



THOUSAND LAKES REGION

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

The FUSEE



Thousand Lakes Region Spring Fusee Edition

Head West to Willmar– Plan to Attend the 2025 TLR Convention!

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Cover Photo - by Dan Dossa



Schreier Malting's EMD SW-1 is busy working their barley tracks, while Minnesota Commercial 44, a GE B23-7, spots the inbound for ADM's mills.

Save the date...

**2025 Thousand Lakes Region
Convention (May 15-18)**



Willmar Minnesota

View from the Cab



President Art Suel

Hello, it is getting warmer outside. Soon outdoor activities will start again that get in the way of going to the workbench or train room. One outdoor activity that I do is rail-fanning. When it's cold, the urge to watch trains outside is not there. My favorite spot to watch trains is in Newport MN. Plus, this year when I am in Kansas City for the N Scale convention, I will be going to Sante Fe Junction to view the action.

NMRA is turning ninety years old this year. The organization has been around for a long time in promoting this hobby. One important function of the NMRA is standards. If the organization did not push standardization in various scales, manufacturers would manufacture rolling stock and locomotives that only work on their track. This would leave the hobbyist frustration when a specific item they desire cannot operate on their set up. Other aspects of the NMRA are growing the hobby and creating channels for the sharing of ideas and methods.

The 2025 Thousand Lakes convention is May 15th through

the 18th in Willmar Minnesota. The convention will be at the Willmar Conference Center that has two hotels with it and two on site restaurants plus free breakfast. The theme is the TLR Heads West to Willmar. This was a major point on the Great Northern Railway and continues to this day on the BNSF. Many locations on public property where you can railfan in Willmar. Just do not trespass on private property or railroad property.

The convention will be going to Montevideo one afternoon to visit the Milwaukee Road Heritage Center there. In the restored depot is a great HO model Railroad. At the convention, there will be the usual mix of clinics and presentations. Bring something for the Celebration room. It does not have to be finished, just show off your current project. Saturday evening there will be the banquet with the awards presentations. Then to cap off the night, the annual "Lucky Number Auction" will be held. If you have any model railroad items that are in good condition or unused, you can donate the item for the auction. We are a charitable organization and can provide a receipt for it.

See you in Willmar.

Art

Neil's Nuggets - Getting Out of Your Comfort Zone & Stepping Up!



The winter season has been busy for me as some of you may know I split my time between Minnesota and California in the winter (I have daughter's that live in both places) so I have the privilege of having two great model railroad communities that I participate with. I am so lucky to be able to have model railroading activities to do, no matter where I am in the country. 😊

A continued big thanks to everyone (new and old contributors) that got out of their comfort zone and stepped up and provided content for this issue of the Fusee. I really want everyone that know that their efforts are greatly appreciated! I'm really excited with the excellent participation and the variety of topics for this issue **(However, I will still need your help to continue to keep this up!)**.

All you have to do to participate is take a few photos of your projects, activities or events you attend and submit them with a short description.

I know there are a lot of talented modelers within our region and sharing photos and/or tips are a great way to help us all become better modelers. Bottom line, if you have a picture, tip, technique, modeling or prototype topic that is of interest to you, there are most likely other members in the region that would like to know too!

Please consider writing an article, all content that gets published in the Fusee counts as credit that can be used in getting the Author AP Certificate. Reach out to me if you have any questions as I would be happy to help you get an article published!

As Art has mentioned in his column the convention in Willmar is stacking up to be an outstanding event to consider attending. Speaking to getting out of your comfort zone, I'd like to encourage everyone to participate in the Square Foot celebration/contest, or share your modeling efforts in any category for that matter! (Let's make Shadow's job really hard this year)

Lastly (I know I'm a broken record here!), if you haven't checked out the NMRA Interchange, take some time and do so, there is a wealth of knowledge shared out there from around the globe on all model railroading topics. I think you will find it is worth the effort. Also let me know your user ID if you are using the Interchange, I'd like invite you to be on my friend list. ☺

Neil

612 940 0757 (Voice and Text ok)

[Fusee Editor](#)



The Call Board - Vice President Fred Holzapfel

Sometimes Having The Right Tools Makes All The Difference!

As you can see the scale really does not matter. What matters? Having all the correct tools. And have fun building your models. Have a great spring and hope to see you in Wilmar at the TLR get together. Fred



From the TLR Historian:

Something that is not in the archives is digital records. Interesting things about the region that are only in digital can be stored as pdf files. Those of you who create contest room paperwork in pdf format might consider adding it to the archives when you no longer need it. It would be beneficial to all of us to have access to a database of various pdf binders containing contest model paperwork. Think about that if you are putting a lot of time an effort into a submission!

Also are you an old Goat? Have you been a NMRA TLR member for more than twenty years ore more? Speaking of old goats, let one of the board members know as there is a Thousand Lakes Region "Old Goat" pin available to those that meet this requirement.



TLR Board - Left to right, Shadow Redington, Tom Gay, Neil Maldeis, Art Suel, Rich Holzapfel, Fred Holzapfel, Ken Zieska



TLR Contest Director Report - Shadow Redington

2025 TLR Convention in Willmar, MN

Special People's Choice Contest Category Announcement

(Requirements have been updated, be sure to check them out)

Editor's Comment : Worthy of Repeating ! - Let's make Shadow's job really hard this year and have dozens of entries!

The Special Project for the 2025 Willmar Convention has been identified. This year the theme will be "One Square Foot." This is a special event that has only one rule: The entry can only be one square foot (total area) for the base. Participants may dimensionally configure the base as they choose as long as the total area does not exceed 1 square foot. (I.E. 1/2' X 2' would be ok)

In the case of railroad modelers, just a single square foot for its base. In "Z" scale it would be a fair amount of modeling. In HO, S, G, or F scale it would most likely have a lot of special detail.

In the case of the craft folks, same thing, only one square foot in size. It could be needlepoint, knitting, or sewing.

At the convention in Willmar, MN the Special People's Choice model category is intended to encourage all convention participants to build a "structure". The objective is for members who have never entered a contest to start with a basic structure and incorporate it into a "One Square Foot" Module

Requirements:

- 1) Must be a maximum of one 1². 1'x1', 2'x6", etc.
- 2) No restrictions on kit bashing. . Having said this, members are still encouraged to TRY to scratch build as much as you like.
- 3) No height requirement or restriction.
- 4) Detailed "One Square Foot" Modules can have homemade decals, dry transfers, or commercial decals and dry transfers. These may be printed paper or card stock (up to 110 pound) and attached to scenery.
- 5) LEDs or other lighting to illuminate the module is encouraged but not a requirement.
- 6) Basic tools (hobby knives, rulers, etc.) available to all modelers are intended to be used. This excludes use of laser cutters, 3D printers, or home CNC machines.
- 7) Sophisticated tools can be used when making structures that are submitted in the "Judged Models" category as structures. What is described here is for submission to the People's Choice category.
- 8) If your module has a humorous theme it may also be submitted in the "Thumbs" People's Choice category.

If you haven't entered anything in a contest before, this is a great way to start. We are looking forward to seeing you at the 2025 Willmar, MN convention.


Publishing Deadlines

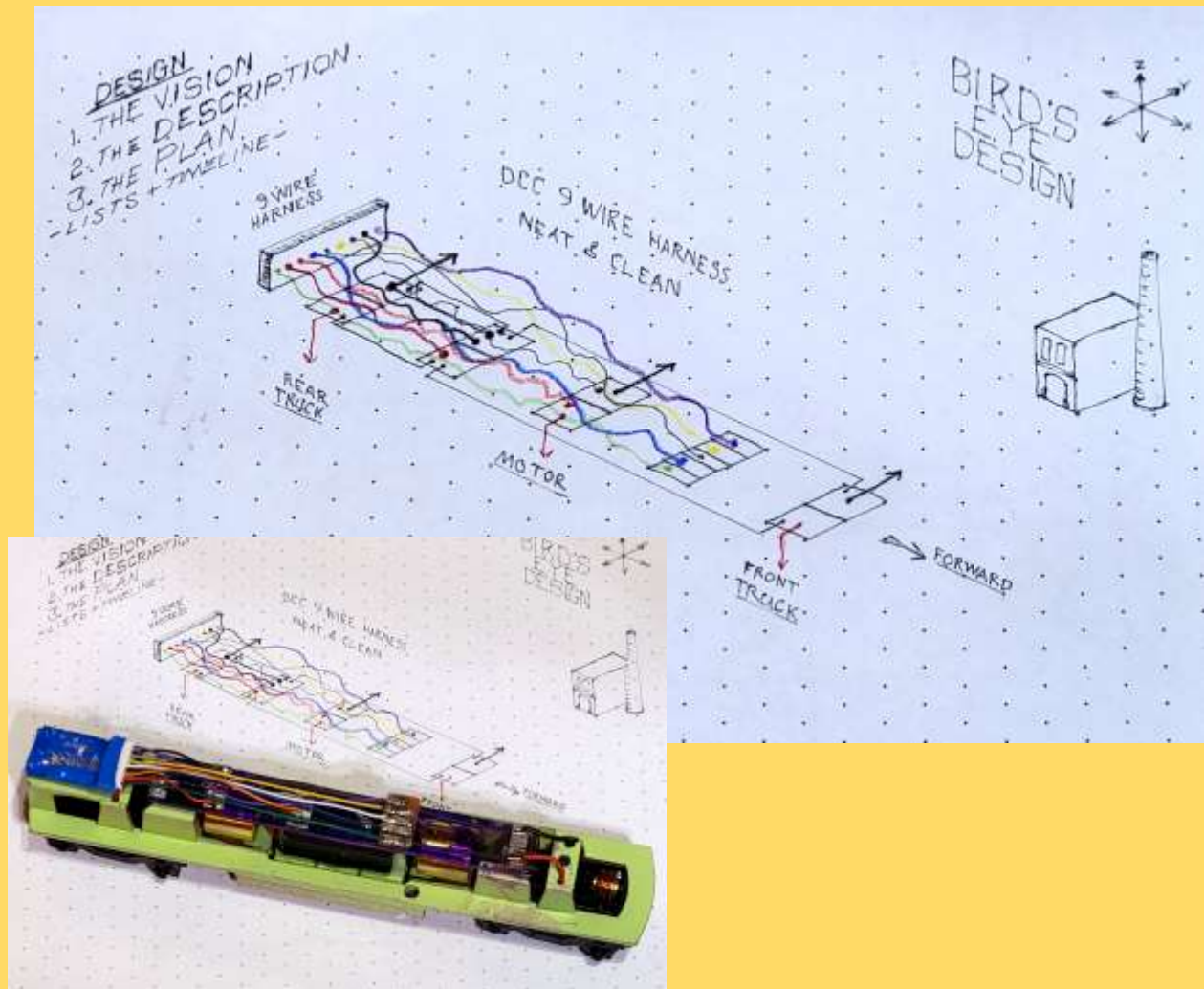
<u>Publishing Date</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>
March Edition	February 28/29
July Edition	June 30
September Edition	August 31
December Edition	November 30

From the Desk of Matt Lentz - Simple Designs for Model Railroading Uses

Matt shares a simple design for a DCC 9 Wire Harness . Sketch below shows the components required and how they are connected to make the circuit.

I'm sure if you have any questions you can reach out to Matt and he'd be happy to help. (His contact info is on page 46)

Drawing by Matt Lentz 





STATION No. VI
2025 NMRA
Novi, MI
CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

The **NCR and SE Michigan** will be your host for the 2025 NMRA National Convention! This will be like no other convention you have ever attended!

Convention Highlights -

- ✓ One low price for everyone! includes layout tours & OPS!
- ✓ 90+ clinics - 65+ layout tours - 30+ OPS sessions
- ✓ 2 day National Train Show - 5 day Yard Sale Room
- ✓ RPM modeling displays - Full NMRA modeling Contest
- ✓ People Choice Voting w/awards - Saturday night banquet

....and **MUCH MORE!!**



<https://nmra2025.com/>



Modeling on a Dime - Let's Talk Trash - By Dan Dossa

Hello my friends and a very Happy 2025 to you all. I hope the colder weather has you happily working on your model railroad projects.

In this installment I am going to share an easy (and cheap) technique I developed for making realistic trash. But before I launch into the how of these projects, I would like to offer a perspective on modeling.

Consider this word: Anachronism: a thing belonging to or appropriate to a period other than that in which it exists.

(Oxford Languages)

One way to improve the realism of our model railroads is to eliminate anachronisms. I'll see a layout, for example, wherein the layout owner did a very credible job with their modeling. But then, they included details which are inconsistent with the time and era they are modeling. Not everyone cares, but if you are striving for realism, eliminating anachronisms is an inexpensive but effective way to make one's layout look that much more realistic.

I like to add features that really anchor my layout, be it in locale, or era. Tom Gasior's Split Rock Mining inspired me as I looked at his pine and birch forest with purple lupines growing along the track and roads. To me, it just so perfectly said Northern Minnesota. Likewise, his vehicles are correct for his era (late 60s) and the place (love his pickup truck with a camper back, and VW microbus with a canoe on the roof).

Circling back to the topic at hand, let's talk trash.

Trash is a ubiquitous feature of the landscape, one that many of us delight in adding to our layouts. If done well it enhances the realism of a scene. But even trash is not ubiquitous. In modern times, one item, commonly seen, but not commonly modeled, is the lowly trash bag. Trash bags are everywhere these days; on street corners awaiting pick up, filling bins and dumpsters, or littering the landscape. Love em or hate em, you can't escape em. And I knew I had to have them on my layout.

But here's the rub. Although commercial models of trash bags are available in white metal and resin, for this cheapskate, the prices were rather steep (e.g., 8 dollars for castings of six bags). This led me to start thinking about scratch building some for my layout. I discovered a YouTube video about how one guy was doing it, but it wasn't going to work in HO scale. I needed to figure out another way.

Materials:

I use only a few inexpensive and readily available items to construct my trash bags.

The basic material for the bag itself is, you guessed it, plastic bags or Cling wrap. If you use bags, find the thinnest, flimsiest bags you can (Walmart and Walgreens bags are some of my faves, as are black trash bags purchased from a local dollar store). Trash bags come in different colors, with black, grey and white being most common. For white trash bags, I use Glad Press'n Seal Food Wrap (it also is wonderful for making tarps). To fill my "bags" I use a small ball of adhesive mounting putty (also available at your local dollar store). In my case I used Gorilla brand as I already had some. Finally I use thickened CA glue to affix everything.

Build-a-bag:

In HO scale, I cut whichever plastic material I am using into about a one and a half inch square. The measurements of the square aren't exact and can vary, but it is far easier to error on the side of making it bigger as it is easier to work with. If you like, you can cut away some of the material on the outer edges of the sheet to create a smaller top knot.

I cut off a small quantity of the mounting putty and form it into a ball. The nice thing about the putty is it's flexible so when you are all done you can easily shape it into its final form. Put the putty in the center of the plastic sheet and press it into place.

Draw the plastic sheet upwards around the putty, and twist it tightly at the top. I found that as I began twisting the plastic sheet, it held better if I put a small drop of CA on it to hold it all together. I like to hold the bag I created, and twist the top with pliers to really draw it in tightly. After the CA sets, trim off the excess plastic from the top. Once dry, you can install it as is on your layout, or add paint if you wish. None of the trash bags in my photos needed any painting.

As I look at my efforts, I must admit I was pleased. But then, my modeler's brain fired up, and got me thinking, "A dumpster would really look cool." The dumpster you see in my photos was constructed from scraps of styrene I had laying around. Inside of it is a false floor which I used to place my trash bags and some scraps of brown paper to simulate cardboard. We all know that these dumpsters fill up and are often overflowing, so I added some bags around it.

And that's all it takes to create realistic trash bags for almost nothing.

Till next time,

Dan Dossa



Constructing a One of a Kind Boxcar – Article and Photos by Joe Binish

A fellow modeler asked about this car. It is a former Erie car (note the Buckeye end and Viking roof) rebuilt around 1960. Chad Boas cast the ends and the roof is available from Des Plaines Hobbies. The trucks are available from Walther's/Proto2k or Kadee. Decals are made by K4. Next installment will show detailing, paint & decals and finishing.

The Prototype



What can we make from these parts?

Step 1 - Truing the sides so they are the same length



Step 2 - Let us begin. Note the corner clamp



Step 3 - Clamp in action. Apply ACC from the inside



Step 4 - Just a drop! Ask me how I know...



Step 5 - Results in a pretty true, square joint



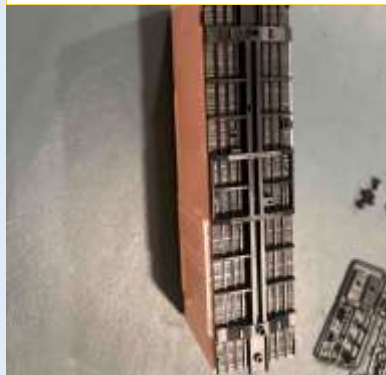
Step 6 - Make 2 end/side assemblies



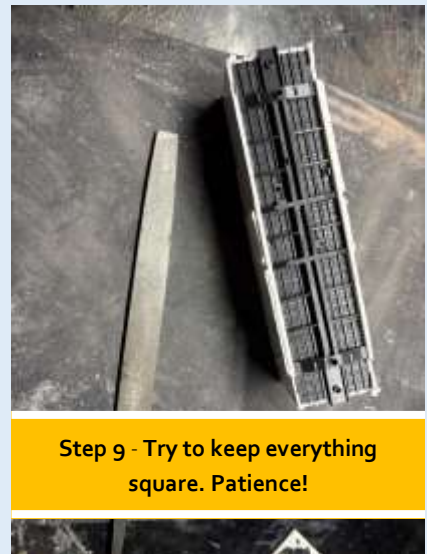
Step 7 - Now assemble into the car body



Step 8 - The Accurail floor needs sanding to fit



Step 9 - Try to keep everything square. Patience!





Step 10 - Ready to detail - Part Two (2025 Summer Fusee)



Modeler's Tip - This is how I attach floors after having weights come loose

The Art of Wet Palette Painting for 3D Printed Details - by Jim Anderson

A Step-by-Step Guide

Wet palette painting is a technique that offers both precision and consistency, making it ideal for painting Miniprints or any other 3D printed or molded object. Just about any object can be painted this way whether it be resin printed, cast metal or injection molded plastic but I offer these suggestions with 3D printing in mind as there is a lot of mystery surrounding the medium. This method involves using a wet palette to keep acrylic paints moist and workable over extended periods. Below, I will guide you through the entire process, highlighting the tools and techniques that I use to achieve stunning results.

Materials and Tools

Before starting, it's essential to gather all your materials. Here's what I use:



Tiny Brushes: These are crucial for adding fine details and achieving precision. Sizes 0,3/0, and 5/0 are particularly useful.

Vallejo Paints: Known for their high-quality pigments and smooth consistency, Vallejo paints are my go-to choice for miniature painting.

Wet Palette: A wet palette consists of a shallow container with a layer of absorbent material (like a sponge) at the bottom, topped with a piece of parchment paper. The moisture from the sponge keeps the paint on the paper wet.



Rinse-Well: This tool is used to clean brushes between paint applications. It has a reservoir for clean water and a catch basin to keep dirty water separate.

Cork and cap: A wine cork glued into a plastic bottle cap makes a handy holder. A dab of PVA glue will hold the print nicely on the cork. I prefer to leave the figure on its supports until it is complete to avoid breakage.

Optical Enhancer: I like the style that fits on my head like a pair of glasses. A 3.5X magnification works well for me painting in HO.

Setting Up Your Wet Palette

Setting up a wet palette is simple:



1. ****Prepare the Container**:** Choose a shallow container with a tight-fitting lid to prevent the water from evaporating. I made my container from refuse plastic packaging.

2. ****Add the Sponge**:** Place a sponge or multiple layers of paper towels at the bottom of the container and soak it with water. The sponge should be damp but not waterlogged.

3. ****Add the Parchment Paper**:** Cut a piece of parchment paper to fit the container and place it on top of the damp sponge. Allow the paper to absorb water from the sponge until it lies flat and is evenly moist. It may take some time for the paper to lie flat but don't despair if it curls up, just flip it over and it will continue to moisten itself.

Preparing Your Paints

Vallejo paints are ready to use straight from the bottle, but they can be thinned with a bit of water for finer control:

- **Shake Well**:** Ensure the paint is thoroughly mixed by shaking the bottle well. I like to use a shaker machine. While stirring is better if you are going to use an airbrush, shaking the paint for this method will not be a problem. Air bubbles will dissipate as the paint rests on the parchment paper.
- **Dispense onto the Palette**:** Squeeze small amounts of paint, one drop per color, onto the wet palette. The moisture from the sponge will keep the paint workable.

3. **Thinning**: If needed, use a drop of water to thin the paint to your desired consistency. This is especially helpful for layering and blending. Vallejo Air is thin enough on its own, but sometimes older or darker colors need a little thinning. I don't want one coat coverage that means the paint is too thick. A few thin coats will preserve the details.

Painting the Miniatures

Now that your wet palette is ready, it's time to start painting:



1. **Base Coating**: There are two methods that I like. If I have only one or two figures I want to paint I use a brush and prime them with Vallejo primer. However, I prefer to bulk prime with Rust-Oleum brown camouflage spray paint. I attach a menagerie of minis to a flat stick with blue painter's tape and work outside. I shake the can and let it stand in a bowl of warm water. That will slightly over-pressurize the can resulting in a finer mist of paint.

2. **Layering and Blending**: Employ tiny brushes for layering and blending. The wet palette will keep your paints moist, allowing you to mix and blend colors smoothly.



3. **Detail Work**: Once the base layers are dry, focus on the finer details. Keep track of the base layer colors in case some of the detail colors accidentally go where they shouldn't. Move the print around and observe it from all angles to make sure you are painting all the visible details.

4. **Cleaning Brushes**: Use the rinse-well to clean your brushes between colors. The Rinse-Well's dual reservoir system ensures that you always have clean water available, preventing color contamination. It is best to only fill the reservoir to $\frac{3}{4}$ full. The catch basin will accommodate a full bottle, but it will be a very slow walk to the sink to dump it out.

Maintaining Your Wet Palette

To get the most out of your wet palette:



1. **Keep It Covered**: When not in use, cover the wet palette with its lid to prevent the paints from drying out. I've had good success keeping the paints wet for a week or more. Any longer than that and you need to question your motivation for painting.

2. **Re-wet the Sponge**: Check the sponge periodically and add water if it starts to dry out. I employ a small squeeze bottle filled with water to rehydrate the sponge.

3. **Changing the Paper**: Replace the parchment paper if it becomes too stained or overly wet. This will ensure a clean surface for your paints. I keep a few pieces of parchment paper cut to size and ready to swap out.

Final Touches

After completing the painting:

1. **Shadow and Highlight**: Tamiya Panel Line Accent Color is very good at bringing out the details. Dry brushing some highlights will also add to the realism.



2. **Sealing the Miniature**: This is optional with Vallejo paints as they cure to a durable state that will withstand handling. Economy or craft paints will benefit from a light coat of a matte finish.

3. **Showcase and Storage**: Once the fellas are painted and looking good, I put a dot or two of Woodland Scenics Scenic Accents Glue (people glue) on their feet and plant them on the layout. I have a plethora of minis that I've enjoyed painting but I don't have a place for them yet. For minis in waiting, I store them in some clear divided plastic containers. I like these because they have very small individual containers that nest into a larger container that holds seven columns. This makes it very easy to see what is in my inventory and they stay protected.

Conclusion

Wet palette painting for 3D printed details is my preferred method of bringing them to life. The paint stays workable longer and is thus less waste. Remember to practice patience and precision, and most importantly, have fun bringing your miniatures to life with vibrant colors and intricate details. Now if only I could find a small enough brush to paint their eyes.

Worth Repeating, Consider Submitting a Photo !

2026 Calendar Update - Gerry Leone

The NMRA Annual Calendar has a New Website

By Gerry Leone, MMR, HLM

Want to know how to submit a photo or two to the annual NMRA Calendar? Don't know when the deadline is? Wondering what size your photo should be?

These and all of your questions are answered on our new NMRA Calendar webpage, <https://www.nmra.org/printed-calendar>. (We named it that to differentiate it from the online NMRA events calendar.) When you log in to the NMRA website and go to the new Calendar page, you'll find a complete description of the submission process using WeTransfer, the photo size requirements, what your photo caption should include, and much, much more.

Plus we have a new email address in case your question isn't answered on the page. Just send your email to calendarphotos26@nmra.org and both Tom Morrison, our designer, and I will receive it and we'll answer as soon as possible.

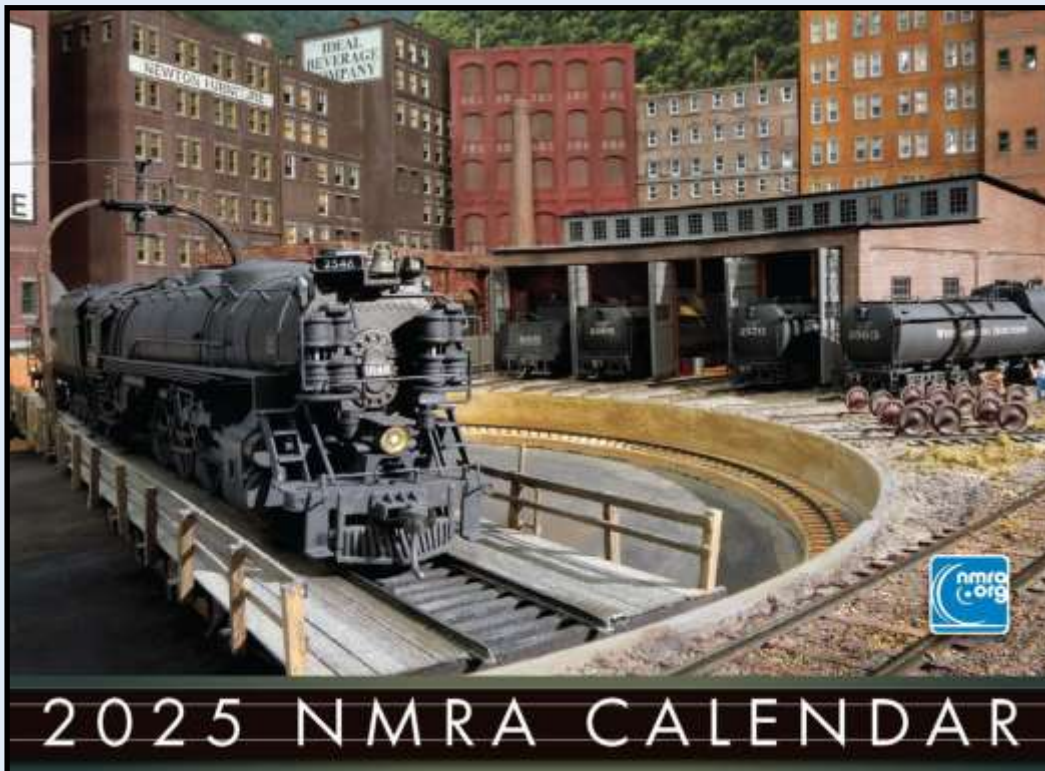
As an extra added bonus, we've included links to some how-to videos. You'll find two video links to YouTube videos about using a cell phone to take photos, and five links to a comprehensive photography course (graciously donated by Kalmbach Media) that explains everything you need to know to take good photos of anything.

We also have a handful of recent calendar photos there for inspiration.

Take a look at <https://www.nmra.org/printed-calendar> then get shooting for the 2026 Calendar! Submissions begin on January 1, 2025.

Let's see some TLR submissions for the 2026 calendar! Nobody from our Region even submitted anything this year!

-Gerry



Region Round-up

South Red River Division — Matt Lentz



Last month we held our first annual Checkpoint event where we evaluation Judged Models. It was a great success and a great social event! It's likely we'll be doing this event more than annually because it's such an excellent way to hang out with your friends and engage in skill development.

We used the Judges Training packet from National Contest Director Bill Brown. This is the same one used in the Thousand Lakes Region Celebration Room. We assembled a team of 5 Judges, 3 of got their first taste of going through the process. By following the guidance carefully, we got excellent evaluations completed and new people got a chance to participate. It was especially encouraging that documentation supplied for the entries was really read well by everyone. That's a hard thing to do in the Celebration Room given the time constraints. The paperwork was used for every aspect of the evaluations and it made all the difference in the world when it came to areas like construction and conformity.

We're really looking forward to the next time we can do it again Please bring any models that you are working on that you intend to submit to the Celebration Room at next year's TLR Convention in Willmar, MN.

Prairie Lakes Division - Jay Davis

The PLD's next event will be in Sibley, Iowa on Saturday April 12 at the Sibley-Ocheyedan Elementary School. The event will be helping celebrate the Otter

Valleys Model Railroad Clubs 40 Anniversary year. This club is located in Sibley on the Osceola County Fairgrounds. The club will be open for visits during the event. The day will feature popular vote contest, clinics, door prizes, model railroad vendors, operating layouts, tours of the OV layout and business meeting. This fall we will be back at Spencer, Iowa on Saturday October 4 at the Clay County Events Center on the fairgrounds. More to come on this event.

No 1 Northern Division—Ian Plett

Back in December at the WMRC's Clinic carnival meeting superintendent of the No1 Northern division Ian Plett was one of the clinicians at this event on weathering for beginners.

During the month of March the WMRC/ No1 Northern division will be having layout tours at members homes around Winnipeg.

The Freemo Group is getting ready for the Winnipeg model railroad club annual open house last weekend of April 2025.

No Updates from the Following Divisions:

- **Dakota Southeastern**
- **Minnesota River Valley**
- **Southeastern**



The two Ians meet at last! Former member Ian Lisakowski watches WMRC program director Ian Plett conduct his model weathering clinic.

Be Sure to Check Out the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club Website

[Winnipeg Model Railroad Club](#)

Twin Cities Division - Thomas Gasior MMR ©

Twin Cities Division - TLR

The TCD continues with its busy schedule. In December, our annual Holiday Meeting/party was held in Eden Prairie. Dan Dossa reserved a private room for us at a local eatery and distributed model railroad-appropriate gifts to all those in attendance.

January was the first of our two meetings held online. The TCD uses its YouTube Channel to create a live stream during winter, saving members from traveling across the metro area in less-than-ideal weather. Ken Zieska was the host, and we featured Greg Dahl, the chairman of our popular Operators Retreat.

Eight members of the TCD also made the trek to New England to attend the Springfield Train Show. The largest train show in the country features four huge buildings filled with manufacturers, layouts, and sellers of model trains. The NMRA had a prominent booth and was a great place to meet our national board of directors.

Our February meeting was also online. Thomas Gasior MMR hosted Joe Binish, the chairman of our Annual Modelers Retreat. Joe discussed the many clinics that will be scheduled. The Modelers Retreat is Friday evening, March 14, and Saturday morning until 4:00 PM, March 15. It is held at the Mt Olivet Lutheran Church in Plymouth, MN. The cost is \$15.00. Tables will be provided for you to display your modeling activities for free.

Our Operator's retreat was on February 22. Five different layouts hosted over twenty operators. Each participant had the opportunity to operate two sessions on two different layouts. Layouts were on the N, HO, and S scales. The TCD would like to thank Greg Dahl for putting this together. We also want to thank our host layout owners, Ken Borowski, Dan Dossa, Ken Zieska, David Hamilton MMR, and Mike Jordan.

Looking forward to March and beyond, the TCD will have in-person meetings on Wednesday evenings. March 12 will be at the Lunds-Byerlys in St. Louis Park. A private room has been reserved, and plenty of goodies to eat from the Hot Deli are in the store. Models of your favorite cabooses will be the topic of our show and tell. Discussion will be about the issues for our next Skills Day event.

The Modelers Retreat is March 14/15. Please check our TCD website for details. tcdnmra.org

Thomas W Gasior MMR



Activities Happening Around the Twin Cities Division



TCD Planned 2024-2025 Activities (Check TCD Facebook Page and website <https://tcdnmra.org/events/> for Updates)

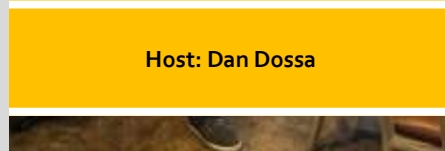
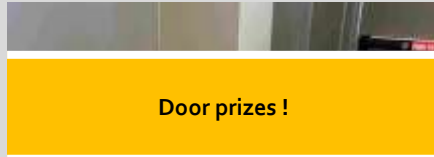
- **March 13** Twin Cities Division meeting - Lunds & Byerly's, 3777 Park Center Blvd, St Louis Park, 55416
- **March 15-16** 7th Annual Twin Cities Division Modelers meet. Mount Olivet Lutheran Church of Plymouth.
- **April 19** Twin Cities Division meeting - Lunds & Byerly's, 3777 Park Center Blvd, St Louis Park, 55416
- **April 25** TCD Layout Tours (East Side Layouts)
- **May 8th** Twin Cities Division meeting - Lunds & Byerly's, 3777 Park Center Blvd, St Louis Park, 55416
- **May 15-18** TLR Convention Willmar
- **July 14-19** NMRA National Novi Michigan

If you do work on the layout or do modeling during the summer, please consider sharing your creations with us on the Facebook group. (Also with the [Fusee Editor](#))

Editor's Comment: I apologize upfront if I haven't given proper credit and/or haven't correctly identified events/locations. I try to do my best, but, realize that I may get something wrong. Please let me know if I do so I can correct in the next issue of the Fusee.

Activities Happening Around the Twin Cities Division

Holiday Party at Davanni's (Eden Prairie) - Photos by Neil Maldeis



A dozen or so members braved what turned out to be a snowy day to enjoy some holiday cheer! Thanks to Dan for organizing and hosting the party.

The Twin Cities Division's

Operators Retreat - Saturday February 22nd 2025

Action at Ken Borowski's Layout - Photos by Ken Borowski



Dispatchers area



Greg Dahl, Ricardo Ortiz Nava and Dave Menard



Tom Edwards



Damian Kostron and Hans Kraemer



Guy Tonder and Tim Hamilton



Tim Hamilton and Ricardo Ortiz Nava



Guy Tonder



Tim Hamilton



Tim Hamilton

Operators Retreat - Saturday February 22nd 2025 (Cont.)

Action from Dan Dossa's & Ken Zieska's Layouts



Dan Dossa helps Jimmy Anderson



Lee Taylor and Jim Shepard work the yard



Jerimiah Shoemaker runs on Ken Zieska's layout



Randi Relander reviews paperwork for a local job

Tribute to Norm Leathers, 1936-2025 - by Paul Ullrich



Norm Leathers, a lifetime NMRA member and member of the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club for almost 70 years, passed away at 5:00 AM on Wednesday, February 26. On February 11 he suffered a cardiac episode and never recovered.

Norm was a member of the WMRC since its second meeting in October 1955 when he was still a teenager. Norm, being a stickler for accuracy in all things, always maintained that because he joined a month after the club's first meeting that he was not a founding member.

Norm served several positions during his nearly 70 years with the WMRC, including secretary and one year as president. He was also a long term member of the Midwestern Rail Association, proprietors of the Winnipeg Railway Museum.

Norm had a long and rewarding career as a physical science teacher at Dakota Collegiate High School in Winnipeg, and he also served as the school's audio technician. His teaching degree at United College (now the University of Winnipeg) where his father, Victor Livingston Leathers, was a French professor and head of theatre productions. It was there that he met fellow model railroader and NMRA member Nick Andrusiak, who was one of professor Leathers' students, and they became lifelong friends.

Nick and Norm both became teachers at Dakota Collegiate. Nick was the one who persuaded Norm to join the NMRA and to attend his first TLR convention. The running joke between them was that Nick, a big, burly man who towered over Norm, told him that he was going to the convention with him because "I'm bigger than you!"

Norm was an active participant in the NMRA national convention held in Winnipeg in 1983. He made it a point to attend every TLR convention that he could for several decades, the last one being the 2013 convention in Bloomington. Norm also attended the NMRA national conventions in St. Paul in 1999 and in Toronto in 2003.

Norm was also a jet fighter pilot for the Royal Canadian Air Force, and reached the rank of captain. He was fond of telling the tale of when his commanding officer brought his young son to see a real jet fighter pilot, expecting some like John Wayne, and being so disappointed upon meeting Norm, who was short and slight of stature.

Norm was an avid cyclist. In the 70's he took his sons Graham and Gord on a bike hike through the Rockies in British Columbia. Norm continued cycling well into his eighties, continuing to carry his beloved bike up the steep steps of Via Rail's Union Station in Winnipeg to the second floor platform where the Winnipeg Railway Museum was located. Unfortunately, he suffered a fall which resulted in a broken hip that prevented him from cycling again.

Norm's model railroading passion was the Pennsylvania Railroad, and he constructed a beautiful, world class railroad that was the highlight of many layout hops for many conventions, including the NMRA's national convention held in Winnipeg in 1983, TLR conventions in 1998, 2000 and 2010 and the Canadian Association of Railway Modelers convention in 2005.

Norm's lasting legacy to Winnipeg's model railroading and rail fanning community was when he brokered a deal to bring the Gateway Western to the Winnipeg Railway Museum. In 2010 the Gateway lost its home at Gooch's Hobbies when they moved to a smaller location. For several years the Gateway was in pieces, languishing on a pallet in a Winnipeg warehouse.

Norm was one of the few WMRC members who was also a member of Midwestern Rail. At that time there was no interaction between the two groups. Norm, using his remarkable powers of diplomacy and gentle persuasion, convinced both groups that setting up the Gateway would greatly benefit both organizations.

The deal included the building of a separate structure within the museum to house the Gateway. A small army of dedicated volunteers, led by NMRA member Gino Kost, built the structure from the ground up, using modified plans from a two car garage kit.

Anyone who wanted access to the Gateway required them to be members of both organizations, which increased memberships in both groups and created a lasting and permanent bond between them. In 2014 Norm was awarded the President's shield, the WMRC's highest award, for his work in bringing the Gateway Western to the Winnipeg Railway Museum. Now received this award when he was 78 years old. There are no records to prove it, but he was possibly the oldest person to ever receive the award.

If there ever was a person who epitomized the heart and soul of model railroading, Winnipeg Model Railroad Club, and the NMRA it would've been Norm. It can be truly said without the slightest doubt that everybody loved Norm. Beloved is an adjective that immediately comes to mind when describing him. He had a gentle way about him, and he was also very clever, with a mischievous sense of humor. His puns were the stuff of legend, and he could create them at a moment's notice in a dizzying rapid fire succession.

Norm loved model railroading, and he loved the NMRA and the WMRC. No one has been a member of the WMRC longer than him. He contributed to the WMRC's model display at their monthly meetings well into his eighties, bringing models he was working on in 2019 and 2022. When news of his passing was posted on the WMRC's Facebook page, it garnered over 1,700 views in less than four hours. In just two days there were a total of 3,727 views. 69% of the views were from non-followers of the page.

Even though his health was failing, he still came to a many WMRC meetings as he could, his last one being November of 2024. He was an enduring presence, a person whom we always looked forward to seeing at every meeting, and he will be sorely missed.



Norm is seen at a Winnipeg Model Railroad Club meeting a few years ago.



Norm Leathers (R) is seen receiving the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club's President's Shield, the club's highest honor, for his efforts in bringing the Gateway Western, the Club's HO layout, to its new home at the Winnipeg Railway



Pictured left to right are Moe Smith, Dave Downey, Norm Leathers and Roger Kiendl cutting the cake at the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club's 60th anniversary celebration in 2015.



Norm and his son Graham are seen at Two Harbors at the 2008 TLR convention held in Duluth

Starting My Master Model Railroader Journey - By Dan Cohen (Photos by Author)

I joined the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) about 6 years ago with the promise that the NMRA can make me a better modeler. In 2020 I really started my journey without focusing on the Achievement Program. I came across the Lone Star Region website section dedicated to clinics <https://www.lonestarregion.com/node/5>. I found a flat car scratch build clinic and decided I wanted to try it.



I set out to follow the 4-part PDF clinic and found out that I am measurement impaired. They say measure twice and cut once, but I measured three times and still cut incorrectly. In early 2021 I decided to give it another try, however this time I reached out to an MMR in the Twin Cities Division who was pursuing his Cars certificate. Enter David Hamilton MMR #703. David mentored me through the process, but I ran into roadblocks and again abandoned my attempt to build the flat car.

I took time to explore the hobby in other areas and promised myself I would try again. After a couple of years I found my path to MMR by deciding on a railroad and committing to earn each certificate in pursuit of my “dream layout.” To get started down this path, I was already drafting my childhood train station and working through a couple of versions. I stepped away from this feeling a bit more confident and jumped in to my third try at building the 56ft flat car from the Lone Star Region clinic.

To keep in line with my goal of using a layout to achieve my AP certificates, I needed to adapt this 56 foot flat car to New Jersey Transit. NJ Transit used a number of flat cars for Maintenance of Way (MOW) work, so this car would work as part of the prototype. The rest of this article is the result of creating the paperwork required for evaluation of the model.

This model is scratch built has only 3-4 commercial parts. The styrene below makes up 90-95% of the model. Scale lumber was used for the decking. Brass wire was used throughout for brake lines and grab irons. Brass sheet was used for the stirrups.

The **commercial parts** used:

- Brake details from Details West
 - BS-1021
 - Air Reservoir, Brake Cylinder, Control Valve, and Break Wheel
- Truck/Wheels
 - #504, Kadee
 - ASF A-3 w/33” metal wheels
- Couplers
 - Kaydee whisker style #148
- Chain
 - A-Line, HO 29219 Pre-blackened Brass Chain

Raw Materials

Evergreen Styrene (list)

Style	Part#
.060 x .0250	
.020 x .100	
.060 x .060	
.020 x .125	
1/8" Channel	
.020 x .188	
.080 Channel	
.100 Channel	268
.020 Sheet styrene	9220
.030 x .125	136
.010 x .125	106

Plastruct

#AFS-1 (P-90501) 3/64th angle

Bronze wire from Tichy Train Group

#1102 .015

#1104 .025

Brass Sheet from K&S

#250 .005x4x10"

Scale lumber from Northeastern Scale Lumber

#21211 2x12

Decals from Champs Decals

L-78 Condensed Gothic White 3/16

HC-296 Trailer Train 85ft Piggyback Flat Car

Paint and Weathering

Tamiya XF 7 Red acrylic paint

Vallejo Game Effects Rotten White (72.130)

Vallejo Glaze Medium (70.596)

Monroe Models Grimy Black Weathering Powder (#3102)

Building the flat car

*I used Tamiya Extra Thin cement for styrene parts unless noted below.

Underframe

Underframe base were 4 beams at a scale 55 ½ feet made from styrene strip. The two inner beams were placed close together to form one a center sill. The center beams were also cut at the ends to make room for the coupler. Each beam also had styrene strip slightly offset to form the bottom of the beams. A center spacer was used for the two center beams as well as adding a 2x12 cut 55 ft long to form the top of the center sill.



The end sills were made of two styrene pieces including channel styrene. Space was cut to allow the coupler to be centered on the sill.

Next the outer beams were added to the end sills. The outside piece for the end sills was then added.

The bridge beams were cut a scale 4 ft long. 8 pieces were cut. The lower edge of the crossbeams were cut 2" scale about 3/4 the length of the beams to create an angled edge towards the outside of the car. They were placed at the edge where the sill and outside beams started angling upward. Then the inter 4 crossbeams were added inward a scale 8' 4". Each crossbeam had a bottom plate added.



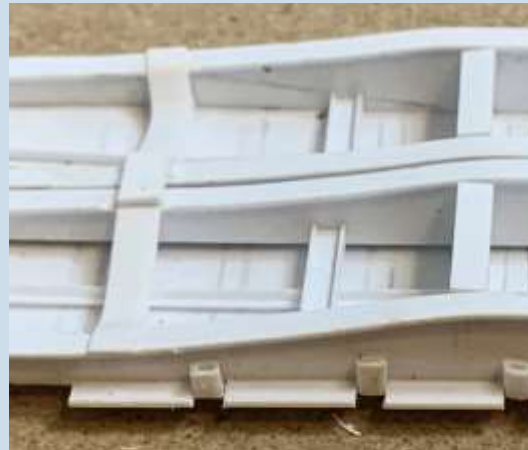
The next step was to glue the stake pockets together using #262 Evergreen channel .080. Then the next step was to add longitudinal beams splitting each side into thirds. I had difficulty lining this up with the channel material, so I used one beam on each side. These beams are used to square up the underframe to take the subdeck of the flat car. I added grooves in the cross beams to fit the channel flat to the rest of the center sill.



The subdeck was then cut from .020 styrene sheet. The car frame was traced 6 scale inches from the edge of the sheet. Next the I measured and marked a scale 6 inches every scale 2 feet 6 inches apart to prep for the stake pockets. I glued the subdeck to the frame.

I moved on to building the bolsters for the car. I started by cutting 12 scale 4-foot-long strips of .030 styrene. The next steps are to cut two angels into the strips to. At this small scale these angles were hard to cut and required some sanding. Like the cross beams there was also a 2" scale cut on $\frac{3}{4}$ of the bottom of the strips. Each strip now had two other strips glued to them to form about 9 scale inch piece. Each of the now 4 pieces were glued to the underframe at the first bend from each end of the car. Bottom plates were added and sanded. Next .010 styrene strip was added and formed along the bottom of the bolster assembly. The last step of the bolster assembly was to add .030 styrene to the center of the bolster assembly to attach the trucks. After fitting the trucks it became necessary to add an additional .030 layer to hold the truck screws. This was identified after adding the couplers and measuring using a Kadee HO Scale coupler gauge.





Moving on Plastruct styrene angle was added to the corners of the underframe for an aesthetic that matched the car the clinic was based on.

Stake Pockets

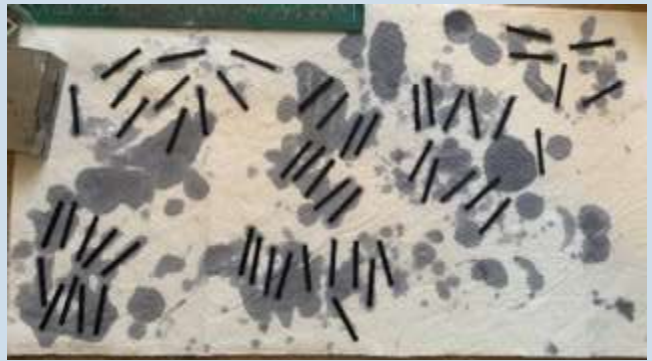
Using the previous scale 6" measurements the subfloor was cut to fit the stake pockets. The edge of the subfloor overhanging from the last stake pockets to the ends of the car were removed.

The previously glued channel forming the stake pockets were cut at a scale 9". More pockets were cut than needed with anticipation that some of the stake pockets might collapse. These pockets were glued flush with the subfloor. Some of the pre-cut slots needed to be widened to fit the stake pockets.



Decking

Using scale strip wood from Northeastern Scale Lumber (2x12) strips were cut 10.5 scale feet long. I started by using Hunterline Creosote Black stain but that was too dark. I used white and burnt umber craft paints to dry brush over the stain which brought out the used wood look. I made sure to break up any patterns in the dry brushing by placing unlike tones and strengths of painted wood strips together on the car. I rough sanded the top of the styrene subfloor and then glued the strips of wood with Titebond wood glue.



Brakes and Brake Rigging

I used brake parts from the Details West BS-1021 set. This set has cast metal and plastic parts. I added Tichy Bronze wire (.015 and .025) for break lines. A chain from A-Line was added to the brake rigging. Styrene was used to make the brake lever and pinch arms, as well as the Brake wheel receptacle.

First slots were built for the brake lever in the middle of the center sill and a slot was created 11 scale feet from the end of the car to allow brake to cross through the sill. Holes were drilled in the bolster bridge beams to add the pinch arms. The lever and the arms had holes drilled to receive the bronze wire. The lever and arms were then connected by the wire.

Next the brake cylinder was added to the brake lever. The control valve was added on the same side as the cylinder. Instruction was to drill holes metal pieces. I found this to be too difficult with the tools at hand. I lined up the wires to appear to be connected with the valve and cylinder. Holes were drilled in the cross beams to feed the .025 and .015 wire the length of the car.

The air reservoir was added on the opposite side of the other brake components. Strips of styrene were used to brace/hold the air reservoir. Finally, about 3 scale feet of the A-Line brass chain was cut and linked to the bronze wire and glued with CA to the end sill.

The ends of the bronze wire piercing the end sills were bent to shape the air hose connectors. To finish this part of the build I cut one side of channel styrene off to form an L shape that was glued above the air hose connector. This was done on both end sills.



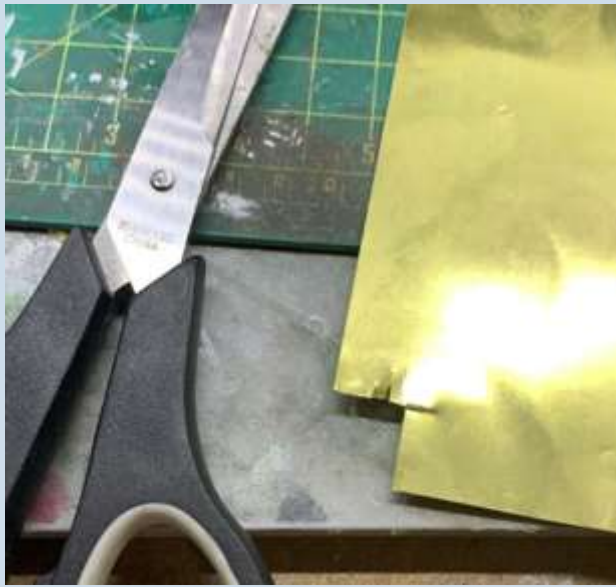
Final Details

I used a piece of .060 x .250 styrene strip to form a jig for the grab irons. I formed grab irons that were scale 12 inches deep and 19 inches long for the ends and the same measures for the side grab irons, but I added a downward bend, using some pliers. I measured and predrilled the holes to fit the .015 bronze wire. There were 4 straight grab irons attached on the ends and 4 drop down grab irons attached to the sides with CA glue.

As noted above styrene was used to form the brake wheel support. Styrene was cut scale 2 inches thick by 6 inches wide. The strip was cut a scale 12 inches long and one end was rounded with a #11 blade and sanded round. The ratchet was glued to this base piece and a hole drilled to take .015 bronze wire.

A piece of channel styrene was cut to form an L and the flat side rounded. This was glued to the top of the end sill and a hole drilled to house .015 bronze wire. The brass wire was cut about 4 scale feet long and the brake wheel was glued to one end of the wire. The wire then was inserted into the supports and glued in place with CA glue.

Four stirrups were then added to each corner of the side sills. The stirrups were formed out of .005 brass sheet from K&S. I measured out 52 scale inches and formed to about 18 scale inches by adding a square bend at the back and angle bend at the front. I used a pointed tweezer and a mini pliers normally used for bead work. I used the pliers to flatten and form parts of the stirrups as brass sheet strips bent and unformed easily. I then started by using CA to attach the stirrups but had trouble keeping them on even after curing. I then tried 5-minute epoxy with the same issues. I settled on using E-6000 to attach the two stirrups that were not staying in place.



Next are the coupler locking pin arms. I started by adding channel cut to an L shape and formed a rounded shape on the end of the channel. A hole was drilled to take bronze wire. The coupler pin was formed with .015 bronze wire with a square end and loop at the other end. The loop was formed using a bead tool that had rounded ends. While the clinic made the arm in two pieces, I made mine with one piece of wire. Next I made 2 eye bolts with the bead loop tool. These are attached to the coupler pin and glued to the channel styrene on the end of the end sill and a hole drilled into the bottom of the coupler with the second eye bolt glued into the coupler hole.

I added this to just one side. Since they were no longer regularly used in the time period I am modeling (1980's/1990's) I thought it would be nice to include one as if it did not come off the mechanism. The other one did and the railroad did not feel it was cost effective to replace it since it would not be used.



Couplers were added. It was necessary to widen the end sill openings and to sand the center sills to get the coupler box flush. The couplers were checked against a Kadee HO Scale coupler height gauge. One side of the wheel sets already had a washer so the couplers measured correct heights when checked.

Painting and Decaling

To make this flat car fit the modern Northeast Corridor in New Jersey and remain prototypical I researched what MOW equipment NJ Transit used, and they had a flat car 9907. I used pictures from rpicturearchives.net as well as a YouTube video of the flat car for reference.



The car has a faded red look to it with condensed gothic lettering. It also has weight limits listed. To get the prototype feel, I turned to Champs Decals (L-78 Condensed Gothic White 3/16 and HC-296 Trailer Train 85ft Piggyback Flat Car).

I used Tamiya Flat Red XF-7 and faded it with white craft acrylic paint. Both were thinned with Tamiya acrylic thinner. I used Tamiya Brown panel liner to give definition and depth to the underbody. I added a mix of Vallejo Glaze Medium and AIM Grimy Black weathering powder to show wear and use on the underbody.





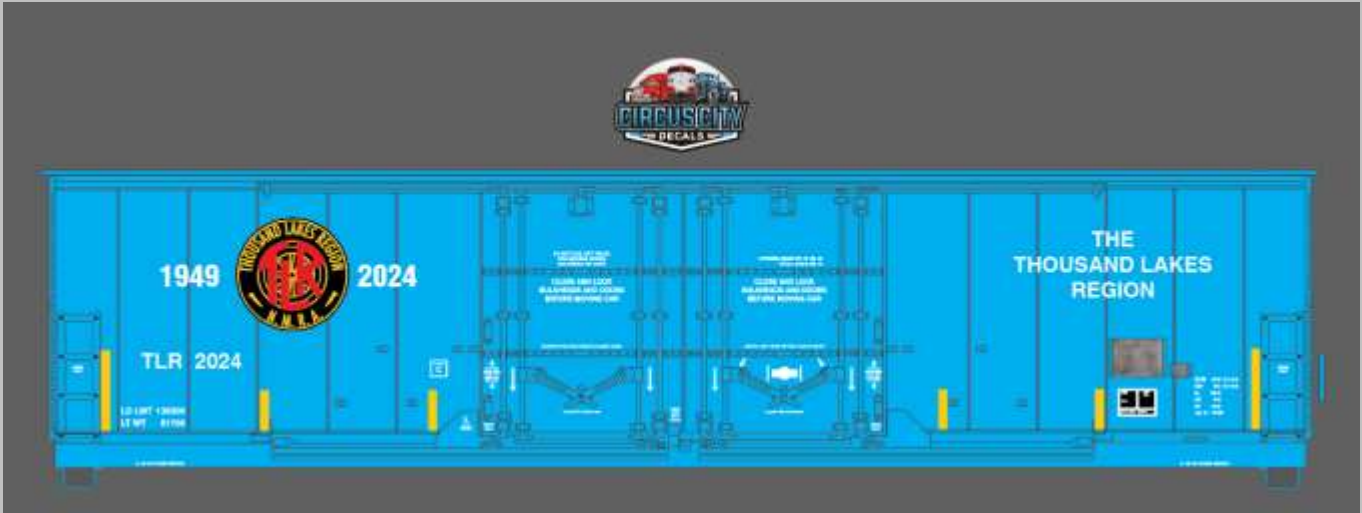
TLR Celebrates 75 Years

The TLR is celebrating 75 years by issuing a set of commemorative decals.

Decal sets are still available in N, HO, S and O scales.

Decals are \$6.00 which includes postage.

Contact Ken Zieska at (mhry19@gmail.com) if you would like to purchase a set.



2025 TLR Regional Convention News



One of the amazing features of the Thousand Lakes Region is that our Division boundaries stretch from Northern Iowa to the North Pole! For a few months, the cold winter winds will chill us but we will take refuge in our train rooms to enjoy our great hobby. Yes, we are at the height of the Model Railroading season.

It is not however too soon to look forward to the coming of spring and the 2025 Thousand Lakes Region Convention in Willmar, Minnesota. Perhaps, it is in fact the best time because we can save the dates, plan our reservations and work on a project to bring to show our friends.

Yes, and what a great 4 days of convention activities we will have in Willmar. The Convention will feature clinics, presentations, the Celebration Room, a day at the Milwaukee Road Heritage Center in Montevideo, a fine banquet, lucky ticket auction and of course the thrilling TLR Annual Meeting.

The Convention will be held at the:

Willmar Conference Center

240 23rd St SE

Willmar Hotel Information:



There is a block of rooms in the Best Western hotels and at the Holiday Inn is across the parking lot from the Willmar Conference Center. The Best Western is connected to the conference center. Both offer free breakfast and there are two restaurants in the Best Western. There is a Green Mill that is open for lunch and dinner while Ruffs Sport bar and grill is open for dinner.

The rate is \$149.00 per night. The normal rate is \$199.00 per night.

The phone number is 320-235-6060. Block of rooms is under "Model Train Convention." The hotel is across the highway from the BNSF long yard in Willmar.

[Book Your Room Here](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.24139.html?groupId=U86FG5J7) (https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.24139.html?groupId=U86FG5J7)

Mark your calendar now so you do not miss the fun.

Editor's note: The conference registration materials, schedule, activities/events and clinics were not finalized in time to have in the this issue of the Fusee, updates will be posted on the following convention website as they become available: <https://tcdnmra.org/willmar-convention/>

The snail mail flyer with registration materials is planned to be sent out at the end of March.

Hotel Information:



Best Western Plus Willmar

2100 Highway 12 E, Willmar, Minnesota 56201-5819 United States



100% smoke-free hotel

Restaurant on-site

Complimentary full breakfast, Eggs, Waffles, Breakfast Meats, Yogurt, Cinnamon Rolls, Cereals, Fruit and more!

Laundromat, washer and dryer are available on the second floor for a nominal fee, open 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Dry cleaning, same day available, picked up at 8 a.m. and back by 5 p.m.

Late check out, based on availability

Safe deposit box (at front desk)

Cocktail lounge, Ruff's Wings & Sports Bar

Indoor pool, heated, open 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Whirlpool/hot tub

Weight lifting equipment

Cable or satellite television, CNN® or other 24-hour news station

Free wireless Internet available in public area; free in-room wireless Internet access; free wireless Internet available in public area and all guest rooms; all guest rooms are hardwired and offer free wireless Internet access; all guest rooms are hardwired for Internet access

Stationary bike

Treadmill

Elevator

Interior corridor

24-hour front desk

Business center

Printer available

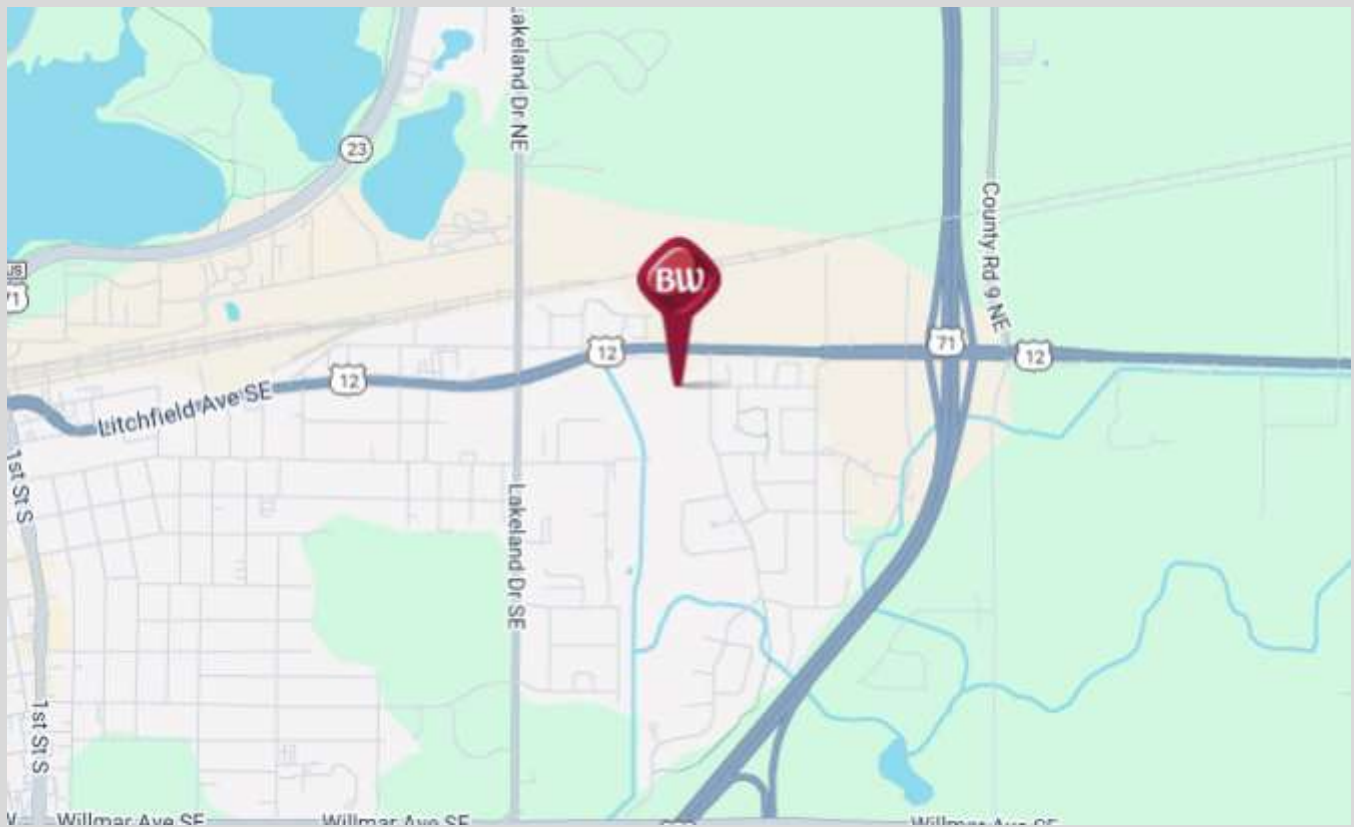
Fax services

Fax machine

Photocopy services

Conference services

Location



2100 Highway 12 E
Willmar, Minnesota

Room Amenities

Cable or satellite television

Coffee/tea maker

Microwave

Refrigerator available

Hairdryer

Iron, ironing board

Desk/work area

High-speed Internet access

Direct dial telephone

Two line phone

Voice mail

Room service, available 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Complimentary newspaper available

Wake-up calls

Sofabed available

Adjoining rooms available

Crib, available

Power converters, telephone jack adapters and electrical adapters for international guests available

Rollaway beds, \$10.00, available

What's on Your Workbench?



Tom Boyd shares some progress photos of structures he currently building.

First photo is a # 170 Fine Scale Miniatures sawmill, built board by board, wood stained with ink, have to paint and weather the metal castings at this time.

Second photo is a Southriver Modelworks resin boilerhouse , one of three structures from the Kendalls kit, painted with craft paints and windows glazed with Micro Krystal Clear

If you have a Model Railroad Project you are working on and would like to share with other members, send me a brief write up and a few pictures of what you are doing and I'll publish it in the next Fusee. I'd like to see a bunch of projects to share! Neil [Fusee Editor](#)

What's on Your Workbench?



Neil Carlton's latest addition to his roster.



My basement is finished, here is progress so far on the new layout. The benchwork is complete and most of the track is down. Neil

If you have a Model Railroad Project you are working on and would like to share with other members, send me a brief write up and a few pictures of what you are doing and I'll publish it in the next Fusee. I'd like to see a bunch of projects to share! Neil [Fusee Editor](#)

Don't Forget to Check out the Twin Cities Division Podcast

<https://tcdnmra.org/>



STATION No. VI
2025 NMRA
 Novi, MI
 CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

SAVE THE DATE!
NMRA National Convention
 JULY 14 – 19, 2025

www.nmra2025.com

Minneapolis & Northland



Railroad Company

I enjoy model railroading and want to share my experiences with you! You can see my build of kits, how-to's, painting information and much more on my internet blog. Check out <http://mnrailroadcab100.blogspot.com>.

2025 Region Roundup - model railroad-related events in and around the TLR

March 8	Granite City Train Show	River's Edge Convention Ctr, St Cloud, MN
March 15	Northstar Prototype Modelers Society Open House	Burnsville Center Mall, Burnsville, MN
Mar 15-16	Annual TCD Modeler's Retreat (2025)	Mt Olivet Church, Plymouth, MN
April 5	Newport Model Train Club Train Show (2025)	Woodbury High School, Woodbury, MN
April 12	Prairie Lakes Division Show	Sibley-Ocheyedan Elem Sch, Sibley, IA
May 15-18	TLR Annual Convention (2025)	Willmar, MN
July 14-19	NMRA National Convention (2025)	Novi, MI
Oct 4	Prairie Lakes Division Show	Clay Cty Fairgrounds, Spencer, IA
Oct 19	Spud Valley Hobby Show	Red River Fairgrounds, West Fargo, ND

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
2025 National Convention

STATION No. VI

Hosted by:
the NORTH CENTRAL REGION

July 14-19, 2025

Open to ALL model railroaders! You do not have to be an NMRA member to attend! **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!**

Our location – Sheraton Detroit-Novi, MI
A suburban location with FREE parking!

CONVENTION GOALS and HIGHLIGHTS -

Our main objectives are to provide events of value, items attendees will see as worth their money, all at the lowest possible cost. ** We will honor the traditions of past conventions but at lower cost and with greater flexibility. ** This convention will be shorter, starting at 1 PM on Monday and continuing through Saturday afternoon with a banquet Saturday evening. ** Note that registration includes all layout visits and operating sessions, and all activities at the hotel except Modeling with the Masters, and admittance to the National Train Show. ** We will support all the traditional activities of the SIG's. ** The National Contest will be fully supported. The contest will be in a prominent room and will be run by the National Contest team. There will be space for model displays, modular layouts and other functions. Those putting their models on display will have the option of entering the People's Choice Contest. ** We will have several prototype tours which may include a Ford plant tour and a cruise on the Detroit River with an emphasis on the industrial aspects of the waterfront. ** We expect to have at least 90 clinics. The clinics will be varied, and each will be given twice. ** We expect to have at least 60 layouts open for visit. Most layouts will be at least 900 sq. ft. in size running to over 3,000 sq. ft. in one or more cases. All layout visits and op sessions will be self-guided so you may take your time.

<https://nmra2025.com/>



Offer From Northern Utah Division - Still Available To Purchase



Add this superb, one of a kind, historical tank car to your collection. The Northern Utah Division of the NMRA is selling a series of HO scale Utah Oil Company (UTOCO) tank cars manufactured by InterMountain Railway. The cars feature a build date of 8/45 and a test date of 9/28/51.

Originally intended to be the convention cars for the 2019 NMRA convention in Salt Lake City, supply chain issues prevented the cars from arriving on time. Offered in six road numbers, the cars have metal wheelsets and Kadee couplers. Priced at \$45.00 each with free shipping, you can get your very own historical tank car before this limited edition is sold out, go to either:

www.northernutahnmra.org/club-car or

<http://northern-utah-division-nmra.square.site/>



Geoffrey K Carter, Manager

Northern Utah Division Company Store

1903 S 2065 W

Woods Cross, UT 84087

801-815-6028



River's Edge Convention Center

10 4th Ave. S

St. Cloud, MN 56301

Saturday, March 8th, 2025

Show Hours: 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

Buy, sell, trade or just view hundreds of trains under one roof. Vendors will be selling and buying trains, accessories, books, videos, railroad collectibles & memorabilia, antique trains & toys, hobby items and more!

Operating model and toy train displays. Kids can help build a wooden train layout and run a model train.

Register to win door prize, a LIONEL train set.

Test track on site. Wheelchair accessible.

Admission: \$6.00. Kids 10 and under FREE.

For more information call 612-558-6484, email GraniteCityTrainShow@gmail.com or visit www.GraniteCityTrainShow.com.

Map & Directions: www.GraniteCityTrainShow.com/GCTS_map.pdf.

HOBBYISTS: If you wish to display a layout, or have a vendor table please visit our web site for a printable layout display or vendor request form.

THE WINNIPEG MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

OPEN HOUSE AND TRAIN SHOW

April 26 & 27, 2025

Charleswood Legion
6003 Roblin Boulevard

Saturday 10am to 5pm
Sunday 10am to 4pm

Operating layouts!
Demonstrations!
Model displays!
Photo displays!
And More!

Admission by donation
Proceeds to support
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COME TO BURNSVILLE CENTER ON SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH AND SEE THE MODEL TRAINS. OPEN FROM 11AM TO 6PM IN LOCATION 1083 (THE OLD FOOT LOCKER LOCATION)

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Advertising should be mailed to THE FUSEE editor as camera-ready artwork or electronic files (jpeg, tiff, gif, or EPS with outlined fonts).

Enclose payment in U.S. funds, international money order, or by check drawn on U.S. banks. Checks should be made out to **TLR**. Contact the editor if you have questions.

Fusee Advertising

Commercial advertising from hobby shops, manufacturers, and businesses associated with model railroading interests are accepted. All ads can be run in a single issue at 35% of the annual rate.

Railroad ads are for individual layouts, model railroad clubs,

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1/12 pg 2 3/8 x 2 1/4"	\$18.50	\$6.50	Free
1/16 pg 1 1/8 x 3 1/2"	\$15.00	\$5.25	Free

THE FOLLOWING TLR BOARD POSITIONS ARE UP FOR ELECTION AND RE-ELECTION.

At the Annual Meeting May 18, 2025 in Willmar MN.

Jay Manning, Election Chair

The positions up for reelection this year are Secretary Ken Zieska, Convention Director Rich Holzapel and Contest Director John (Shadow) Reddington.

The TLR is a volunteer origination and without volunteers we will not exist. Serving on the Board of Directors will qualify you for the AP incentive. Once you earn your first AP certificate you will receive \$50. If you are interested in running or have questions about one of these positions, please contact TLR President Art Suel (artsuel1956@gmail.com) or TLR Nominations Chair Jay Manning (chessie@manningperry.com).

The list of duties for the positions up for election are listed below-

Secretary - The Secretary shall:

- Be responsible for the administrative functions of the Region
- Keep minutes of all Region meetings
- Provide an agenda for all meetings
- Notify members of meetings
- Have charge of all correspondence
- Be responsible for the maintenance and publication of the Administrative Manual
- Be responsible for Region archives

Convention Director - The Convention Director shall:

- Be the representative of the President in working with the Convention Chairpersons.
- Establish a convention schedule to ensure rotation throughout the Region.

Contest Director - The Contest Director shall:

- Direct all Region contests in co-operation with the Convention Chairpersons and their committees

