



The FUSEE



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Summer 2007

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Ask anyone who went: Winona was a winner

By **Gerry Leone, MMR**
FUSEE editor

Thousand Lakes Region members knew this was going to be a special convention when they first saw the tentative schedule last Fall: an optional day (Thursday) had been added just to accommodate the large schedule of tours, both prototype and layout.

And "special" it was. TLR members who were lucky enough to come on Thursday got the treat of a lifetime – a historical tour of the heralded Watkins Company, plus a complete inside-and-out tour of Lock and Dam #6 on the Mississippi River at Trempealeau, Wisconsin. And that was just the beginning.

That evening members toured Dave Warax's mid-sized BNSF Idaho Falls Subdivision layout in Trempealeau, and several stayed on to enjoy a taxing, yet fun, operating session. Other members retreated back to Winona's depot to photograph Amtrak #8.

The following day the Badger Equipment Company hosted the TLR, giving them a complete tour of their heavy duty manufacturing facility. That was followed by a trip to the Biesanz Stone Company, a firm that cuts huge slabs of limestone, granite, and other material for the sides of buildings. Before the day concluded high atop one of Winona's famous bluffs, members were able to visit the Fastenal Company's Winona warehouse, which is located in the virtually unchanged former C&NW Engine Shops.

Clinics began that evening and continued all day Saturday, a day that was capped by a delicious banquet on the Mississippi River, via the Julia Belle Swain steamboat.

Sunday's activities included a complementary breakfast at the Holiday Inn, followed by a Chinese Auction in which members competed for over 90 prizes donated by manufacturers, individuals, and stores. Both the Awards Ceremony and General Membership Meeting were well attended. Among other business items, members elected three new directors to the Board. (See page 10 for minutes). The convention concluded with layout tours hosted by Tom Mauszycki, MMR, Bill Schumaker, Dennis Frahm, and Jim Bernier.

Photo coverage starts on page 6!

2008 Convention plans on page 9!



The 2007/2008 TLR Board (Front row, left to right): Jim Bernier (Contest Director); Bruce Selb (President); Dave Hamilton (Treasurer); and Jay Davis (Secretary). (Back row, left to right): Gerry Leone, MMR (Public Relations Director); Chris Dancy (Convention Director); Alan Saatkamp (Vice President). Photo by Gordy Miller.

Was it a good convention? Just ask anyone who was there: Winona was indeed a winner!

View from the cab

by TLR President Bruce Selb

If you did not attend the "Steamin' to Winona" convention, you missed a great time. Congratulations to Tom Mauszycki, MMR, for chairing and conducting the convention in Winona. The Lock and Dam #6 tour on Thursday was one of the highlights of the convention for me.

Thank you to the modelers that opened their homes to the convention attendees for our Sunday layout tours. The layouts ended a grand convention.

During the Sunday presentation, I had the opportunity to present two awards. The first was the President's Award to Jim Wetzler for his untiring work with the Region's membership roster. It is a vital and often hidden service, but without it none of us would receive THE FUSEE. The second presentation was the Bob Dew, Sr. Award to Tom Mauszycki, MMR. This is presented to a past board member who served five years on the board and provided superior service to the region.

Special congratulations to Les Brewer, MMR, and Tom Mauszycki, MMR, for achieving Master Model Railroader status.

The TLR has three new board members. The first is Gerry Leone, who, in addition to being THE FUSEE editor is now the Public Relations chair. The second is Alan Saatkamp from the Dakota Southeastern Division. Alan will be Vice President of the Region. The third is Chris Dancy from West Union, Iowa, where we do not currently have a Division. Chris will

be the Convention Chairman, helping put together next year's Duluth convention.

The TLR is looking for individuals to serve on various committees and as new officers. Now with the entire NMRA membership being members of the TLR, the Region will need to serve many new modelers and help will be required. If you're interested in furthering "The World's Greatest Hobby" and earning AP points for volunteering then please give a few hours a year. If you're not interested in Regional service, see your local Division officers. The local Divisions are our grass roots. For additional information, contact a TLR or Division officer. Officer names and contact information is shown on page 11.

As was the case last year, another individual in May was killed in Moorhead by a BNSF freight by not observing train movements. This occurred in Moorhead to a University student. He apparently did not see the Westbound train after the Eastbound train had past.

This is a reminder to all of us! Railfanning can be dangerous. If railfanning around multiple tracks, have someone designated to watch for rail activity. Also do not walk on the rails or in front of an oncoming train. It's difficult to tell how fast the train is approaching.

That's my sermon for the quarter.

'Till the Fall – enjoy a safe Summer of railfanning. 🚂

A FEW MORE WORDS...

by Editor Gerry Leone, MMR

So tell me, why are you an NMRA member?

Before we get to the above topic at hand I need to say a big "thanks" to a few people on behalf of the rest of us in the Region.

First, thanks to Tom and Leone (*you've gotta love that first name*) Mauszycki for all their hard work, attention to detail, and diligence at putting together what I felt was a spectacular convention. This was one that truly reset the bar for all conventions in the future. I didn't hear one negative comment the whole weekend, and as editor, I tend to be a magnet for those sorts of things. Thanks, you guys.

And a big thanks to departing Board members Gordy Miller, Lynn McCall, and especially Terry Davis. You've helped make the TLR a Region to be proud of. And now that I find myself in the PR Director position, I realize that filling Terry's shoes will be totally impossible. You're going to be a very hard act to follow!

So I was sitting in the crew lounge of Dave Warax's BNSF layout between operating sessions on Convention Thursday night, and one of his regular crew members looked at a few of us TLR-ers and said, "So why are you guys NMRA members? What do you get out of it?"

Good question. And I'm sure it's one some of your modeling friends have put to you at some time or another. Why *are* we NMRA members? Besides receiving a magazine that's becoming increasingly better with each issue, what are we getting for it?

I've asked a few people that same question on occasion and have gotten a variety of responses. Some say that we owe it to the hobby to support the organization that set the wheel standards and DCC standards that are the *de facto* rules today. Other folks have told me that

it's the camaraderie, the fellowship, that the NMRA brings.

Frankly my response both of those reasons is a rather tepid, "Ya... ok, whatever." Honestly, in my mind continuing to fork over a chunk of change to the NMRA every year because they set some standards a decade or five ago is sort of like having to pay Marconi every year because he invented the radio in 1895. When do you stop saying "thanks" with your checkbook?

As for the fellowship, sure that's great. But I've seen many model railroad clubs where the annual dues are far lower, and the camaraderie is, well, far higher. So that one doesn't quite wash with me, either.

But before you think I'm a total stick-in-the-mud, I do have my reasons for NMRA membership, and they're good ones. But I'm going to wait to share them until I hear yours.

Tell me why you're an NMRA member. I'm serious. Drop me an email (put "FUSEE" in the subject line) or snail mail with a 100-words-or-less description of why you belong to the NMRA...what you get out of it, why you keep ante-ing up year after year. If I get enough responses, I'll print them here in THE FUSEE so we can all see why we continue to continue. My email and address is on page 11.

Let's hear your reasons, ok? 🚂

THANKS!

Contributors to this issue:
(in order of first names)
Dennis Rogers, Jay Davis, Joe Porter,
John Hotvet, MMR, Les Breuer, MMR,
Paul Ullrich, Ron Einarson

Next issue's deadline:
August 10, 2007

Achievement Program Update

By John Hotvet, MMR
Achievement Program Director

This has been an active year for the Achievement Program since the last convention. We have awarded 10 achievement certificates and 6 Golden Spikes.

Highlighting the year has been the approval of the TLR's two newest Master Model Railroaders, our 14th and 15th MMR's. Congratulations go to Lester Breuer, MMR (No. 387) and Dr. Thomas Mauszycki, MMR (No. 388).

The following AP certificates were awarded since May, 2006:

Les Breuer, Minneapolis, MN – Master Builder Cars, Master Model Railroader 387

Dr. Thomas Mauszycki, Winona, MN - Model Railroad Engineer – Civil, Model Railroad Engineer – Electrical, Master Model Railroader 388

Terry Davis, Hutchinson, MN – Association Official

Tim Klevar, Maple Grove, MN – Association Volunteer

Gordon Miller, Blue Earth, MN – Association Official

John Davis, Emmetsburg, IA – Association Volunteer

Jay Davis, Everly, IA – Association Volunteer

The modelers who received the Golden Spike this year are as follows:

Gary Austin, Rochester, MN
Steve Nitti, Scandia, MN
John Thomas, Maplewood, MN
Art Hill, New Brighton, MN
Walter Thompson, St. Paul, MN
Doug Harding, Sibley, IA

Congratulations to all of these modelers for their hard work and dedication to the hobby. 🚂

TLR's Ron Einarson becomes NMRA Canada President

When the NMRA National Convention in Detroit comes to a close, NMRA Canada will have a new President. It's none other than TLR member (and frequent FUSEE contributor) Ron Einarson, who won the election by a unanimous vote.

Ron has this to say about his new post:

"For the TLR Canada members, this will be of interest to you...I hope. Effective July 2007 there will be a change in the guard for Canada, Frank Gerry will be stepping down as President and I will be taking over from him. At this time I would like express my sincerest thanks for the great job Frank Gerry has done over the past few years. Thanks, Frank, and I have your number in case I need help.

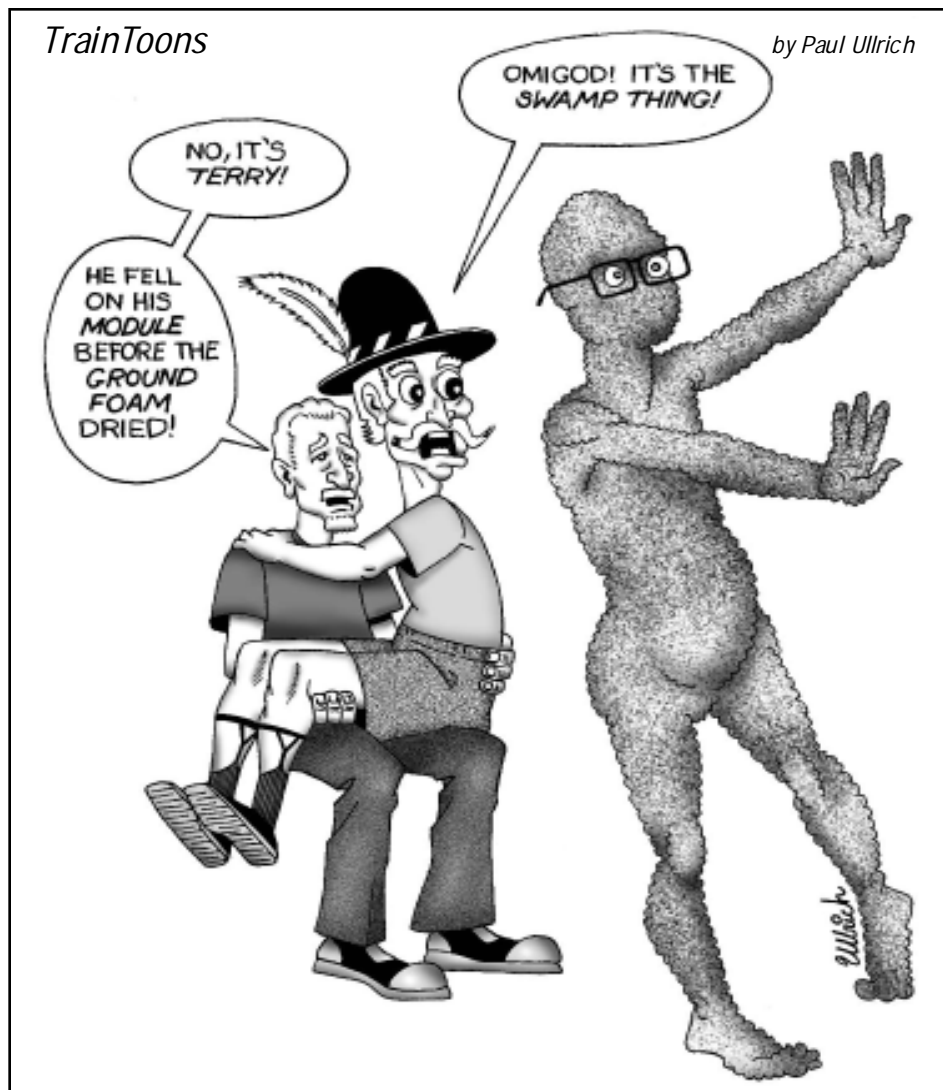
"One of the issues being worked on is the late arrival in Canada of *Scale Rails* magazine... especially before convention time. There are

several Canadian NMRA members who have been tracking this situation and are working with NMRA HQ to help alleviate the problem – definitely not an easy one to solve. Another item on the NMRA Canada plate is the special rate for the trial NMRA subscription offered in the USA but not elsewhere. With the dollars getting closer to par it is being looked at very closely and could come into effect sometime in the Fall. This will allow new modelers to sample the NMRA at a reduced rate for short period. It would also allow them to attend a meet to see what goes on and see what a great organization we are.

"I look forward to conversing with you on any matters regarding the NMRA. My e-mail address is ron.einarson@pwgsc.gc.ca – thanks for listening and thanks again to my predecessor, Frank Gerry, for a wonderful job." 🚂

TrainToons

by Paul Ullrich



No. 1 Northern Div. chalks up another busy season

By Ron Einarson

The 2006-2007 season started off in No. 1 Northern territory with the first meeting of the WMRC followed the next day with the Winnipeg Rail Museum's annual Railway Days. October saw another



Richard Grodecki switching the AVR.

very successful WMRC Great Canadian Train Show, which marked the first setup and running of the new WMRC modular layout.

The WMRC's HO Gateway Western continues to be a hit with all who view it. The layout was also featured at the Gooch's Hobby Shop Open House in late November. WinNtrak's "N" scale layouts were also there, as well as the shop owner's Duluth, Winnipeg & Pacific "N" scale layout. The No. 1 Northern displays were a great hit, with con-

tinuous modeling demonstrations throughout the weekend.

The WMRC monthly meetings continue to feature the No. 1 Northern "Beginners' Series" of clinics. Some of the table clinics covered included: Painting Figures for Effect; Modules - Continued Growth; Converting Pin Trucks to Screw Trucks; Unusual Switch Engines; Shay Locomotives; The Glory of Gons - Ideas to Improve Them; CAD Track Planning; Painting Backdrops; and Open Loads - Scrap Metal from Foil; and Laying Track.

Other presentations included: Railfan Trip to Melville - A Potpourri of Slides, Annual Dinner Train on the Assiniboine Valley Railway; Portal, California & Behind the Controls of a Locomotive; Vancouver SkyTrain from the Ground Up.

For the second year local layouts were featured on two tours. The first, on February 10th, featured the layouts of Allen Ferguson, Brian Schuff and Karl Purchase, all HO. The second tour was February 17th and featured the HO layouts of John Longhurst and Ken Epp.

Of particular importance to the WMRC was the 3rd Anniversary of the rebirth of the Gateway Western Railway - the Operating Division of the WMRC (12'x24' modular layout) on January 13th, 2007.

Our April 2007 meeting was "Come Ride the

Rails - An evening at the Assiniboine Valley Railway" where everyone attending enjoyed the challenge of full switching operation, tours of all buildings, and demos on large car building in their machine shop and engine house.

The Annual Open House was once again in conjunction with Winnipeg Railway Museum and featured modeling demonstrations, judged model & photo contests and displays and demonstrations.

The final event of the season was Annual Banquet & Awards Night which was held at Windsor Park Canada's Inn. A great night was had by all as awards and prizes were handed out.

That's it from Great White North. Have a great summer and we will talk again when the white stuff appears again. 🌨️



Cloud painting clinic by Ron Einarson, sporting the new "just had a biopsy" look complete with oversized bandage... Photo by Becky Mendelsohn.

Twin Cities Div. spends the year revitalizing itself

By Dennis Rogers
Editor of The Crossing Gate

The Twin Cities Division has been making some significant changes which are meant to bolster the benefits of belonging to the Division and to charge the batteries of the members. We have changed the location and times of our clinics, and we have begun anew having layout tours. We have a new Superintendent who is excited about the job and has many new ideas for how the Division serves its members.

In February, the clinics were moved to The Mill City Museum, which is in the historic milling district of Minneapolis next to St. Anthony Falls and the Stone Arch Bridge. The area and the museum have ties to railroading that go back almost to the first European settlement of the Twin Cities. Moving to the

museum also affords members the opportunity to rekindle and make new friendships with other members over a light meal, which is served in the cafeteria prior to the meetings. Although considerably smaller than our previous venue, the ADM Conference Room is more comfortable and modern, and seems to have been well received by members, as indicated by a 25% increase in attendance. We have also begun to distribute name tags to attendees so that they get to know each other better.

New Layout Tour Coordinators Arthur Hill and Bill Schimmelman arranged our first layout tour in nearly two years this May. Three layouts were open to members (and a guest). Many thanks to Walter Thompson, Art Hill, and Dave Zuhn, who showed some great examples of advanced electronics, fine scenery, and opera-

tions. The hosts reported about 30 people attended the tours. Layout tours are one of the greatest benefits of belonging to TCD, and it is good to have this aspect of the organization back on track.

Other activities of the TCD this year have included a second auction of model railroad equipment, door prizes, and model judging competitions. In April, we celebrated our 25th year by holding our annual business meeting at a restaurant and inviting past presidents.

If you are in town or want to drive in, our meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of the month, October through May. Check out the TCD web site (www.TwinCitiesDivision.org or use the link on the TLR web site) for details, directions and more. 🚂

The practical benefits of model railroading

By Paul Ullrich

My friend Vern is renovating his house. He has boxes of ceiling lamps stacked eight feet high in the corner of his dining room. When he told me that he was having an electrician install them, I asked him why he wasn't going to do it himself.

"Because I don't know how." He answered.

Vern is an intelligent, capable graphic artist who once owned his own business that employed a staff of over two dozen. But electricity is a foreign substance to him. Something as simple as connecting three wires together is scary stuff.

But if he was a model railroader, he could've installed every one of those lamps in one afternoon and saved himself a huge electrician's bill.

After you've wired (and rewired) a layout or two, simple household electrical chores are a snap.

I have learned so many things from model railroading that have had scores of practical applications in the real world. Conquering electricity is just one of them. I've installed lamps, switches and sockets, strung wiring, and even located and fixed a few short circuits. All of these tasks were a walk in the park compared to sifting through the rat's nest of wires most of us have under our layouts to install a switch machine. The main benefit to doing household wiring is that it isn't in HO scale! The equipment is so big I don't even need my glasses.

My wife once plopped her blender on my workbench and told me to repair it. I had never done anything like that before, but she figured that it couldn't be much different from

tinkering around with one of my engines. She was right.

I opened up the appliance and found it to be much simpler than any model railroad locomotive I ever worked on. It had a small open frame motor, attached to a circuit board with a few wires. Two wires were loose, and the motor was dirty. After a quick soldering job and a swipe of a rubbing alcohol soaked Q-tip to the rotors, it ran fine!



I couldn't believe how much room

there was to work in the blender. It wasn't all crammed together like the insides of one of my locomotives. But the motor was surprisingly tiny. This blender was a top-of-the-line appliance, but if it had wheels, it couldn't pull six empty flatcars up a one percent grade (and it would look pretty silly if it did).

After that job, I repaired a toaster, a few kettles, an electric skillet, a vacuum cleaner, several table lamps and a T.V. set with the greatest of ease.

I once owned an ancient Dodge Omni that I was desperately trying to keep alive. Bits of the interior trim kept loosening and falling off. After experimenting with several adhesives, the one that worked the best was none other than Walther's Goo! I would never have known about this remarkable substance if I hadn't been a model railroader.


One of the most dreaded household chores I face is the semi-annual repairing of chipped paint nicks in the corners of our house. It wasn't until this year that I changed this messy, tedious job into a much easier task by thinking like a model railroader.

The tools I was using were much too big for the job. Instead of using trowels and sandpaper to fill and smooth the gaps, this time I reached into my model railroad toolbox and

took out two of my trustiest devices - a Popsicle stick and a nail file.

I filled the holes with drywall compound using the Popsicle stick as a miniature trowel. I lumped it on, not even bothering to make it smooth. Once it was dry, I sanded it down with the nail file and painted it over with a modeler's brush. The fill was absolutely seamless, and clean-up time took less than five minutes!

The next time someone tells you that model railroading is a complete waste of time and money (and you know that's going to happen sooner or later), show them this article! Because of the skills I've developed as a model railroader, I've been able to better maintain my house and everything inside it, and saved hundred of dollars in repair and replacement bills.

Now, if I could only convince my wife to let me spend all that money I've saved on more model railroad equipment... 

**On the Reservation List
at Brass Car Sides**

GN "Club" sleeper buffet lounge in HO & N for *Mississippi Ltd.*
GN 1100-04 mail-baggage in HO & N for 1947 *Empire Builder* and other trains.
GN 1215-18, 1227-32, CB&Q 1219-20, SP&S 300 48-seat ACF coach in N.
WP 582-97, CB&Q 592-99 log-roof PS coach in N for *North Coast Ltd.*
GN 1161-88 16-4 "Glacier" PS sleeper in N for *Empire Builder*, *Western Star*, *Blackhawk*, *Mississippi Limited*.
WP 350-363, CB&Q 480-82 SP&S 366 B-6-3-1 PS sleeper N for *North Coast Ltd.*, *Mississippi Limited*, *Blackhawk*.
Still available: #412 DFD "Indiana, Minnesota, and Early Antrak Railroad Memories". Organized in 13 Chapters, including St. Paul, Northfield, and Chicago, with memorable scenes of the *Zephyrs*, *Roquetes*, *Howethas*, *North Coast Ltd.*, *Empire Builder*, *Mississippi*, *Western Star*, *Dartmouth*, *Blackhawk*, and many other favorites. Color, 107 minutes, sound. \$24.75 postpaid. Add 6.5% MN sales tax for MN orders. See our website for bulletins, catalog sheets and other data. www.brasscarsides.com

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

Steamin' to Winona: a full blast of fun



The clinics



All photos by the editor except where noted.



Clinicians Clark Propst ("Prototype Challenge" and "Building a Prototype Layout"), John Vaitkunas ("The Story of a Small City Streetcar"), Donald Brenemar ("Digital Photography"), Yvonne Kapinski ("Loc Sound"), Doug Johnson ("Unusual Rolling Stock" and "Steam in Winona"), Les Breuer, MMR ("Scratchbuilding a Reefer"), Erik Brom ("Steam on the Mississippi Remembered" and "Unusual Rolling Stock"), and John Luecke ("The Chicago & Great Western")

The prototype tours



The banquet

Chef Charles, Tom Mauszycki, MMR, and Leone Mauszycki

Tour goers got to take a stroll on top of Lock & Dam #6; TLR members admire Watkins Company's maze of former trackways; Donald Biesanz watches his 7.5-foot diameter saw cut through limestone; The group inspects a Badger crane being constructed; Dave Jasper photographs the former C&NW Engine Shops, now owned by Fastenal

Steaming to Winona 2007

Thousand Lakes Region, June 8-10

The AP awards



John Hotvet, MMR, awards Les Breuer and Tom Mauszycki their MMR plaques



The service awards



John Davis receives his Volunteer certificate; Terry Davis receives his Association Official Certificate; President Bruce Selb gives Tom Mauszycki, MMR, the Bob Dew, Sr. Award; Gordy Miller receives his Association Official Certificate. Jim Wetzler (not present) received the 2007 President's Award.



The other awards



Les Breuer, MMR, bestows the Order of the Bent Spike on award founder Jim Platt (also awarded to Jim Wetzler); Jim Bemier awards Mike Engler the Jock Oliphant Award for Craftsmanship

See all of these shots (and more) in color on our website!

The other fun stuff



TLR members tour Dave Warax's BNSF Idaho Falls Subdivision on Thursday night; The 2006-2007 Board presides over the General Membership Meeting; Jay Davis oogles some of the Chinese Auction prizes; Terry Davis and Gerry Leone, MMR, call the numbers for the more than 90 Chinese Auction prizes.

Photo by Les Breuer, MMR

The "Steamin' to Winona" convention was held in Winona, MN, from June 6-10. It featured five prototype tours, 10 clinics, a banquet on the steamboat Julia Belle Swain, a model and photo contest...and a ton of fun. The entire convention was put together by Tom and Leone Mauszycki.



Photo Contest Awards

Proto Color Print

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1st | Acela Train | Larry Vanden Plas |
| 2nd | Freight Switching | Larry Vanden Plas |
| 3rd | C&NW Backlight | Dave Vos |

Model Color Print

- | | | |
|-----|------------|-------------------|
| 1st | Stone Arch | Larry Vanden Plas |
| 2nd | Milw "Hi" | Larry Vanden Plas |
| 3rd | Shed | Dave Jasper |

Model Slides

- | | | |
|-----|----------------|------------------|
| 1st | CPR on Trestle | Fred Headon, MMR |
|-----|----------------|------------------|

Theme Photo

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1st | CP8752 | Tom Mauszycki, MMR |
| 2nd | Freight Switching | Larry Vanden Plas |
| 3rd | Amtrak | Larry Vanden Plas |

Best in Show

- | | |
|--------|--------------------|
| CP8752 | Tom Mauszycki, MMR |
|--------|--------------------|



"Transfer Caboose," Gayle Olson, MMR
 "TOFC," Fred Headon, MMR
 "Lehi Roller Mill," John Hotvet, MMR
 "Lowellwood Coal," Mike Engler
 "CN Crane/Tender," Fred Headon, MMR



"CP8752," Tom Mauszycki, MMR
 "Acela Train," Larry Vanden Plas
 "Stone Arch," Larry Vanden Plas

Not pictured:
 "Grain Cars," Fred Headon, MMR
 "CPR on Trestle," Fred Headon, MMR

Model Contest Awards

Freight Cars

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|------------------|
| 1st | CP TOFC | Fred Headon, MMR |
| 2nd | GARX Reefer | Les Breuer, MMR |
| 3rd | Soo Boxcar | Fred Headon, MMR |

Caboose

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1st | Transfer Caboose | Gayle Olson, MMR |
| Non-Revenue Car | | |
| 1st | CN Crane/Tender | Fred Headon, MMR |

Online Structures

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|------------------|
| 1st | Lehi Roller Mill | John Hotvet, MMR |
| 2nd | LaPointe Depot | Gerry Leone, MMR |
| 3rd | Tylick Tools | Mike Engler |

Display/Diorama

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-------------|
| 1st | Lowellwood Coal | Mike Engler |
| 2nd | Raglen Road | Mike Engler |
| 3rd | Earl's Oil | Mike Engler |

Best in Show

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Lowellwood Coal | Mike Engler |
|-----------------|-------------|

Jock Oliphant Award

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Lowellwood Coal | Mike Engler |
|-----------------|-------------|



Congratulations to all the winners!

Are you a Super Modeler? Here's how to find out.

By Joe Porter and originally posted on the IPMS USA website

1. Score 100 points if you ever called in sick to finish a model.
2. Score 50 points if you ever needed assistance getting unsuperglued.
3. Deduct 75 points if you own a set of golf clubs.
4. Score 40 points if you ever helped yourself to that cool sand in an upright hotel ashtray.
5. Score 2 points for every bottle of paint on your workbench. Add 50 bonus points if you own your own paint rack.
6. Score 200 points if a hobby tool incident has required stitches.
7. Score 75 points if, on arriving in a strange town, the first thing you look for is hobby shops in the phone book. Score 300 bonus points if you ever-planned a family vacation to include a model show.
8. Score 25 points if you have something from the kitchen on your workbench. Score 100 bonus points if your wife doesn't know it's missing.

9. Score 50 points if you shop for hobby supplies, unaccompanied, in a fabric or cosmetics store.

10. Score 50 points for each pack of Grandt Line bolts you ever bought.

11. Score 25 points for every kit you have purchased in the last year. Score 250 bonus points for every project you have completed.

12. Score 50 points if you're left-handed.

13. Deduct 300 points if you ever sold some of your unbuilt kits.

14. Score 30 points for every non-modeler who has seen your models and said, "Oh, I used to do that when I was a kid."

15. Deduct 100 points for every unfinished project you've set aside.

16. Score 500 points if you ever purchased a Mascot figure. Score 800 bonus points if you painted it. Deduct 1000 points if you did anything weird after that.

17. Score 150 points if you ever ordered a kit through the mail, and had it sent to your office so your wife wouldn't find out. Score 500 sympathy points if your hobby has cost you a rela-

tionship.

18. Score 600 points if the local library refers inquiries to you.

19. Deduct 5000 points if you ever used a penlight while judging.

20. Score 50 points for every part you dropped - and found!


21. Score 75 points if you own an Optimisor.

22. Score 425 points if someone else smashed their models when you showed up at a contest.

23. Score 350 points if, lacking reference, you ever "invented" a detail on a model, and passed it off as 100% accurate.

24. Score 75 points if you use different "mood music" for different modeling projects.

25. Score 250 points if you ever found someone else's drool on one of your models.

26. Deduct ALL YOUR POINTS if you actually scored yourself. You should be in there building models, not using your valuable time taking frivolous quizzes! 

Tentative TLR 2008 Convention plans


Even though the 2007 Winona convention is barely over, TLR President Bruce Selb is already working on plans for the 2008 TLR Convention. While many details have yet to be nailed down, here's a tentative overview of what's currently planned:

Dates: **Thursday, June 12 - Sunday, June 15, 2008**

Where: **Duluth, MN**

Events:

- Merck Coal Distributor
- Harvest States Grain
- Tour of Proctor Yard
- Reception at the Lake Superior Railroad Museum
- North Shore Scenic Railroad shop tour
- Train ride to Two Harbors
(including the possibility of riding out on to the ore dock)
- Banquet at the Lake Superior Railroad Museum
- Flea market
(open to attendees only, then opened to the public)
- Layout tours

It's already been confirmed that these dates will not conflict with the Grandma's Marathon dates. 



www.granitecitytrainshow.com

All Aboard!

ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

GRANITE CITY TRAIN SHOW

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2007

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

9am-2:30pm - National Guard Armory - 1710 Veteran's Drive - Saint Cloud, MN
Admission: \$3.00 - Kids under 12 FREE!

REGISTER TO WIN Lionel Polar Express Train Set (\$300.00 retail) **REGISTER TO WIN**

FOOD & REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

COME SEE! Model & Toy Trains (all scales), Accessories, Books, Videos, Railroad Collectibles and Memorabilia, Antique Toys, Hobby Items and More!

TEST TRACK ON SITE

Operating Model and Toy Train Displays

Childrens' Railway Play Area - Kids can help build a wooden train layout or run a model train.

Vendors and hobbyists welcome!

Call 320-255-0033 or visit www.granitecitytrainshow.com
email: edwardolson@cloudnet.com

Don't Miss Our 2008 Shows - May 3 And December 6

Minutes of the Board and General Membership meetings, June 2007

Submitted by Jay Davis, TLR Secretary

Minutes of the June 8, 2007 TLR Board of Directors Meeting Winona, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order at 9:41 P.M. CDT. Present were Bruce Selb, John Hotvet, Terry Davis, Gordy Miller, Gerry Leone, Jim Bernier, Lloyd Stresman, Alan Saatkamp, Les Breuer, Dave Hamilton, and Jay Davis.

Old Business The meeting started with a motion from Bruce to approve the minutes as printed in the last Fusee. Gerry Leone offered a first and seconded by Terry Davis.

Reports Dave Hamilton told the board that he had moved \$5000 from checking into some new seven-month CDs. John Hotvet asked if there was any income from advertising in the Fusee. Dave told the board that \$131.21 had been received in advertising from 2006-2007 and including the next issue. Bruce made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Gordy Miller offered a 1st and Jim Bernier 2nd the motion.

Terry Davis filed a Public Relations report. He recapped his four years as P.R. Chair. In that time he had attended countless number of shows and used the TLR display board to help promote the TLR and NMRA. He also traveled to several different clubs and talked to them about the benefits of joining the NMRA. Terry thanked his wife for her devoted hours traveling and attending these shows.

Contest Director Jim Bernier said he provided NMRA judging at two division events last year. He was very happy with the number of entries at this year's convention.

John Hotvet reported on the Achievement Program. He said 10 achievement certificates and six Golden Spikes were awarded. Highlighting the year were two Master Model Railroaders going to Les Breuer and Tom Matuszcki. John added that it was a big turnaround from 2006 when no awards were given.

Editor Gerry Leone submitted THE FUSEE report. THE FUSEE remains twelve pages strong. Gerry appreciated the articles from his group of regular contributors. The last Spring issue was mailed to all 507 NMRA members residing in the TLR - 469 to U.S. residents and 38 to Canadian residents. With the recent increase in postage, it will now cost an additional \$3.00 for all U.S. residents and \$2.50 for Canadian residents per issue.

Division Reports Dakota Southeastern - Alan Saatkamp reported that membership had grown by nearly 50% over the past year to thirty members. The cash balance in the checking account has nearly tripled from two years ago. With the growing number of new members, many of whom are new to the hobby, the emphasis at monthly meetings is to have clinics put on by more knowledgeable members on many different modeling topics. The monthly meeting schedule changed for the first time in many years. They now alternate their monthly gathering to the first Thursday of odd numbered months and the first Saturday for even numbered months. Meeting locations rotate among members' homes. In October, the club plans to sponsor another open house of members' home layouts. The tour will feature five to six different layouts than last year. Last year's tour was a great success.

Kashabowie- Lloyd Stresman reported that his Division will soon be without a superintendent. He will be moving to Holland with his wife in the near future. Last November the Division had a great train show which was greatly attended by the public.

Minnesota River Valley- Terry Davis reported the Division celebrated their 20th Anniversary last year. They are trying to clarify its zip code boundaries. They have been in contact with Jim Wetzler and NMRA headquarters. Members are still working on a layout at the heritage center in the Montevideo depot. The division has about 25 members.

North Dakota- Charles Durrenberger reported that they had built a portable N-scale layout which they have used to introduce girl scouts to model railroading. Members are

busy working on a caboose restoration and extending track to the cattle pen and grain elevator.

Prairie Lakes- Gordy Miller reported that the spring meet in Sibley, Iowa was attended by 85 people. Several new officers were elected at the meet. Plans are underway for the Fall meet to be held Saturday, October 8 at Heritage Acres in Fairmont, Minnesota. This will be a joint meet with the Chicago & Northwestern Historical Society. The meet is tentatively planning a tour of Harsco Track Technologies (formerly Fairmont-Tamper) and banquet with BNSF safety chairman as the speaker. Also a clinic on the basics of NMRA judging by Miles Rohan.

South Red River Valley reported that they elected a new superintendent after the passing of Dennis Neumiller last fall. On Sunday October 28 the Spud Valley will be putting on its 29th annual hobby show at the Ramada Plaza in Fargo, North Dakota.

Discussion was reopened on the TLR participating in a fall event with one of the Divisions. Terry reported that the Hutchinson Fall show didn't have an extra meeting or clinic room available this year. Duane Durr offered to let the Board have its Fall meeting in Fargo on October 27 at the Ramada, the day before the Spud Valley Show.

The debate over last year's border issue with the Mid-Continent Region has seemed to be put to rest for now. The Mid-Continent never went forward with applying for the realignment forms with National. Gordy commented that the PLD has always had good relations with the Kate Shelly Division and their fall meet is always attended by many PLD members.

New Business Bruce is looking for someone to take his place at the National convention in Detroit this July. Bruce has been asked to attend a special meeting for Region presidents.

Bruce passed out a tentative schedule for the 2008 convention in Duluth, MN. All convention activities will be held at the transportation museum. No hotel has been reserved yet. Possible train ride and swap meet are in the planning stages.

Dave Brosh laid out the Alexandria's clubs tentative proposal for the 2009 convention. On June 4 they voted to make the proposal to host the convention in 2009.

Bruce Selb made a motion to adjourn and Terry Davis seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15pm CDT.

Minutes of the June 10, 2007 General Membership Meeting Winona, Minnesota
The meeting was called to order at 11:15 A.M. CDT.

New Business Bruce announced that the 2008 convention will be held in Duluth, Minnesota. He also explained he had not yet reserved a hotel. There was some concern that same weekend might be Grandma's weekend in Duluth. This might make hotel situation a little harder. Bruce said he would contact the Visitors' Bureau and hotels first thing on Monday.

Dave Brosh spoke about the plans the Alexandria club had made and gave several highlights of the 2009 convention. Terry pointed out that this convention would be the 60th anniversary of the TLR.


A change in wording on the Old Goat award is needed to bring it up to date. It uses the word "member" in its description. It needs to be changed to "subscriber." This will be voted on at the next meeting.

Les Breuer asked the meeting attendees if they liked the convention updates that were mailed out a few weeks before the convention. The people responded positively and the board said they would try to do this for Duluth.

A proposal was made that the TLR make a \$1000.00 donation to the NMRA to help pay for legal expenses in the battle over DCC patents. It was decided that TLR US and TLR Canada would each write a check for \$500.00 in U.S. dollars to the defense fund. A motion was made to accept this proposal by Duane Durr and seconded by Larry Vanden Plas. Motion carried.

Fred Headon voiced his discontent with delivery of the *Scale Rails* magazine. He said in most cases it is delivered two weeks after most in the TLR U.S. receive theirs. He also didn't like that no RailPass option is offered in Canada for NMRA membership. The biggest problem with the late magazine is national convention highlights are not received until the convention is over. He is working on his own investigation to see if it is a problem at Chattanooga or at the main Canadian mail sorting center or both.

Elections were held to fill three board vacancies. Nominations were called from the floor by Bruce. Alan Saatkamp, Chris Dancy, and Gerry Leone were nominated. Jim Bernier moved to close nominations. This was seconded by Gary Wildung. The motion carried.

Les Breuer moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. Gary Wildung seconded. Motion passed. 

29th Annual Spud Valley Hobby Show

Sunday, October 28, 2007

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

★ 13th Annual "Plastics on the Prairie" model contest

★ Large & small operating model railroads

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

★ Door prizes -- No need to be present to win

Admission: \$4 (under 12 free with paid adult)

For information, call Gerald: 701-799-0534



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

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Changes of address should be sent to the Treasurer.

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 Comm. rate	One time Comm. rate	Annual Pike ad rate
Full pg 9 ⁵ / ₈ "x 7 ⁷ / ₈ "	\$145.00	\$50.75	\$90.00
1/2 pg 4 ³ / ₄ "x 7 ⁷ / ₈ "	90.00	31.50	45.00
1/4 pg 4 ³ / ₄ "x 3 ¹ / ₂ "	45.00	15.75	25.00
1/6 pg 4 ³ / ₄ "x 2 ¹ / ₄ "	35.00	12.25	18.50
1/8 pg 2 ³ / ₈ "x 2 ¹ / ₄ "	25.00	8.75	15.00
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1/12 pg 2 ³ / ₈ "x 2 ¹ / ₄ "	18.50	6.48	10.00
1/16 pg 1 ¹ / ₈ "x 3 ¹ / ₂ "	15.00	5.25	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!

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If you're an NMRA member residing within the boundaries of the Thousand Lakes Region, you're automatically a TLR member. So why not keep up with what's happening in the Region? Use this form to subscribe to The Fusee. If your subscription has lapsed, use this form to renew.

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18015 33rd PI N., Plymouth, MN 55447



Summer 2007

THE FUSEE

P.O. Box 1113
Burnsville, MN 55337

INSIDE:

**Complete "Steamin' to
Winona" convention
coverage**

**The practical benefits
of model railroading**

**Find out if you're a
Super Modeler**

Train shows & events in and near the Region

Compiled by Gerry Leone, Jim Bernier, and Terry Davis

Saturday, 7/21/07, Great Tri-State Rail Fair, 10 AM-5 PM, Copeland Park, LaCrosse, WI. Admission \$4, kids under 12 free. For more information call (608) 582-4761 or (608) 784-0036 or visit www.lacrosseshortliner.org

Saturday, 7/21/07, 4th Annual Kid Day Train Show, 11 AM-4 PM, Lakes Area Model Railroad Association, National Guard Armory, Benson, MN. Admission: \$2.50, kids under 10 free. Memorabilia, flea marketers, vendors and layouts welcome. For more information call Randy Thoen (320) 762-8840 or lanrra@yahoo.com

Saturday - Sunday, 7/28-29/07, 2007 Greater Minnesota Model Train Show & Sale, 9AM-5PM (Sat), 10 AM-4 PM (Sun), (During Glenwood Annual Waterama) Lakes Area Model Railroad Association, Central Square Cultural Center, Glenwood, MN. Admission: \$2.50, kids under 10 free. Memorabilia, flea marketers, vendors and layouts welcome. For more information call Randy Thoen (320) 762-8840 or lanrra@yahoo.com

Saturday, 10/6/07, Prairie Lakes Division and Chicago & NorthWestern Historical Society Joint Meet, 8 AM-10 PM, Heritage Acres Main Implement Building, Lake Avenue, Fairmont, MN. Admission: \$3, banquet \$12. Clinics, slide shows, videos, food, raffles, prizes, vendors, and flea market. Layout and industrial tours, model

and photo contests. For information contact Don Oechsle at 507-238-5026 or dystrophies@bevcomm.net

Saturday, 10/13/07, 13th Hutchinson Model Railroad Show, 9 AM - 4 PM, McLeod Co. Fairgrounds, 7780 Century Ave. SW, Hutchinson, MN. Admission: \$3, kids under 12 free. Hosted by the Luce Line Railroad Club, Inc. and the Minnesota River Valley Division. A dozen operating layouts, clinics, large flea market, popular vote model contest. For more information contact Bruce Crosby at abcrosby@hutchtel.net

Saturday - Sunday, 10/13-14/07, 6th Annual Train Show, 10 AM- 5 PM (Sat.), 10 AM - 3PM (Sun), Regis High School, 2100 Fenwick Ave., Eau Claire, WI. Admission: \$4, kids under 12 free. Sellers, displays, operating layouts. Presented by the Indianhead Model Railroad Club. For more info, call Andrew (715-559-0380) or awdoney@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, 10/28/07, 29th Annual Spud Valley Hobby Show, 9 AM- 3 PM, Ramada Plaza Suites - Crystal Ballroom, 1635 42nd St. S., Fargo, ND. Admission: \$4.00, kids under 12 free with paid adult. See ad in this issue for details.

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 jrbernier@hotmail.com by the deadline listed inside.