



## Rails Along the River, 2018 TLR Convention



*TLR Group Picture after D&I train ride, by depot in Canton, SD*

*By Richard Dahl (photos by author unless otherwise noted)*

The annual TLR convention for 2018 was held in Sioux Falls May 17 – May 20. Over 80 people attended the convention. Activities kicked off on Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup> with registration, a visit to the Sioux Valley Model Engineers Society (SVMES) model railroad, and Rich Holzapfel (DSED) sharing stories about this many years with Alaska Railroad accompanied by several of his own pictures. It put the cold in the southern part of the TLR at least in some perspective. Explosions and a fire at a welding gas supplier on the same side of Sioux Falls thankfully did not impact the convention too much other than some traffic delays.

The Contest Room opened on Thursday night. A theme throughout the convention was the relatively few entries by a few individuals submitted this year. Outgoing Contest Director Ron Olsen challenged members to participate in the contest in the future, and for members to encourage each other to enter the contest. Will you join the challenge? What better way to have your modeling skills improve than getting some trained eyes providing you with feedback.

Friday started with clinics at the hotel. Tim Smith (Dakota & Iowa Railroad) spoke about Railroad Operations in Winter. Fred Headon, Ryan Moats, and Jon Hotvet gave their clinic "The Contest Room, Science or Science Fiction". This clinic was helpful for future contest entrants and future judges. Brad

Hinton, from Australia (but no stranger to TLR), presented on Model Railroading in Australia. He gave some history of the development of the prototype railroads in Australia, and how numerous different gauge rails emerged in the different provinces. Minnesota River Valley Division Superintendent Terry Davis spoke about using social media, web-sites, and traditional media to promote the hobby with discussion from the audience. It is important that Facebook pages and alike are kept up to date, particularly for Division events. *If they appear inactive, it will be a detractor for gaining new members.*

Jim Bennett (Poet) talked about the logistics of moving railcars for a large biofuels company in our region (and beyond). Ladd McCluskey talked about 3D printing with commercial grade technology and showed samples of products.

While others were busy with non-rail activities in downtown Sioux Falls, the rail tour crowd boarded buses for Lyons, SD where we toured the Rosenbauer Firetruck Co. They make custom firetrucks that are sold all over the world, shipping approximately 36 a month. Their showroom sure had some mighty shiny and nice-looking machines.

Across from Rosenbauer is the Central Farmers Cooperation's grain facility. It ships about 25 unit trains w/ approximately 112 hoppers per train a year. They get three 6 axle loco-  
*(cont. pg. 3)*



## View from the Cab President Jay Manning

As we all move from convention time to summer pursuits, it is time to look back at the convention. First, a tremendous thank you for a job well done to the Dakota South-eastern Division for hosting another great convention in Sioux Falls. Many of the clinics centered on building a knowledge base of some of the behind the scenes work that is essential to keep railroads running. The discussion of model railroading in Australia left some of us wondering what we would do if it took years to get a prototype model once it is ordered and paid for in advance. Then we heard about Railroading in Alaska—it's certainly different than where we live. As with any effort such as hosting a convention, there will always be lessons learned and opportunities to try new and innovative ideas. Coming out of the convention, it is clear that the Thousand Lakes Region is strong and viable.

The annual General Membership Meeting addressed two very notable issues. First, the membership voted to rename the Lifetime Achievement Award to the "Stafford Swain Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award." He was a Master Model Railroader who devoted many hours to the Thousand Lakes Region to ensure its success. He willingly served the region in numerous capacities. As a contest judge he was known for his efforts to ensure fairness in the evaluation process while promoting accuracy in all aspects of the modeling projects.

The second major issue that was addressed was changing the Fusee to an electronic publication. After a lengthy discussion, the membership voted to make the change. The benefits include the ability to publish without the restraints of space and printing costs. The electronic version has the potential to include longer articles, color pictures, and more input from the membership. The current statistics indicate that The

Fusee, other than the preconvention issue sent to all NMRA members in the Region, is received by about 25 percent of the membership. The electronic version will not have a subscription cost. One issue still remains, how to get the publication to members who do not have a computer. It was agreed that Division members with a computer should print out a copy and give it to those individuals. A second issue came to light: **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS ON FILE WITH THE REGION.**

A discussion occurred during the GMA as to what the TLR was doing with its funds on deposit to promote the hobby. The TLR has a grant program to assist Divisions with their efforts to promote the hobby, BUT no other defined uses for these funds. I would ask that members of the TLR discuss different ideas on how to make the TLR funds work to promote the hobby and bring them forward either through their Division leadership or to the Board of Directors directly. Hopefully by the next General Membership Meeting we will have thought out proposals for the use of these funds to promote the hobby for discussions.

From the cab, I have a personal concern that needs to be addressed at Division level. The number of entries in the Contest Room is on a steady decline. How long has it been since you looked at the NMRA Form 901---the list of events range from the Model Contests to Railroad Pass Contest. There are 18 potential categories to enter in the modeling contest section; a Module Contest---can be an individual or group effort; the Photo Contest has 6 categories (we all take pictures of railroad and model railroad activities); and then there is the Railroad Pass Contest. There has to be at least one of the potential categories that fits every model railroader. The TLR needs the promotion of the Contest Room to start at Division level beginning with a discussion of what this is all about. Every Division has members who can help promote this activity---it needs to be a point of emphasis for the coming year.

The 2019 Convention will be a joint convention in La-crosse, Wisconsin. I look forward to greater participation by

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

July 28	27th Annual Rail Fair Copeland Park, La Crosse, WI
<b>August 5-12</b>	<b>NMRA National Convention Kansas City, MO</b>
August 18-19	Southern Valley Railway Model Train Show, Plainview, MN
<b>Sep 5-8</b>	<b>38th Nat'l Narrow Gauge Conv. Bloomington MN</b>
Oct 21	Spud Valley Hobby Show Delta by Marriott, Fargo ND
Oct 28	7th Annual Model Railroad Show Hwy 3 West, Hampton IA

### Publishing Deadlines

<u>Publishing Date</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>
March 1 Edition	February 1
July 1 Edition	June 1
September 1 Edition	August 1
December 1 Edition	November 1



*Firetruck nearing completion at Rosenbauer.*

motives and hoppers from BNSF parked on their loop, and they have 10 hours to load and turn it back to BNSF.

Returning to Sioux Falls Mike Carolyn from BNSF in Sioux Falls talked about BNSF operations in Sioux Falls and in general. On Friday night we had a catered dinner at the Multicultural Center downtown Sioux Falls, which included a raffle for seats in the engine cabs for the next day. Eight TLR members walked away with big smiles on their faces. The evening ended with Kennedy Gauger (DSED) providing valuable insights in Model Railroad Rolling Stock Maintenance. A TLR board meeting was also held, lasting for a few hours into the evening (minutes will be published separately).

On Saturday morning buses took us to Midwest Railcar



*From Midwest Railcar Repair (Photo by Kennedy Gauger)*

Repair (MRR) in Corson, SD. MRR does most freight car maintenance tasks that one could ask for. We got to see the various stages of their process. The facility can have up to 800 freight cars on the grounds, which is situated by BNSF trackage. This facility offers many unique views with equipment being opened, torn apart, stripped of paint, and in other unique poses.

While the weather was on the windy and cool side, there were sighs of relief that we did not experience the forecasted rain for an outdoors lunch in Hudson, SD and when arriving in Hawarden, IA to board the three Dakota & Iowa Railroad (D&I) ex-MILW cabooses waiting for us. The ride went along the scenic Big Sioux River with plenty of wild life being observed. The train took us to the depot in Canton, SD where we stretched

legs, looked at the depot and a display Milwaukee Road caboose.

In the evening we met at the Multicultural Center for the banquet. Fred Headon – MRR and Canadian Director on the NMRA board, remembered his friend, well-known, superb, helpful modeler and TLR member, Stafford Swain, that recently passed away. You can read a wonderful memorial by Fred Headon in the June edition of NMRA magazine.

Awards were then presented. This year's awards went to:

**Bob Dew Award:** Former TLR President Dennis Rietze (Manitoba). Fred Headon accepted the award on his behalf. Dennis Rietze has also served many years as a division Superintendent and given much to the TLR.

**Stafford Swain Lifetime Achievement Award:** Duane Durr (North Dakota). Duane has been a member since the early 60's and served multiple terms as President and Treasurer over the years, Fusee Editor and is still very active in the Dakota South-eastern Division.



*Stafford Swain Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Duane Durr*

**President's Award:** TLR Secretary Arthur Suel for his service to (he TLR and the President of the TLR.



*Jay Manning (left) presents the President's Award to Arthur Suel (right)*

*(cont. pg. 4)*

**Jock Oliphant Award:** This was presented to the Dakota South-eastern Division for the Ethanol Plant Diorama. The award was accepted by Jay Manning on behalf of the Division.

Famed auctioneer Alan Saatkamp (now of McOR) again excited the TLR with his skills for adding suspense and fun to the



Scene from DSED Ethanol Plant Diorama

evening's auction. A very happy 5-year-old (NRMA member) left with four prizes, and swiftly put Australian Model Railway

magazine on his nightstand. The Rix building he won lighted a modeling fire, and the author now has a modeling companion.

The general meeting took place Sunday morning with two major items on the agenda. Kennedy Gauger (DSED) was elected as the new Contest director, and Kevin Dill (Fargo) was appointed as the new Public Relations Director. The second issue was the transition to a digital Fusee.



New TLR Board - left to right: Caleb Van Der Brink (Vice President), Scott Nesbit (Convention Director), Tom Gay (Treasurer), Jay Manning (President), Kennedy Gauger (Contest Director). Front: Arthur Suel. Not present: Kevin Dill (Public Relations Dir).

The convention then rounded off with seven model railroads that were open for convention participants to see.

Next year we will meet the same weekend in May in LaCrosse, Wisconsin in the joint convention with the Midwest Region. See you there!

# 40th Annual Spud Valley Hobby Show

Sunday, October 21, 2018

**Admission: \$5.00**  
(under 12 free with paid adult)

◆ Large and small operating model Railroads

**Delta by Marriott**  
(Formerly Ramada Plaza Suites)

◆ Vendors selling farm toys, plastic models, model railroad items, die cast vehicles, old toys, railroad collectibles and more

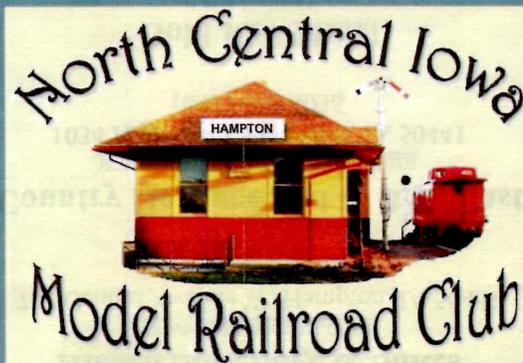
**Crystal Ballroom**  
1635 42nd St. S., Fargo, ND

◆ Door prizes  
◆ Valley RC Flyers display their planes

Call Don—701-234-9351 or email [spudvalley@hotmail.com](mailto:spudvalley@hotmail.com)

## 7th Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale

Sponsored by



Sunday, October 28, 2018

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Franklin County Convention Center,  
Hwy 3 West, Hampton, Iowa  
Admission \$5.00 (Ages 10 & under Free with paid adult)

For More Information Call (641) 456-1998 or  
Email: [eastsidetrains@gmail.com](mailto:eastsidetrains@gmail.com)

# 2019 Contest Room Results

## Model Contests

Diesel:

1<sup>st</sup> place – Jay Manning – DME Engine



Freight Cars:

1<sup>st</sup> place – Jay Manning – Heavily Weathered Freight Car



Non-Revenue:

1<sup>st</sup> place – Jay Manning – Yard Gondola With Load



Structures:

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Jay Manning – N Scale Parking Garage

1<sup>st</sup> place – Ryan Moats – B&CC Fuel Bin at Beaver Brook



Displays:

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Jay Manning – Z Scale Display

1<sup>st</sup> place – Jay Manning/DSED – American Ethanol Plant Diorama



Modules:

1<sup>st</sup> place – Rich Holzapfel – HO Module



Best in Show:

Ryan Moats – Beaver Creek Dance Pavilion



**Photos**

Black and White Prototype:

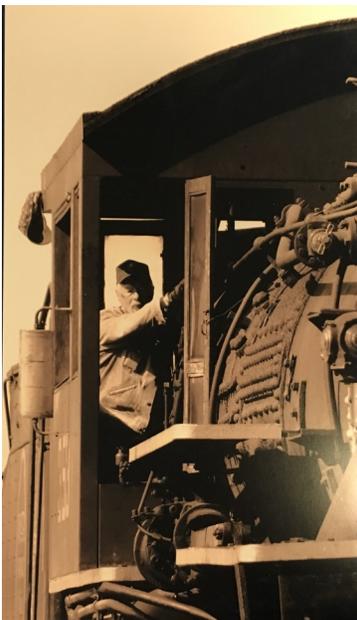
3<sup>rd</sup> place – Gerry Miller – Give Her a Spin



2<sup>nd</sup> place – Gerry Miller – Two Old Friends Meet



1<sup>st</sup> place – Gerry Miller – Hogger



**Color Model:**

1<sup>st</sup> place – Caleb Van Der Brink – Afternoon Switching



**Color Prototype:**

1<sup>st</sup> place – Caleb Van Der Brink – Evening Oil



**MWR-TLR 2019 CONVENTION**

Mark you calendar for May 17-19 2019! We will be having a joint convention with the Midwest Region in Lacrosse Wisconsin, at the Days Inn Lacrosse. Our room rate is \$67 per night for reservations. Call [608\) 783-1000](tel:6087831000). Clinics, Layout tours, Rail and non-rail tours are in the planning stage, as things become finalized, they will be posted on the web site.

Since the Fusee will now be electronic please be sure that your email address is updated with the NMRA or on the TLR web site, so you get all the updates on the convention as they become available.

**Minutes of the NMRA Thousand Lakes Region Board Meeting**  
**May 18, 2018, Sioux Falls, South Dakota**

**1: Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by President Jay Manning at 9:00 pm

**2: Roll Call**

The Following Board Members were present; President Jay Manning, Vice President Caleb Van der Brink, Treasurer Tom Gay, Secretary Art Suel, Contest Director Ron Olsen and Convention Director Scott Nesbit. Public Relations Director Wes Garcia was absent due to illness.

NMRA Canada Director Fred Headon, MMR, was present. Regional Chairs present were John Hotvet, MMR, Achievement Program and Jim Bernier, Historian and Membership Chair. Superintendents in attendance were Gerry Miller, Southeastern Division, Terry Davis Minnesota River Valley Division, Don Radeck South Red River Valley, Terry Anderson Dakota Southeastern and Jay Davis Prairie Lakes. It should be noted that the Twin Cities Division superintendent is Ron Olsen.

**3: Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the January 2018 board meeting needed to be approved. There were no corrections noted. Nesbit moved and was seconded by Gay to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed on a voice vote.

**4: Treasurer's report**

Tom Gay reported that the balance in the bank has increased with the addition of our region's share from the joint convention held in 2017 with the Mid-Continent Region. If a member wants a complete written report, contact Tom Gay. Miller moved and was seconded by Olsen to accept the report. Motion carried on a voice vote.

**5: Board reports**

**A: Convention Director**

**1: 2018 Convention**

Scott Nesbit reported that the current convention 2018 is going quite well. Friday has been a success and Saturday will have the Midwest Rail car repair facility and the train ride along the big Sioux south.

**2: 2019 Convention**

Gerry Miller updated the board on plans for the 2019 convention in La Crosse, Wisconsin. This will be a joint convention with the Mid West Region. Date for the convention is May 17 thru the 19<sup>th</sup>. Convention hotel is the Days Inn with a room rate of \$65.00 per night. The rate is locked in for our convention. Tentative itinerary for the convention is registration and layout tours on Thursday. Friday will have clinics and a possible tour of the Pearl Street Brewery. The Copeland Park display will be open for attendees. Saturday will be clinics and the annual Banquet. General Membership meeting will be Sunday morning as usual. Miller is looking for clinicians. Terry Davis suggested renting the riverboat, but the cost is prohibitive at \$3500.00. Scott Nesbit oversees obtaining merchandise for the Chinese auction. Nesbit is looking for a site for the 2020 convention. He suggested the Twin Cities and Ron Olsen will take it up with the Twin City Division board.

**B: Contest Director**

Ron Olsen reported that the entries for this year's contest was quite sparse. 9 models and 5 photos were entered. Olsen asked for suggestions on how to encourage more entries from our modelers. Nesbit suggested articles on the various categories in the Fusee.

**C: Public Relations Director**

No report as Wes Garcia is dealing with an illness.

**6: National Officer reports**

NMRA Canada Director Fred Headon, MMR was present. He updated the board on national activities. A new national President will take office end of the national convention in August. There will also be a new national Vice President for Administration as well as three new board directors.

During the last election, membership approved the re-writing of the Executive Handbook. This will be now known as Corporate Policy and Procedures. This process streamlined the, clarified and re-organized over 200 pages of bylaws.

Next step is to rework the Executive Handbook items that deal with what we do and how we do it. This handbook will be known as the Program Policy and Procedures. This will clarify our programs and how we do it. Targeted date for submission to the membership is the next election.

Membership retention is very important. There are numerous programs available to the divisions to use and utilize. Member Partner Program continues to grow with more manufacturers being added with discounts for NMRA members. Clubs will be added to the Model Railroad Registry soon. NMRA continues to receive positive responses from the initiatives the marketing consultant is implementing on our social media platforms.

Headon encourage all members to attend the National Convention to be held August 5<sup>th</sup> thru the 12<sup>th</sup> in Kansas City. He suggested that the Thousand Lake Region donate to the NMRA Diamond Club. His final comment was to congratulate the region and its webmaster for the virtual layout tour section on the regional web page.

**7: Division Reports**

**A: Dakota Southeastern Division:** Superintendent Terry Anderson report that the DSED is a very vibrant and active division. Among the activities the DSED participated in were Sioux Valley Model Engineers Society at Christmas, displayed model trains at the Active Generations Polar Express event and at the Minnehaha Country club. We concluded 2017 with our annual division get together with a Chinese auction.

2018 is off to a busy pace. March the division took their modular layout to the Sioux City Cosmopolitan club train show in South Sioux City Nebraska. Then a few weeks later, the layout was part of the DSED train show in Sioux Falls South Dakota. First the first time in history of our show, we had to turn away prospective vendors for the reason the venue was full. Later this summer the Division will attend the Granite Iowa threshing Bee with our modular layout.

**B: South Red River Valley Division:** Superintendent Don Radeck recapped their activities. Members have starting T-Trak modules, the boxes have been built and members are working on a track plan. The Spud Valley Model Railroad club is up and running for the season at Bonanzaville. During the winter, members worked on the electrical and track plan in preparation to convert from DC to DCC. The 40<sup>th</sup> annual Spud Valley Hobby show is scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup> in Fargo.

**C: No. 1 Northern Division.** Fred Headon, MMR gave the report. In April 7th and 8th 2017, the Free-Mo Group set up at the annual open house of the Winnipeg Model Rail Club. We use these types of events to inform the public on the joys of model Railroading. Our Division is planning to have a Division Railfanning event. In September we will have the free-mo modules at the annual Manitoba Mega Train show.

**D: Prairie Lakes Division:** Superintendent Jay Davis reported that the division had their spring meet April 28, 2018 in Everly Iowa. Attendance was approximated 85 people. There was 3 great clinics given, vendors available with goods to sell and the popular vote contest of the models entered.

The Fall meet for 2018 is scheduled for Algona Iowa at the Kossouth County Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds have a large O Scale layout in a building that measures 40' by 60'. The meet will have clinics, vendors and the popular vote contest for models. There will also be a business meeting for the division.

**E: Twin City Division:** Ron Olsen, the new Superintendent reported that the division tried to increase attendance at meeting by holding some on the west side of the twin cities including a couple of Saturdays instead of Thursdays. The annual Railroader's Model Retreat was well attended even with a model railroad flea market going on in the twin cities.

**F: Southeastern Division:** Superintendent Gerry Miller stated that the division is continuing with the round robin meetings at members homes. Will continue to attend area's train shows with their modules. The Division have gained 5 new members this year.

**G: Minnesota River Valley Division:** Superintendent Terry Davis reported that the division has only 6 active members. The division is building a diorama depicting the Milwaukee Road in Montevideo Minnesota during 1953-54. Trying to get a cluster of members in St Cloud and Hutchinson to attend meetings.

**8: Chair Reports**

**A: Achievement Program:** Chair John Hotvet reported that the region normally has 7 certificates earned each year but only 4 this year. Ron Einarson earned his Master Model Railroader certificate this year. 2 Golden spikes were earned this year too.

**B: Membership:** Chair Jim Bernier stated that electronic reports tell us who remained, who joined and who dropped their membership. He also said due to being busy, he was resigning as Membership Chair and Historian roles.

**C: Historian:** Jim Bernier states he has the records and will turn them over to the new Historian once is named.

**D: Social Media:** no report

**E: Web Master:** Caleb Van der Brink reported that he is keeping the website current with news, information update and event news when submitted by regional members or divisions. Would like members to submit more photos of their layouts so he can load them on the virtual layout section.

**9: Old Business**

The board went to new business while waiting for Kevin Dill to arrive.

**10: New Business**

**A: Nomination Chair report:** Gerry Miller reported he has individuals who are interested in serving on the board for all five positions open this year. Two board members are term limited.

**B: Division Boundaries:** Miller reported that there is some confusion on a couple of counties in which division they are in. He recommended moving Wright county to the Twin City Division.

At this point Fred Headon, MMR asked for the floor. National is suggesting that divisions and regions use the word Event instead of meeting. Business meetings would still be known as Meeting. Second, He suggested that modeler's use "Model Railroad" instead of layout or pike.

Terry Davis asked if we have any plans for our growing bank account. We should be spending it on members benefit. Terry Davis suggested buying hardhats and safety goggles for use in prototype tours. Miller wondered you would be responsible for the storage of these items.

Reed Cairns asked if the region is sending the divisions their share from the membership. Tom Gay answered that each division is getting 100% of their due share. President Manning will form a committee to study and make recommendations on this matter.

At this point, we returned to Item 9, Old Business with the arrival of Fusee Editor Kevin Dill.

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## NEW– The ELECTRONIC FUSEE!

At the general membership meeting in Sioux Falls, the membership voted to switch to the electronic Fusee. There was overwhelming support for this conversion since we will be able to enjoy color and increased content, and this will be available to every member, for every edition. In the end, the gain of all 475 or so members getting every edition of the Fusee rather than 165 for 3 of 4 editions, was the main benefit.

So, what happens now? This will be the last PRINT edition of the Fusee. There is an electronic version of this edition on the TLR website that you should access now so that you can compare the two and see the benefit! Here's what to do:

Go to [Thousandlakesregion.com](http://Thousandlakesregion.com)

Click on "About Us" in the green banner near the top.

Click on the orange "E-Fusee" box on the middle right. Past editions are archived here.

Go to the bottom of the page and click on "Summer" in the 2018 box.

If you have Adobe Acrobat Reader, it will open automatically. If you don't have Acrobat Reader, there is a link to the website to download and install the reader. It is a free download.

This edition will load onto your device. You can read it now, or go to the bottom and press the icon for a printer to print it out, or the disc to save it to your device. Then you can read it later.

There is no subscription fee, there are no passwords. It's really easy to do. The only cost will be your ink and paper. If you don't have a printer or don't want to mess with electronics, talk to a friend that can print it out for you.

For the September edition, you will get an email that it is available on the website. IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOUR EMAIL PASSWORD IS CORRECT WITH NMRA HEADQUARTERS. All the information we use comes from the home office, and is not handled at the local level. Please contact Jenny at the NMRA headquarters ([nmracao@nmra.org](mailto:nmracao@nmra.org)) and give her your current email address. If you have trouble, send me ([Dillkev@aol.com](mailto:Dillkev@aol.com)) or Caleb Van Der Brink, the webmaster ([calebvanderbrink@yahoo.com](mailto:calebvanderbrink@yahoo.com)), an email.

Board Minutes, Continued from Page 7

**A: Fusee format update:** Editor Kevin Dill gave an update on the proposal to go to an electronic or digital Fusee. In all the responses he received, only one was negative. He discussed possible solutions to solve the problems that member would have in receiving the Fusee.

Twenty – Five percent of the membership subscribe to the Fusee at a cost of \$10.00 per year. Only one issue is sent to all members each year. By going electronic, we would be increasing our communication with the membership. Electronic version would not have limitations on number of pages that limits content. Electronic version can have more photos that will be in color. Dill said that if approved, the July issue could be the first electronic Fusee. Miller suggested that we send a print version to all members to notify them of the change and the need to have a correct email address on file with national. Nesbit / Miller moved to approve the change and send it to Sunday's General Membership Meeting. Motion passed with no opposition.

**C: President concerns:** Manning brought up two concerns. Manning suggested creation of an award in honor of Stafford Swain. Headon explain process for creating awards. A new award starts with the board and then finally with the membership. Miller suggested naming the Lifetime Achievement award after Stafford Swain.

Headon / Nesbit moved to name the lifetime achievement award the Stafford Swain Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award. Motion passed with no opposition. Manning second concern was the lack of models and photos in the contest room this year. He will write an article for the Fusee promoting the contest. Purpose of the contest room is to develop skills. Dill suggested a model building seminar at conventions to assist people in developing their modeling skills. Headon suggested getting Clarke Krooning to run a clinic on build and take. Miller will discuss with Mid West region as a possible clinic for La Crosse in 2019.

Miller / Nesbit moved to donate \$1000.00 to the NMRA Diamond Club. Motion passed with no opposition.

Miller / Van Der Brink moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 pm

Respectfully submitted

Arthur C. Suel

Thousand Lake Region Secretary



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>.

Lester Breuer, MMR

**Minutes of the Annual General Membership Meeting  
Thousand Lakes Region NMRA  
May 29, 2018**

**1: Call to Order**

President Jay Manning called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**2: Roll Call**

Secretary Art Suel recorded the following officers present. President Jay Manning, Vice President Caleb Van der Brink, Art Suel, Treasurer Tom Gay, Convention Director Scott Nesbit and Contest Director Ron Olsen. Public Relations Director Wes Garcia was absent due to illness. NMRA Canada Director Fred Headon, MMR, was also present. Total of thirty-four members in attendance.

**3: Approval of Minutes**

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the Annual General Membership meeting from May 21, as written. Duane Durre moved, seconded by Nesbit to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed.

**4: Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Tom Gay reported to the membership that the bank balance had grown with our Region's share of the profit from the 2017 convention. A full treasurer report is available to members who desire a copy by contacting Tom Gay. Terry Anderson moved to accept the Treasurer's report and was seconded by Kennedy Guager. Motion passed.

**5: Board Reports**

**A: Convention Director:** Director Scott Nesbit recapped the current convention. He deemed it a success.

**a:** Gerry Miller briefed the membership on the details of the 2019 convention to be held in La Crosse, Wisconsin. It will be a joint convention with the Midwest Region. Date of the convention is May 17<sup>th</sup> thru the 19<sup>th</sup>. Convention hotel is the newly remodeled Days Inn with a room rate of \$65.00 per night before taxes are added. Hotel provides a free continental breakfast each morning.

Friday will have clinics in the morning with a tour of the Pearl Street Brewery in the afternoon. Friday evening will have clinics with the possibility of ops sessions at nearby model railroad. Miller is looking into a possible "Modeling with the Master clinic". Headon suggested contacting Clark Krooning to see if he was available. Region would have to pay his expenses in return for him leading the clinic. Saturday is still being worked out but will close with the Saturday night banquet and always popular Chinese auction.

Nesbit spoke about the need for a host and site for 2020. Twin City Division Superintendent Ron Olsen will discuss this with his board and get back to Nesbit.

**B:** Director Ron Olsen spoke about the lack of entries this year for the contest. He asked membership for suggestions. Larry Van den Plas suggested an article in the Fusee outlining the various categories there are. Headon said by participating, modelers learn how to do things.

**C: Public Relations:** no report

**6: National Officer's reports:**

**A: NMRA Canada Director:** Fred Headon, MMR, reported on the recent election held by the national organization. A new President Pete Maquon will take office at close of the Kansas City convention in August. John Stevens will be the new Vice President for Administration while Gerry Leone was re-elected Vice President for Special Projects. Three new directors were elected and will join the board at the end of the national convention.

He spoke about the various programs available to members including the "discount program" and the Model Railroad Registry. The marketing consultant is continuing to develop strategies to improve outreach to members thru the various social media platforms. The contract with the state of California to house our displays at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento has been signed. California will dedicate a half position there to work with our displays and assist members. Manning announced that the Board approved a donation of \$1000.00 to the diamond club of the NMRA.

**7: Old Business** There was no old business

**8: New Business:**

**A: Fusee format change proposal:** Vice President Van der Brink informed the membership about changing the Fusee from a print format to an electronic format. The pros would be color photos in high definition, no need to edit or split articles to fit the Fusee sixteen-page format, no need to charge members a subscription fee to receive it. Only 172 members out of 440 subscribe now. The Fusee will be able to reach all the membership who have a valid email address on file with national increasing our communications efforts.

Cons would be that some members do not have a computer or email address. That could be solved with a member printing a copy for that member. Terry Davis commented that libraries have computers that are hooked up to a printer. Van der Brink said that the process would be when an issue is ready, it would be sent to the webmaster who would post it on the web page and send it out to the members via email.

John Schneider wondered if it would be available only to members in a special members section on the web page? Van der Brink replied that with no subscription fee, this would not be necessary.

Anderson moved to approve the conversion of the Fusee to electronic and was seconded by Headon. Further discussion centered on whether a limited number of printed copies should be printed? Again, it was pointed out that libraries have computers with printing capacity. Headon spoke in favor by stating that most of divisions and regions have gone to the electronic format for their newsletters.

At this time, discussion ended, and the membership voted on the motion by Anderson to approve the change. Motion passed.

One additional item was added to new business at this time.

Manning informed the membership that the board approved a motion Friday night to name the region Lifetime Achievement Award after the late Stafford Swain. It would be known as the Stafford Swain Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award. Headon move to name the award after Stafford Swain. Second by Don Radeck. Motion passed.

**B: Elections:**

Nominations chair Gerry Miller explained the process. There are five seats up for election this year and three individuals have expressed interested in being re-elected. Two officers, Ron Olsen and Wes Garcia are termed limited and their seats are open. Miller stated that Manning, Van der Brink and Nesbit would like to serve another term. The Thousand Lakes Region membership expressed their gratitude to Olsen and Garcia for their service and time given to the region.

Kennedy Guager is willing to serve as contest director and Kevin Dill would like to be the Public Relations Director. Dill being absent this morning due to family obligations, he cannot be elected but could be appointed after the election if no one else opts to run.

With this Miller opened the nominations. Jay Manning, Caleb Van der Brink, Scott Nesbit and Kennedy Guager were nominated. Miller asked for any further nominations three times, with no further nominations, nominations were closed. The membership elected the four nominated individuals on a white ballot.

Duane Durre moved to adjourn and was seconded by Fred Headon, MMR. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned by President Manning at 10:05 am. After the meeting, the board convened for a short organization meeting. Kevin Dill was appointed to fill the vacancy on the board and was assigned the Public Relations Director role. Kennedy Guager will assume the Contest Director role. All other directors will remain in their current positions. Manning, Van der Brink and Nesbit will have two-year terms while Dill and Guager will have only a one-year term.

Respectfully Submitted

Arthur C. Suel

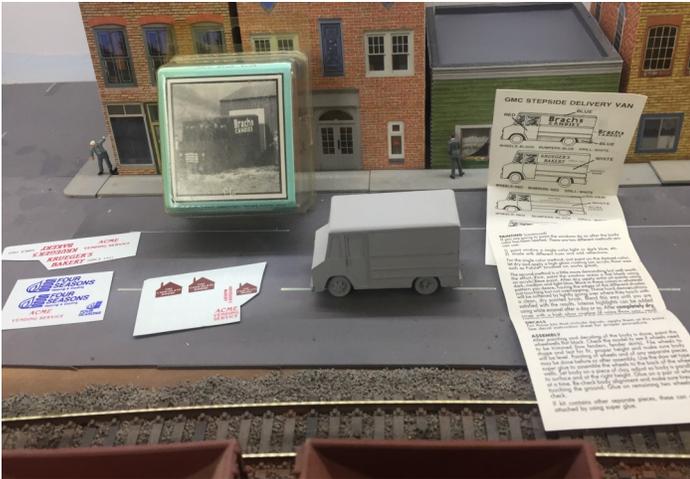
Secretary, Thousand Lake Region NMRA

# GMC Step Van, A Resin Kit in a Couple of Evenings

Tom Gasior, photos by author

I purchased a few resin vehicles at the local flea market. I find these kits only take a couple of evenings to build or paint into a nice layout addition. Magnuson Models GMC step van makes a generic type of delivery vehicle for my late 1960's era layout. It comes with a variety of decals, so you can choose which service you want to have on your layout.

Opening the kit, I found the wheels already at-



All the parts in the kit. The truck had the tires attached when the kit was purchased.

tached. I think the previous owner did this bit of work. The wheels are cast metal and the body is a solid piece of resin casting. I cleaned up any flash from the casting with a small flat file. There were a few marks and indents I left because I would use them to simulate rust and dirt in the final step.

An old prescription bottle makes a great handle to



"Rattle can" primer works well for projects like this.

use while painting and working on the truck. I used hot glue to adhere the base of the truck to the bottle. It makes a secure joint, but will easily come off when done handling



Tom sprayed Vallejo white paint over gray primer. The truck is hot-glued to an inverted pill bottle as a stand.

the model. I like to use this modelers trick to hold figures for painting as well.

Spraying some white primer on the truck sets it up for a nice coat of white paint. It also seals the resin. Using Vallejo paints made for airbrushing, I painted the truck with a few light coats of white. I let this dry and gathered the various paint colors that would be needed for the lights and detail parts. I also picked out some small brushes to



Everything is ready for detailing! Fine brushes, various paints and a mixing plate.

paint the various color details. The grille, bumper and door handles were painted silver. Headlights are yellow with red



After decals, detail painting and now ready to weather.



After some simple but effective weathering with powders from AIM Products. A light coat of Tamiya dullcoat allows this to stick better.

for turn and backup lights. The hub caps are silver and the tires received a coat of black.

I like to use Future floor gloss when applying decals. It gives a nice smooth area to adhere the decals and I don't have to use and clean my airbrush. I just use a flat, smooth brush and only cover the area I am working on. I used a small scissors to cut the bakery lettering to fit the truck side. I like Microscale Micro-sol and Micro-set to make the decals snuggle down. Making sure there are no bubbles in the decals, I keep putting on Micro-Sol until the decal edges are barely visible.

Time for a quick coat of dull coat to seal the decals and give a rough surface for the weathering powders to grab on to. I like to use Tamiya TS-80 for my dullcoat. This has proved to give a great finish every time.

Taking the truck off the pill bottle, I gather a few colors of Aim weathering powders that would simulate



Now the locals can get their baked goods delivered directly to them in Agate Bay!

road grime. I get a soft brush to apply the powders to the bottom of the truck. I work from light colors to dark, and save the dark powder for the roof. I give it another light misting of dullcoat. I keep the spray can about two feet away from the truck, as I don't want to wash off the powders, but just cover them so the vehicle can be handled.

It is now time to place it on the layout, and make a few deliveries to Agate Bay merchants who want to sell some delicious bakery goods!

## Region Round-up

### South Red River Valley Division

Don Radeck, Superintendent

The SRRVD has been busy with the T-Trak modules. We have boxes built but are still trying to come up with a track plan that will fit into the T-Trak standards. We have also found that we need to build four more boxes for the corners. We are planning a meeting this summer to try and finalize the plans and get track laid.

We are also working on scheduling a road trip to visit the Midland Continental railroad depot in Wimbledon, ND. This is the only surviving M.C. depot and now houses a museum. This was also the home to singer Peggy Lee when she was growing up as her dad was the depot agent there.

The Spud Valley Model Railroad Club is up and running for the season. We are expecting several hundred school kids to pass through the layout viewing area this month as local schools visit Bonanzaville for their spring field trips. Spud is always the most popular exhibit in Bonanzaville.

We did some electrical and track work over the winter as a prep for our future conversion to DCC.

The Red River Railroad Modular Club had their first set up of the season at the Washington Mall in Detroit Lakes, MN. There was a good crowd with lots of questions. The Modular club is also working on a DCC switch.

### No. 1 Northern Division

Ian Plett, Superintendent

On April 7&8, the Freemo Group setup a layout at the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club's Annual Open House. There was a great turnout of folks at this event. I had pamphlets telling folks about our free-mo group and what it takes to get involved with us. I also had on hand our business cards for people to take- on the cards the websites to nmra.ca, nmra.org, freemo.org and to the No. 1 Northern are listed. Over the years, I've been letting the general public run trains- it's always exciting to see the expression on their faces when operating on such a big layout.

The next event for the Freemo Group is the AGM, they will also be inviting the Division membership to this event. We will also have a presentation after the meeting. Nothing has been decided for the presentation as of yet.

There are plans this summer to have a Division Rail-fanning event.

The next major event for the Freemo Group will be the Manitoba Mega Train Show, Sept 29-30 2018.

At the moment we haven't decided if the Division will be having their Annual Division Mini meet this November.

## MMR Certificates- Chief Dispatcher

*John Hotvet, MMR*

The third and last Achievement Program certificate in the "Construction and Operations" category is the Chief Dispatcher.

The Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) form, which can be found on the NMRA website, lists the various requirements that must be completed for the Chief Dispatcher certificate. While I will summarize the requirements, you are encouraged to print out the SOQ form and read through the requirements because they are somewhat difficult to summarize.

First, the modeler must participate in the operation of a model railroad for no less than fifty hours. This can either be on a home layout or a club layout where at least two mainline trains and yard switching are run simultaneously. At least ten hours must be served in at least three of the five listed categories, one of which must be Dispatcher.

In addition to the operations requirement, the applicant shall do the following:

1. Prepare a schematic drawing of a model railroad layout meeting the operating conditions described in the previous paragraph.
2. Prepare a timetable for the model railroad simulating prototype time and covering a period of at least eight hours and including at least three scheduled mainline trains.
3. Develop an operating train chart that interprets the above timetable in graphic form. Highlight at least one train meet on the graph and describe the action of both trains leading up to and

after the meet.

4. Develop a system of operation for the layout, including the necessary forms and an explanation of their use for controlling car movements and train operation in a prototypical manner.

The submitted SOQ shall include the following items

1. The forms and drawings required in the previous section.
2. Description of the jobs held and the verification of hours accrued for each job.
3. A signed and verified Certificate of Operation form showing that all the operating hours requirements have been met.

As noted earlier, these requirements can be met using operating hours acquired by operating on one or more railroads. In addition, you can work together with others to develop the forms and the timetable/operating schedule to meet the requirements for this certificate.

Once all the paperwork has been prepared and everything properly verified, you can send the SOQ to me for review and approval. If everything is properly filled out, I will then sign it and forward it to National for final approval.

## Fallen Flag— Stafford Swain, MMR #98

Our model railway community has lost a genuine human being and a model railroader of iconic status – Stafford Swain, MMR #98 passed away on April 11, 2018 after suffering ill-health for a number of years. While those issues forced his retirement from model railroading, his unselfishly made contributions will benefit our hobby for many years.

Never shy about inviting strangers, newcomers and long-term friends to become involved, Stafford's personable approach and freely given guidance encouraged and aided ever-so-many in our hobby. His enthusiasm and unbounded willingness to share material, details and techniques inspired untold numbers of modellers. He willingly spent hours discussing ideas with modellers of all ages with an open mind as he shared what he knew and acknowledged the input of others, all the while raising the modelling bar. He revelled in introducing younger people to model railroading knowing they were a key element for our future. This approach included his commenting a number of times that model railroading and its people offered considerable fellowship and pure enjoyment. Personal pride in what he did and contributed was a humbly accepted emotion.

In a perceptive and masterful manner, his Canadian National Railways Whiteshell Subdivision model railway miniaturized so many key physical attributes along with the feel of the Canadian Shield east of Winnipeg late in the steam era. I was most fortunate to be able to visit and to operate it a number of times. These circumstances were initially mind-boggling, then inspiring and always greatly appreciated. Experiencing his model railway triggered many to initiate programs to improve their modelling in an effort to emulate something akin to his depictions.

His tireless dedication to accurately modelling the details of Canadian railway prototype elements had roots in his profession – accounting. His professional attitude carried over to his thorough and relentless pursuit of a vast array of topics while ensuring historical accuracy and completeness. His extraordinary research and analytical skills resulted in a knowledge base that set a solid foundation for prototypically accurate motive power, rolling stock, structures and provided leadership in creating scenery representative of the area modelled. This was compounded by his following prototype practices during operating sessions. The result was that the over-all quality aspect in model railroading spiralled upward. While the breadth of model railroading has benefitted from Stafford's approach, Canadian modellers have been more blessed by his efforts.

Always so willing to contribute from the breadth of his knowledge and his vast collection of photographs and

plans, Stafford provided over 80 articles to model railroading's commercial press and to CN Lines dealing with building high-quality prototype-based models. Innumerable clinics were offered on a wide range of topics that further illustrated his love for assisting others with learning about a topic. He was generous with his time, information and techniques; his dedication to mentoring led to my earning MMR status. His collection of material and skilled creation of masters was responsible for providing commercial companies with information for accurate copies in plastic and resin for prototype cars and for greatly improved accuracy in brass models.

Service to our hobby was commonplace for Stafford. Considerable effort was expended in successfully eliminating the Canadian federal government's 20% duty



on model railway equipment imports. His wide range of organizational skills served many model railway related groups. For several years his capabilities stimulated the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club while he fulfilled the responsibilities of a number of positions. The NMRA's Thousand Lakes Region was favoured by his abilities. Numerous times he was part of convention organizing committees and then his model railway hosted attendees

where he answered any and all questions from everyone. He served as a contest judge, promoting fair evaluation while promoting accuracy in modelling projects. Our 1983 national convention – Railway Jamboree - benefited from his being the Chairman. That profitable convention saw many innovations that continue today – the pocket-fitting timetable book, a graph of daily events, coloured ribbons for tours and lapel pins for the event.

For many years Stafford served as the heart and soul of the CN SIG as their Freight Car Editor and as Chairperson. His efforts, dedication, dreams and initiatives included accurate paint, brass number boards, decals and raised cab numerals for steam locomotives. His successful leadership was rewarded by growth in membership and magazine subscriptions. He was instrumental in the having the CN SIG publish, "Across the Canadian Shield". Unheralded, his efforts were behind the re-invigorating of the CP SIG in 1997.

All the while, Stafford's friendship and pleasant personality overshadowed his well-deserved reputation as one of North America's most capable prototype modellers.

My friend, you will be greatly missed - Rest in a well-deserved Peace.

Fred Headon, MMR #328

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To your next  
Club meeting!**

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.

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

<u>Ad size (HxW)</u>	<u>Annual commercial Rate</u>	<u>One time commercial rate</u>	<u>Annual Railroad ad rate</u>
Full pg 9 5/8 x 7 1/8"	\$145.00	\$50.75	\$90.00
1/2 pg 4 3/4 x 7 1/8"	90.00	31.50	45.00
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