

THE CROSSING GATE



Twin Cities Division * Thousand Lakes Region * National Model Railroad Association

Special Edition 2008



*The
World's
Greatest
Hobby!*

ALL ABOARD!

There's no hobby like model railroading. From benchwork to finished layout, a model railroader gets the chance to be a carpenter, electrician, gandy dancer, civil planner, artist, historian, dispatcher, and engineer... sometimes all in one evening!

But no one can be an expert in all those areas and there are times when you need one-on-one advice, when you'd like to discuss a problem, when you'd like to learn a technique, or when you'd like the inspiration that only comes from seeing other layouts in the flesh.

That's exactly why the Twin Cities Division of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) is in existence—to help model railroaders like you meet others in the hobby who share your same interests.

If you are already an NMRA member, you automatically belong to the Twin Cities Division (TCD), and you can enjoy the many benefits that membership brings. If you haven't joined yet, then become an NMRA member today, and start participating in the many events the TCD has to offer here in the Twin Cities area.

TCD Club Car Entertainment

Monthly meetings at the Jackson Street Roundhouse

- Seminars
- Raffles
- Contests
- Fellowship

Layout tours

- Private showings of railroad collections
- Fun for children of all ages

The CROSSING GATE quarterly newsletter

- Scheduled events
- Informative articles

Twin Cities Division website—www.tcdnmra.org

- Divisional news
- Previous CROSSING GATE issues
- Links to other useful sites

A chance to talk, learn, laugh and win... once every month

Ask any 10 members of the Twin Cities Division why they're members, and chances are you'll get 10 different answers. That's because there are so many reasons for membership, there's something for everyone.



Clinician Dave Vos shares several of his hundreds of slides depicting the Twin Cities railroad scene.

Monthly Meetings. On the second Thursday of every month from October through May, the Twin Cities Division holds its monthly meeting. It's a time when prototype and model railroad lovers alike get together with "others of their kind" for story swapping, fellowship, and informative presentations. You'll find it's the perfect place to meet people who share your railroad interests, to get answers to those tricky questions, and to find out what's going on in the prototype and model railroad community. No matter if you're just getting started in the hobby or if you're an old pro, chances are the Twin Cities Division has a member who knows the answer and is more than happy to share it.

Modeling Clinics. Each monthly meeting usually features a "how-to" clinic on a modeling topic. Recent clinics have included everything from building three-dimensional background buildings and assembling benchwork, to backdrop cloud painting and detailing model autos.

Prototype Presentations. You don't have to be a modeler or have a layout to get a lot out of the Twin Cities Division. You just need an interest in trains. The evening's second presentation is typically a slide show dealing with some aspect of prototype railroading. In the past these presentations have featured guest speakers from railroads in the surrounding area, and TCD members themselves who have extensive prototype slide libraries. Topics have included a look at Twin Cities rails over the last 50 years, Progressive Rail, The Hutch Line, and weed control on the right-of-way.

Other fun reasons to come. Each meeting features a Popular Vote Contest for models, based on a pre-announced theme. Themes have ranged from grain elevator dioramas to maintenance-of-way cars to whimsical railroads. Ribbons are awarded for first, second, and third place winners as selected by the meeting attendees. In addition, NMRA Merit Award judging takes place at one meeting every year. Members participating in the NMRA's "Master Model Railroader" Achievement Program—and other modelers curi-



Monthly Popular Vote Contests, each with a different theme, give members the opportunity to both show their work and win prize ribbons.

ous to see how their work rates with qualified judges—are free to bring in models for judging.

The evening usually wraps up with a drawing for half-a-dozen or more door prizes, generously donated by local hobby shops.



Gloria Burnell demonstrates the use of a stencil during her backdrop cloud painting clinic at a previous TCDivision meeting.

Take exclusive tours of layouts all around the Twin Cities Area

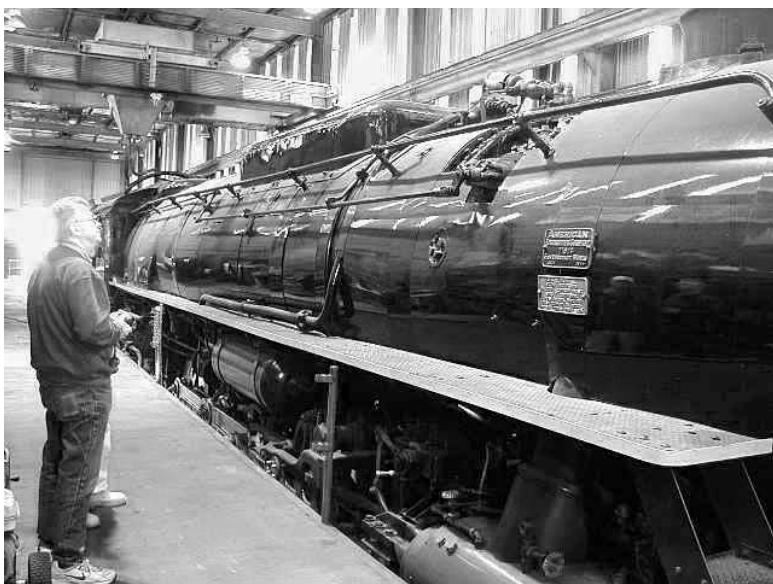
Sure, it's fun to talk about different train layouts, and it's fun to read about different train layouts, but nothing beats getting out and seeing different train layouts. That's just what our layout tours are designed to do—let you get out and get inspired by some of this area's finest model railroad layouts.

Each meeting season between October and May, the Twin Cities Division sponsors several tours to model railroad layouts in the Twin Cities metro area. Usually held on Saturdays or Sundays, each of these tours features several layouts located near one another in a specific area of the metro area. So no matter where you live, you won't be very far from some three-dimensional inspiration.

Because these tours are exclusively for NMRA members and their families, you'll have plenty of time to linger, ask questions, take photos, study the trackplan, admire the scenery—

and if you're very lucky,
maybe even run a train!

FLAYOUT TOURS



In lieu of a 2003 Spring Layout Tour, members of the Twin Cities Division got a unique closed-door tour of the famous Milwaukee Road 261, a restored 4-8-4 steam engine. Because the engine was in for inspection and re-certification, TCD members got a rare glimpse inside both the firebox and the smokebox, as well as being able to tour the servicing pit. It was "the ultimate layout tour!"



Joe Herrick's Sn3 Denver & Rio Grande Western features spectacular Colorado mountain scenery as well as handlaid track. This now-dismantled layout was one of the 2002-2003 layout tour stops.



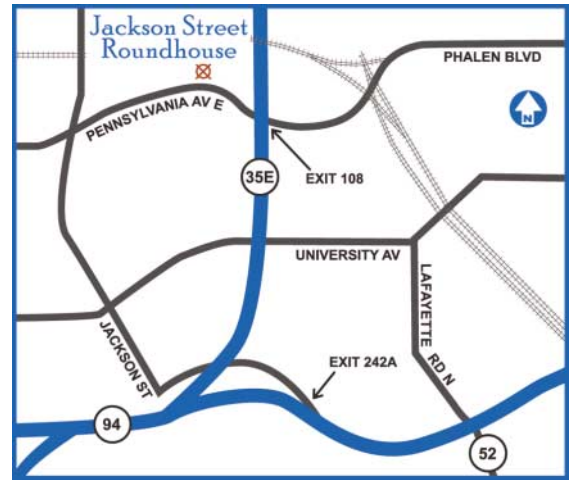
Gerry Leone is a TCD member and MMR who has won many prizes for his structures and scenery.



Bill Brigg's 30 x 50 HO layout was featured in the Fall 2007 tour.

Join Us!

Experience the historic Jackson Street Roadhouse



When: Twin Cities Division meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month between October and May, and begin at 7:00 PM. (Visit www.tcdnmra.org for possible schedule changes.)

Where: Jackson Street Roundhouse, 193 Pennsylvania Ave E, Saint Paul, MN, 55130. Tel: 651.291.7588. (Go to www.mtmuseum.org for a map and driving directions.)

The Division Delivers!

THE CROSSING GATE, is delivered once every quarter to subscribers' mailboxes. The emailed version is in color and saves both the Division—and YOU— money!

This informative newsletter features articles, NMRA and Division news, modeling tips, prototype stories, photographs, clinic schedules, calendars of local events, and much more. Subscribers are encouraged to contribute articles and photos, and receive credit

toward their "Author Certificate" if they're participating in the NMRA's "Master Model Railroader (MMR)" Achievement Program.

Then, set your web browser to www.tcdnmra.org for up-to-the-minute Divisional news and meeting schedule updates, as well as interesting links, member contributions, and additional photographs not published in THE CROSSING GATE.

Introducing the best deal in model railroading.

Join the NMRA for 6 months for just \$9.95!

- Easy access to one of the world's largest railroad libraries
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Visit www.nmra.org to see what you're missing!

Fill out this form and include your payment. **U.S.:** Send \$9.95 (U.S.) to NMRA-Rail Pass Membership, 4121 Cromwell Road, Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119. **Canada:** Send \$9.95 (Cdn) to NMRA-Canadian Rail Pass Membership, 69 Schroder Cres., Guelph, ON N1E 7B4, Canada.

*Rail Pass offer is for new members and those who have not been NMRA members for two years or more. Individuals can join at Rail Pass rates only once; membership renewal will be at the regular membership rate. Rail Pass members can attend conventions and participate in contests, but cannot vote or hold office and will not receive a New Member Pak.

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