



Thousand Lakes Region

National Model Railroad Association

# The FUSEE



Volume 60 Number 3

[www.thousandlakesregion.org](http://www.thousandlakesregion.org)

Spring 2014

## Exploring the Rails '14

This year's TLR convention will be here before we know it. The convention will start on Friday, May 2 with a morning departure from the hotel to tour an ethanol plant at Merrill, Iowa. The plant is located on the BNSF mainline from the Twin Cities to Sioux City. After the tour we will con-

located in the Museum is the Floyd Valley Model Railroad club. The layout will be open for viewing after lunch. We are still working on another tour of a plastics manufacturer which is served by rail in Le Mars.

Friday night will include a recep-

After lunch on your own, five layouts will be opening for viewing; three HO, one N, and one O scale. Also, the Siouxland Historical Society's historic former Milwaukee Road roundhouse and shops will be open for us.

Saturday will start with clinics. Once they are concluded, a tour of Transco Railway Repair will depart from the hotel. Transco repairs freight cars and features a transfer table for moving cars between buildings. The tour will be limited to 90 people. It is important that you get your registration in right away to guarantee a place on the tour.

The museum has been very busy since the last time the TLR had its convention in Sioux City. The Great Northern steam locomotive 1355 has been cosmetically restored and the grounds and building rejuvenated. The society was given a 15' X 75' HO Scale layout from the Durham Western Heritage Museum in Omaha, NE. They have done an excellent job with this new layout.



tinue on to Le Mars, Iowa where we will have lunch at the Plymouth County Museum.

The museum is housed in the former Le Mars High School building. The museum has a diverse collection of artifacts from Le Mars and surrounding areas; everything from farm equipment to a plane that was manufactured in Le Mars at one time. Also

tion with light sandwiches and dessert. Entertainment for the evening will feature our guest speaker, Dr. Rudy Daniels. Dr. Daniels is an author, college professor, and railroad historian. He will entertain us with historical facts and interesting stories of railroading. The night will conclude with the TLR business meeting and clinics.

Continued on page 4

# View from the Cab

by TLR President Gerry Miller

Once again convention time is upon us! This year we head to Sioux City, Iowa. The Prairie Lakes Division has a wonderful weekend planned for us. Please note the convention is early this year MAY 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>.

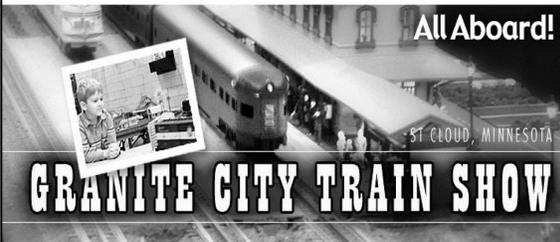
Last year the membership was kept informed about convention changes and updates with e-blasts. The Prairie Lakes Division intends to do the same this year. The problem is many members have changed their e-mail addresses and have not updated with the MNRA home office. The last bounce list that I received from the National showed about 30 TLR members that have not updated their e-mail addresses. According to the TLR monthly membership list there are also 75 members that list no e-mail address at all. If you would like to receive e-mail updates from National or e-blasts regarding this year's convention, please update your e-mail address! You can update your e-mail for national by sending your new email address to [nmraomgr@aol.com](mailto:nmraomgr@aol.com). If you only want to receive updates from the TLR, send your updated e-mail address to me at [miller-g20@gmail.com](mailto:miller-g20@gmail.com) and I'll see that it is added to only the TLR list.

We are looking for a few volunteers! The TLR is still seeking a new webmaster and will need to fill an empty board of director's vacancy. Our vice-president Paul Ullrich has served 5 years and will rotate off the board in May. On behalf of the board of directors I would like to thank Paul for his service to the TLR. Anyone who might be interested in either position and would like more information please contact me. My contact info is on page 11.

As I write this column it is 10 degrees and 40 mph winds blowing. I can't wait for spring!!!  
See you in May at Sioux City.



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## Greeting from the New Editor by Wes Garcia

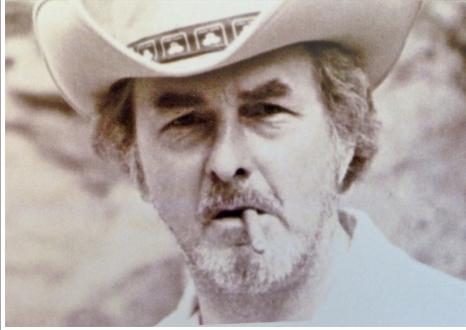
As the new editor of the Fusee, I have my task already laid out before me. We have had two really capable individuals serve as past editors.

I want to remind all the readers that the Fusee belongs to you. So I encourage you to submit articles, news and happenings within the region, and photographs.

If you're not sure about how to get started, or if you think the topic you want to present may not be of interest to the members of the region, give me a call at 605-310-0124, or via e-mail at [wesgarcia@sio.midco.net](mailto:wesgarcia@sio.midco.net). We can work together to get article done for the Fusee.



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



GAYLE M. OLSON MMR#113

By Mike Engler

Gayle Olson died at age 83 on Friday, December 13, 2013. Gayle was a former President of the Thousand Lakes Region of the National Model Railroad Organization (1971-72), and was on the region board of directors for several years. He also held several offices at the national level of the NMRA, including Plains Vice-President and also Chairman of the Site-Selection Committee for the NMRA Headquarters.

Gayle is survived by his wife Dee and daughter Debbie, and grandchildren Andrew and Sara, and also by business and hobby friends all over the world. He graduated from Washburn H.S. in Minneapolis, and from the University of Minnesota. His college education was interrupted when he became a veteran, serving his country with the U.S. Army in Korea. He had a highly successful business career with State Farm Insurance.

Gayle worked hard at living life to the fullest, and he had the most diverse interests of any one I have ever known. He studied comedy and comedians, and became skilled at getting his "one-liners" into most presentations and conversations. He was an accomplished musician on several instruments, and on several occasions sat in with professionals like the Stan Kenton Band when they were in Minneapolis.

He liked to race things, and I helped pit-crew several adventures including motorcycle racing, dirt-bike motocross racing, sail boat and professional power-boat racing, and engineer on 1:1 steam and diesel locomotives. He loved flying his own plane, and was a commercial pilot for several years. Gayle was a sports enthusiast and ardent fan of the Twins, Vikings, and Gophers. He loved to tell people that he played in the very first Minnesota State High School Hockey Tournament, and the rink in the St. Paul auditorium had "square" corners.

Gayle was an accomplished investor, and he wrote several software programs on investing, as well as many articles and books. He founded and was president of three very successful investment clubs, and he was a teacher and adviser for the National Association of Investment Clubs. He was also a very talented photographer, and he won many contests with his black and white photos, several of which were published.

I met Gayle well over forty years ago, at a hobby shop, and he invited me to lunch with he and three other friends (one of whom was another MMR, and also a former NMRA President- Gene Hickey).

It was the first of more than 2,000 lunches I would share with Gayle and a changing cast of other "bunch for lunch club" model railroaders, at "greasy spoons" located near Twin Cities' hobby shops. In addition to being a great friend, he was certainly my modeling mentor. He invited me to join two model railroad clubs, and we had many hours of fun in both. We also travelled together to at least six National NMRA Conventions, four National Narrow Gauge Conventions, and more than fifty NMRA regional conventions.

Gayle was a very accomplished modeler, and he scratch-built just about everything he built. On the way to becoming a Master Model Railroader, he built and completed three layouts. His eye for detail and his ability to create "mini-scenes" puts him in a very select class of model builders.

He will be remembered fondly by not only his family, his many friends around the world, but also by model railroaders everywhere.

Continued on page 6

# Exploring the Rails '14 continued

Saturday evening will be the grand banquet with Dr. Rudy Daniels entertaining us again. The contest winners will be announced during the banquet. We will also be holding the always popular Chinese auction.



Stg. Floyd Boat

Sunday morning will begin with the TLR general membership meeting. After that, the Prairie Lakes Division will be putting on a swap meet. This will be a four-hour feeding frenzy of model railroad buying.

For those heading north, the day isn't over yet! The Otter Valley Railroad Club in Sibley, Iowa has volunteered to have their layout open for anyone traveling that direction. The Otter Valley Club started in 1986 and has evolved into a very large club layout featuring 1630' of track, 93 switches and mountainous terrain consisting of more than 2000 lbs. of plaster!

*TLR Fusee Winter 2013 page 4*

The convention has many non-rail activities put together by my wife, Heather. They include tours of Palmer's Old Time Candy Shoppe, the Sioux City Art Center, the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center, the Orpheum Theater,

a stop at a local winery, and of course, there are also many shopping opportunities.

The Stoney Creek Inn in down-

special rate of \$99.00 a night. To get the special rate, just mention the TLR convention when you call for a reservation at 1-800-659-2220. The hotel offers a great free hot breakfast daily.

Within the hotel is a small pub. It has a great local historical feel to



<http://www.milwaukeeeraillroadshops.org> ED SIBLEY PHOTO

it and has food and drinks to satisfy everyone's needs. The hotel also has a pool that is connected by a waterfall to the outdoor pool. The banquet and clinic area are just a short walk from the hotel rooms. I don't think you will be disappointed with this hotel!



A more detailed schedule will be emailed to registrants at a date closer to the event. We have a great line up of clinicians that we

will include in the email once the schedule is finalized.

town Sioux City will be the site of our convention. It is a modern facility with northwoods decor. The Stoney Creek is offering us a

Hope to have you join us for Exploring the Rails in Sioux City!

**EXPLORING THE RAILS**  
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**MAY 2-4, 2014**  
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**1-800-659-2220**  
**(Room Reservations- \$99 \*Ask for TLR Convention rate)**

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

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

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ NMRA # (Required) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse/Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ NMRA Membership Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

EVENTS AND PRICING:	Price	Total
<b>Early-bird Member Basic Registration (Postmarked before APRIL 18<sup>th</sup> 2014)</b> Includes all clinics, rail tours, Friday and Saturday lunches, Friday dinner and social, Saturday banquet and Sunday breakfast. Meals included when attending rail events. <b>Save \$10!</b>	<b>\$100</b>	
<b>Spouse or Guest Early-bird Registration (Postmarked before ) APRIL 18th 2014</b> Includes all clinics, rail tours, Friday and Saturday lunches, Friday dinner and social, Saturday banquet and Sunday breakfast. Meals included when attending rail events. <b>Save \$10!</b>	<b>\$100</b>	
<b>Registrations postmarked or later APRIL 18th 2014</b>	<b>\$110</b>	
<b>Friday Dinner / Social and Saturday Banquet only</b>	<b>\$35</b>	
<b>6-month Rail Pass NMRA Membership for non-NMRA members</b>	<b>\$10</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	

LET US KNOW WHICH EVENTS YOU ARE PLANNING ON ATTENDING:									
	Member		Spouse			Member		Spouse	
	Y	N	Y	N		Y	N	Y	N
<b>FRIDAY EVENTS</b>					<b>SATURDAY EVENTS</b>				
Ethanol Plant Tour					Transco Railway Repair Tour *				
Non-rail Tours									
Friday Reception - 6:00 pm					Saturday Banquet – 6:00 pm				

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

\*Transco Railway Repair – limited to the first 90 registrants.  
 \*\*Non-rail tours subject to change.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO Thousand Lakes Region :	
Mail completed form and payment to:	Please direct any questions to:
Gerry Miller, Registrar	Jay Davis, Convention Chairman
1040 Hawkeye Dr.	P.O. Box 264
Dubuque, Iowa 52001	Everly, Iowa 51338
(563) 557-9646	jdandice22c@hotmail.com.com / (712) 834-2073

◆ In Memoriam

NMRA life member Bill McKean died at home on Monday, December 30, 2013. Bill had a long and distinguished record in the model railroad world, both as a manufacturer and author. He was a founding member of the Dakota Southeastern Division, president of the Thousand Lakes Region, and a frequent operator on the author's Twin Cities and Western layout during its just completed inaugural year.

Bill will be remembered for his excellent modeling skills, dry sense of humor, and quick quips. Our sincere condolences to the McKean family. A memorial service is planned later this year.



### Minnesota River Valley Division/NMRA Spring Meet

Saturday, April 12: Minnesota River Valley Division/NMRA spring meet (open to NMRA members living in MRVD), 10 a.m. at Kathy's Place, 101 E. Maple St., Sacred Heart, MN. Annual business meeting/election at 11 a.m.

Clinics/slide shows, bring models for show-and-tell, white elephant gift exchange — bring a wrapped model or railfan gift worth at least \$5, no admission, meal paid by division. Visit Brian Wordes' HO layout in nearby rural Sacred Heart after the meet. For more, email Brian at [brigayle@rswb.coop](mailto:brigayle@rswb.coop).



### DSED Featuring New Yard At Trains At Christmas 2013

By Richard Dahl,

For the last several years Sioux Valley Model Engineers Society (SVMES, [www.svmes.net](http://www.svmes.net)), a private club in Sioux Falls, has hosted Trains At Christmas at the W.H. Lyons Fairgrounds Expo building in Sioux Falls a weekend in mid- to late November. The show is well attended by the public, vendors (from Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and local to the Sioux Falls are)



and multiple layouts - all from across the region. There are also various individuals that rent tables to sell off their own equipment they no longer need.

The layouts featured at the last show covered different scales and sizes (with the largest being entailing tens of Fremo modules from different states).

DSEDs modular layout for



the first time ever featured our center island yard. This great improvement was made possible with generous donations from and much work by many of the members throughout 2013. The yard consist of eight yard tracks connecting to both main lines on the layout with access to run in either direction. This enables us to have several trains ready to go and to setup trains away from the action and not blocking the view for the public. It did introduce some new operational challenges like how to operate double slip switches for those that have not had to operate one before and making it harder to keep track of your train. It is truly a great addition to the layout though, and has spurred much activity and enthusiasm in the division.

For DSED this not only an opportunity to use our modular layout, but also to talk model railroaders - aspiring and experienced - in the area about NMRA membership and being active in the division.

If you have not been to Trains At Christmas before, I think you will enjoy it. Look for announcements in future Fusee's and on the SVMES web-site for 2014.



**New switching layout debuts during Trains at Christmas**

by Alan Saatkamp MMR

The new and much improved version of my Progressive Rail switching layout debuted with three custom decorated SW1500s and an EMD SD38-2 on an 8' x 9 1/2' "L" shaped layout mounted on 2" dense foam board.

The local from Northfield arrives in Lakeville, powered by SD38-2 #42 and SW1500 #37. The crew pulls past Carpenter Lumber with its consist of freight cars. The road power will shove the cars back onto the Airlake Industrial Park mainline to be worked by a pair of SW1500s, #36 and #38. When the Airlake crew is done with their work, they will push outbound cars destined for Northfield back on the main. All four locomotives were custom painted and/or decaled by long-time friend and fellow DSED member Eric Carlson.

Nearly the entire north-south "L" portion of the Airlake Industrial Park (everything west of Highview Avenue) is visible here, showing most of the 18" x 8' side of the layout.

Over a dozen modeled prototype industries populate the portable switching layout.

The PGR Airlake project, begun late spring 2013, took nearly six months to complete. It would not have been possible without the advice and personal tour by fellow hobbyist and PGR employee Joe Fehr. My deepest thanks to Joe and Eric for their help and contributions.

The Airlake Industrial Park appeared ready to operate just prior to the opening of Trains at Christmas. Over 60 youngsters enjoyed their opportunity to "drive the train" and switch cars, helping make the debut of this highly-detailed model of the

**New GN Side Sets Planned**

HO & N brass sides for GN 308-313 rebuilt 6-axle 82' Baggage-Express-Mail Storage cars, GN 1215 PS 48-seat Coach w/full skirts and GN 1105-07 ACF Mail-Baggage are planned for fall release. Reserve these and other potential side sets. Commission a new item for as little as \$350-400 for 4 HO or 7 N sets. Most discontinued sets may be obtained by special order. info@brasscarsides.com.

Our brass sides make cars for GN, NP, SP&S, CB&Q, BN, MILW, UP, PRR, NYC, SP, C&NW, IC, B&O, C&E, L&N, KCS, ATSF, MP, CN, VIA & Amtrak. Use HO sides with TSP, Rivarossi, Con-Cor, ECW, Bachmann, Kato, Walthers, our HO Basic Body Kit. N sets use the ALM core kits or plastic dome car overlays. Available through hobby shops or direct from us. See our website for bulletin, illustrated catalog, photos of models from our customers, closeout items, reservation form, tech sheets and Two-DVD "Indiana, Minnesota and Early Amtrak Railroad Memories: 1964-72". Shipping \$4.50 for side orders. Add 6.875% sales tax for MN orders. www.brasscarsides.com 507-931-2784

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The Airlake Industrial Park appeared ready to operate just prior to the opening of Trains at Christmas. Over 60 youngsters enjoyed their opportunity to “drive the train” and switch cars, helping make the debut of this highly-detailed model of the west end of the park a success. Senior Model Railroader magazine editor Jim Hediger inspired (twice) my modeling the Lakeville, MN, prototype by featuring PGR in a 2002 issue of Model Railroader magazine.



# No. 1 Northern talents showcased at Klinik Carnival

By Paul Ullrich

Several members of the No. 1 Northern Division held clinics at the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club's annual Klinik Carnival, which was held on December 13, 2013 at Westworth United Church in Winnipeg. The Klinik Carnival is open to all, and members and non-members of the WMRC are invited to participate, whether they wish to conduct a clinic, or just come and learn something new about model railroading.

One of the No. 1 Northern's most talented and skilled modellers is Ron Einarson. Is there anything he can't do? Give him some steel wool and he'll knit you a Volkswagen. He'll even make the seats out of scrap pieces of sheet styrene and ground foam! If

there's any steel wool left over from that project, he'll use it to make some wood stain!

Holding just one clinic at the club's annual Klinik Carnival wasn't enough for Ron. He held four at the same time: Working with wood, weathering wood, building wood On30 freight cars, and making telephone poles from bamboo skewers! He must've gotten some mighty good grade in woodworking shop in high school!

Ron is the Past President of NMRA Canada and Past Superintendent of the No. 1 Northern Division. Now that he's retired, this new grandfather has a bit more spare time to earn his MMR!

Among the other members of the division who participated were Ian Plett, who held a clinic on freight car maintenance. Ian, who is a long distance truck driver, is best known for



Suzanne Lemon held a clinic on aging wood and peeling paint.

building a layout in the bunk of his truck, which he displayed during the TLR "Steam on the Prairies" convention held in Winnipeg in 2010.

Morgan Turney, publisher of *Canadian Railway Modeller*, held a clinic on making realistic rock cuts out of ceiling tiles. These aren't the large 2'x4' suspended ceiling tiles, but the 12"x12" kind. You can still purchase them in big box hardware stores, but soon Morgan may have to start tearing out ceilings of rec rooms built in the 70's and 80's to get a fresh supply for his modelling!

Suzanne Lemon, Editor of *Railfan Canada* (*Canadian Railway Modeller's* sister publication) demonstrated how to create aging wood and peeling paint. Winnipeg Model Railroad Club President Larry Leavens showed how to work with styrene.

No. 1 Superintendent Dennis Rietze did a clinic on DCC decoders.



Michael leader, the No. 1 Northern Division's undisputed master of the John Allen timesaver module, demonstrates his skill to his sister Rebecca.

Continued from page 9

Our youngest member, 10 year old Michael Leader, demonstrated his skill on using a John Allen Timesaver module. At the No. 1 Northern's last train meet, Michael proved his expertise using the module by being the clear winner in every timesaver competition held that day!

The event was well attended, despite it being in the middle of the Christmas season and a bitterly cold December evening!



Larry Leavens held a clinic on working with styrene.



## Winnipeg Model Railroad Club Open House

By Paul Ullrich

**Saturday, March 15 through Sunday, March 16, 2014:** The Winnipeg Model Railroad Club will be holding their annual open house at Westworth United Church, 1750 Grosvenor Avenue in Winnipeg, Manitoba. There will be several operating layouts, including the No. 1 Northern Division's Free-mo group modular railway, the largest modular railway in the province. The man with the giraffe cars will let the kiddies operate the dump cars on his portable Lionel layout. Clinics will be held, as well as the entries for the club's annual model and photo contests. Admission by donation. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to support the St. Amant Centre, a comprehensive resource centre for Manitobans with developmental disabilities.



## Spud Valley Model Railroad Club

By Don Radeck

The Spud Valley Model Railroad Club from West Fargo, ND and the South Red River Valley Division displayed an N-scale layout at the KFGO Radio Christmas Party in Fargo, December 13, 2013. Spud Valley member, Duane Durr and KFGO program director, Joel Heitkamp came up with the idea after the 2012 party. Duane has displayed his Lionel train in the newsroom for many years and Joel thought it would be nice to have a train in the broadcast studio also. The KFGO party, billed as the "earliest" Christmas party of the season since it goes from 6:00 am to 9:00 am, attracts nearly a thousand people. The guests walk through the building, getting a chance to view the six different radio stations on air, with the flag ship being KFGO. Spud Valley member Don Radeck built the layout and supplied the rolling stock. The layout was a big hit and the club has been invited back next year. Joel interviewed Don on the air, giving him a chance to promote model railroading and the Spud Valley Club.

Spud Valley also had the chance to show off their HO layout, located in the former Northern Pacific depot from Katheryn, ND, at Bonanzaville's annual Christmas on the Prairie celebration at the Bonanzaville USA Pioneer Village in West Fargo, December 7. Hundreds of people braved the cold to listen to carolers, visit with Santa, check out the Spud Valley layout and participate in several other festive activities.



Duane Durr and Don Radeck of the Spud Valley Model Railroad Club next to their n-scale layout in the KFGO studio. Duane and Don set the layout up the night before so it would be ready for the 6 am start. (photo courtesy of KFGO)

# The Thousand Lakes Region of the NMRA

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**Bring a friend  
To your next  
Club meeting!**

Advertising should be mailed to THE FUSEE editor as camera-ready artwork or electronic files (jpeg, tiff, gif, or EPS with outlined fonts). Enclose payment in U.S. funds, international money order, or by check drawn on U.S. banks. Contact the editor if questions.

**Fusee Advertising**

Commercial advertising from hobby shops, manufacturers, and businesses associated with model railroading interests are 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 35% of the annual rate.

<u>Ad size (HxW)</u>	<u>Annual commercial rate</u>	<u>One time commercial rate</u>	<u>Annual pike ad rate</u>
Full pg 9 5/8 x 7 1/8"	\$145.00	\$50.75	\$90.00
1/2 pg 4 3/4 x 7 1/8"	90.00	31.50	45.00
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 3 3/4 x 2 1/4"	25.00	8.75	15.00
1/12 pg 2 3/8 x 2 1/4"	18.50	6.48	10.00



Winter 2013  
**The Fusee**  
6305 W. Westminster Dr.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

### What's Inside?

**TLR Convention, Exploring the Rails '14 and Registration.**

**In Memoriam**

**New Switching Layout**

**Minnesota River Valley Division**

**DSED New Yard**

**Klinic Karnival**

Check your expiration date! If you have questions (or a change of address) email Jim Krekelberg at: [jkrekelberg@sio.midco.net](mailto:jkrekelberg@sio.midco.net)

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

**Friday, May 2 through Sunday, May 4 2014 Thousand Lakes Region Convention. Exploring the Rails '14.** Sioux City, Iowa.

**March 15 & 16:** Winnipeg Model Railroad Club Open House.

**Saturday, March 22 and Sunday, March 23, 2014.** Great Trains Expo in Des Moines, Iowa.

**April 12:** Minnesota River Valley Division Spring Meet.

