



Thousand Lakes Region

National Model Railroad Association

The FUSEE



Volume 58 Number 3

www.thousandlakesregion.org

Spring 2012

Sioux Falls prepares to welcome model train fans Thousand Lakes Region convention returns after ten year hiatus

Like to learn? Like train rides? Like to enjoy viewing other modelers' projects? Like a "good deal" and a "good deal more" for your money? If the answer to the above questions is "yes" then you're on the right track heading for Rails to the Rocks 2012.

The Dakota Southeastern Division offers you a first class ticket. This issue of The Fusee is full of detailed information on what's in store for you just a couple months from now.

Consider this: Where can you go for a fun-filled weekend of trains, trains, and more trains, all within a 30 minute ride from a modern, comfortable conference center? And where can you, as part and parcel of your registration fee, expect nearly all your meals included from Friday morning breakfast through Sunday morning? Yup, for those attending the rail-related events, we've included breakfast and lunch, plus dinner Friday and Saturday night—all in your registration fee.

Trains—riding Where can you go to ride in or behind a GP50 locomotive? Right here—four lucky winners earn that right as we raffle four cab rides to lucky recipients. The rest of our passengers on the train ride from

Dell Rapids (a short distance north of Sioux Falls) will have the opportunity to ride one of three cabooses (bench seats—be forewarned!) on the Dakota and Iowa Railroad's route across the Big Sioux River into downtown Sioux Falls. Be sure to bring your camera.

DCC system. So bring your stuff! **Trains—learning** Clinics, begin with four to choose from Friday morning at 9:30 and 10:30.

Non-rails are encouraged to visit the EROS data center (more details at www.usgs.gov.) At 9:00 we'll provide transportation for a unique tour.



American citizens need photo ID. Canadians need to bring their passports, as EROS is a federal facility.

After clinics, you'll ride to nearby Sertoma Park, where we'll provide lunch.

Trains—tours Prototype tours highlight the afternoon for railfans. Half will board the bus to the nearby Sioux Falls quarry, along with a visit to the Ellis and Eastern engine house.

The other group will bus across town to the Concrete Materials newly constructed transloading facility for a tour by Clark Meyer, an executive of Concrete Materials. The two groups will then switch to allow everyone to enjoy both portions of the afternoon.

Non-rail fans can ride to a 1:00 guided tour of the recently remodeled **St. Joseph's Cathedral**, a landmark in downtown for many years, but one that last year underwent a \$16 million interior remodeling project. Some who have toured the cathedral believe

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That's getting a bit ahead of ourselves as far as the sequence of activities. Let's go back to **Thursday evening registration** at the Jerstad Retreat Center. Perhaps you don't relish the thought of not being able to operate your favorite locomotive and consist for several days, given travel away from home. Not to worry—we've got you covered!

Trains—playing with From the time you arrive to register Thursday or Friday, the 48' double main of the HO scale DSED modular club layout will be waiting for you at registration and to operate our Digitrax

View from the Cab

by TLR President Gerry Miller

It is convention time once again! After hosting our convention last year, I found out just how much work and worry went into planning this event. Though very stressful at times, it was very rewarding to see so many happy people enjoying my home town. Thankfully the weather cooperated for us in 2011, and we hope the same holds true this year.

The DSED has a magnificent weekend planned for us this May in Sioux Falls. Numerous clinics, lots of activities for everyone to attend, and a good number of layouts to see highlight the schedule of events. I can't wait to get there!

Plans for the 2013 convention in the Twin Cities are also moving along. We are still looking for a site for the 2014 convention. Anyone who may be interested in hosting a regional convention please contact a TLR board member.

There are four board of director's positions up for election in May. Positions open are; President, Vice-President, Public Relations Director, and Convention Director. As of this writing, Paul Ullrich (VP), Tracy McKibben (PR), Jay Manning (CD), and I (P) will be seeking re-election. If anyone is interested or has questions about running for a position on the board, please contact me.

A reminder for Division Superintendents

The TLR board meeting in May will be your next chance to receive money from our division grant program. If any Division would like financial help with a program to promote the hobby, please send your request to me before the convention in May.

Winter is almost over, but with temperatures in the high 40's during January, I'm afraid to think what March will be like! Hope everyone enjoys their spring! I'll see you in Sioux Falls in May. 

34th Annual Spud Valley Hobby Show

Sunday, October 21, 2012
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Admission: \$5.50
(under 12 free with
paid adult)**

**Ramada Plaza
Suites
Crystal Ballroom
1635 42nd St. S.,
Fargo, ND**

- ◆ Large and small
- ◆ operating model
- ◆ railroads
- ◆ Vendors selling farm toys, plastic models, model railroad items, die cast vehicles, old toys, railroad collectibles and more
- ◆ Door prizes—no need to be present to win
- ◆ Valley RC Flyers display their planes

For information, call Don, 701-234-9351

FRom the EDitor

by Alan Saatkamp, Fusee editor

As Gerry Miller, TLR president indicates above, the annual TLR convention is nearly here. Spring is just around the corner, and before you know it, May will be upon us.

We're hoping for a warm (and dry) weekend May 18-20. This is DSED's first regional convention since 2002. Our spring Fusee is predominantly devoted to sharing the highlights of what we've planned for you. We encourage you, and whether you're a railfan or not, to join us to see and make friends as well as enjoy an entertaining weekend.

For those of you who have been working on structures, cars, locomotives, and/or taking pictures, why not share your efforts and accomplishments with fellow hobbyists? Last year's best in show, the scratchbuilt Heron Lake depot by Leo Appel, was a marvel of detail and creativity. Leo entered the contest with the encouragement of fellow Prairie Lakes Division members. Not only did he earn recognition, but dozens of hobbyists were able to see and admire his creation.

Thousand Lakes Region includes many talented artists, engineers, and photographers. We know you're out there and ask that you take the time to submit your labors of love. Who knows? In addition to inspiring others to give your technique a try, you might earn recognition and another product that counts toward the Achievement Program requirements toward Master Model Railroader. The Dakota Southeastern Division looks forward to entertaining you in just a few short months. See you then.



(continued from page one)

it rivals those of its European counterparts. See what you think!

There will be time for **non-rail fans to make a leisurely downtown self-directed tour of SculptureWalk.**

It's only a short four block walk on downtown Phillips Avenue in the shopping district. We'll provide the transportation there and back to the Jerstad later that afternoon. There might be time for you to visit the **Japanese Gardens at Terrace and/or Veterans Memorial Park** at the end of the afternoon.

Trains—more learning Thought you'd seen all the clinics for one day? Not a chance. Upon return to the Jerstad Center late afternoon, you can choose from another pair of **clinics** before 6:00 supper. Model Railroader Associate Editor Cody Grivno is back (some of us remember him from our Duluth convention several years ago) to share wisdom on what's going on at MR.

Trains—take a chance Don't forget—Friday night's the chance to win one of those four cab rides in the Dakota And Iowa Railroad GP50s Saturday afternoon!

Trains—learning (for a nightcap)

Oh yes. Now you thought you were done seeing clinics? Not a chance (not referring to the raffle either). While some of us head off to the 8:00 board of directors' and region officials' meeting in "the board room" others can relax and choose from another pair of Friday night features.

By the way, our first 40 registrants (or combinations thereof among the 32 rooms available) can stay at the Jerstad Center, our host site, for a very reasonable rate. You'll find all the information you'll need for reserving a room on page six. Get a look at the Jerstad's magnificent grounds and setting as well as the excellent conferencing space for clinics and meetings.

Saturday

Following breakfast at your lodging site, you have a few choices to consider for the morning. **Non-rail fans can ride to the Sertoma Butterfly House and Aquarium** to take a

tour. Admission is \$9.00 to visit all of the facility. Afterward, we'll make sure you can join the lunch bunch at the city park in Dell Rapids, if you're so inclined (but there's not an inclined railroad this year).

Trains—learning/tours/rides— while the non-rails are experiencing the butterflies and fish, railfans have their choice of clinics at 8:00 before loading the bus for Midwest Railcar Repair in Corson. Our guided walking tour is an hour-plus at MRR.



Midwest Railcar Repair owner Greg Carmon explains the operation to model railroad enthusiasts during a SiouxRail tour in 2008. Greg has been a staunch supporter of the DSED and our railfanning activities.

Greg Carmon and his staff have built the facility to store up to 700 cars at one time. Services include a paint shop, repairs, and inspections. We'll lunch afterward at Dell Rapids city park before boarding the cabooses (or cabs for the four lucky raffle winners). We'll ride down to Sioux Falls and cross the Big Sioux River before heading back north of downtown to board our busses back to the Jerstad.

Trains—you guessed, it—more clinics By now you probably saw this coming. Food for thought before dinner with two more clinic options. The banquet begins at 6:30 in the Great Room at the Jerstad. There will be time to relax beforehand outdoors too.

Trains—NMRA style/awards/education We're delighted to have outgoing (in more ways than one) NMRA President Mike Brestel as our guest speaker. TLR President Gerry Miller also has a few honors to bestow, and acting contest director Fred Headon, MMR, will likewise end

the suspense by announcing winners of the modeling and photography contests held this weekend.

Times for the contest room to be available for entries and viewing will be announced in the future, but in no event later than when you claim your registration materials at the Jerstad Center.

Trains—buying For some (especially N gaugers, who seem to make out like bandits each year in recent memory) another highlight of the evening is the Chinese auction. Former Fusee editor Gerry Leone will join his successor (some would argue that choice of words) for another round of light banter while we auction off dozens (scores?) of items for you to take home as reminders of what fun it was to attend Rails to the Rocks 2012.

Sunday

Trains—business After breakfast, supplied at your lodging site, the general membership meeting begins at 9:00 a.m. in room 141 at the Jerstad. Election of officers, 2013 Twin Cities convention preview, and reports from the board highlight this hour (or a bit longer) event that wraps up the formal business portion of the convention.

Trains—layout tour

At noon, a dozen or so home layouts and the Sioux Valley Model Engineers club layout will be on display. The layouts are located mostly in Sioux Falls, but about half are in the surrounding communities.

Layout tours run from noon till 6:00 to allow you to enjoy the several fine layouts located outside the city limits. All are within a 30 minute drive of the convention site. Maps and driving directions will be provided at registration.

That's it—hope you find our agenda appealing. Check page four for the exact timetable. We look forward to seeing you in May. All aboard!



2012 TLR CONVENTION SCHEDULE – SIOUX FALLS

		Thursday May 17th
Noon to 10:00 pm	Registration	Early registration at Good Samaritan Society – Jerstad Retreat Center
		Friday May 18th
7:30 am – 6:00 pm	Registration	Registration at Good Samaritan Society – Jerstad Retreat Center
8:30 am	Room 141	DSED member's clinic on getting to the public
	Room 143	Gerry Miller's clinic on stripping models for painting
9:00 am	Living Room	Non-Rail - Depart for EROS tour from Jerstad Retreat Center
9:30 am	Room 141	Robert Albano clinic on free loads
	Room 143	Ryan Moat's (MMR) clinic on paperwork for modeling contests-a primer
10:30 am	Room 141	Ryan Moat's (MMR) clinic on judging NMRA modeling contests
	Room 143	Jim Bernier's clinic on ballast machine
11:30 am	Living Room	Load buses to Sertoma Park for lunch (lunch included)
12:30 pm	Non-Rail	Depart for St Joseph Cathedral and SculptureWalk tours
12:45 pm	Sertoma Park	Load buses to depart for Ellis and Eastern Quarry and Trans-loading facility tours - tours will be alternated
3:45 pm	Tour Sites	Load buses to depart for Jerstad Center
4:30 pm	Room 141	Larry Diehl's clinic on distressing wood
	Room 143	Mark Malmkar's clinic on decoding the pullman code
6:00 pm	Great Room	Dinner with raffle for Dakota and Iowa engine rides. Cody Grivno from Model Railroader will be our guest speaker
8:00 pm	Room 141	Eric Carlson's clinic on HO Scale Kato SD-402 Tune-up: bulletproofing a great model
	Room 143	Bonnie Durenberger's clinic on painting figures for realism
8:00 pm	Board Room	Board Meeting
		Saturday May 19th
7:30 am	Registration	Registration at Good Samaritan Society – Jerstad Retreat Center
8:00 am	Room 141	Larry Diehl's clinic on modeling concrete
	Room 143	Eric Carlson's clinic on tree making made easy
9:00 am	Living Room	Load buses to depart for Midwest Rail Repair (MMR) tour – 1 ½ hour walking tour
10:00 am	Non-Rail	Non-Rail – Depart for Sertoma Butterfly House and Aquarium ▪ A \$9.00 fee applies
11:00 am	MRR	Load buses to depart for Dell Rapids Park for lunch (lunch included)
12:45 pm	Dell Rapids Park	Load buses to depart to Dakota and Iowa Rail for caboose rides back to Sioux Falls
4:00 pm	Room 141	Robert Albano's clinic on installing decoders in older engines
	Room 143	Jim Bernier's clinic on prepping rolling stock
6:30 pm	Great Room	Banquet and contest awards. Mike Brestel, NMRA President, will be our guest speaker
8:30	Great Room	Chinese auction
		Sunday May 20th
9:00 am	Room 141	General Membership Meeting
Noon – 6:00 pm	Open House	Model train layout tours

FIRST CLASS TICKET - REGISTRATION FORM

RAILS TO THE ROCKS
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA
MAY 18-20, 2012
Sponsored by the Dakota Southeastern
Division of the TLR
Held at the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan
Society - Jerstad Retreat Center
5800 W 57th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57108
1-605-362-3100 (Room Reservations – Lorie Grau)

Note: You must be a member of the National Model Railroad Association to attend. Membership will be checked!

Spouses or significant others need not be NMRA members to attend the Friday Social and Saturday night banquet meals and non-rail events.

If you have ever received an NMRA 'RailPass' membership to attend a previous TLR convention, you cannot use that again. You must sign up for full NMRA membership to attend again this year.

A 6-month 'RailPass' membership is available for new members for \$10. See below.

Name _____ NMRA # (Required) _____
 Spouse/Guest Name _____ NMRA Membership Expiration Date _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____
 Phone () _____ Email _____

EVENTS AND PRICING:	Price	Total
Early-bird Member Basic Registration (Postmarked before May 1st 2012) Includes all clinics, rail tours, Friday and Saturday lunches, Friday dinner and social, Saturday banquet and Sunday breakfast. Meals included when attending rail events. <i>Save \$10!</i>	\$105	
Spouse or Guest Early-bird Registration (Postmarked before May 1st 2012) Includes all clinics, rail tours, Friday and Saturday lunches, Friday dinner and social, Saturday banquet and Sunday breakfast. Meals included when attending rail events. <i>Save \$10!</i>	\$105	
Registrations postmarked May 1st 2012 or later	\$115	
Friday Dinner / Social and Saturday Banquet only	\$35	
6-month RailPass NMRA Membership for non-NMRA members	\$10	
Total		

LET US KNOW WHICH EVENTS YOU ARE PLANNING ON ATTENDING:									
	Member		Spouse			Member		Spouse	
	Y	N	Y	N		Y	N	Y	N
FRIDAY EVENTS					SATURDAY EVENTS				
(non-rail) EROS Tour - 9:00 am All must have photo ID/Passport (Can)					Midwest Rail Repair Tour – walking required - 9:30 am				
Quarry and Trans-loading Facility Tours - 11:30 am					(non-rail) Sertoma Butterfly House & Aquarium – 10:00 am				
(non-rail) St Joseph Cathedral Tour / SculptureWalk - 12:30 pm					Dakota & Iowa Train Ride* – Caboose (bench seats)-1 pm				
Friday Dinner - 6:00 pm					Saturday Banquet – 6:30 pm				

List any special dietary needs (we will do our best to accommodate):

*Dakota and Iowa Train Ride – limited to the first 90 registrants.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO DAKOTA SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION (DSED):	
Mail completed form and payment to:	Please direct any questions to:
Mike Kaufman, Treasurer	Jay Manning, Convention Chairman
400 Jesse James Circle	7100 W Stoney Creek Street
Garretson, SD 57030	Sioux Falls, SD 57106
	chessie@mindspring.com / 1-804-712-8056

RAILS TO THE ROCKS HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

All hotel reservations should be scheduled through the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society – Jerstad Retreat Center to receive the preferred rate. The Good Samaritan Society has 32 rooms available on a first come basis for the prices listed below. Our agreement with the Good Samaritan Society requires that we will need to fill the Jerstad Retreat Center rooms first. Additional rooms will then be available at Staybridge Suites or Holiday Day Inn Express for a special rate when reserved through the Good Samaritan Society. Call 1-605-362-3800 and ask for Lorie Grau to make room reservations for the Rails to the Rocks 2012 TLR Convention.

Good Samaritan Society rooms – all rooms are non-smoking and alcohol free

Single rooms - \$55.00 per night + tax – 24 available

– Available Thurs May 17th through Sun May 20th nights

Double rooms - \$65.00 per night + tax – 8 available

– Available Thurs May 17th through Sun May 20th nights

Continental breakfast is included each day

Additional rooms are available at Staybridge Suites or Holiday Inn Express (The Good Samaritan Society rooms must be filled first).

- Holiday Inn Express - \$84.99 + tax (Two queen beds per room)
- Staybridge Suites - \$84.99 + tax (One Queen – studio, also includes a sofa sleeper)

Either includes a continental breakfast each day



The Jerstad Retreat Center on the Good Samaritan Society campus at 4800 W. 57th Street in southwestern Sioux Falls, is a few minutes off Interstate 29. There are 32 sleeping rooms (eight doubles, 24 singles) as well as great space for relaxing, dining, and our events, including model judging and clinics.

Meeting space for the board, general membership, as well as multiple media-equipped rooms for clinics are among the excellent facilities we'll enjoy at the Jerstad Retreat Center. They're all within a hallway from one another, or a brief elevator ride between the three floors. Lodging rooms are likewise within a matter of steps from the main action during our convention.

photos courtesy Good Samaritan Society

Details, details, and more details make a model railroad scene far more interesting

Story and photo by Ron Einarson



Basic scenes on your layout can easily be enhanced. Look around your existing “junk” box. Pick out a few unused items and add them to spiff up a scene. For example, by adding the vehicle, the junk to the recycling box, and a few loose pallets next to the building, an otherwise routine, scene takes on new dimension and interest previously lacking.

More GN Streamliner Sides

Our most recent HO and N Brass Car Sides sets are: *1947 Empire Builder* and *1951 Western Star* PS 60-seat coach (GN 1110-1114), PS diner (GN 1150-1155), and ACF 60-seat coach (GN 1116, 1118, 1138-39) for *Internationals* and *Red River*. We are soliciting reservations for the cafe-coach and other side sets for these latter two trains for release in 2012.

Our brass sides are for GN, NP, SP&S, CB&Q, BN, MILW, UP, PRR, NYC, SP, C&NW, IC, RI, B&O, C&E, L&N, KCS, ERIE, ATSF, MP, CN, VIA & Amtrak. Use HO sides with TSP, Rivarossi, Con-Cor, ECW, Bachmann, Kato, Walthers, our HO Basic Body Kit, or in N the ALM core kits or plastic dome car overlays. Available through hobby shops or direct from us. See our website for current Bulletin, illustrated catalog, photos of models from our customers, closeout items, reservation form, and Two-DVD "Indiana, Minnesota and Early Amtrak Railroad Memories: 1964-72". All online sheets may be easily downloaded and printed. Shipping \$4.50 for side orders. Add 6.875% sales tax for MN orders.

www.brasscarsides.com 507-931-2784

Brass Car Sides, 715 S. 7th St.
St. Peter, MN 56082-1435

The Fusee wants you!

Actually, The Fusee wants your photos, ideas, stories, drawings, and other material to share with fellow subscribers. See how many different authors and photographers contributed to this issue—their names are listed on page 11.

Being an occasional fellow author of model railroad subjects, I know the anticipation that we develop after taking time to write and submit material. We'd like to see it in print asap, I'll do my best to see that your newsworthy articles are published within an issue or two of receipt. Contact me with your questions and ideas. My email and phone are on page 11.

TRAINS AT CHRISTMAS

MODEL RAILROAD SHOW AND SWAP MEET

W. H. Lyon Fairgrounds Expo Building
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Saturday Nov. 17th 2012 - 10AM - 5PM

Sunday Nov. 18th 2012 - 11AM - 4PM

Operating model railroad layout displays and vendors from across the area!

Visit us online at: <http://www.svmes.net>

Madison Hardware Memories By Paul Ullrich

My mother bought Lionel trains for me exclusively from New York City's famous and venerable model railroad store, Madison Hardware. I looked forward to when she took me to the store in December almost as much as I looked forward to Christmas. That tiny, narrow shop, surrounded by all of those orange, white, and blue boxes that went from the floor to their high ceiling was like being in toy train heaven.

If I wanted something, they had it in stock, even if it was from last year's catalog. One of my greatest regrets was when I hit my teens and lost interest in trains. I used to pass the store every day when I was a student at the School of Visual Arts, also on 23rd Street. No self-respecting young hippie artist would've been caught dead in a hobby shop!

Instead, I spent my free time hanging out at record stores checking out the latest releases from Jimmie Hendrix and Janis Joplin with the rest of my longhaired friends. This was in the dark days of the early 1970s, when prices for Lionel hit rock bottom, and you could've bought everything in the store for a song.

I was in my mid 20's when I caught

TrainToons

by Paul Ullrich



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the train bug again. When I came back to visit my family, I went to Madison Hardware. Carl and Lou were still there, looking very much the same as I'd remembered them 14 years earlier.

After that visit, Madison Hardware once again became my Lionel supply store. Every time I went to New York, I'd make a pilgrimage there, with my list of parts. I was always greeted by Carl, but as soon as I pulled out my list, he referred me to Lou. When I called to order something, Carl would always answer then phone, then hand it over to Lou.

There was only one time that Lou didn't have one of the items on my list. That was for Super O insulating pins. This was back in the days before there were no reproduction parts. Of course, Lou had a solution. "Use toothpicks!" he said. "But not

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the round ones. Get the flat ones. They fit perfectly.”

When I visited my parents, my mother would ask me with great interest what I bought at Madison Hardware. Before my sister-in-law came for a visit, I sent her to Madison Hardware to buy parts for me. She was amazed at how this store was crammed to the rafters with trains.

Twenty years after my mother passed away, something occurred to me: How did a housewife from Queens find out about Madison Hardware? This shop was definitely a man’s domain, and she was the only mother around who knew about it. Then it hit me.

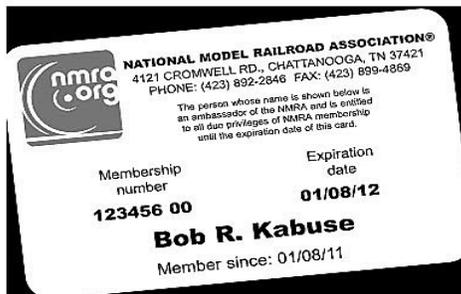
My mother was a recovering alcoholic. Every Saturday night, she’d attend her AA meeting in Manhattan. When I was younger, my parents would only refer to it as “the club.” Before she left for her meeting, my mother would prepare a picnic supper for my father and me, which I would eat on a blanket on the living room floor while we watched Jackie Gleason.

The answer to my question was obvious. Someone she knew at AA was in to Lionel. When she bought my first Lionel starter set for my birthday it 1956, it came from Madison Hardware. This fellow AA member must have told her where to buy it. She probably bought it the same day as the meeting, took it home on the subway, and hid it downstairs in my father’s shop.

My mother fought her addiction throughout her life. Sometimes she wasn’t successful. It’s never easy being an adult child of an alcoholic. It often takes years, even decades, to reconcile yourself with the disease in your family. Eventually, I was able to accept, even embrace my mother’s alcoholism as part of my life, and who I am.

Madison Hardware was an important part of the hobby that I still love. But I never would’ve imagined that I came to know the store through my mother’s desire to cur her addiction to alcohol, and by an unknown friend of hers from her AA meeting.

Thanks, Mom.



The best gift card you’ll ever give.

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When you give the gift of an NMRA membership, you’re giving someone a gift they can use all year long. From accessing our online photo archives to getting special deals on books, to attending Division and Region meets, an NMRA member has a wealth of benefits to take advantage of.

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I’m enclosing payment for:

_____ \$10 for one year _____ New subscription
_____ \$20 for two years _____ Subscription renewal
_____ Returning member

Name: _____ Scale(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ NMRA #: _____

State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal code: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____@_____

Mail to: Jim Krekelberg, Treasurer
6305 W. Westminster Dr. Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Dakota Southeastern Division puts trailer grant to good advantage during recent train show in Council Bluffs, Iowa



DSED members traveled to Council Bluffs last month for the Great America Train Expo to help promote model railroading and share info on the upcoming TLR convention in Sioux Falls
photo by Jay Manning

With a high degree of efficiency, DSED members (with professional truck driver and DSED member Joe Grimshaw at the wheel) transported the ever-improving club modular layout to Council Bluffs. The board of directors grant last spring allowed the division to purchase a trailer to haul and store the layout. Thousands of visitors enjoyed seeing (and hearing) the trains as they made their way around the double track 48' main line. Spectators offered numerous positive comments on the scenery on display. With the addition of numerous structures last year, the layout now is capable of different scenery modules for future shows.

The division received several offers and requests to display the layout at various shows around the region during the year.

The DSED's HO scale modular layout will be but one of nearly a dozen available for visitors to the TLR convention to see in May. In fact, the modular layout will greet you as you register at the Jerstad Center. If you'd like to get a "train fix" for the weekend, you're welcome to bring along your equipment and run it during registration hours.



Region Roundup
events this spring around the TLR and nearby

Saturday March 24 and Sunday March 25 Railroad and farm toy show at Five Lake Shopping Centre in Fairmont, MN. 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday and 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Sunday. Layouts, vendors, and more. Call 507 235 5026 for details and more information.

Saturday March 31, Randolph Railroad Days at Randolph, MN School and Museum. 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. Swap meet, layouts, collectibles, books, plus the museum. Admission \$5 for adults, children 12 and under free. Call Will at 507 263 3199. Visit RandolphMNHHistory@yahoo.com.

Saturday April 14, Minnesota River Valley Division annual meeting at the Olivia Pizza Ranch in Olivia, MN from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Prizes, slide show, lunch, and a speaker on the GN highlight the day's events. Contact cjradsunz@en-tel.net for details.

Saturday April 21 Granite City Train show, National Guard Armory, St. Cloud, MN. See the ad below for details.

Saturday April 28 to Sunday April 29 Prairie Lakes spring meet, South Ridge Mall in old downtown Mason City, IA. Saturday 8:30 to 2:30, Sunday 10:00 till 4:00. Contests, clinics, raffles, prototype tours, and model train layout tours.

Friday May 18 to Sunday May 20 Thousand Lakes Region annual convention, Sioux Falls, SD. See information contained in this issue of The Fusee for details.

Wednesday May 30 through Sunday June 3 MCoR convention in St. Louis, MO. UP car shop, Gateway Rail Services, industry tour, 44 clinics, and over 40 quality layouts to see and enjoy, plus plenty more activities in the area. Go to gatewaynmra2012.

www.granitecitytrainshow.com

All Aboard!

ST CLOUD, MINNESOTA

GRANITE CITY TRAIN SHOW

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2012

Buy, sell, trade or just view hundreds of trains under one roof.

10am-4:00pm - National Guard Armory - 1710 Veteran's Drive - Saint Cloud, MN

Admission \$5.00. Kids 12 and under FREE

REGISTER TO WIN

FOOD & REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

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REGISTER TO WIN

TEST TRACK ON SITE

Vendors and hobbyists welcome!

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Spring 2012

The Fusee

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Timetable and registration form

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