed.

Contests. Thomas Mauszycki was thanked for his leadership in another well-organized and successful contest.

Public Relations. Two display boards, one for north, one for south are being developed. Re-rail letters have received positive results. There have been 15-20 renewals of membership.

Conventions. Thunder Bay Convention 2003 report received. Current Convention calendar includes: Grand Forks 2004; Mason City, Iowa 2005; Eau Claire, Wisconsin 2006; Minneapolis 2007.

Education. A job description and development plan for education is pending.

Committee reports

Achievement Program: no awards issued. Three achievement certificates have been processed. Of the 24 contest entries, 15 received merit awards.

Membership: no report

Member aid: no report

Historian: archives up to date

FUSEE: post-convention issue to be issued within one month. 16 pages 220 copies mailed.

Website: Webmaster Pat Walker appointed domain name godaddy.com. River City 2005 convention linked to web site and also to Chicago Northwestern Historical Society's website.

Division Reports

Twin Cities: membership 166. Major expenditure occurred in electronics equipment. Move to Maplewood, Minnesota.

Wild River: Bill Jensen reported that region is going through growing pains. There was no election of officers.

Number One Northern: no report
Kashabowie: Lloyd Stresman reported on Thunder Bay Model rail club.

North Dakota: no report

Minnesota River Valley: 20 members elected new officers. They had an open house at Wilmar, Minnesota library.

Southern Red River: no report

Prairie Lakes: 90 members

Dakota Southern: no report

Old Business

Motion was made to give an elected divisional superintendent voting rights with full standing on the TLR board of directors. Motion made by Don Carlson. Seconded by Lynn McCall. Carried.

New Business

Motion made by Jim Platt, seconded by Bill Jensen to transfer \$200 to NMRA Canada. Carried.

Change in by-law 5.3. Be it proposed that the office of president and trustee shall be separate offices to be elected for X year term. Moved by Ralph Mennel. Seconded Dick Williams. Carried.

Elections. Nominations to the Thousand Lake Region Board of Directors were made by Don Carlson and seconded by Fred Headon. Nominated were Gordy Miller, Thomas Mauszycki, Bruce Selb, and Lloyd Stresman. Nominations closed. Carried. All candidates were re-elected.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

THOUSAND LAKES REGION, INC. NATIONAL MODEL RAIL ASSOCIATION INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA MAY 23, 2004

The president called the meeting together at 8:40 am. In attendance: President: Gordon Miller, Vice President: Bruce Selb, Treasurer: John Hotvet, Secretary: Lloyd Stresman, Contests: Thomas Mauszycki, Public Relations: Terry Davis, Conventions: Charles Durrenberger, Trustee and Education: Mike Penn, Bluffs and Rivers Superintendent: Bill Jensen, Twin Cities Superintendent Lynn McCall.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Moved by John Hotvet, seconded by Charles Durrenberger. Carried

Treasurer's Report: American and Canadian reports were accepted as presented. Moved by Lloyd Stresman. Seconded by Bruce Selb. Carried

President's Report: Mason City 2005 conventions plans are underway. Gordon Miller has made contacts with people in the region.

Trustee Report: Long-range plan redefining the National Model Railroad Association is in the final stages. It will be submitted to the national convention in Seattle in July 2004.

Vice President Report: Vice President attended last business meeting of Twin Cities Division and conducted a survey.

Contests: 2004 contest results were excellent in quality and content.

Public Relations: Lightweight tri-fold display units are being acquired. Promotional materials were received from NMRA. Numerous meetings were

attended.

Conventions: Issues with the Grand Forks and Eau Claire conventions were shared. Twin Cities proposal for the 2007 convention was accepted.

Committee Reports

Membership: No report

Achievement Program: Three achievement certificates have been submitted to National for approval.

Member Aid: no report

Historian Report: archives are up to date

FUSEE: THE FUSEE is to be out within one month

Web: Webmaster Pat Walker appointed. Cost of \$94/year will be paid by region. Website address: godaddy.com. Web site will contain information about River City 2005 convention at Mason City Iowa.

Division Reports will be submitted at the Annual General Meeting.

Old Business

Voting rights for divisional superintendents requires by-law change as follows: the divisional superintendent shall caucus before the Board of Directions meeting to appoint one person from the group of attending superintendents to have voting rights on all business conducted at that meeting.

New Business

Discussion re eligibility and duration of office was conducted.

Nominations and ballots were received for Bob Dew Sr. Award.

For the Good of the Order

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at Como Park, St. Paul Minnesota on Saturday October 30, 2004 at 8.30 AM

Motion made to adjourn the meeting made by Thomas Mauszycki.

Respectfully submitted by Lloyd Stresman, Thousand Lakes Region secretary.

THOUSAND LAKES REGION, INC. NATIONAL MODEL RAIL ASSOCIATION INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING COMO PARK, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA OCTOBER 25, 2003

The President Gordy Miller called the meeting to order at 9:15AM. In attendance: President: Gordon Miller, Trustee and Education: Mike Penn, Wild River President: Bill Jansen, Vice President: Bruce Selb, CROSSING GATE Editor: Gerry Leone, Secretary: Lloyd Stresman, Twin Cities Division Superintendent: Lynn McCall, Treasurer and Achievement Program: John Hotvet, Prairie Lakes Division: Doug Clarke, Contests: Thomas Mauszycki, Prairie Lakes Division: Leo Apple, Public Relations: Terry Davis, NMRA Canada: Frank Gerry, Conventions: Charles Durrenberger, Guest: Bonnie Durrenberger

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on May 19, 2002 remain unavailable. The minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting held in Thunder Bay, Ontario held on May 25, 2003 were read. Motion to accept the minutes as read made by John Hotvet and seconded by Charles Durrenberger-carried.

"Minutes" continued on page 9

"Minutes" continued from page 8

Treasurer's Report: Canadian Treasurers Report- no report. American Treasurers Report as reported by John Hotvet - a balance of \$24,345.80 as of October 15, 2003. Motion to approve report: L. Stresman. Seconded by Bruce Selb. Carried

Directors' Reports

President's Report: Gordon Miller has attended a number of regional meets (Mason City, Iowa and Spokane, WA). Organizing the TLR Spring 2005 Convention is underway.

Trustee Report: Mike Penn thanked Lloyd Stresman for attending the NMRA National Convention in Toronto, ON in July 2003 on his behalf. Work is progressing on the Long Range Plan for the NMRA with the 10 yr. project coming up for a vote in the spring of 2004.

A motion to separate the offices of President and that of Trustee as written in the by-laws was tabled. Research into this matter to be conducted by Gordon Miller and Thomas Mauszycki.

Vice-President's Report: Bruce Selb attended meetings at the Twin Cities as well as at The Hutchinson Model Railroad Show.

Contest Director's Report: Thomas Mauszycki stated that the Thunder Bay Convention report was published in THE FUSEE. A restriction of five (5) entries per person per category has been imposed for film and digital categories.

Public Relations Report: Terry Davis discussed the replacement of the Region's publicity displays with modern, lighter and more transportable equipment. Articles on regional activities with photos from conventions re: Thunder Bay 2003 serve as invaluable tools to assist in the re-rail of members. Jim Wetzler to assist in re-rail program. All future model railroading events are to be published in THE FUSEE.

Conventions Report: Update provided by Charles Durrenberger: 2004-Grand Forks, North Dakota, 2005-Mason City, Iowa, 2006-Eau Claire, WI

Education Report: As reported by Mike Penn, a national data base is being created that lists model railroaders willing to host clinics at all levels from Divisional right up to National Conventions.

Committee Reports

Membership: no report

Achievement Program: John Hotvet reports that one Golden Spike and five Achievement Awards have been issued. Fred Headon was awarded Master Model Railroader #328.

Member Aid: no report

Historian: Thomas Mauszycki led a discussion on the difficulties of keeping accurate historical records.

FUSEE: Editor Thomas Gasior has been approached by the TLR Directors regarding the time commitment required to publish the four full editions of THE FUSEE per year that the membership deserves.

Website: Mike Penn reported that the website was down. A letter of authorization for the withdrawal of funds to support payment of bills for web site development was issued. Website up and running as of October 24, 2003.

Thunder Bay Convention Report: by Lloyd Stresman Seventy-three members enjoyed a weekend in Thunder Bay in May 2003. The full slate of traditional events was offered with Lakehead University providing the venue. Bowater Paper Company and Bombardier Rail Car manufacturer of Bi-Level commuter cars highlighted the weekend tours.

Grand Forks - 2004 briefing was led by Charles Durrenberger with discussion of venue and financial issues.

Mason City - 2005 - Gordon Miller has prepared an itinerary report with details of schedule of events, etc. This convention will be sponsored by TLR Prairie Lakes and CNW historical society.

Division Reports

Twin Cities: Lynn McCall reports that the group has a new home at Maplewood. Attendance is good (seventy plus) with an increase in membership by six. NMRA insurance policy issues were addressed.

Wild Rivers: Bill Jansen presented and update of activities.

#1 Northern: no report

Kashawbie: Lloyd Stresman provided an update of club oriented activities in the Thunder Bay area.

North Dakota: Charles Durrenberger provided an overview of Convention preparations.

Minnesota River Valley: Terry Davis reported an increase of ten members. Monthly meetings, assisting with the Hutchinson Train Show and running Christmas theme trains at shows over the holidays, keeps the membership active.

Southern Red River Valley: no report

Prairie Lakes: Doug Clarke reports that the region is up to eighty members. Their spring meet was combined with a ride on a tour train enjoyed by 80-100 railfans. Prairie Lakes modular layout set up at the Sibley, Iowa Otter Valley Railroad Club meet and show.

Dakota Southeastern: Mike Penn reports a core group of five members in the Division. Hosts Train Show, Hi Rail Group, Yankerton Group.

Bluffs and Rivers: Gordon Miller is to contact Bill Kish to find out if this Division is still active.

Old Business

Voting rights for Divisional Superintendents: Gordon Miller is to prepare and publish in THE FUSEE a report about a possible by-law change regarding the acceptance of one additional voting member to be elected from the current Divisional Superintendents. Presentation of report will be at the next meeting.

Thunder Bay Convention final report

Mike Penn was appointed FUSEE Editor by Gordon Miller as of October 25, 2003. Secretary Minutes to be published in FUSEE.

New Business

Mike Penn has been appointed, and has accepted the position of Education Chairman.

A motion by Thomas Mauszycki and seconded by Charles Durrenberger that Mike Penn continue as Trustee for his full term-carried.

A vote by hidden ballot for the next Bob Dew Sr. Award recipient was conducted.

Canadian Association of Railway Modellers (CARM) was formed in St. Catherines, ON on October 15, 2003.

For the Good of the Order

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held in Grand Forks, North Dakota on Sunday May 23, 2004.

Adjournment

Moved by Terry Davis and carried.

Respectfully submitted by Lloyd Stresman, Thousand Lakes Region Secretary.

**THOUSAND LAKES REGION INC.
NATIONAL MODEL RAIL ASSOCIATION INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA
MAY 19, 2002**

Meeting was called to order by President Lloyd Stresman at 8:45 am. Minutes for the prior year's

meeting at Fargo, ND held May 19th to 21st, 2001 were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report: U.S. Treasurer Report: Income of \$390.00 was received from Raffle held during the Fargo Convention. Canadian Treasurer Report: Canadian dues are to stay in Canada. Mike Penn moved to accept Treasurer Report. Tom Mauszycki seconded. Vote was Yes, unanimous.

Secretary's Report: President read Secretary report. John Hotvet moved to accept secretary report. Mike Penn seconded. Vote was Yes, unanimous.

President Report: Trustee meeting was held in Arizona in February 2001. Report of meeting was in the April issue of the NMRA *Bulletin*. Highlights: It was reported that a 10% drop in membership was the result of the dues increase. Discussion of the long range plan and a single dues payment was discussed during the meeting. Also discussed were changes to the Bulletin format and the test plan for the changes.

Vice President Report: New Division: Western Wisconsin, Chippewa Valley

Contest Report: Tom Mauszycki

Public Relations: no report

Convention Report: no report

FUSEE: New editor, Tom Gasior, as suggested by Mike Penn. Discuss member list. Discuss public relations for FUSEE on Convention. Newsletters are sent to all active divisions.

Members Aid: on website.

Historian: Source for database on award history

Webmaster: 2184 hits to date. Billing to be sent to Treasurer. Division to have page on website.

Fargo Final Report: by Duane Durr. Profits presented to Treasurer. Motion by Tom Mauszycki to accept the Treasurer's and the final Fargo convention report. Seconded by Mike Penn. Vote was unanimous.

Old Business

Voting rights for superintendent: Discussion of superintendents' voting rights, discussion tabled to add correct language for bylaw change. Language change is as follows: The Division superintendents shall caucus before the Board of Directors Meetings to appoint one person from the group of attending Superintendents, to have voting rights on all business at the meeting. Motion by Mike Penn. Seconded by Tom Mauszycki. Vote was Yes, Unanimous.

Discussion of plaques expense from last May Meeting.

Decision for a central point for Fall BOD: Terry Davis invited the BOD to Fall Hutchinson show. Motion was made by Tom Mauszycki that the fall meeting of the BOD be held during the Hutchinson Show. Seconded by Mike Penn. Vote was yes, unanimous.

Discussion of trustee change. Lloyd Stresman resigned as trustee.

Mike Penn moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by John Hotvet. Vote was Yes, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM

“Long Range Plan” continued from page 4

nized as a necessity to make it all work. As the necessary changes are implemented, it will be important that each Region and Division review their enabling documents (constitutions and bylaws) to make sure that there are no conflicts with NMRA Regulations (Bylaws). This is important as any inconsistencies could put the tax-exempt status of either organization at risk. Also, this review will allow procedures and membership requirements to be checked for conflicts. The actual dates for this have not been set. If anyone wants a final copy of the adopted Regulations, please contact your Trustee.

Other areas that will be needed include: establishing procedures for dealing with life members in one part of the organization, who are not life members everywhere else; getting membership dates

aligned; and all sorts of other details. We are very confident that by having a year to finalize this will be sufficient time. As a matter of fact, I will be attending a LALRP (which stands for Life After Long Range Plan, which is what we are calling the Implementation Committee) meeting in Chicago this fall. That committee is putting together a series of motions to present at the next BOT meeting, to bring about needed changes.

Please bear one thing in mind. There are innumerable possible situations that could be brought up. We have heard dozens, if not hundreds, of “What about a member who has X status, and wants Y, but due to something, is stuck with Z, what does NMRA do for them?” While we hope those situations are minimal, we realize that there may still be some situations we did not anticipate. Please contact your Trustee if there is a problem and he should make sure that info gets to the appropriate place and is properly answered.

One area that comes under that heading is multiple Region memberships. I will discuss two aspects of this. First is membership, and the other is voting. It has been pointed out that there is no reason that members cannot be members of all Regions if they so desire. It has also been pointed out that it is a simple computer

entry to accommodate that. To all those who have said so, I will acknowledge that while that may be true, it isn’t possible to say on one hand that we have “Single Membership” while also saying, “Join all these different sub groups.” The current plan is to offer a membership that makes an individual a member at all levels of the organization, not multiple Regional memberships. NMRA will encourage anyone interested in more than one Region to subscribe to the publications in different Regions. A decision on NMRA facilitating this is pending, but some of us want that to be done through national. Stay tuned.

The other area I want to discuss is voting rights. This gets a little tricky. It has been my belief that any restriction on voting would apply, and rightfully so, to national elections, and that Regions could decide for them-

selves who votes in Regional matters. During discussions in Seattle, I found out I was wrong. Voting will be limited to one’s home Region and Division. The reasons for this have to do primarily with legal requirements of what constitutes a quorum, and decision, at meetings. Not being a lawyer, I’ll try and explain this as best I can. There is usually a bylaw mandated requirement that a number, or percentage, of “members in good standing,” (a typical phrase in bylaws) be present, and/or voting, to either constitute a quorum, or make a proper decision, based on those bylaws. If what are technically non-members are counted towards a quorum, or allowed to participate in the actual decision making process, there is the possibility that either the determination of a quorum, or, that a decision was properly made, could be open to a legal challenge.

Yes my friends, we are dealing with legal documents here, and I feel like I’ve been sent to the BOT for a crash course in contract law. Not sure I have learned anything other than that I am much more patient in dealing with this stuff than I ever dreamed.

That’s it for now. I’ve tried to get as much as I could into this column. I’m sure that once we have held those Chicago meetings, your Trustee will be able to provide more details.

“The current plan is to offer a membership that makes an individual a member at all levels of the organization.”

SER creates Seattle Model Contest book

The Southeastern Region has published a downloadable booklet in PDF format featuring every model that was entered in the contest at last summer’s PSX2004 National Convention. The booklet features multiple photos of each model, as well as its total and category scores.

You’ll find it free on the SER website at www.ser-nmra.org.

WANTED: ONE EDITOR

for this very newsletter

It’s not a hard job, but it does take some time every three months.

No experience? No software?

No problem!

I’ll not only give you the software, I’ll train you on it in person (or by phone, depending on where you are), to the point where you’re flying solo.

If you’re interested - or just curious - contact Bruce Selb (TLR President), or me, Gerry Leone, FUSEE Editor-for-a-while.

(It’s a great way to earn “Volunteer” points for the Achievement Program, too!)

THE FUSEE is a quarterly publication of the Thousand Lakes Region of the National Model Railroad Association and is mailed to all members. The membership year runs from June 1 through May 31. Dues are \$8.00 per year and can be mailed to the Treasurer.

Permission is granted to reproduce any portion of THE FUSEE for use in other non-profit publications as long as proper credit is given and a copy is sent to the editor.

All contributions except advertising are considered donations. Submissions can be made by floppy disk, email, CD-ROM or hard copy, either PC or Mac. However, please do not email photos. Send materials to: Gerry Leone, (ADDRESS DELETED FROM WEB VERSION), or email me at gerryleone@earthlink.net

If you’re moving, please mail a change-of-address form to the Treasurer.

Any comments, suggestions, or questions are welcomed!

The Thousand Lakes Region of the NMRA

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South Red River Valley Division

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Wild Rivers Division

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Paul Bunyan Division

Position Open

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	Annual Pike ad rate
Full pg 9 1/2" x 7 1/2"	\$145.00	\$90.00
1/2 pg 4 1/2" x 7 1/2"	90.00	45.00
1/4 pg 4 1/2" x 3 1/2"	45.00	25.00
1/6 pg 4 1/2" x 2 1/2"	35.00	18.50
1/8 pg 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"	25.00	15.00
1/8 pg 3 1/2" x 2 1/2"	25.00	15.00
1/12 pg 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"	18.50	10.00
1/16 pg 1 1/2" x 3 1/2"	15.00	7.50

All advertising should be mailed (not emailed) 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!

Membership & Renewal Application

I'm enclosing payment for: _____ New membership

_____ \$8 for one year _____ Existing membership

_____ \$16 for two years _____ Returning member

Name: _____ Scale(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ NMRA #: _____

State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____@_____

Mail to: John Hotvet, Treasurer



THE FUSEE

P.O. Box 1113
Burnsville, MN 55337

INSIDE:

A sneak peek at River City 2005

Life after the Long Range Plan

Division updates

Unloading power poles

Train shows, events & meetings around the Region

Compiled by Jim Bernier (with Al Dowd)

Sat / Sun, 12/11-12/2004 - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

2nd Annual West Metro Collectible Toy & Train Show, Orono Discovery Center, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN. Admission: \$3.00; Early Bird Admission: \$7.00 (7:30 - 9:00 AM). For more information: (763) 479-1530.

Saturday, 01/29/2005 - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Great Tri-State Rail Sale, La Crosse Center, La Crosse, WI. Admission: \$3.00/Tables - \$20.00. For more information or for an exhibitor contract, send a large, self-addressed *stamped* envelope to: The 4000 Foundation, Limited, PO Box 3411, La Crosse, WI 54602-3411, call (608) 784-0036 or (608) 582-4761, or email trainmaster@lacrosseshortlinerr.org.

Saturday, 02/05/2005 - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Greater Upper Midwest Train Show & Sale, Century College West Campus, 3300 Century Avenue North, White Bear Lake, MN (Two blocks north of I-694 and Highway 120 [Century Avenue]). Admission: adults \$4.00; children 12 and under free. Show contact: Tom Jefferson at (651) 429-2885.

Sat / Sun, 02/19-20/2005 - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Mad City Train Show, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI. Admission: \$7, Seniors: \$6, Children: \$1, Kids under 5: Free. For more information: email Art Dawson at nkp284@yahoo.com.

Saturday, 02/26/2005

Minnesota - RPM, Rosemount Community Center, 13885 S. Robert Trail (MN Hwy 3), Rosemount MN (one mile north of Co. 42 and Hwy 3 in Rosemount). Admission: adult \$10.00, families \$15.00 and children under 16 free when accompanied by a paid adult admission. Contact: Greg Smith, 13412 Ferris Ave, AppleValley, MN 55124, (952) 891-1013 or email smithavmn@juno.com.

Sat / Sun, 5/19-20/2005

Thousand Lakes Region and Chicago & Northwestern Historical Society Joint Convention, Hanford Inn, Mason City, IA. Admission: TLR and NMRA membership required. Complete convention information and registration materials will be included in the next issue of THE FUSEE. See article in this issue for an overview of the convention. For more information contact Gordy Miller at gmillier@bevcomm.net.

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.