

# The Crossing Gate

SUMMER  
2003



Newsletter of the Twin Cities Division, Thousand Lakes Region, National Model Railroad Association • [www.twincitiesdivision.com](http://www.twincitiesdivision.com)

## Division meetings move to Maplewood this Fall

By a vote of 31 to 9, the Twin Cities Division membership present at the May 2003 Business Meeting agreed to move the regular monthly meeting location from the Osseo United Methodist Church to the Maplewood Moose Lodge. This decision was the result of intense discussion at the meeting and a year of investigation by members of the TCD Board.

The new meeting location is in the basement below the lower level of the Lodge. See the map below.

The subject of a venue change had been brought up at the May 2002 Business Meeting, where it was decided that the TCD Board of Directors would act as an exploratory committee to locate possible alternate locations. While all agreed that the Midway area of St. Paul would be ideal because of its central Metro location, no suitable meeting sites were found there.

A spirited, hour-long discussion followed the motion to move the meeting locale. Relative merits of both the Osseo and Maplewood locations were compared, including location, access, parking, multimedia resources, and smoking/non-smoking issues.

The motion was carried by hand vote of the 40 members present -- a number determined to be a quorum based on Robert's Rules Online.

### OTHER MEETING NEWS

New officers were nominated and elected at the meeting. Lynn McCall became Superintendent and Bill Dredge, Al Dowd, and Neil Maldeis were voted in as Assistant Superintendent, Chief Clerk, and Layout Coordinator, respectively.

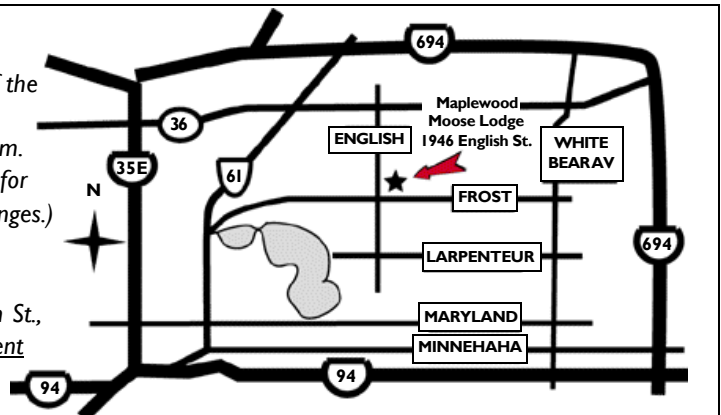
A motion was also made to change the meeting time from 7:30pm to 7:00pm, but after brief discussion the membership agreed to take this subject up at the May 2004 meeting.

#### WHEN:

The first meeting of the season is Thursday, October 9 at 7:30pm. (Check our website for any last minute changes.)

#### WHERE:

Maplewood Moose Lodge, 1946 English St., Maplewood, basement level



## **Twin Cities Division Board & Officers**

### **Superintendent**

Lynn McCall  
763-531-2044  
superintendent@twincitiesdivision.com

### **Assistant Superintendent**

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### **Chief Clerk**

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### **Public Relations**

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### **NMRA Achievement Program**

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ap@twincitiesdivision.com

### **Director at Large for Layout Tours**

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### **Popular Vote Contest Chairperson**

Pam Notman

### **NMRA Contest Chairman**

Dave Burnell  
contest@twincitiesdivision.com

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Articles, photos, tips, or ideas are heartily encouraged and will be enthusiastically accepted in any format (PC or Mac; Word, Simple Text, typed, handwritten, scribbled on the back of a bar napkin, etc.) Send it to your editor by regular mail to THE CROSSING GATE, 6459 Smithtown Road, Excelsior, MN, 55331, by email to editor@twincitiesdivision.com, or hand it to him (along with a \$5 bribe) at the next Division meeting.



## **From the Superintendent**

First, as you've probably seen on the front page of this issue, the TCD has a new home in Maplewood, on the Northeast corner of Frost and English. It was touch-and-go for a while, but after some last minute negotiations with the Moose Lodge, we'll be paying them \$35 a month.

Next, I'd like to welcome all the new and returning officers of the Division. I'm looking forward to working with you to keep the TCD moving forward. The first few months' clinics and presentations look to be promising and fun.

Third, in keeping with the philosophy of previous Super Michael Mornard, I'd like to continue to make the Division the outlet of model railroading information in the Twin Cities metro area. So in that vein, this year at the GATS show we're going to try something new: an NMRA judging. Look for info in this issue of THE CROSSING GATE. But something like this can only happen if everyone pitches in. We need people to help with entry registration and security, and manning the booth itself. Please volunteer, even if it's just for an hour.

Last and not least, I'd like to thank the previous officers of the TCD for bringing us where we are today. Let's have fun this year. - Lynn



## **From the Editor**

I'm just going to jump right in, introduce myself ("Hi, I'm Gerry Leone, the new editor") and get right into some "meat."

You've already seen the reformatting of the front page and the rest of the newsletter. But if you've turned to the next page, you've seen the big surprise: color! It was something I was hoping could be added to THE CROSSING GATE, and it turns out it's now economically do-able without greatly affecting our price per issue.

Color is a feature I hope to bring to every issue. Another is what I call "expanded content." Sure, you'll still find the important stuff, like Al Dowd's *Call Board*, but in addition I'd love to include articles, modeling tips, photographs... more "stuff." But I'll need everyone's help.

If you have an idea for an article, why not take an hour to write it and share it with the Division? If you have a great model or prototype picture, dig it out and let us publish it. Have a modeling tip? (Who doesn't?) Send it along. Got a beef with or a compliment for the Division? Let us hear it. The newsletter can only be as good as the effort everyone puts into it.

And don't worry about spelling and grammar and all that. That's what editors are for. Just get it down on paper; I'll worry about those nasty little details.

### **Contributors to this issue:**

Al Dowd and Lynn McCall  
**Thanks!**

**Deadline for next issue:**  
September 15, 2003

You'll also be seeing some changes on our website, too, as I try to coordinate and update that. If you have any suggestions or contributions, drop me a line.

Thanks in advance for your help! See you at the monthly meetings. -Gerry

# Division members go one-on-one with the 261

Outgoing Director-at-Large for Layout Tours Steve Nitti called it "the ultimate layout tour...my crowning achievement" as Division members got a close encounter behind closed doors with one of the most famous steamers still running in the Midwest, the Milwaukee Road 261. The event took place on Saturday, May 10, 2003, from noon to 4 p.m.

Because the engine was in for routine servicing, members were able to get a first-hand look at details of the firebox, smokebox, valve gear, and other parts of the engine that would have been totally inaccessible if it had been fired up.

Friends of the 261 were on-hand to explain some of the nuances of this hulking 4-8-4: its massive firebox, with a floor area of 100 square feet,

takes 20 hours to fire up and then eats a ton of coal every 12 to 15 miles. The tender carries 35 tons of the stuff.

The 261 was one of 10 engines in this series, and was the last steam delivered to the Milwaukee Road shops. Its enclosed cab made it pleasant to operate, and its steel cast pilot made it distinctive in appearance.

The 261 was retired in 1956 and sent to the Green Bay Railroad Museum. In 1989/1990 it was completely disassembled, restored, and brought up to current railroad standards.

A big thanks to Steve Nitti and the Friends of the 261 for organizing this rare opportunity!

See pages 4 & 5 for pictures, and visit [www.twincitiesdivision.com](http://www.twincitiesdivision.com) for more!

# NMRA model contest to be held at GATS

Get your models ready, because this year's Twin Cities Great American Train Show will feature an NMRA-sanctioned model contest sponsored by the Division. The contest is open to all NMRA members in good standing, and will be held on Saturday, October 25. Entries will be accepted and registered between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., with judging taking place from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

If you're planning to enter, complete the contest paperwork for each entry in advance, since it's time consuming. This will not only save you time at the show, it'll result in a more thorough description of your modeling efforts -- something beneficial to the judging process. Advance copies of the forms, plus other contest information, are available on the NMRA's web page ([www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)). Completed copies of the contest entry form (#901) and the model contest judge's score sheet (#902) are required for each model entry. Only the contest entry form is required for each photo entry.

All models entered will be judged for merit points. First, Second, and Third Places will be determined by total points earned. In order for an entry to place, it must earn a minimum of 62.5 points (50% of the total possible points). A model does not have to earn a merit award to qualify for a contest award.

All model and photo entries must be original work done by the contestant. A model or photo which has previously earned First Place in a Regional or National Contest is ineligible.

*Continued on page 6*



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## TCD Timetable

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### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2003 7:30 pm

MODELING CLINIC – *Weathering Rolling Stock* (Michael Mornard)  
PROTOTYPE PRESENTATION – *Railroading Through the Years*  
(Slide show by Barry Karlberg)  
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST – *Flatcar Loads*

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2003 7:30 pm

MODELING CLINIC – *Handlaid Turnouts* (John Thomas)  
PROTOTYPE PRESENTATION – *CNW Mankato* (Slide show by Dave Vos)  
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST – *Passenger Cars*

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2003 7:30 pm

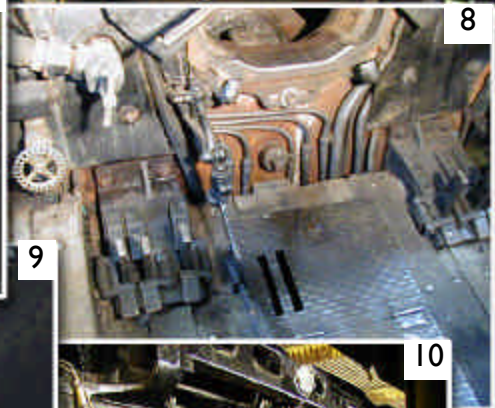
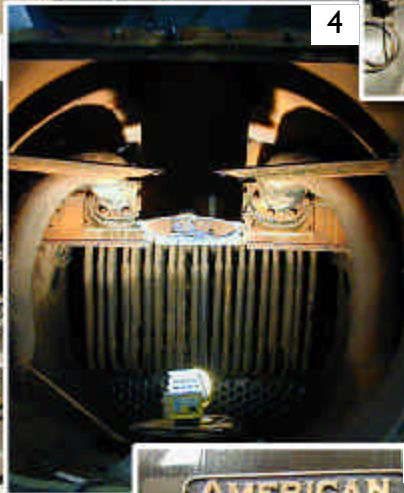
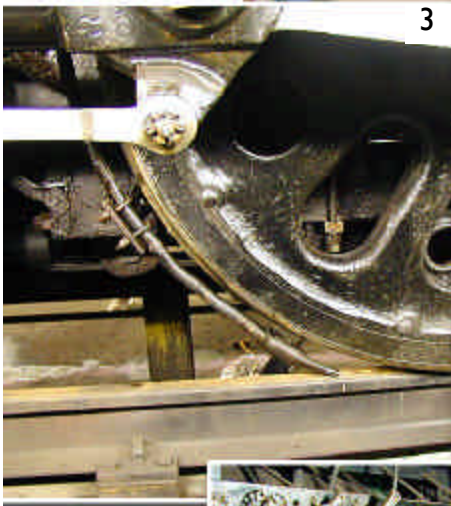
MODELING CLINIC – *Computer Layout Design Using 3rd PlanIt*  
(Bob Sterner)  
PROTOTYPE PRESENTATION – *Stations* (Slide show by Paul & Kara Hutchins)  
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST – *Square-foot Diorama: Winter in Minnesota*



# The Milwaukee Road 261

On May 10, 2003 Twin Cities Division members got a chance to take the ultimate "layout tour"

See story on page 3



1. Division members admire the fantastic restoration of this famous engine

2. A club volunteer explains the maze of gauges and valves in the 261's cab

3. Close-up of a driver sander

4. An ultra-rare glimpse inside the engine's smokebox

5. The engineer's window

6. The air activated butterfly doors are just one of the "luxuries" in the 261's cab

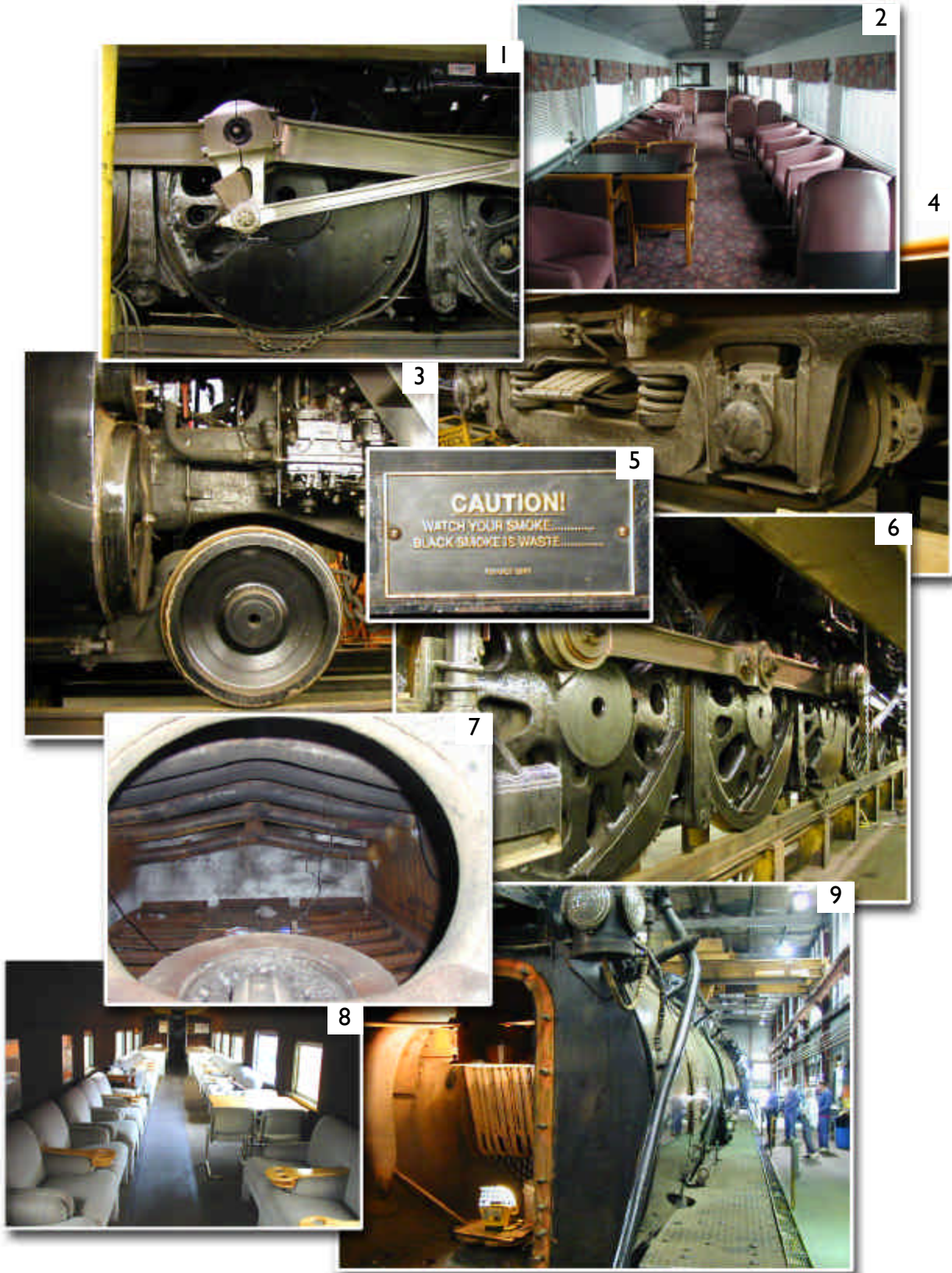
7. The engine's Alco boiler plate

8. Grate shakers on the floor allow the fireman to keep a uniform fire burning in the engine

9. A recent shot of the 261 outside of Hopkins, during a run from Minneapolis to Wayzata

10. Even the inspection pit was open for the tour, and members got a rare glimpse of the valve gear and underside of the engine





1. One of the engine's massive drivers

2. Besides the 261, the club also had two newly restored passenger cars open for display to visitors

3. The massive pilot wheel at the front of the engine

4. Close up of one of the passenger car trucks

5. A cautionary sign bolted to the firebox in the cab

6. The inspection pit let TCD members get up-close and personal with the rods and drivers

7. Another rare scene: the inside of the 261's firebox

8. The second of the restored passenger cars

9. The smokebox was opened, well-lit, and waiting for Amtrak inspectors

**Visit [www.twincities.com](http://www.twincities.com) for larger versions of these photos, plus additional shots.**

# Railfan & Hobby Show CALL BOARD

**Saturday, 9/20/2003**

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Model Railroad & Hobby Sale**, Education Building, Minnesota State Fairgrounds

Admission: \$4.00; under 5 free

Show Contact: TCMRM Sale; (651) 489-8085, Website: <http://www.tcmrm.org/>

**Saturday, 10/11/2003**

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**9th Hutchinson Model Railroad Show**, McLeod County Fairgrounds Agribition Building, 840 Century Ave. S.W., Hutchinson, MN

Admission: \$3 per person. Children age 12 and under, free.

Show Contact: (320) 587-8073. For More Information: [luceline.tripod.com](http://luceline.tripod.com)

*A popular show within the area usually attracting about a dozen operating portable model railroads in several scales, 50 flea market tables, a popular vote model contest and clinics. Hosted by Luce Line Railroad Club Inc., a 100 percent NMRA club, and the Minnesota River Valley Division of the NMRA/Thousand Lakes Region*

**Saturday, 10/25/2003**

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Sunday, 10/26/2003**

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Great American Train Show (GATS)**, RiverCentre, 143 West Fourth Street, Saint Paul, MN

Admission: Adults: \$7.00; Kids 12 and Under: FREE!

Show Contact: Great American Train Show, P.O. Box 93955, Las Vegas, NV 89119

(702)-252-0334; <http://www.greatamericantrainshow.com>

*NMRA model contest on Saturday (see article in this issue)*

**Saturday, 11/1/2003**

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Greater Upper Midwest Train Show & Sale**

Location: Century College West Campus, 3300 Century Avenue North, White Bear Lake, MN (Two blocks north of I-694 and Highway 120 (Century Avenue))

Admission: Adults \$4.00; Children 12 and under free.

Show Contact: Tom Jefferson; (651) 429-2885

*I prepare this listing as a service for the members of the Twin Cities Division. The content is derived from public sources; the format and layout are mine. If you should copy this in any substantial way, please give me credit. I have made a good-faith effort to create an accurate and timely listing. However, I cannot guarantee absolute accuracy. If you have any doubts about the information, please confirm it through other sources (Show Contact, for example), particularly if you need to make a significant journey to attend one of these shows. I'll leave it to you to determine what constitutes a significant journey. I really do want to make this listing as accurate and as useful as possible. My intention is to include shows and events within a one-day drive of the Twin Cities. If you find any errors or omissions, please feel free to contact me. If you have my phone number, please call before 10 PM. Otherwise, track me down at a TCD meeting or send me email with the correction and a link to any pertinent online information. Al Dowd, Chief Clerk of the TCD*

## "Contest" cont'd from page 3

The contest categories are: Steam Locomotives, Diesel Locomotives and Other Motive Power, Passenger Cars, Freight Cars, Caboose, Non-revenue Cars, Traction, On-line Structures, Off-line Structures, On-line Displays, Off-line Displays, Prototype Color Prints, Prototype Black & White Prints, Prototype Slides, Model Color Prints, Model Black & White Prints, Model Slides.

Photo entries must be mounted on rigid board or matted with a similar material. No glass frames are allowed. Photo and mount can not exceed 12" x 16". Minimum mount size is 8" x 10" and minimum print size is 5" x 7". A maximum of ten photo entries, with no more than five in any one category, will be allowed

by any one entrant.

There will be awards for First, Second, and Third Place winners in all categories. In addition, a Youth Award will be presented to the highest point total model submitted by a contestant 18 years old or younger and a Best of Show award will be presented to the model entry with the highest judged point total.

If you have questions, contact Contest Chairman Dave Burnell at [contest@twincitiesdivision.com](mailto:contest@twincitiesdivision.com).

The GATS show will be held on October 25 and 26 at River Centre, 143 West Fourth Street, St. Paul, from 11 to 5. Admission is \$7, and children 12 and under are free.

## Railfan Groups and Model Railroad Clubs in the Twin Cities

**Great River Valley System**, N scale, Contact The Chairman, [dtk@grvs.com](mailto:dtk@grvs.com)

**The Greater East Area Model Railroad Club of Newport (The Newport Club)**, HO scale, Old Town Hall, 7th Ave & 6th St, Newport, MN, contact: [dsblume@compuserve.com](mailto:dsblume@compuserve.com)

**Hennepin Overland Railroad Historical Society**, HO scale, 2501 E. 38th St., Minneapolis, MN 55406, (612) 276-9034, contact Jim Rasmussen

**The Metropolitan Modelers and Railfan Ass'n**, all scales, contact Rick Krenke at Scale Model Supplies, 458 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, MN 55104, (651) 646-7781

**The Railroad Club at the University of Minnesota**, N & HO scales, contact Andy Inserra, [inse0005@tc.umn.edu](mailto:inse0005@tc.umn.edu)

**Twin City Model Railroad Museum**, O scale, 1021 Bandana Blvd. East, Suite 222, St. Paul, MN 55108, (651) 647-9628

# McCall takes top honors in KC

## photo contest

Our own Superintendent, Lynn McCall, took top honors in two categories of the photo contest held at the Mid-Continent Regional in Kansas City last May.

In all, he received two First Place awards: one for a slide submitted in the "Modeling" category and the other for a slide submitted in the "Prototype" category. Lynn also received Second and Third Place awards for entries in the "Prototype" category.

We'll be printing some of his award winning pictures in the next issue.



## Modeling Tips & Tricks

**CA Gap Filler** – Thick formulas of CA are good for filling small gaps, but to fill larger gaps, sprinkle some baking soda into the crack or hole, pat it down and shape it, then put a drop or two of CA into the baking soda. It'll turn hard as a rock. It's sandable, too!

**CA Applicator** – Find a sewing needle with a larger eye and use a cut-off disk in a Dremel to lop the top of the eye off, leaving a "Y" shape. Use that to apply a very small drop of CA to a model in exactly the place you want it.



To make it even easier to use, make a handle by mounting the needle in a piece of dowel.

**Cleaning the Applicator** – The CA applicator will get gunked up eventually. To clean it, soak the tip in a little Acetone. Cut a disc of foam slightly larger than the neck of an empty glass paint jar (a 1/2 ounce Polly Scale jar is great), drill a small hole in the center of the foam, and put the disc in the bottle neck. To clean the needle push it through the hole to let it soak in the Acetone. The foam keeps the Acetone from evaporating too quickly.

*Have a tip, hint, trick or technique you think is the greatest... or at least pretty good? Share it! We don't care if it's original, someone told it to you, or you read it somewhere, let us hear about it!*

## A special thanks to these local hobby shops who support the Twin Cities Division

Beaumont Quality Tools  
3539 West 44th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55410  
(612) 922-1954

Becker's Model Railroad Supply  
2166 Silver Lake Road  
New Brighton, MN 55112  
(651) 635-9480  
<http://members.aol.com/wcbecker>

Como Shops  
1021 Bandana Blvd. E  
Saint Paul, MN 55108  
(651) 646-2094  
<http://www.skypoint.com/~jcluecke>

Dad's Trains  
2647 Co Rd 22 NW  
Alexandria, MN 56308  
(320) 763-6545  
[bryants4@rea-alp.com](mailto:bryants4@rea-alp.com)

Hobbytown USA  
7916 Brooklyn Park Blvd.  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445  
(763) 424-5900  
<http://www.hobbytown.com/>

Hobbytown USA  
11319 Highway 7  
Minnetonka, MN 55305  
(952) 931-2262  
<http://www.hobbytown.com/>

Hobby Zone  
1960 Cliff Lake Road Suite 115  
Eagan, MN 55122  
(651) 905-9523

Hub Hobby Center  
82 Minnesota Ave.  
Little Canada, MN 55117  
(651) 490-1675

Hub Hobby Center  
6416 Penn Avenue S  
Richfield, MN 55423  
(612) 866-9575

Ill Rail Trains  
535 Northdale Blvd. NW  
Coon Rapids, MN 55448  
(763) 767-9545

KDC Model Trains  
915 Hopkins Center  
Hopkins, MN 55343  
(952) 938-5456  
<http://www.kdc-trains.com/>

Mendota Bike & Hobby  
1040 Dakota Drive  
Mendota Heights, MN 55120  
(651) 454-2066

The N Shop  
3956 Lyndale Avenue N  
Minneapolis, MN 55412  
(612) 521-8909

Northern Scale Models  
PO Box 27354  
Minneapolis, MN 55427  
(763) 475-0647  
<http://www.northernscale.com/>

Osseo Train World  
340 Central Avenue  
Osseo, MN 55369  
(763) 425-7171

Scale Model Supplies  
458 Lexington Parkway  
Saint Paul, MN 55104  
(651) 646-7781

Steve's Train City  
912 Main Street  
Hopkins, MN 55343  
(952) 933-0200

Check your mailing label to see when your membership expires!

**Inside:**  
◆ New monthly meeting location!  
◆ TCD visits the 261 NIMRA model contest at GATS

THE CROSSING GATE  
Twin Cities Division, TLR, NMRA  
PO Box 14470  
St. Paul, MN 55114

# Become a part of the Division!

(Already a member? Then pass this newsletter -- and this form -- along to a friend.)

Why not join in the fun? Just send \$5 for one year or \$9 for two years to:

Twin Cities Division  
PO Box 14470  
St. Paul, MN 55114

or attend one of our monthly meetings and sign up there.

To learn more about the Twin Cities Division, contact:

Lynn McCall, Superintendent  
763-531-2044  
superintendent@twincitiesdivision.com

Bruce Notman, Division Assistant  
612-721-3274  
assistant@twincitiesdivision.com

**Sure... sign me up!** I'd like to join the Twin Cities Division or renew my membership.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s)

New [  ] Renewal [  ]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Scale(s) or Prototype interest: \_\_\_\_\_