



The FUSEE



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Summer 2006

Northstar '06: stuff to do, stuff to see, stuff to eat, stuff to win

By Editor Gerry Leone, MMR



It was a perfect weekend outside *and* inside as the Thousand Lakes Region held its annual convention in St. Paul on May 5-7. Over 75 members were treated to get togethers, clinics, layout tours, a banquet, and a raffle.

The weekend began with a kickoff evening social at the Jackson Street Roundhouse in St. Paul. There, convention goers got exclusive tours of the exhibits, the shop, restored rolling stock and motive power, and were even treated to a free ride on the roundhouse's turntable. Inside, the competition was hot and heavy as members tried to identify the Twin Cities railroads represented by the various paint schemes on the posts.

Saturday morning was filled with interesting rail clinics for TLR members, as well as two non-rail clinics. Topics included Accessing GN and NP Records at the Minnesota Historical Society, Superdetailing a Milwaukee Ribside Boxcar, and Hints for Kit Construction. Once again, our apologies go out to Dennis Meissner of the MN Historical Society—we never did get the projector to work with his computer.



In town layout tours were on Saturday afternoon's agenda. The evening's banquet featured delicious food and the comedy stylings of Las Vegas quality entertainment (*How am I lie like this in print?*), followed by a raffle in which literally everyone who bought tickets went home with at least one prize. Big thanks go out to little Jesse, our raffle ticket puller, whose enthusiasm was eclipsed only by his sugar buzz.

Sunday morning saw the Board meeting, followed by the General Membership meeting (minutes on page 9). Several points of business were decided upon, most notably the election of officers. Dave Hamilton was elected Treasurer, taking over for the retiring John Hotvet, MMR. All other officers remain in their current positions.

Sunday afternoon TLR members were treated to tours of the layouts around the perimeter of the Twin Cities.

All in all, a very good time was had by all! Get set for more next June 8-10 when the TLR's convention will be held in Winona, MN. Details will be on the web and in upcoming issues.

Photos: (Top) Up close and personal with some of the Minnesota Transportation's equipment. (Center) Gary Brausch tries to identify the railroad colors on the roundhouse post. (Bottom) Some of the guys get a ride on the Museum's turntable.



More convention photos on p4 & 5!

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View from the cab

by TLR President Bruce Selb

Many thanks to all the modelers who opened their homes for layout tours during the convention. TLR members had an opportunity to visit nine layouts on Saturday and Sunday. The layout tour covered operating empires in N, HO, S and O scale.

A special thanks to John Hotvet, MMR, for assuming the chairmanship of the convention at the last moment. John did an outstanding job of covering all of the last minute details and "opportunities" that presented themselves.

The only new officer for the Board is Dave Hamilton. He is replacing John Hotvet as treasurer, who has reached his term limit. Good luck to Dave on a very important position.

I believe everyone who attended the convention had a great time. For me, the highlight of the convention activities occurred at the banquet on Saturday evening, when our newest MMR,

FUSEE Editor Gerry Leone, hosted the evening's events. Gerry kept the evening flowing from the presentation for Convention 2007, through the awards ceremonies, to the raffle. Gerry transitioned the various segments with humor and poise. Watch out, Jay Leno.

The TLR is looking for individuals to serve on various committees and as new officers. Now that all NMRA members in our region are TLR "members," we'll face serving many new modelers and help will be required. If you are interested in furthering "The World's Greatest Hobby" and earning AP points in the process, then volunteer a few hours. Not interested in Regional service? Then see your local Division officers. The local Division is our grass roots. For additional information, contact a TLR or Division officer. Names and contact information are always on page 11 of THE FUSEE.

Till the fall enjoy the summer of railfanning.

THE WORK TRAIN

by Editor Gerry Leone, MMR

But seriously folks, a good time is guaranteed.

I sure hope you were able to attend this year's TLR Convention. I, for one, had a great time, and I know I wasn't the only one with that feeling.

Although this was only my third TLR convention (yeah, I know... it already seems like my fourth...), I feel like I've known some of the folks I re met for decades. But I was especially tickled to meet some people face to face whom I knew only through email. FUSEE cartoonist Paul Ullrich and Dakota Southeastern Division Super Alan Saatkamp being two.

MMR John Hotvet deserves [another] huge round of applause for piecing things together at the last minute and pulling off another flawless Twin Cities event. And thanks to Pat Walker for doing most of the initial groundwork.

While I'm in thank you mode, I also have to thank the nearly 50 folks who, armed only with a hand drawn map, ventured out into the wilds of the Southwest Metro area and visited my layout. I was totally gratified by the response and humbled by the comments I received. Thank you all very, very much. Those of you who missed it can see some highlights at <http://home.earthlink.net/~gerryleone/trains.htm>. (No www and note the tilde before gerryleone !)

Another thanks goes out to Alice Moormann, widow of TLR member Michael Moormann, who opened her late husband's spectacular N scale layout for public viewing. Michael's layout is one of my all time favorites and the only N scale layout I've ever seen that has come close to converting me from HO. Trust me this layout tour alone was worth the price of admission.

Lastly, my personal thanks to Master Gardener and Quilter Extraordinaire Renay Leone that's right, Mrs. FUSEE. She graciously stepped up to the plate to do the two non rail clinics on

Saturday, then stepped up and filled the plate with cookies and brownies on Sunday. Thanks, honey! (And yes, the matching pottery looks great in the house, courtesy of Jim Perske.)

And a special thanks to all the folks from Canada who made the long drive down. It's always great to see you.

So, if you didn't make it to the convention, why the heck not?

Our annual convention is one of the real tangible benefits of our membership in the TLR, and it's the one chance we have all year to get people from this huge geographic area together for some fun. We're a friendly bunch of people, so even if you don't know anyone when you arrive on Friday, you'll go home having dozens of friends on Sunday. Guaranteed. I know because I'm living proof.

Put next year's TLR convention in Winona, MN, on your schedule now: June 8-10. Then plan to attend. You won't be disappointed. Guaranteed. 🚂

PS: Jim Bernier's Pecatonica Division Saga will return in the next issue. I plum ran out of space in this one! And to everyone who submitted stuff for this issue: thanks. Next issue... for sure!

THANKS!

Contributors to this issue:

Jim Bernier, Les Breuer, Jay Davis,
Terry Davis, Chuck Diljak, John Hotvet, MMR
& Paul Ullrich

Next issue's deadline: August 20, 2006

MADE IN THE TLR

Brass Car Sides announces new video compilation

From 1964 through 1992 Dennis Henry, a 30 year TLR member and owner of Brass Car Sides of St. Peter, MN, took 8mm and Super 8mm color movies of and from trains in the Midwest,

West, and Canada. In 1994 the firm produced two VHS tapes of these movies. One was from Indiana and early Amtrak days, the the second dealt with trains in Minnesota.

Today those offerings, plus additional footage, have been digitally recorded, edited, and reorganized into a 107 minute DVD entitled, Indiana, Minnesota, and Early Amtrak Railroad Memories: 1964-72.

The original films are silent and in color, but an accurate and personal narration by owner/photographer Dennis Henry has been added. Most of these amateur films were shot and edited with professional equipment.

Some of the chapters include The Burlington Route and BN, Great Northern and BN, Milwaukee Road, Northern Pacific and seven different railroads in St. Paul.

The DVD, which was released last October, carries a suggested list price of \$32.50 and is available directly from Brass Car Sides, 715 South 7th St., St. Peter, MN 56082. Direct mail orders must also include \$2.25 shipping (via USPS), and Minnesota orders need to add 6.5% sales tax to the total cost. The owner cannot accept credit card or COD orders. The DVD is also distributed through Walthers. 

“World’s Greatest Hobby On Tour” comes to St. Paul



Left: Over 31,000 people turned out for the show in St. Paul.

Below: The Lego Layout was a huge hit with kids and parents alike.

Below left: TLR PR Director Terry Davis sells the benefits of the NMRA to a couple of older kids.

Bottom: Sometimes all you need is a loop of track and a train.

*Text from World s Greatest Hobby
Photos by Editor Gerry Leone, MMR*

The World s Greatest Hobby on Tour successfully ended its 2006 season in St. Paul, MN, on the weekend of February 25 and 26.



model railroad vendors, a vast array of all gauge operating layouts, and a large, enthusiastic audience of new and veteran hobbyists alike. He says the show was pretty impressive; we don't get to see shows like that very often. Also, the employees at Athearn offer their feedback about the WGH on Tour show in Chantilly, VA, which took place on February 11 and 12. They state the show was terrific, with over 20,000 excited kids, parents, and model railroaders braving the snow. Rain or shine, these shows are proving to be something special and not worth missing. Hopefully it will return to another Thousand Lakes Region locale in the near future. 

Over 31,000 people attended the show, which brought the grand total of attendees in the first eight shows (from 2005 and 2006) to a staggering 216,737! More encouraging, over half of those to pass through the turnstiles had never been to a train show before an optimistic sign for the future of the hobby.

Currently, the WGH on Tour is making plans on how to continue its promotion of the hobby, so keep an eye on its Web site, wghshow.com, for an announcement in the near future.

If you've wondered if the WGH on Tour shows have value for established hobbyists, take the word of long time model railroader and University of Minnesota train club president Andy Inserra, who reports that the St. Paul, MN, show included a wide variety of



THE 2006 THOUSAND LAKES REGION CONVENTION



John Hotzet, MMR, presented an informative clinic on choosing the proper bridge for your layout.



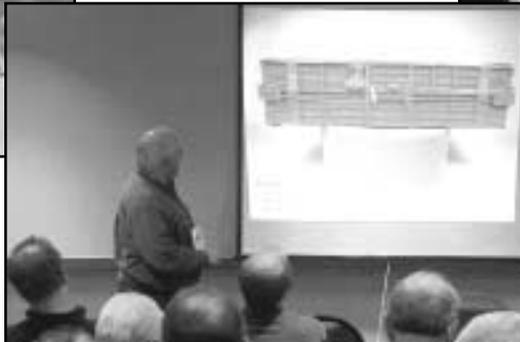
Despite technical problems, Dennis Meissner from the Minnesota Historical Society delivered an informative clinic on accessing old NP and GN records.



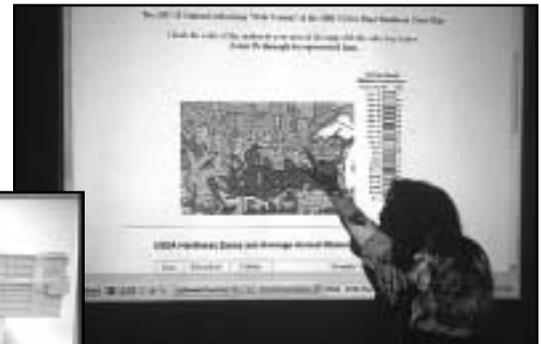
Former Minnesota Quilters president Renay Leone presented a colorful Every Quilt Tells A Story clinic.



Terry Davis shared interesting photos and video of the West Virginia tourist railroads he rode last Fall.



Les Breuer delivered a concise, step by step clinic on superdetailing Ribside Models popular Milwaukee Ribside Boxcar.



Renay Leone donned her Master Gardener hat (and shirt) and presented a clinic about Gardening in the Upper Midwest.

*All photos by
Editor Gerry Leone, MMR*



David Proell from J.L. Innovative Designs talked about running a small model railroad business, and demonstrated sign techniques.



Yvonne Kapinski from LokSound explained the company's new line up of sound decoders.



Gary Austin, Contest Director Jim Bernier, and Tom Mauszycki judged the models and photographs entered in this year's competition. (See page 6)



Visitors enjoyed John Hotvet's layout, one of the Saturday tours.



A scene from Michael Moormann's amazingly well detailed N scale layout.



The banquet featured hearty meals and hearty laughs. Ok, maybe just hearty meals.



TLR President Bruce Selb presented PR Director Terry Davis with the well deserved President's Award.



NMRA Canada President Frank Gerry delivered a message from NMRA President John Roberts.



Lloyd Stresman received this year's Bob Dew Sr. Award for his years of dedicated TLR Board participation.



Tom Mauszycki shared exciting details about next year's convention in Winona.



Contest Director Jim Bernier announced the model and photo contest award winners.



Gary Austin was one of several members to receive the Old Goat award for TLR membership longevity.

Photo by Terry Davis



(Left) It may be Gerry, but it sure wasn't Seinfeld.

(Right) The Sunday Board and Membership meetings were both well attended.



TLR MODEL & PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Best of Show: Mpls & Northland Box Car Les Breuer (115)

Rolling Stock

1st: Milw Rib Side Caboose Les Breuer
 2nd: Sierra Picnic Car David Trucksess
 3rd: SP 50 Flat Car w/ load Ron Peterson

Structures

1st: American Express Ron Peterson (88)
 2nd: Slaty Fork Sawmill Gordy Miller (also Jock Oliphant Award)
 3rd: Storm Lake Mobil Ron Peterson

Photos

B&W Proto Print

1st: Checkin That Cass Shay Terry Davis
 2nd: SOO #1003 Tamarack Thunder II Terry Davis



Les Breuer s Best of Show Box Car

2nd: #24 on the High Bridge Gerry Leone
 3rd: Milw #203 at Cleveland Terry Davis

Color Proto Print

1st: Durbin Rocket Terry Davis
 2nd: BN Coal Train at Newcastle Gordy Miller
 3rd: UP #8522 at Bear Trap Gordy Miller

Model Slides

1st: C&NW #1125 at Grade Crossing Terry Davis
 2nd: Milw #977 East Terry Davis

Proto Slides

1st: BN crossing Wisconsin Riv. Terry Davis

B&W Model Print

1st: #24 Taking On Water Gerry Leone

Color Model Print

1st: Flag Stop at Glen Oaks Gerry Leone

Terry Davis

2nd: WM Scenic #34 on Turntable Terry Davis

3rd: GB&W at Merrilan Terry Davis



Les Breuer s Rolling Stock winner



Model photos by Terry Davis



Gordy Miller s Jock Oliphant Award winner



Ron Peterson s 1st Place Structure

Above: Checkin That Cass Shay by Terry Davis

Below left: Flag Stop at Glen Oaks by Gerry Leone, MMR

Below right: 24 Taking On Water by Gerry Leone, MMR



Terry Davis s Durbin Rocket



The memories a visiting railfan can't see

By Lester J. Breuer

A railfan visiting the Minneapolis & Northland Railroad Company sees a fully scened and operational railroad. Among the usual items he or she sees are: locomotives, cars, track work, structures, and scenery. Each of the items usually has an associated story a memory that the railfan can't see. Let me explain.

Let's say you're visiting the M&N. You're going to run a train from Minneapolis, the east end of the railroad, to McGregor, the west end of the railroad. You reach for the Digitrax throttle that is in the throttle pocket attached to the fascia of the railroad. The throttle pocket is a computer mouse holder that I saw Dave Hamilton using on his railroad to hold throttles. What a great idea! He provided information about the product so I could add the computer mouse holders to my railroad. In fact, Dave picked up some of the mouse holders for me while visiting a supplier during one of his vacation trips.

Throttle in hand you acquire locomotive number 54, an Alco RS 1. The RS 1, now in M&N paint, was acquired by the Minneapolis & Northland Railroad Company from the Greys Bay & Western, the former railroad of Roland Breiningger. Roland, an operator on the M&N prior to his death, left me the locomotive in his Will.

You rotate the throttle knob, leave the engine storage track, and head for the M&N freighthouse to get a car for your train. As the engine moves forward you may notice the hand laid track. When I built the Minneapolis trackage I decided to handlay it, knowing that it might need some tweaking for trouble free operation later on. During one of the early operating sessions, John Hotvet, who was working Minneapolis, asked me if he could help tweak the tracks during breaks in the operating session. I got him a pair of needle nose pliers which he used to make improvements to help better operation.

You stop the locomotive before the turnout, throw it, and enter the M&N freighthouse siding. You rotate the throttle knob to start the Alco RS 1 moving. As you head to the M&N freight house you are passing under

the Moe Smith bridge, a highway bridge crossing the east end of Chestnut Street yard. In talking about this building or that building on the layout, John (Moe) Smith, a Canadian friend, would ask if I'd milled the scale lumber for the structure myself. I wanted to stop saying "no," so when I built the bridge I cut the scale lumber on my table saw. I ended up with as much sawdust as scale lumber. Yet it was fun and provided a new experience I had not had before.

Once under the Moe Smith bridge the locomotive nears the car you're picking up at the M&N freighthouse. The M&N freighthouse siding is not perfectly flat so cars spotted there used to roll out of the siding. What prevents that from happening now? Next to the track, near the front of the car you're picking up, is a tiny vertical wire handle with a blue tip. What is it? You are looking at a Vos Brake a manual car brake formed from piano wire, which, when set, leans against the car's axle to hold it in the siding. After I first saw this manual car brake on Dave Vos's railroad, I was soon installing them on the M&N.

You throw the Vos Brake and couple the car to the locomotive. With the car in tow you head back to Chestnut Street yard where you make up the remainder of your train. Once the caboose is attached you're ready to leave the yard and proceed to McGregor. On the main you pass Schwenke Cement a background building and thriving industry that provides operation on the M&N. The area occupied by Schwenke Cement was vacant real estate between the back drop and tracks for several years. It was during those years Ernie Schwenke would say to me, "I think I know of an industry that would be right for that space." When he told me about the industry in South Minneapolis it sounded interesting, so I went to take a look. As soon as I saw it, I knew Ernie had found the right one to occupy the space. I soon had Schwenke Cement scratchbuilt and in operation on the M&N. The vacant area was no more.

As you passed Schwenke Cement I wonder if you saw the lime green Cadillac parked there. Yes, the Caddie has, as do all other vehicles on the M&N, 1954 Minnesota

license plates. One day when FUSEE Editor Gerry Leone and I were talking, I mentioned how nice it would be if one could get the proper era license plates for vehicles on the railroad. Gerry thought for a moment and said, "I think we can make the license plates using computer software." Once we found a 1954 collector's license plate on Ebay, the rest was history.

When you reach McGregor, Number 54 is removed from the head end of your train and moved to the Fox turntable, a manually operated 65ft. gallows turntable which you use to enter a stall in the M&N Roundhouse. One afternoon, Mike Fox and I spent a good number of hours constructing the turntable's wood gear box, which houses Diamond Scale parts, and adjusting the installation of it again and again until it was working well. The gear box Mike and I made and installed is still working as smoothly today as it was when we installed it 25 years ago.

Now when railfanning the M&N I believe you're able to understand what I mean when I say that, for each item you see there's a memory you, the railfan, can't see. Each associated story or memory I can share with you as I have done here. And bear in mind I've shared only a few of the many, many M&N memories I have. Friends, operators, and visitors who helped create those Minneapolis & Northland Railroad Company memories by sharing their knowledge and time are what's important to me. Friends and creating memories are what make model railroading the World's Greatest Hobby for me. 



Les's Minneapolis and Northland Railroad

Milking the Region for information

By Chuck Diljak
Northeastern Region

A model railroading friend of mine, Rich, moved from my area of New Jersey to Arizona almost 10 years ago. He is a big fan of Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion and even named his model railroad the Anoka and Lake Wobegon. We worked on his New Jersey version of the layout for about three years before dismantling it prior to his move.

Rich is currently planning his second A&LW layout. And, just like the first one, it will be a Minnesota based layout. However, while living in NJ, he became interested in the milk industry. Milk trains were very common in the Northeast in the first half of the 20th century. Rich even managed to get me interested in the milk industry and I am currently planning to add a creamery, ice house, and some milk cars to my layout. But, my layout is based in northeastern Pennsylvania, not Minnesota.

There is plenty of information surrounding the milk industry in the northeast. There is a tremendous book by Bob Mohowski covering the NYO&W railroad and the milk industry. There is even a Yahoo group called milktrains. But so far the information we've uncovered is primarily the milk activity in the Northeastern part of the country. Did I mention that Rich's layout is based in Minnesota? I'm sure milk was available in other parts of the country, including Minnesota...especially since you live right next door to America's Dairyland. So how did it get from the cow to your table? Uncovering that information has been difficult, at best.

A few years prior to my having any interest in the milk industry, I missed a golden opportunity to get this information when visiting my brother in Wisconsin. During my visit, we went to a local festival where a presentation was given by an individual knowledgeable in the milk industry history for

that area. I'm still kicking myself today for not getting the contact information of the presenter.

So, I know there's information out there. You can help provide this information, not just about the milk industry, but about anything and everything related to railroad activity in your region. Get this information in print, either here in THE FUSEE, in *Scale Rails*, or another magazine. Put it on the internet or join an online forum. Or present a clinic on Upper Midwest and Canadian milk operations at a TLR convention. There are many modelers outside of your region who, like Rich, are interested in faithfully modeling your region and would love to have that information at their fingertips. 

Chuck makes a good point: if you have any information about railroading or railroad related industries in our area that you'd like to share, why not write up a short article for THE FUSEE? Chances are, if you think it's pretty interesting, a lot of TLR members will think so, too! Geny

The Luce Line Railroad Club's

Flea Market and Show

at the Hutchinson Fairgrounds

Hwy 15 South

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

October 14, 2006

Admission: \$3

Kids under 6 FREE!

For table and more information contact Bruce Crosby,
(320) 587-8073

Whoops! THE FUSEE forgets a cover boy

If you remember, the Spring issue of THE FUSEE contained a short article about a couple of Thousand Lakes Region folks whose work had appeared in national magazines.

Well, the ink on that issue was barely dry before your editor was rather sharply reminded that one TLR member has had more global exposure than perhaps any body else in the Region.

That guy is Dave Vos, the smiling operator who's appeared on the cover of Digitrax's product catalog and in their ads for the last three or four years. Dave is not only a photogenic cover boy, but he's a heckuva resource when it comes to all things Digitrax. Not to mention, he's a good guy.



*The global grin of the
TLR's own Dave Vos*

Sorry about that, Dave! If you know of any other TLR members who deserve publicity about their publicity, let me know! 

Minutes of the BOD & Membership Meetings

MINUTES OF THE ST. PAUL 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MAY 7, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. Board Members present: Bruce Selb, Lynn McCall, Jim Bernier, Terry Davis, John Hotvet, Jim Wetzler, Gordy Miller, Thomas Mauszycki and Jay Davis.

Gordy Miller moved that minutes from January 21, 2006 Board of Directors meeting in Excelsior, MN, be approved as published in the Spring FUSEE. Lloyd Stresman seconded. Carried.

John Hotvet gave the treasurer's report. He reported we had a beginning balance of \$7151.82. There was an income of \$3110.99 from dues, FUSEE ads, interest, NMRA rebate, 2005 Convention and 2006 Convention registration. The region had \$974.24 in expenses. This left an ending balance of \$9288.57. A motion to accept the report was made by Gordy Miller and seconded by Lynn McCall. Carried.

The Public Relations Director reported that since the last convention in Mason City he had taken the TLR tri fold display board to 12 shows including the December 10 St. Cloud show and the PLD spring meet in Cherokee. The biggest show was the World's Greatest Hobby Show at the St. Paul Civic Center Feb. 25 26. Many of the 31,000+ people viewed the display board.

As part of the Re rail Project Terry used the NMRA and TLR membership roster from Jim Wetzler to prepare, address, stuff and send 410 letters in April to current NMRA members living in TLR territory not now subscribing to the FUSEE and to past TLR subscribers who haven't renewed since about 2000. He also addressed and stuffed 50 similar letters to current and past TLR subscribers in Canada. Terry said he would be working on the following projects: This year he will assist Tom Mauszycki with the Winona Convention and continue to take the display (promotion) board to events in the region. Next year he will start a new round of re rail efforts and work on reviving several divisions with small memberships.

John Hotvet reported on the Achievement Program. He told the board that he processed 3 Golden Spike awards and no AP certificates.

Tom Mauszycki, in his role as Regional Historian, reported that he has been receiving important documents that are old and in very fragile condition. These documents will need to be preserved. Tom made a proposal for \$100.00 towards materials to preserve these old artifacts. A discussion came forthwith to see if that would be enough money to take care of the project. Tom presented the board with some figures he had gathered and said that it would be sufficient to cover the expenses. Tom made a motion for the TLR to grant him \$100.00 towards this preservation project. Gordy Miller seconded. Carried.

FUSEE Editor Gerry Leone said the last FUSEE contained 12 pages of solid material. As it stands, 9 point type is used for all articles, which is right on the border of being "too small". The newsletter could probably go to 14 16 pages per issue if the font size were to be increased. This would incur more printing and postage costs. Gerry added that the FUSEE is right on the borderline of needing additional postage. To date the publication has received only one ad from the Luce Line Club advertising their quarterly meets. The spring 2006 issue was mailed to 135 U.S. addresses and 22 Canadian addresses. Approximately 10 15 of the U.S. addresses are complimentary issues sent to

"Minutes" continued on page 10

A fleeting moment, a lasting memory

By John Hotvet, MMR

There were many pleasant moments at the recently completed TLR convention, but one will stick in my memory forever.

Bruce Notman and I were sitting at the registration desk Saturday awaiting the horde of walk in registrants that never materialized. An elderly woman from the service sorority that was meeting in the room next to us walked up to the registration desk. I assumed she was curious about what our group did, so I asked if I could help her.

She said her deceased husband had been very interested in model railroading and might have belonged to our group. I had the TLR membership cards there with me in my capacity as TLR treasurer, so I

looked up his name and found the card. I handed the card to her, and her demeanor instantly changed from a happy bubbly individual to a very pensive person who was now traveling in her mind very far away from our gathering. I could only imagine the thoughts and memories that were flooding back to her as she held that card in her hand.

I asked if she would like to have the card as a keepsake, and of course she said yes. She walked quietly away clutching the card to her chest. You would have thought I had just handed her a million dollars. A simple 3x5 note card to me, but some very heart felt memories to her of a very dear person in her life and an indelible reminder to me of how much a simple gesture can mean to someone else.



*Think Paul s kidding? See page 10.

"Minutes" continued from page 9

the NMRA library columnists and other regions. U.S. postage rates have increased to 39 cents for domestic and 90 cents to Canada, up two cents and three cents respectively. A discussion on sending a bulk shipment to Canada addresses ensued. No action was taken. A new debate on emailing the FUSEE ensued. Problems about that were mentioned, including outdated email lists, and the problem with the FUSEE being forwarded to non subscribers. There was also the concern that it would become "junk mail". No action was taken. Bruce asked John Hotvet if the \$10.00 subscription rate was still covering the costs of the FUSEE and John replied that they were.

DIVISION REPORTS:

Minnesota River Valley Terry Davis reported they have 15 20 members. They helped put on the Hutchinson show Oct. 10 and some of the members were helping build a layout at the depot in Montivideo, Minnesota.

North Dakota Charles Durrenberger told the board that their club had laid some track and moved a caboose that they were planning to restore. They are also in the process of building a cattle pen and elevator. Also planned to be built is an N scale traveling layout.

Prairie Lakes Division Terry Davis gave the details of the PLD's 20th anniversary meet to be held October 7, 2006 in Estherville, Iowa. Highlights include a swap meet, layouts, clinics by Steve Glischinski, Chris Guss, Gerry Leone, John Hotvet and Gerald Edgar as well as others, door prizes, a silent auction, home layout tours and an evening banquet and speaker. At the spring meet the PLD elected a new superintendent, Doug Harding.

South Red River Valley Fall swap meet will be Sunday, October 22, 2006 at the Ramada Plaza Suites. This year it is being held at a new location away from downtown. Also, they are having a \$6 to \$7 million dollar fundraiser to move their depot and put a basement under it.

Twin Cities Lynn McCall reported they had around 40 members who attend the meeting every month in Maplewood.

Wild Rivers Bill Janson reported at their first meeting and they had about 40 members. They are now doing at a handful. There are three clubs in the area with several members but none want to join the TLR.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tom Mauszycki made a proposal to the board to hold next year's convention in Winona, Minnesota from June 8 through June 10, 2007. He said he had to put his own money down on a steam paddle wheeler excursion and other expenses. Gordy Miller made a motion to give Tom \$200.00 toward expenses for the convention. Lynn McCall seconded the motion. The motion carried. Terry Davis asked Tom if rates on rooms and the river boat ride were locked in. Tom said these prices were locked into a contract. He also expressed a need for projectors and a theme for the convention. He said John and Jay Davis were going to work on getting door prizes for the convention. Tom is also working on some activities for the ladies. He said he had blocked 60 rooms at the Holiday Inn and Suites of Winona. The Holiday Inn will keep this block reserved until 4 weeks before the convention. Tom asked the board about insurance. Jim Wetzler said he needed to submit a form through the NMRA. A vote was taken on a 2007 Winona convention and was carried.

Bruce said he was working on the 2008 convention in Duluth. He had contacted the Railroad Museum for a possible Friday night reception. A tentative date of June 6-9 was proposed. He has talked to hotels in the area but it is too early to lock in a room rate. There are about 20 division members in the area. Jim Wetzler was going to work on re-railing them. Lynn McCall made a motion to hold the 2008 Convention in

Duluth. Gordy Miller seconded, and it was carried.

Terry Davis said he was working on a 2009 Convention in the Glenwood/Alexandria area. Terry had made a trip over to the club in Glenwood. The club's layout is in the basement of the former Glenwood High School. Terry talked to their members about how the TLR's convention works. Their membership is 100% NMRA and 15 20 are also TLR subscribers. They came up with ideas for clinics and possible depot tours and voted to host the 2008 or 2009 convention. Gordy hoped they would make a formal proposal at the Winona convention. Gordy made a motion to go to Glenwood in 2009. Terry seconded. The motion was carried.

Bruce Selb brought up the issue of an NMRA member who was on the border area of the TLR and Mid Continent and was unsure of which region he was in. Bruce said he would personally contact the Mid Continent Region president to resolve the issue.

A new webmaster was found: Tim Klevar of the Twin Cities area. He is also working on the NMRA and Twin Cities Division sites.

John Hotvet brought to the board's attention the need to investigate changing the wording of The Old Goat Award. It says "20 years as a TLR member". This was tabled until the fall.

It was also brought to the board's attention the need to draw up a paper on conduct of the Convention Chairman and possible ramifications of bad conduct. The discussion was tabled until the fall.

Gordy Miller moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 a.m. Lynn McCall seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Save the day!

**Next year's TLR
Convention is
June 8-10, 2007
in Winona, MN!**

MINUTES OF THE ST. PAUL 2006 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, MAY 7, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 CDT.

Elections were held to fill the treasurer vacancy left by the retirement of John Hotvet. Gordy Miller was up for re-election. Nominations were called from the floor by Bruce Selb. Gordy decided to stay on one more year. Dave Hamilton was nominated to fill the treasurer position. Gordy Miller moved to close the nominations. This was seconded by Charles Durrenberger. The motion was carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Gordy finally received the final numbers from the joint convention held in Mason City in 2005. Total registration was 269. The C&NWHS had 208 registrants, the TLR 59 (18 both NMRA and TLR members, 20 non members and 8 guests). The total income was \$5279.34. The TLR had 20% of the total registration so we received \$1055.87 of the profit.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bruce Selb announced the locations of the next three conventions. 2007 Winona, 2008 Duluth, and 2009 is tentatively in Alexandria.

John Hotvet commented that the rough figures on the convention were borderline on coming out ahead. The breakfast and box lunches on Sunday were not planned TLR expenses, but a last minute one added by the hotel. A question was raised about if proper notice had been given to non subscribers about the TLR board meeting. Discussion was tabled. But Bruce Selb directed the secretary to make a note of this issue to be put on the agenda for the fall board meeting. Duane Durr moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. Lynn McCall seconded. The motion was passed.



Maybe cartoonist Paul Ullrich was exaggerating a little about Bill Schimmeman's layout... but not much. Paul sent along this shot of Bill's layout to show where the inspiration for the cartoon came from. By the way, that's Paul standing in the doorway. Behind him is a representative of the EPA.

The Thousand Lakes Region

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THE FUSEE is a quarterly publication of the Thousand Lakes Region of the National Model Railroad Association and is mailed to all subscribers. The subscription year runs from June 1 through May 31. A subscription costs \$10.00 per year, and should be mailed to the Treasurer.

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

ARTICLES: All contributions except advertising are considered donations. Submissions, including photos, can be made by floppy disk, email, CD ROM or hard copy, either PC or Mac. Typed or handwritten manuscripts are fine, too! (Photo prints will be returned.) Send materials to: fusee@thousandlakesregion.org or Gerry Leone, 6459 Smithtown Road, Excelsior, MN 55331. C mon now, you haven't really read all this stuff so far, have you?

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

Note our new email!

We made a change to the TLR's email system. From now on writing email to an officer or department head is as easy as putting the person's title and adding @thousandlakesregion.org after it.

So go ahead and drop us a line. Say hi. Tell us what you like. Tell us what you don't like. Give us some suggestions. Give us a few jokes for next year's convention. Whatever.

* add thousandlakesregion.org

FUSEE Advertising

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

Ad size (HxW)	Annual Commer. rate	Annual Pike ad rate
Full pg 9 ⁷ / ₈ x 7 ¹ / ₈	\$145.00	\$90.00
1/2 pg 4 ³ / ₄ x 7 ¹ / ₈	90.00	45.00
1/4 pg 4 ³ / ₄ x 3 ¹ / ₂	45.00	25.00
1/6 pg 4 ³ / ₄ x 2 ¹ / ₄	35.00	18.50
1/8 pg 2 ³ / ₈ x 2 ¹ / ₄	25.00	15.00
1/8 pg 3 ³ / ₄ x 2 ¹ / ₄	25.00	15.00
1/12 pg 2 ³ / ₈ x 2 ¹ / ₄	18.50	10.00
1/16 pg 1 ¹ / ₈ x 3 ¹ / ₂	15.00	7.50

All advertising should be mailed to THE FUSEE editor as camera ready artwork or electronic files (jpeg, tiff, gif, or EPS with outlined fonts). Payment must be enclosed and should be in U.S. funds, international money order, or by check drawn on U.S. Banks. Questions? Contact the Editor!

FUSEE Subscription / Subscription Renewal

Please note: Because of the NMRA's new "one dues" policy, as of September 1, 2005 all NMRA members residing within the Thousand Lakes Region are automatically TLR members. If you previously were a TLR member, your membership fee automatically became a "FUSEE subscription." If you're a new TLR member or had let your TLR membership lapse and would like a subscription to THE FUSEE, please use this form.

I'm enclosing payment for: _____ New subscription
 _____ \$10 for one year _____ Subscription renewal
 _____ \$20 for two years _____ Returning member

Name: _____ Scale(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ NMRA #: _____

State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____@_____

Mail to: **Dave Hamilton, Treasurer**
18015 33rd Pl N, Plymouth, MN 55447



Summer 2006

THE FUSEE

P.O. Box 1113
Burnsville, MN 55337

INSIDE:

Pictures of Northstar '06

WGH on Tour in St. Paul

Memories a visitor can't see

Train shows & events in and near the Region

Compiled by Gerry Leone, Jim Bernier, and Terry Davis

Thursday-Sunday, 06/22-25/06, The Milwaukee Road Historical Association Annual Convention, Lewistown, MT. Convention headquarters: Yogo Inn. Reservations: 1 800 860 9646. Mention that you re with the MRHA to receive the convention rate. For more information visit www.mrha.com.

Sunday-Sunday, 07/2-9/06, NMRA National Convention: Independence Junction 2006, Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA. For more information: <http://www.ij2006.org/>

Friday-Sunday, 07/7-9/06, The National Train Show, Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA. For more information: <http://www.nationaltrainshow.org/>

Saturday, 07/15/06, Lakes Area Model Railroad Association's 3rd Annual Kid Day Train Show, 9 AM-5 PM, National Guard Armory, Benson, MN. Adlts \$2.50, 9 or younger free.

Sunday-Wednesday, 07/16-19/06, The Great Northern Railway Historical Society Annual Convention, West Coast Kalispell Center Hotel, Kalispell, MT. Room reservations: 1 800 325 4000. Mention that you re with "Great Northern Railway Historical Society" to receive the convention rate. For more information visit www.gnrhs.org.

Saturday, 07/22/06, 10 AM-5 PM, Great Tri-State Rail Fair, Copeland Park, La Crosse, WI. Adults \$3.00, children under 12 free. Flea market and displays, tours of steam engine and Grand Crossing tower. For more information contact The 4000 Foundation, Ltd., (608) 582 4761, or www.lacrosseshortlinerr.org

Saturday-Sunday, 07/29-30/06, Lakes Area Model Railroad Association's 11th Annual Train Show, 9 AM-4PM (Sat), 10 AM-5PM (Sun), Central Square Cultural Center, Glenwood, MN. Adults \$2.50, 9 or younger free. *Note this is a change from its September shows in the past and coincides with Glenwood's annual city celebration.*

Saturday, 10/7/06, Prairie Lakes Division's 20th Anniversary/Fall Meet, 8:30 AM-9 PM, Regional Wellness Center, Estherville, Iowa. The meet will include a popular vote model and photo contest, clinics, layouts, a flea market and business meeting. A special feature for the anniversary is an evening banquet featuring a multimedia presentation by noted railroad photographer and *Trains* magazine correspondent Steve Glischinski and photographer Chris Guss. Watch for more details, including costs.

Saturday, 10/14/06, Luce Line Railroad Club's Flea Market & Show, 9 AM-4 PM, Hutchinson Fairgrounds, Highway 15 South. Admission: \$3; kids under 6 free. For table and more information contact Bruce Crosby (320) 587 8073.

Saturday, 10/21/06, Randolph 2nd Annual Railroad Days, 9 AM-5 PM, Randolph School & Museum, CR 88 (292nd St. E.) & CR 83 (Dickman Ave.), Randolph, MN. Admission: free. Model Railroad, Railroad Memorabilia, Swap Meet, Toy Train / Collectible Show, Train Show and Sale. For more information contact Tim Kummet, (320) 632 2643.

Sunday, 10/22/06, 28th Annual Spud Valley Hobby Show, 9 AM-3 PM, Ramada Plaza Suites, Crystal Ballroom, 1635 42nd St. S., Fargo, ND. Admission: \$3.75; kids under 12 free with paid adult. Includes 12th annual Plastic on the Prairie model contest, large and small operating model railroads, vendors selling farm toys, plastic models, model railroad items, die cast vehicles, old toys, railroad collectibles and more. Sponsored by Spud Valley Model Railroad Club, Red River Module Group and The Valley Modelers Association. For more information contact Dennis Neumiller (701) 282 7058 or SVMRRC@msn.com.

Saturday-Sunday, 11/18-19/06, Duluth Model Railroad Show, Downtown Radisson Hotel, Duluth, MN. For more information: (715)394 4028.

Friday-Sunday, June 8-10, 2007 Thousand Lakes Region Annual Convention Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, Winona, MN. Focus is on steam and early diesel power and operation. Banquet to be held on the steam powered paddlewheeler Julia Belle Swain. For more infor contact Thomas E. Mauszycki, (507) 454 3800 or tmauszycki@charter.net

If you re in the Thousand Lakes Region and would like your train show, swap meet, Division meeting, club meeting or other railroad/model railroad related event listed in our calendar, please send it to Jim Bernier at jbernier@hotmail.com by the deadline listed inside.

BY-LAWS OF THE THOUSAND LAKES REGION OF THE NMRA

PURPOSE:

To promote greater fellowship among Model Railroaders, to advance the hobby of model railroading wherever possible and to do all things necessary for or incidental to the afore mentioned purpose the following By laws are hereby authorized and adopted.

1. Membership and Dues

- a. Any member of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc. shall be a member of the Thousand Lakes Region, Inc (TLR). Subscription to the TLR newsletter is voluntary and available to all TLR members upon application to the Treasurer and payment of the current subscription rate. (Revised 10/1/2005)
- b. The subscription year shall be from 1 June to 31 May of the following year, except that new subscribers applying for a subscription on or after 1 January shall be given a subscription service to 31 May of the following year. (Revised 10/1/2005)

2 Annual Convention

- a. An Annual Convention shall be held during the spring quarter of each calendar year.
- b. A General Business meeting shall be held in conjunction with the Annual Convention.
- c. The entire cost of the Annual Convention shall be borne by the individuals attending; except that no assessment shall be made against a member attending only the General Business Meeting.
- d. The Annual Convention registration fee may include an allowance for operating costs of the Region not covered by Region dues as may be determined by the Board of Directors.
- e. Attendance at the Annual Convention shall be open to anyone paying the applicable registration fee, however, non NMRA members shall not be admitted to the General Business Meeting nor be permitted to participate in any contest. (Revised 10/1/2005)
- f. Annual regional conventions or rallies may be held throughout the year as may be decided from time to time by the Board of Directors. (Revised 10/1/2005)

3 Officers

- a. The Officers of the Region shall consist of a Board of Directors composed of seven members chosen from the regular membership residing within the boundaries of the Region, elected at the General Business Meeting. As the boundaries of the Region pass through urban area, the whole urban area may be considered within the boundaries in so far as this restriction is concerned.
- b. The Board of Directors shall take office immedi-

ately following the meeting at which it was elected and shall select from its number a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Convention Director, a Contest Director, and a Public Relations Director. The President shall always take office in an even numbered year as required by the N.M.R.A. By laws.

- c. Each year four directors shall be elected, three to serve two years and the other to serve one year, as determined by their respective plurality of votes. (Revised 7/16/2000)
- d. Members of the Board of Directors may not serve more than five consecutive years except that an incumbent president may serve one additional year to complete the two year term required by the N.M.R.A. By laws.
- e. In the event of a vacancy in the Board of Directors by reason of a change in residence to one outside the boundaries of the Region, resignation, incapacitation, or death of the incumbent; the Board of Directors shall name a successor who shall hold office for the balance of the term.

4 Voting

Each member present at a business meeting shall be entitled to one vote. In the event of a tie, the incumbent Board of Directors shall determine the winner by majority vote.

5 Duties of Directors

The general management of the affairs of the Region shall be vested in the Board of Directors, however, the various officers shall be responsible for specific duties as follows:

- a. **President** The President shall:
 - 1) Preside at all meetings of the Region and of the Board of Directors
 - 2) Be an ex officio member of all committees
 - 3) Perform such other duties as, by custom, devolve upon a President or are conferred upon him by the Region or the Board of Directors. (Revised 10/1/2005)
- b. **Vice President** The Vice President shall be:
 - 1) The aid and assistant to the President and shall assume the duties of the President in his absence or at his request
 - 2) The Chairman of the Advisory Council.
- c. **Secretary** The Secretary shall:
 - 1) Be responsible for the administrative functions of the Region
 - 2) Keep minutes of all Region meetings
 - 3) Provide an agenda for all meetings

- 4) Notify members of meetings
- 5) Have charge of all correspondence
- 6) Be responsible for the maintenance and publication of the Administrative Manual
- 7) Be responsible for Region archives (Revised 4/17/2002)

d. **Treasurer** The Treasurer shall:

- 1) Have charge of the Region finances
- 2) Keep accurate records reflecting monies received, monies disbursed and balance on hand
- 3) Collect all Region dues and revenues from any Region sponsored activity
- 4) Ensure that the books are ready and available for audit
- 5) Provide a report and financial statement at the General Business Meeting.

e. **Convention Director** The Convention Director shall:

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

f. **Contest Director** The Contest Director shall:

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

g. **Public Relations Director** The Public Relations Director shall:

- 1) Welcome new members
- 2) Induce former members to restore themselves to good standing
- 3) Secure as much good publicity for the Region as possible
- 4) Have executive responsibility for the publication of THE FUSEE.

6 **Advisory Council**

- a. There shall be an Advisory Council consisting of the Vice President of the Region and the Division Superintendents.
- b. Its purpose is to provide the Divisions with a voice in the affairs of the Region and to facilitate communication between the Region and the Divisions.

7 **Divisional Organization**

- a. Initially there shall be not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) Division Superintendents appointed by the Board of Directors to organize and implement divisions within their respective geographic areas.
- b. The first superintendent of a new division shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Vice President.

- c. A division shall elect or appoint its own officers at an initial organizational meeting. The superintendent of a division must be a member of the TLR and the NMRA.
- d. No act of the division nor requirement of its by laws shall conflict with the Constitution, By laws, or other regulations of the Thousand Lakes Region or the National Model Railroad Association. (Revised 4/17/2002)

8 **Standing Committees**

The Board of Directors may appoint such Standing Committees as they deem necessary.

9 **Priority**

- a. No act of the Region or requirement of these By laws shall conflict with the Constitution, By laws or other regulations of the N.M.R.A.
- b. No act of the Region or requirement of these By laws shall conflict with the Regulations, By laws or other regulations of the N.M.R.A.

10. **Reserve Fund**

- a. There shall be a Reserve Fund to provide long term financial stability for the Region.
- b. The Board of Directors may appropriate monies to this fund at any time.
- c. The Reserve Fund monies shall be invested in liquid, interest bearing deposits at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- d. The Reserve Fund shall be kept separate from the general fund.
- e. Interest received is available to the general fund.
- f. To expend capital from the Reserve Fund shall require a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members voting at any General Business Meeting, or at any special meeting called for this purpose.
- g. Notice of Intent to expend capital must be published and distributed to all members prior to a vote taking place and the amount and purpose of the expenditure is to be stated.
- h. The fund capital shall be the total of the appropriations as set out in (b) less expenditures made as set out in (f).
- i. Reserve Fund annual reports shall include balance of deposits, reserve capital, and interest available to the general fund.

11. **Amendments**

- a. Notice of Motion to amend the By laws must be published and distributed to all members prior to a vote taking place, and said notice to contain the paragraph number(s), heading(s) and state ment(s) of the wording of the proposed amend ment(s).
- b. A two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members voting at any General Business meeting, or at any special meeting called for this purpose, shall be required to amend these By laws. (Revised 4/17/2002)