



Thousand Lakes Region

National Model Railroad Association

# The FUSEE



Volume 61 Number 4

[www.thousandlakesregion.org](http://www.thousandlakesregion.org)

Summer 2015

## 2015 Convention in Thunder Bay Remembered

The view from the hotel room shows the bay view of the body of water named Thunder Bay.



cliffs and some of the oldest fossils in the world.

Along with the falls the non-rail tour took in the old Fort William historic park. The park is one of the largest living history attractions in North America. Devoted to recreating the days of the northwest company and the Canadian fur trade.

The G scale garden railroad by Karl Schmidt. The layout was approximately 30 feet by 40 feet

Great place to view the scenery and the train traffic on the main line which runs right through the city.

The non rail tours took in the water falls know as Kakabeka Falls. The falls plunge 40 meters or around 131 feet over sheer



with 150 feet mainline tracks. Many of these structures were built from odds and ends of items from around the yard.

An example of an N scale layout by Craig Symington. This HOon3 railroad the 26 foot 26 foot was the 6 foot by 21foot modular extension. Craig was presented

See Page Three

## View from the Cab

by TLR President Dennis Rietze



Well another convention is over and now we can slide into summer mode, settling into the lawn chair and enjoying, hopefully some great weather throughout the summer. But before we do that, we need to thank Frank and Paul Gerry for hosting the 2015 Convention and putting on an outstanding event with fantastic weather. Those that did not come missed delicious food, good fellowship, tremendous prototype tours and endless rail fanning opportunities complete with some great layout.

It would have been nice to see more models and photos in the contests. So get your cameras out and begin taking photos and building some structures and rolling stock so that we have lots to judge in Fargo.

As I embark on my responsibility as TLR President, I realize that I have big shoes to fill and want to take time to say thanks for those that are rotating off the BOD. They are Gerry Miller as President, Jay Manning as Convention Coordinator and Paul Gerry as Secretary. They all have given us outstanding service and deserve our appreciation and thanks.

Hope that all who attended the convention had a great time and will remember to mark their calendar for next year's convention in Fargo ND on May 26th to the 29th. See you there!!!



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### From the Keyboard

by Wes Garcia

You will find a nice summary of the convention in Thunder Bay. Both in word and photographs.

I don't know what the weather is looking like in your area of the TLR, but here in Sioux Falls, it feels like fall.

Almost time to come indoors and start that new project or finish off a project you started last season.

This is a good time to get your camera out and take a few pictures and write down some notes about what your doing. How knows, it may prove to be a good article for the Fusee.



### Deadline

February 1

June 1

August 1

November 1

### Publishing Date

March 1

July 1

September 1

December 1



# Thunder Bay Remembered



with his MMR certificates at the convention. It was a magnificent layout

We are left with new ideas we want to try on our own models and layouts. New friends from the weekend in Thunder Bay, and memories of our time in Canada.



Would you like a TLR pin? You can order your very own for just \$5.00 US/Canada dollars. Including tax and shipping. For each pin, send your order to:

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## Thousand Lakes Region Board Meeting May 22nd 2015

Present: Paul Gerry, Gerry Miller, Jim Krekelberg, Caleb Van Der Brink, Ron Olsen, Wes Garcia, Jim Bernier, Gerry Leone, Fred Headon, Clark Kooning, Ryan Moats, Don Radeck, Dennis Rietze, Jay Manning, Art Suel, Tom Gay, Richard Dahl (via SKYPE)

Call to order 9:02 pm

The Presidents Message was made by Gerry Miller. Change is good within the TLR over the last year. Wes Garcia is the new Fuse editor and has done a great job with his inaugural editions. The first meeting via SKYPE was done with great success in February as a pre-convention meeting amongst the board members and the convention chairs. Despite some microphone issues (as in which part to talk into) everyone connected fine. The added bonus is that meetings via SKYPE have opened up a whole new pool of volunteers for the Board of Directors which is very welcome. Thank you goes out to Paul Gerry and Jay Manning who will both be completing a 5 yr term on the Board at the end of the convention and will be term limited out of office. As always, recruitment onto the Board is always tough but the younger generation especially should give it a go to get new ideas into the Region. The introduction of SKYPE will again hopefully engage more members and a reminder that there is no set time needed as a general TLR member to become a Board member, you just need to be

willing to volunteer. A big Thank You to everyone for all the help over the last 6 yrs of being the TLR President, it has been a great and rewarding experience.

The Vice Presidents Message was made by Richard Dahl via SKYPE. The only news is that there has been some turnover in Division Superintendents but all changeovers have flowed smoothly.

The Secretary Report was made by Paul Gerry. A motion to accept the Fall Minutes as published in the Fuse was made by Jay Manning and seconded by Wes Garcia. It passed unanimously.

The Treasury Report was made by Jim Krekelberg. Overall not a lot of change in the financial health of the TLR, still doing very well with 1 CD due this year. Still waiting on the +/- for the convention to see how that changes things and there are 10 new members since the Fall Meeting.

A motion to accept the report was made by Ron Olsen and seconded by Jim Bernier. It passed unanimously.

The Contest Report was made by Ron Olsen. Overall this year's contest was a little sparser than in years previous with only 13 models and 9 photos being entered. On the plus side the display only section of the contest room was populated by many models submitted by a few attendees and this initial experiment will be continued next year in Fargo.

The Fuse Editor / Public Relations Report was made by Wes Garcia. Overall the Fuse lost 1 advertiser but brought a new one on board since the fall meeting. Always room for more articles from individuals or divisions in each issue so keep the submissions coming. On the PR side, TLR pins were made and were given out to all attendees of the convention. TLR pins will be made available to the general membership who could not attend the convention at a later date.

The Convention Director Report was made by Jay Manning. The next few years are already accounted for or almost accounted for. The 2016 Fargo Convention is well in hand (more on that later), the 2017 Convention is shaping up to be a joint convention with the Mid-Continent Region that will most likely occur in June or July. The Mid-Continent works on a slightly different convention time line than the TLR so a firm date has not been set yet. The 2018 Convention might be held back in Sioux Falls by the DSED but this has not yet been ratified by that Division's members. The Convention Handbook is now official and has been made available to the BOD and any Division wishing to plan a convention. Suggested time lines and hints and tricks as well as what is expected from a TLR Convention is all present with the final legal / insurance questions being sorted out. Thanks to Wes Garcia for helping to publish it.

A formal Thank You to Tom Gaior on the Social Media front for

and Facebook in a timely manner.

The Webmaster Report was made by Caleb van Der Brink. Thanks for all the content to put up on the website. The Fusee is now available in electronic versions all the way back to 2005 in PDF format. A reminder that the website is there to promote the TLR and especially its Divisions. Any meeting, meet or local / divisional convention should be forwarded to the webmaster so maximum exposure for your event can be obtained.

The Historians Report was made by Jim Bernier. There have been three requests for historical records made over the last 6 months. The fact that the majority of the information and files have now been transferred into a digital format has made the retrieval of any information fast and efficient. The work continues to get everything into a digital format.

The No 1 Northern Division Report was made by Dennis Rietze. The Free-Mo modular group continues to visit shows and be very active in the division to a very positive response by the general public. A snail mail newsletter went out to the division members in April to update everyone as to the going ons in the division as well as to ask for updated email addresses if a member has one. It is hoped that the newsletter in digital or hardcopy format will become regular event. In other Free-Mo news, the layout made its first trek outside of Manitoba to Thunder Bay for the convention and to show off the end loops that the TLR help subsidize with a grant. The fall will prove to be busy with a large event planned in November to help gain new members and expose the public to the model railroading hobby.

The South Red River Valley Division Report was made by Don Radeck on behalf of Jim Moore. The Spud Valley Model Railroad Club and SRRVD members ran two different layouts for Bonanzaville's Christmas on the Prairie. The layouts were a great success and even caught the attention of a local news team who reported more on the two layouts than on Bonanzaville itself! The Spud Valley will host over 5,000 8th graders during May which is a great PR event for the hobby. As well The Spud Valley will be open for the Northern Pacific Historical Associations Convention in July. Unfortunately the lease on the climate controlled building the Red River Railroad Modular Club as kept their trailer and layout in has been lost. This means that the trailer will have to be kept outdoors from now on and the effect this will have on the modules is uncertain. The majority of the SRRVD membership is focussed on next years TLR Convention which promises to be a fantastic event (more to come later).

The Southeastern Division Report was made by Gerry Miller. Overall the switching layout that the division constructed has been to 3 train shows since the fall with most of them being outside of the Southeastern Division boundaries. Public response has been excellent but unfortunately any new members gained have gone to a different Region and the divisions overall number of members are down with only 1 new member joining.

The Prairie Lakes Division Report was made by Caleb van Der Brink for Jay Davis. A large meet was held in April in Algona Iowa at the Kossuth County Fairgrounds. The feature attractions was a huge O scale layout put together by a 90 yr old farmer named Ar-

len Benschoter. The event was a great success with over 350 in attendance which was spurred on by local publicity in a newspaper and poor farming conditions. The next meet is planned for September in Sibley Iowa at the Otter Valley Model Railroad Club to celebrate their 30th anniversary.

The Dakota South Eastern Division Report was made by Jay Manning. The annual library show "kids and trains day" was a great success will clinics for the kids and a small switching layout set up. The Trains at Christmas event saw the newly expanded modular layout in action with it measuring a full 30' x 36' all told and with it the quick realization that a few "geezer gaits" were needed to get to the inside of the circle in comfort (this problem has since been fixed). A train show at the Good Samaritan Centre (the location of the 2012 Convention) was professionally taped by the Centre's publicist. A new swap meet and train show was put on in conjunction with the Sioux Valley Model Engineers Society which brought in now vendors and as overall a good show. Finally, the finished ethanol plant was presented to the North American Ethanol Association to rave reviews.

The Twin Cities Division Report was emailed in by David Hohle. Some leadership changes have occurred over the last year with new people stepping forward to fill the holes left behind by the outgoing members who have contributed a lot to the division with their time on the board. To promote the hobby the TCD is discussing covering the cost of up to 10 Rail Passes for new members who need a little encouragement to see what can be gained by involvement in the Division. It has been noted that a local Boy Scout group is interested in model rail-

roading and some outreach to this group will be made in the Fall. The monthly meets continue to occur with the upcoming year's focus being a project layout where each month a different element will be tackled from framework to finished scenery with the monthly model contests continuing as well. The TCD website has also undergone an overhaul and has been upgraded and an active Facebook page has been added in an effort to use social media to attract new members.

The Minnesota River Valley Division Report was emailed in by Terry Davis. The core of the Division has slowly eroded away over the last year due to health concerns amongst the members and relocations with only 6 - 8 core NMRA members still active in the quarterly meetings. The Milwaukee Road Heritage Centre in Montevideo to build an HO replica of the division point as it was in the 1950's. The Luce Line Railroad Club, a 100% NMRA Club, has also been afflicted with the same issues as the MRVD with a dwindling membership and is no longer very active in MRVD events. Overall no newsletter is published and no dues are collected in the MRVD and the last of the Treasury is being used to buy meals at the annual meeting for as long as the division remains active.

The National Report was made by a combination of Fred Headon, Gerry Leone and Clark Kooning. The National Board members and Officers will have profile pictures up on the main webpage to help bring a face to the names of the elected. The California State Railway Museum and the Kambach Memorial Library work continues on pace. A new expansion of the

NMRA could be around the corner with both Singapore and China both showing informal interest in becoming Regions of the NMRA which would add over 100,000 new members. Big news will be showcased at the National Convention in Portland in the form of the standards for LCC (Layout Command Control). This has been a seven year project for an open source network to allow control of all the elements on a layout except for what is covered by DCC and the NMRA has been instrumental in setting all Standards for LCC. Think being able to wire signals, lighting and car routing software as easily as DCC and then having someone be a dispatcher for the layout on the other side of the continent as a simplified explanation. The Marketing Department (aka Gerry Leone) needs your help for ideas to target the intended demographic as previous marketing initiatives have been less than successful although the biggest success has been the Rail Pass initiative with a 79% retention rate for the first year. The Vertical Integration of the 501c3 status continues with a single Region and Division being put through the IRS paperwork to see how it holds up. The **THREE VISIT RULE** has been approved but needs clarification and promotion. It means that a person can only be an official visitor 3 times in their LIFETIME before having to become a member or stop attending NMRA events. This is to protect Division and Regional Officers against lawsuits as well as to protect paying members from those who want all the benefits of membership but don't want to pay into the common pot. A Visitor is someone who acts like a Member (ie enters contests, does clinics, votes, etc) and gains some benefit from the Members hard work. Clark Kooning made a quick NMRA Canada specific report as

well. NMRA Canada uses SKYPE extensively to conduct meeting which works great along with emails for non pressing and non vote issues. As well there is a NMRA Talk Show via SKYPE where the first 20 min is NMRA Canada business and the rest is a bull session about anything model railroading which is turning into a great added value to members. Big issue right now is the low Canadian dollar since all dues are collected in Canadian funds but paid to NMRA Headquarters in US funds which means that right now it costs an extra 30 cents per dollar for NMRA Canada to transfer its dues to the home office. Membership is rising slowly though with new clubs joining all the time with the insurance being a large draw.

### Old Business

The 2015 Convention Report was presented by Paul Gerry. Overall it looks like about 80 TLR members and significant others made the trip up to Thunder Bay for the convention. So far the Prince Arthur Waterfront Hotel and Suites has met and exceeded expectations for service and the ambiance of staying in an old railroad hotel. The weather is cooperating and it looks like sunny skies are forecast for the rest of the weekend. Saturday will be all prototype tours with the banquet to follow. Financially the convention is in good shape due to some cost savings on the buses by TLR member Doug Deley who drives them for a living and the weak Canadian dollar that is making the US funds from the TLR go much further than expected!

### New Business

First of all Gerry Miller brought up a few small issues that are occurring with the new boundaries based on ZIP codes within the

TLR. Apparently there is some overlap with the old and new boundaries between the TCD and MRVD with the MRVD Superintendent is technically within TCD territory. This can be sorted out easily enough at the Regional level by automatically returning to the counties as boundaries but the National level can't do this so some manual tweaking of the numbers from national will need to be done.

Next an update on Board of Directors meeting voting rights. A little digging into the TLR Bylaws, thanks in part to the use of historian Jim Bernier and his database, has shown that Division Superintendents have voting rights. The only limitation is that the Superintendent has to be at the meeting IN PERSON, so no proxy votes through the Vice Super or another member of the Division. As it stands at this meeting, Dennis Rietze of the No 1 Northern is the only Superintendent in attendance and will be awarded voting rights for this meeting.

Next was the 2016 Convention Report which was made by Don Radeck. The planning for the 2016 TLR Convention in Fargo is well in hand and the official name of the convention will be "Live Steam in 2016" May 26th to the 29th. The Convention Hotel has just recently changed ownership to the Baymont Inn and Suites but is honouring all the old agreements made with the Doublewood Inn. The party starts on Thursday evening with rail and non-rail sites to visit as well as the car shops of Dirk Lenthe may be open. Bonanzaville and the Spud Valley Model Railroad Club will be the site of the Friday Night Dessert Social with the layout, 1:1 railroad equipment

and other displays of interest all open to the TLR. A few clinics have already been lined up and more clinicians are being recruited this weekend. GPK Plastics and McNeilus Steel have both opened their doors enthusiastically for tours. Rollag MN and the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion will still be the main attraction with live steam available to ride behind and a "Plan B" in case of inclement weather is already in place. The speaker for the Banquet still hasn't confirmed yet. There are also 10 layouts on tour so far with some more in the works. The South Red River Valley Division and the Spud Valley Model Railroad Club have decided to do a 50/50 split with the TLR for profit/losses associated with the convention.

Next was a challenge by Ryan Moats MMR of the Mid-Con Region. He has put forth that all MMRs should build something for the Contest Room and then have it auctioned off at the Chinese Auction at the Banquet. He has put his modelling where his mouth is and the HO Scale wood bridge he has entered into the Contest will be part of the Chinese Auction as well as any awards the model brings with it. He's looking forward to seeing who takes up this challenge for the 2016 Convention in Fargo.

Next was the 2017 Convention Report which was made by Ryan Moats MMR and Jay Manning. The 2017 Convention will tentatively be a Joint Convention between the TLR and the Mid Continent Region. Only a rough outline is in place as the Mid-Con plans 2 yrs in advance and the TLR plans 3 yrs so nothing will be ratified by Mid-Con members yet till after their 2015 Convention.

Next an offer from the Dakota

South Eastern Division to bring the TLR back to Sioux Falls SD for the 2018 Convention pending ratification by the members.

Next came a suggestion for the 2019 Convention. Clark Kooning, HLM, MMR and National VP of Administration, suggested that a 3 Region Joint Convention be held in Sault St Marie, Ontario Canada between the TLR, Mid-Con and the Niagara Frontier Region. Gerry Leone, HLM, MMR and National VP of Special Projects quickly upped the ante and suggested a 15 Region Joint Convention and just call it a National! After this the discussion quickly dissolved for awhile and we all got a glimpse of how our National Board Meetings probably function. Looks like fun!

Next came a discussion regarding non-rail Contest entrants and rewards given which was led by Gerry Miller. Overall the Arts and Crafts section of the Contest had 9 entrants last year and 0 this year. This may in part be due to an issue that was brought to the attention of Gerry by a concerned member that the paper certificates for the non-rail winners did not match up to the plaques for the rail winners. This has led to some resentment by non-rail members who usually enter the contest. Overall it was agreed that this policy should change since non-rail members generally bring along the rail members which helps convention attendance and that the effort put into the crafts is equal to the work put into the models in a lot of cases and should be recognized as such. The debate came which what form the reward to the winners should be with an almost equal split between gift baskets and plaques. Overall it was agreed that there should be a concise and consistent policy of who wins what for what in the



contests. It was also brought up that does entering the contest count as a member benefit and as such count against the 3 Visit Rule put forward by National or are non-rails covered by the membership of their spouses? The discussion was finally tabled with the following agreement: Ron Olsen, Contest Director, will form a committee and come up with a set of policies for who gets what in the contest to be printed up in the Fuse's SPRING issue before the next convention.

Finally came a long discussion regarding the financial support of the 2018 National Narrow Gauge Convention. It was brought forward to the board by members of the TLR who will be running the 2018 National Narrow Gauge Convention that they would appreciate the TLRs financial support in offering a loan as seed money for down payments etc. Much of the discussion centred around the legalities and the financial risk associated with a 501c entity like the TLR loaning money to a LLC group like the 2018 Narrow Gauge Group. Initially a motion to NOT lend money at this time until more of the legal questions are answered and more information was put in place was voted on. Subsequently more information came to light and just before the AGM Sunday morning the following motion was made. Based on information from a knowledgeable source, we the TLR Board move that a loan to the Narrow Gauge Convention Committee will not be granted. The motion was made by Dennis Rietze and seconded by Jim Krekelberg. The vote was unanimous in favour of the motion and was made by Ron Olsen, Jay Manning, Wes Garcia, Gerry Miller, Jim Krekelberg, Dennis Rietze, Paul

Gerry and Richard Dahl.

A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Gerry and seconded by Ron Olsen. It passed unanimously and the BOD meeting closed at 11:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Paul Gerry  
TLR Secretary



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## 2016 TLR Convention - “Live Steam in 2016”

I write this after just returning from a GREAT convention in Thunder Bay. We attended the membership meeting, hit every layout on the tour and was able to arrive back in Fargo before 10:00 PM. To use a baseball metaphor, Thunder Bay has just hit a home run, now it's time for Fargo to step out of the on deck circle and into the batters box.

Two years ago, Tom Gay, Kevin Dill and myself, while on the way home from the “Twin Rails to the Twin Cities” convention, tossed around thoughts and ideas for the South Red River Valley Division to host a convention in Fargo. When home, we contacted our Superintendent, Jim Moore and veteran convention organizer, Duane Durr and started an exploratory committee to look into what we would have around here to offer the TLR.

After several months of exploring, the tipping point came when Kevin arranged for us to meet with the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion Board of Directors. On a cold February, 2014 Saturday morning, we stood before the WMSTR board, told them about the TLR, that we would like to bring our convention attendees out to Rollag and hopefully see locomotive 353 fired up and running. Well, God was definitely watching over us that day as the board explained to us that the first week in June of 2016 was a required boiler in-

spection of their steam engines. There for, all of the steamers would have to be watered and ready to fire anyway so firing up 353 along with a small “model” live steam locomotive used for giving kids rides, would be no problem and approval was unanimous. As we walked out the door following the meeting, other board members followed us and said they would try to have other equipment running for us as well. WMSTR President, Mark Kerkvliet also offered to provide lunch the day we visit.

With WMSTR as our anchor event, we decided we could do this and the real planning began. We set the dates, May 26 - 29, 2016. Because the Fargo Marathon will be held the weekend before so there are no hotel rooms to be had (this years marathon had 21,000 runners) and also it works better for the WMSTR, we had to go with the Memorial Day weekend. I called TLR convention director, Jay Manning, to inform him of our decision, we put together a proposal for the TLR board and presented it at the Sioux City convention. After unanimous approval by the Board, we changed our committee from exploratory to planning.

We booked the Baymont Inn and Suites for our convention headquarters, talked to some industries in Fargo about tours and have had a good response from people wanting to show off their layouts. Bonazaville, home of the Spud Valley Model Railroad Club, will be the location for the Friday



night social.

We have also had offers for clinics but would like some more, so please contact me if you would be interested. My number is (701) 234-9351 or email [spudvalley@hotmail.com](mailto:spudvalley@hotmail.com).

After the great weekend Paul and Frank Gerry provided us in Thunder Bay, I am getting even more excited (and maybe a little nervous) about next year. It's hard to believe it's already been two years since that day we started talking about this. Now we are less than a year away.

I believe this will be the first TLR convention held in Fargo that Duane Durr will not be the chairman. I have some big shoes to fill and am glad that he agreed to be on the committee.

I have a fantastic crew in Kevin, Tom, Jim and Duane and will guarantee a great time will be had by all next May 26 - 29, 2016 in Fargo!

Don Radeck  
“Live Steam in 2016” Fargo TLR  
convention chairman



## Minutes for the AGM Meeting on May 24th 2015 in Thunder Bay, Ontario

Present from the Board were Gerry Miller, Paul Gerry, Jay Manning, Ron Olsen, Wes Garcia, Jim Krekelberg and Caleb Van der Brink. There were also 13 General Members present.

A call to order was made by Gerry Miller at 8:30 am.

President Gerry Miller started off the meeting with a Thank You for a convention well done, a call for more people to get involved in judging as a way to improve their skills and a big Thank You to the membership for making the trip up for this convention. Gerry was very thankful for the opportunity to serve the TLR over the last 6 yrs as President and this will be his last meeting before the term limit occurs.

The meeting started with reports from the board members, division heads and region officials concerning their respective areas of responsibility. Please see the Board of Directors minutes for more details on the reports from individual presenters with the following addendums being made at the AGM meeting itself. A motion to accept the minutes as posted in the Fusee was made by Fred Headon and seconded by Gerry Leone and passed unanimously. A motion to accept the Treasures Report was made by Tom Ford and was seconded by Art Suel and passed unanimously.

Ron Olsen made a small addition to his BOD report as Contest

Director, with the idea of a "First Time Entrants" Category so those entering the contest don't have to go up against the likes of Fred Headon and Mike Engler their first time around. He will be looking into this for next year.

John Hotvet wanted to take official notice at the minutes that 4 AP Certificates were handed out over the last 6 months ( 1 to Ken Zitska and 3 to Craig Symington) and an MMR was awarded to Craig Symington at the Banquet last night. Congratulations!

Fred Headon wanted to reiterate the **3 Visit Rule** as outline by National and already in the BOD minutes. Very important that this rule is enforced at a grass roots level so that people appreciate the value of being a member. Nobody will joint and help support the local Division and Region if they can do everything for free.

Next was the 2016 Convention Report which was made by Don Radeck. The planning for the 2016 TLR Convention in Fargo is well in hand and the official name of the convention will be "Live Steam in 2016" May 26th to the 29th. The Convention Hotel has just recently changed ownership to the Baymont Inn and Suites but is honouring all the old agreements made with the Doublewood Inn. The party starts on Thursday evening with rail and non-rail sites to visit as well as the car shops of Dirk Lenthe may be open. Bonanzaville and the Spud Valley Model Railroad Club will be the site of the Friday Night Desert Social with the layout, 1:1 railroad equipment and other displays of interest all open to the TLR. A few clinics have already been lined up and more clinicians are being recruited this weekend. GPK Plastics and McNeilus Steel have both opened their doors

enthusiastically for tours. Rollag MN and the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion will still be the main attraction with live steam available to ride behind and a "Plan B" in case of inclement weather is already in place. The speaker for the Banquet still hasn't confirmed yet. There are also 10 layouts on tour so far with some more in the works. The South Red River Valley Division and the Spud Valley Model Railroad Club have decided to do a 50/50 split with the TLR for profit/losses associated with the convention.

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A special Thanks to Tom Gaisor and Caleb Van der Brink for taking the TLR into the 21st century and keeping out social media outlets a going concern.

Next up were the BOD elections. At this time Gerry Miller (President), Jay Manning (Convention Director) and Paul Gerry (Secretary) will all be leaving due to term limits. Gerry Miller will stay on as the Nominations Chair for the foreseeable future. Nominations were open and Dennis Rietze and Art Suel were both put forward as candidates. There were no candidates from the floor nominated. Dennis has 11 yrs as a TLR Member and has been the Superintendent of the No 1 Northern Division for 5 yrs. He also helped set up the Winnipeg Free-Mo group and has an HO layout of his own in a crawl space.



Art is a retired postal service employee from Savage MN who enjoys working on his N Scale layout. He has a lot of civic experience with the Savage City Council and the Knights of Columbus. The nominations stood and the members were elected unanimously.

On behalf of the NMRA and the TLR Members, a Thank You to Gerry Miller for his 6 yrs of service.

A motion to adjourn was made by Don Radeck and seconded by Wes Garcia. It passed unanimously and the meeting officially closed at 9:17am.

After the meeting the new BOD met to nominate and acclaim Scott Nesbit as a BOD member who could not be present for the meeting and therefore could not be elected in the usual manner. As it stands Dennis Rietze will become the TLR President and serve 2 yrs. Art Suel will become the TLR Secretary and serve 2 yrs. Scott Nesbit will become the TLR Convention Chair and serve a 1 yr term.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Gerry  
ex-TLR Secretary



## 2015 TLR Convention Contest Results Thunder Bay, Ontario

### Photos (10 entries, two categories):

#### Color model

3<sup>rd</sup> – Gerry Leone, MMR – “Switching the Froton Creamery”

2<sup>nd</sup> – Gerry Leone, MMR – “#24 at Glen Oaks Elevator”

1<sup>st</sup> – Gerry Leone, MMR – “Foggy Day in the Field”

#### Color prototype

3<sup>rd</sup> – Art Suel – “UP Challenger Going by the Elevator”

2<sup>nd</sup> – Paul Ullrich – “Waiting for a Train on a Rainy Day”

1<sup>st</sup> – Art Suel – “Challenger Under Steam”

#### Best in show

Paul Ullrich – “Ballast Spreading Along CP Line Outside of Thief River Falls”

### Models (13 entries, 6 categories):

#### Freight car

2<sup>nd</sup> – Neil Carleton – “CP Flat Car with Truss Rod”

1<sup>st</sup> – John Hotvet, MMR – “AT&SF Stock Car 52753”

#### Non-revenue

1<sup>st</sup> – Ronald Peterson – “Illinois Central MOW Bunk Car”

#### Passenger car

1<sup>st</sup> – Ryan Moats, MMR – “B&CC Combine #51”

#### Offline display

1<sup>st</sup> – Ian Plett – “Red Peterbuilt Hauling Train Axles”

#### Offline structure

3<sup>rd</sup> – Margaret Ullrich – “The Mercantile”

2<sup>nd</sup> – Gerry Miller – “Patriot Flag Company”

1<sup>st</sup> – Art Suel – “Rural Grain Coop”

#### Online structure

3<sup>rd</sup> – Ryan Moats, MMR – “60’ Howe Truss Bridge”

2<sup>nd</sup> – Neil Carleton – “Cattle Loading Ramp”

1<sup>st</sup> – John Hotvet, MMR – “AT&SF Mayfield Kansas Depot”

#### Best in show/Jock Oliphant

Fred Headon, MMR – “CPR 280-ton Coaling Plant”







Ballast Spreading  
Along CP Line Out-  
side of Thief River  
Falls

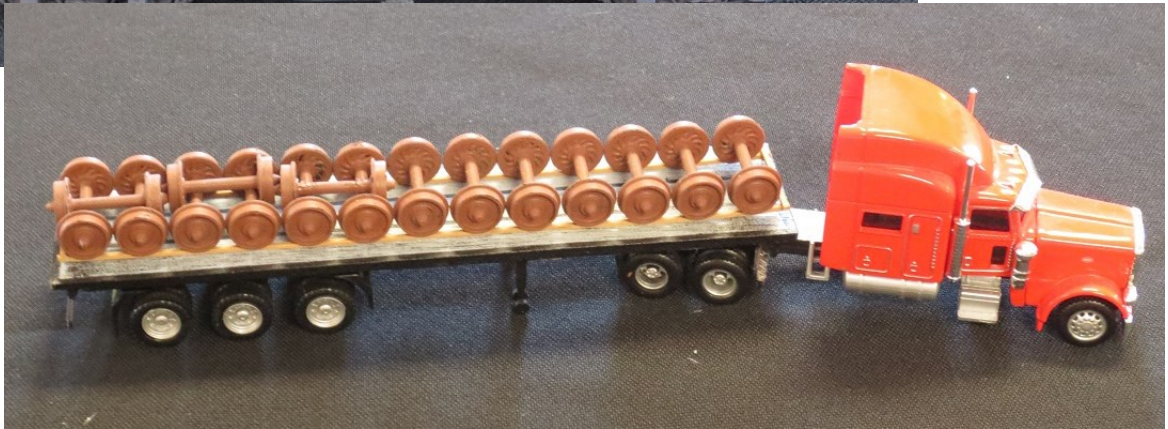


Challenger Under Steam



Foggy Day in the Field









# The Thousand Lakes Region of the NMRA

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Summer 2015  
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### **What's Inside?**

- **TL R Convention: Remembered**
- **TLR Board Meeting Minutes**
- **Live Stream 2016**
- **AGM Minutes**
- **Contest results for Thunder Bay with Pictures**

Check your expiration date! If you have questions (or a change of address) email Jim Krekelberg at: [jkrekelberg@sio.midco.net](mailto:jkrekelberg@sio.midco.net)

### **Region Roundup—model railroad-related events in and around the TLR**

Oct 25, 2015 4th Annual Model Train Show and Sale — Hampton, IA.

Nov. 14, 2015 Granite City Train Show — St. Cloud, MN.