

THE CROSSING GATE



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

Summer 2013

Vol. 32.2



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TLR CONVENTION IN MPLS WAS HUGE SUCCESS



TLR Convention layout by Gary Hanson. Nice bridges over a multi-track yard. This was a large layout with excellent scenery and many different viewing points.

By Ken Zieska

The Thousand Lakes Region, National Model Railroad Association, held their annual convention in Minneapolis over May 17-19. Many members of the Twin Cities Division worked on the convention. Art VanDeWater coordinated layout tours. He had 28 great private layouts, most open more than one time so convention goers had plenty of chances to visit. Public or club layouts including the Twin Cities Model Railroad Club, Hennepin Overland and North Metro Model Railroad Club were open. Also available for tours were Progressive Rail, MTM and the Milwaukee 261. One tour that was particularly well attended was the James J. Hill House in St. Paul. The convention also featured an extensive clinic schedule. Members could attend over 30 hours of clinics with experts from all across the United States. Most of the clinics were followed up with a hands-on session down in the modeler's workshop, giving everyone the opportunity to learn in a small group setting with these skilled modelers. To get a better clinic offering you would need to attend the

(Continued on page 3)

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THE CROSSING GATE

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VOLUME 32, NUMBER 2, SUMMER 2013

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Articles, photos, tips, or ideas are heartily encouraged and will be enthusiastically accepted! The preferred format would be in Rich Text Format (RTF), with photos as JPEGs, but we will accept any format (from a PC or Mac; MS Word, Simple Text, typed, or handwritten). Send it to your editor by regular mail to **THE CROSSING GATE**, 1922 Christensen Ave, W. St. Paul, MN 55118, or by email to editor@tcdnmra.org.

From the Superintendent

I hope you are enjoying a great summer. As your Super, let me reflect on some highlights from the last 12 months in TCD and look ahead. The 2012-2013 TCD season went well, with good clinics, our first "operations 101" hands on session, and, of course, the assistance we lent in the Thousand Lakes Region Convention in May.

During our May business meeting at the TCD, we came up with a great schedule of clinics and events for the coming 2013-2014 program year. There is still opportunity to add your ideas for clinics to be held after the first of the year, and there is room for you to be involved in their preparation or presentation. We also developed a list of next season's modeling contest topics, so you can start thinking about that perfect project that will net you a ribbon.

In October, we will feature our first Fallen Flag presentation on the Great Northern. We will show slides and video of the Great Northern. Looking for more than roster shots, we want to show GN facilities and operations around the region. We hope to have some vintage maps so we can also find long lost footprints of the Great Northern. Everyone is encouraged to bring GN models to show.

The Monster Structure Show is an opportunity to show off some ideas we learned at the TLR Convention. Bring and show a structure you have built using a Monster kit or components and earn a Monster prize. That this activity will be held in October near Halloween is no coincidence.

In November, we will share ideas on how to install DCC into locomotives built prior to the present era when newly manufactured locomotives are DCC ready. Bring your ideas or your questions on installation problems. Also in November, bring a Clever Brothers structure. They were another great clinic enjoyed at the TLR Convention.

Finishing out 2013, we will have our annual auction and year end celebration in December. I am looking forward to seeing you at the many TCD events in the coming TCD season.

Ken Zieska, TCD Superintendent

From the Editor

I especially thank Dave Hohle and Art Hill for their outstanding contributions to this issue. The summer issue is never easy because contributors are elsewhere occupied this time of year. Dave is always willing to supply pictures, and this time I asked him to provide a little information, too, because I could not attend the TLR convention. I was cruising along at 200 km/hr on the German Railway. Art's extraordinary work with city buildings deserves wider coverage than it will get here. I hope to do his work justice in future issues.

Wayne Bjorlie, ed.

(Continued from page 1)

NMRA National Convention. Stretching the offering envelope even more, Dave Hamilton coordinated operating sessions on Thursday prior to the convention as well as during the convention. By no means to be forgotten, skilled modelers also showed up with some inspiring entries for the model contest.

Congratulations from the entire Twin Cities Division are in order for the TCD members who were honored with Achievement Program certificates at the convention. Dave Hohle, Ron Bodin, and Eric Boone all received their Association Volunteer certificates. Ed Schultz was awarded his Golden Spike. In addition, several TCD members were recognized for their modeling prowess in the contests.



TLR Layout, left. German-American Model RR Group. Double table top, HO, German scenery with all German equipment and details.

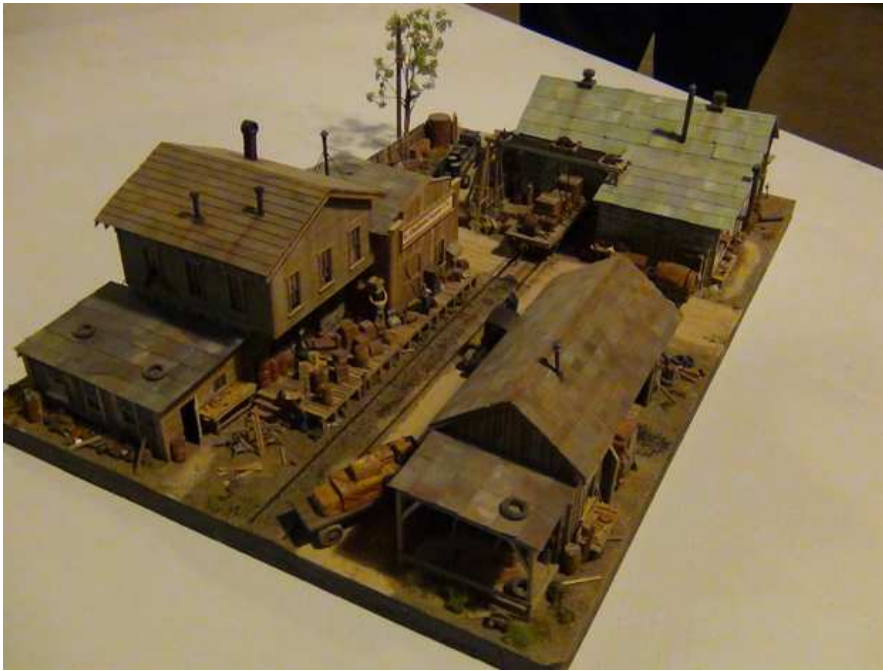
TLR layout, right, by Steve Doyle. Downtown Chicago and some outer suburbs, highly detailed. S gauge. Steve also had some spectacular lighting of skyscrapers, as well as everyday details such as a hot dog and donut stand.

TLR Photos by Dave Hohle



TCD CONTEST WINNER

Mike Engler was the winner of the April TCD Contest for dioramas. Mike's Railroad Camp is one of many outstanding dioramas that he has produced over the years in his own, inimitable style. Viewers of his work have to ask themselves, "How does he do it?" How does he find or manufacture all of those fine details and fit them together in a way that most of the rest of us can't even conceive of? Then, the weathering makes the diorama look it has sat outside for twenty-five years. On top of that, it makes sense from a credibility/workability standpoint. You could actually find it somewhere in the real world.



Mike has won many contests at the TLR conventions over the years, and every entry was a gem. Who can forget his logging mill that won Best of Show in Winnipeg?

Photos by Dave Hohle



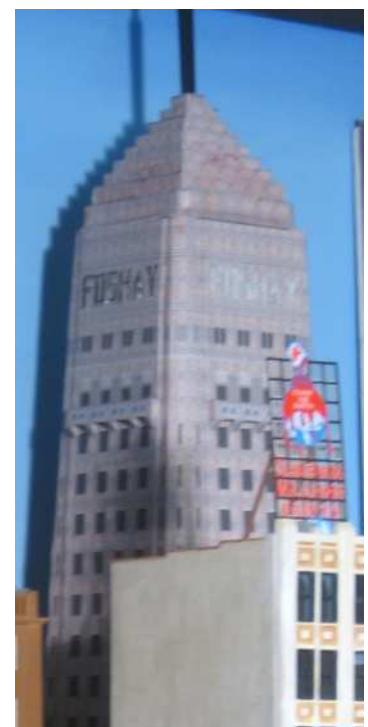
BUILDING DOWNTOWN SUBLIME

BY ART HILL (PART 1)

I am modeling my memories and experiences. Street car trips to downtown Minneapolis as a boy were important experiences, and I wanted to capture some of the memories by building a downtown scene. I was inspired first by Rod Stewart (THE Rod Stewart, who is a model railroader) and then by Steve Doyle. Because I like to build model buildings, I started my project with those. I have progressed to the point where my diorama of downtown Minneapolis is beginning to be recognizable. Through LED lighting techniques, I am able to enjoy it both by day and by night.



One of the icons of downtown Minneapolis is the Foshay Tower. I scratch-built this using computer drawing techniques that I will describe later. It took several tries to get all of the angles close to the prototype. This model has a foam core with computer printing pasted on the outside.



In future issues, I will discuss my techniques for using computer prints, as well as the many kits I have experimented with. The lighting and wiring will be covered later, too.

HOBBY SHOWS & RAILFANNING EVENTS

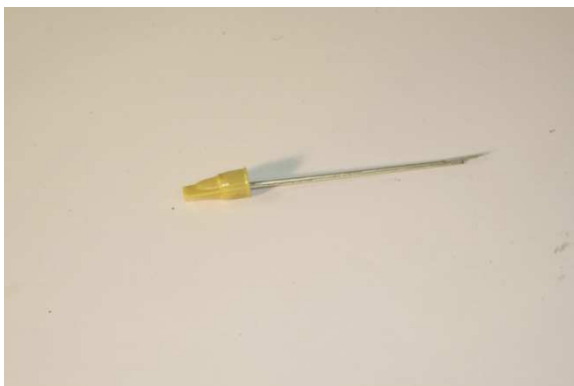
Sat, Jul 20	<p>RAIL FAIR Copeland Park, Rose and Clinton Streets, LaCrosse, Wisc 54601. 10am to 4 pm Adm: \$5, under 12 free w/adult</p> <p>Railroad Show, Hobby Sale, Model RR Flea Market, and swap meet.. Guided tour of the 4000 Locomotive, a restored 4-6-4, CB&Q Class S4a Hudson.</p> <p>For info: http://4000Foundation.com</p>
Fri Jul 19 to Sun Aug 21	<p>National Train Show in connection with NMRA National Convention</p> <p>Cobb Galleria Convention Centre Atlanta, Ga</p> <p>602-569-9072</p>

TLR layout by Ed Petry. Large two-level HO layout with scenes from California mining regions with detailed scenery and cars.



TOOL CORNER, BY JIM BUCK

Rail joiner Installation tool. Insert one end of a small section of rail into a wire nut; you will most likely not need to glue it. Sharpen both edges of the other end of the rail. Use it to open up stubborn rail joiners and to install rail joiners. Saves fingers from cuts and separated nails.



TCD Timetable

Meetings at the Jackson Street Roundhouse 2013

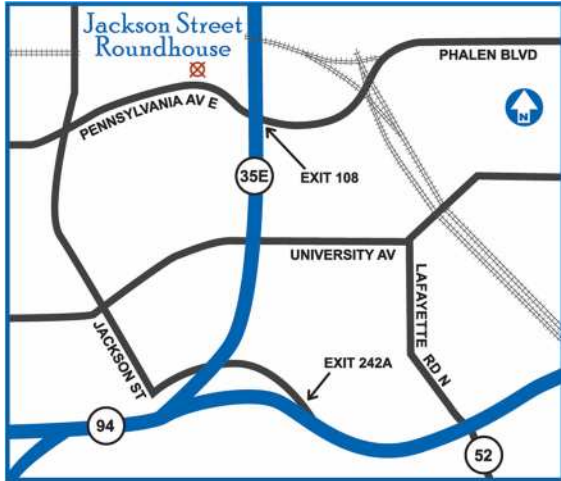
Month	First Topic	Second Topic	Help Topic	Contest
10 Oct	TCD Fall Meeting	Fallen Flags Great Northern	Monster Structure Show	Trackside Structures
14 Nov		Install DCC into Non-DCC-Ready Engines	Clever Structure Show	First-Generation Diesels
12 Dec	TCD Holiday Meeting	Auction	Bargains Galore	NONE
9 Jan		Fallen Flags C&NW, CGW, M&StL		Critters
13 Feb		Digital Backgrounds And Signs		Steam in the Yards
13 Mar		Building Structures		Reefers, Milk Cars, Express Cars
10 Apr				Self-propelled Cars
8 May	TCD Annual Meeting	Annual Meeting Election of Officers		Built Prior to 1900 Or "Patch Outs"

THE CROSSING GATE

Twin Cities Division, TLR, NMRA
4476 Mason Ave NE
St. Michael, MN 55376

Next 3 Meetings:

Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12 7:00 PM
Jackson Street Roundhouse
193 Pennsylvania Ave E
St. Paul, MN 55130
651.291.7588



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German-American Model Railroad Group

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