

# The Crossing Gate

FALL  
2004



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

## A [bumpy] ride on the Minnesota Prairie Line

By Jeff Borne

On April 3, 2002, the Twin Cities and Western (TC&W) ran two GP-10s westward on the old Minnesota & St. Louis/Chicago & Northwestern/Minnesota Valley/Minnesota Central line... a line that hadn't seen a train in two years. The first locomotive was acting alone as a trailblazer, while the second pulled a flat car, ballast hoppers, and some side-dump cars for ties. There was an atmosphere of adventure since the track was often invisible under the snow and weeds.



track settled down as we approached Gibbon and then head through town.

There is a switch on the west end of town that is occasional-ly under water, but on this day we couldn't be sure since it was snow-covered. The first attempt penetrated two feet.

The second penetrated a few feet further. The third try lifted the locomotive by the pilot plow and put the front wheel set on the ground. The cause: four inches of ice on top of the switch below the snow.

The first day from Norwood to Winthrop was rather uneventful and progress was slow at 2-3 mph. The eastern end is wooded, so arms and heads were kept inside the cab so as not to get whacked by branches that haven't seen a brush cutter in years.

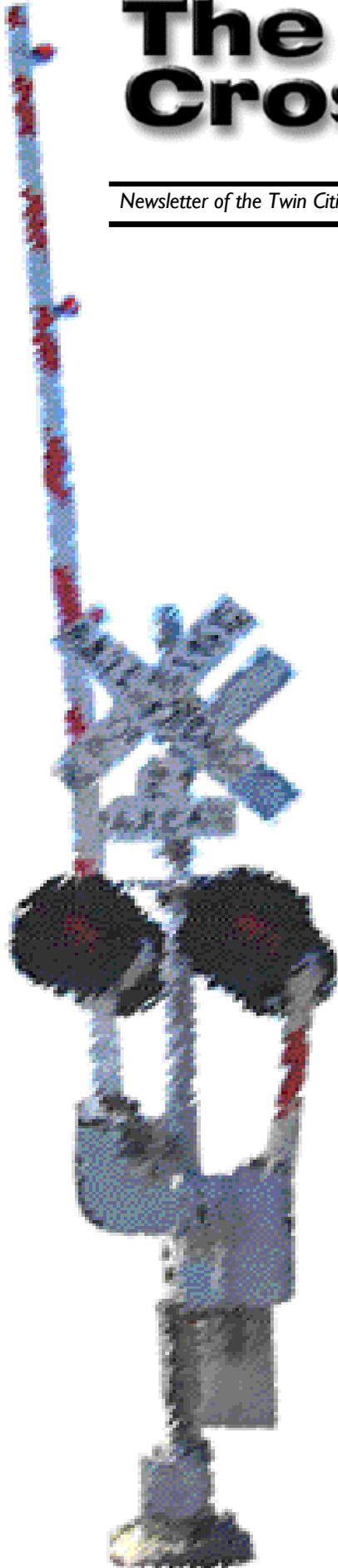
The next day we left Winthrop at 7:30 a.m. (temperature was 20 degrees with a wind) and soon passed a Minnesota Valley box-car once used as an office. About a mile west of town we traveled on a stretch of track that could only be described as "four-wheeling" in a locomotive. There were severe leans to the left and right, sharp dips, and some spots of soft roadbed. I would have preferred to walk. It's amazing the Minnesota Central once moved 30-car trains over this section. Finally, the

While waiting for the MOW crew from Franklin and wood blocks from Glencoe to arrive, the train crew chipped away at the turnout ice. After seven or eight attempts to re-rail the locomotive with wood blocks —



(Upper left) Norwood – opening the switch off the Twin Cities & Western line to get on MPL (Upper right) Halfway between Norwood and Hamburg. (Lower left) East of Winthrop. (Lower right) Nearing Franklin alongside State Highway 19.

Continued on page 4



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Do I have to beg? Ok... PLEEEEEEEASE!! 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.org, or hand it to him (along with a \$5 bribe) at the next Division meeting.

**Be part of the Division!** If you're an NMRA member, become a Regular member of the Division (you get a year's subscription to THE CROSSING GATE, plus voting privileges) for only \$10 per year. If you're not an NMRA member, become a Subscriber (you get a year's subscription to THE CROSSING GATE) for only \$10 per year.



## From the Editor

Welcome to the 2004/2005 season of the Twin Cities Division! If you're a new member we'd like you to know we're glad you're here. In addition, I'd like to extend a personal invitation to you: if we don't find you first, please make it a point to find me or one of the other officers at one of our meetings and introduce yourself. It's always good to put faces with names. Welcome aboard.

**We're ORGies, not COMmies.** Hopefully all of you computer literati have been to our website in the last three months and have seen that we are now an ORG and not a COM. That is, our new website address is <http://www.twincitiesdivision.org>. While ".com" still works, it may not for long, so please reset your browser's bookmarks.

**07 is 06.** In our last episode you heard how the Twin Cities Division had volunteered to host the Thousand Lakes Region's 2007 convention. Well, times have changed. Literally. Because of some organizing problems with '06 convention, we stepped up to the plate. Now, under the skillful leadership of Pat Walker, we'll be the official hosts for the TLR '06 convention. Details of the convention, as well as many requests for volunteers, will be forthcoming. Meanwhile show your significant other Pat's "non-rail" article in this issue.

**I've said it before** and I'll say it again: on behalf of your Board, a big thanks to all the members who showed up at our September 9 Business Meeting. We got a lot done (see article on page 7) in a little time. It wasn't a "fun" meeting but it was necessary, and all of us in the box to the left sure appreciate those members who took an active interest in helping the Division move forward.

**Lucky Seven.** Don't forget that our meetings now start at 7:00 p.m. instead of the usual 7:30 p.m. Please be there before 7 so we can start promptly and end earlier.

**GATS is gone.** Don't know why, but the Great American Train Show that was scheduled for November 13 and 14 was cancelled. So the only chance you'll have to enter a Merit Award judging will be at our April 2005 meeting.

**Toot!** Sorry... I don't like to, but there are times when the Editor just has to blow his own whistle. And it is Division news: a depot I scratchbuilt won "Second Place/Online Structures" at the National Convention in Seattle this past Summer. What a kick!

-Gerry



## From the Superintendent

Welcome to another exciting year with the Twin Cities Division. We think we've put together another great year of speakers and modelers' clinics. Quite a bit happened at our May and September business meetings. We've changed our starting time to 1900 (7 pm for some of you), and still meet on the second Thursday of the month. By popular vote, dues are now \$10.00 per year and \$18.00 for two years. Another change made during the summer was that we're now hosting the 2006 TLR convention, rather than the 2007 one. The Division also made a change in the Popular Vote Contest. See the article on page 7 for more details on that.

We'd also like to welcome and thank our new officers: Bill Gisch has taken the position of Assistant Superintendent, Don Smith is now PR Director and Steve Nitti is our Yard Bull (new position). Steve's function is to help keep fingers off the models. Folks, let's respect the modelers' work by not touching it.

Now for some sad news. Regrettably, Tom Jackson our Paymaster, will be stepping down as Treasurer before the end of this year, due a medical condition. We owe Tom a big THANKS! Paymaster is a position the Division can't function without, so if anyone would like to take the challenge, please let a Board member know.

Contributors to this issue:

**Jeff Borne, Al Dowd, Pat Walker,  
and Jim Bernier**

**Thanks!**

Deadline for next issue:

**December 10, 2004**

We're also looking for an individual to lead a group to search for a new meeting location. This is to be presented at the May 2005 and voted on at the May 2006 business meetings. Again please let someone from the Board your interest.

That all said, I look forward to seeing you all at the Oct 14th, 2004 meeting at the Moose Lodge for another great year with the Twin Cities Division of the NMRA.

- Lynn

# Seen on the Internet (or "Enthusiasm knows no bounds")

by Al Dowd

"What does it take to be a model railwayist?"

The following exchange took place recently on the Digitrax Discussion Group mailing list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/digitrax/>). I found it very interesting for the alternate perspectives of our hobby it provided. There are messages here from Australia, Canada, and the U.S. All of them display an involvement in our hobby that extends well beyond NMRA standards or railfan hotspots. These folks are actively promoting and advancing the hobby of model railroading.

When was the last time you were able to share your enthusiasm for our hobby the way these folks do?

=====

Subject: [Digitrax] Jack of all trades.  
From: "Peter Fox" <xxx@optusnet.com.au>  
To: "Digitrax Discussion Group" <digitrax@yahoogroups.com>

G'Day,

I was just thinking of what it takes to be a model railwayist. Carpenter, welder, electrician. Architect, town planner, civil engineer electrical engineer, electronics engineer. Project manager, human resource manager (of the kids ). Public relations, marketing ( exhibitions ).

And, after all is said and done - Engine driver, station master, ticket clerk, ticket inspector, signalman.

But, unless you live alone, with or without a cat/dog, none of the above is possible without - Psychologist, marriage counsellor, politician. A job that pays for it all. The phone number of a pizza shop that delivers to your door. Did I miss anything?

Perhaps one thing more -- a certificate of sanity. There must be someone on the Web who sells them.

Peter Fox, Melbourne, Australia.

=====

Subject: Re: [Digitrax] Jack of all trades.  
From: Dave Slater <xxxx@sasktel.net>  
To: digitrax@yahoogroups.com

Peter, I think you covered everything except for the hospital emergency dep't.. LOL  
Dave S.

=====

Subject: Re: [Digitrax] Jack of all trades.  
From: "Simon Griffin" <xx@charter.net>  
To: <digitrax@yahoogroups.com>

Seriously, I actually used a similar line of thought when making a presentation for my son's 1st grade class. Parents were asked to prepare a 1-hour class on any subject consid-

ered educational and interesting for the kids. A sort of show-and-tell on steroids!! My presentation was about Model RR and demonstrated how the hobby was relevant to the following subjects:

- Math: Geometry, measuring, simple calculations
- History: Time period for the model
- Geography: Location, contours
- Biology: Habitat creation, like ponds etc.
- Computers: DCC and PC control, also the use of PC's for forums like this.
- Art: Backdrops and weathering, scale, creating realism in models
- Science: Electronics, electricity theory, use of chemicals
- Shop: Benchwork
- Economics: Transportation and industry

I also talked about life skills that can be developed from this hobby such as a love of reading, research, planning, budgeting, and developing safety habits. It's a great hobby!!  
Simon, Troy, IL

=====

Subject:  
Re: [Digitrax] Jack of all trades.  
From: "Stan" <xxxx@comcast.net>  
To: <digitrax@yahoogroups.com>

Peter - - I think you missed "banker" Stan

=====

Subject: Re: [Digitrax] Jack of all trades.  
From: Dave Slater <xxxx@sasktel.net>  
To: digitrax@yahoogroups.com

AHH yes, the desperately needed banker to "lend" us the needed funds to build the previously mentioned layout. LOL Dave S.

**Join or renew NOW!**

Send \$10 for one year or \$18 for two years  
to: Twin Cities Division,  
PO Box 14470, St. Paul, MN 55114

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

New [  ]    Renewal [  ]

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

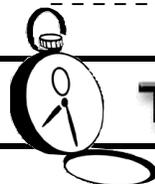
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

If you belong to the NMRA, please include your membership #: \_\_\_\_\_



## TCD Timetable

**THURSDAY, Oct. 14, 2004 7:00 pm**

- MODELING CLINIC - *Dressing up Athearn locomotives and other diesels* (Bill Dredge)
- PROTO PRESENTATION - *Memories of a Railroader* (Gary Braasch)
- POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - *Auto Parts or Transport Cars*

**THURSDAY, Nov. 11, 2004 7:00 pm**

- PROTO PRESENTATION - *Ore Operations* (A 2-hour presentation by Mike Sofie)
- POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - *Interurban Trains*

**THURSDAY, Dec. 9, 2004 7:00 pm**

- MODELING CLINIC - *Locomotive Maintenance* (tentative) (Steve Sandberg)
- PROTO PRESENTATION - *Subject TBA* (Barry Karlberg)
- POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - *Square Foot Diorama: Locomotive Service Facilities*

**THURSDAY, Jan. 13, 2005 7:00 pm**

- MODELING CLINIC - *Mistakes in Kit Design*

*and Workmanship* (Dave Norman)

- MODELING CLINIC - *Layout Update* (Dave Zuhn)
- POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - *Maintenance of Way Cars*

**THURSDAY, Feb. 10, 2005 7:00 pm**

- MODELING CLINIC - *Open*
- PROTO PRESENTATION - *Slides of the Northern Pacific* (Gary Widung)
- POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - *Baldwin Locomotives*

**THURSDAY, Mar. 10, 2005 7:00 pm**

- MODELING CLINIC - *Open*
- PROTO PRESENTATION - *Subject TBA* (Doug Harding)
- POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - *Tank Cars*

**THURSDAY, Apr. 14, 2005 7:00 pm**

- MODELING CLINIC - *Using "Adobe Photoshop Elements" in Model Railroading* (Gerry Leone)
- PROTO PRESENTATION - *Western Canada on VIA* (Bill Dredge)
- POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - *Whimsical Railroads & NMRA Merit Award Judging*



**Photos above:** (Upper left) Fairfax – westbound nearing the preserved M&StL depot. (Upper right) The track west of Winthrop. (Lower left) The switch at Gibbon. **Photos to the right:** (Upper left) The west end of the Morton Shops. (Upper right) The 30-foot high bridge. (Lower left) The ballast loader at the Morton Shops.

The time required to re-rail the locomotive in Gibbon forced us to tie-up in Franklin. I didn't get to go across the "scary" 30-foot high bridge or see the Morton shops. Maybe next time.

Fast forward to October 11, 2002. The location is Fairfax, MN on the now-Minnesota

trains that would make money were not running yet. The crew out of Fairfax died at Hamburg and a relief crew had to be called.

The plan is to get the line up to 25 mph operation. The focus has been on the eastern segment from Morton to Norwood, but some work was done on the western third during the summer of 2002 from Morton to Hanley Falls. The line will be run under yard limit rules.

In contrast to awful track conditions that the Minnesota Central, Minnesota Valley and probably the C&NW operated under, the MPL is a singularly different business model, in that track infrastructure is to be greatly improved. Daily service and 25 mph operation make the line an attractive option for shippers in some of America's richest agricultural land. As far as



making a pile of kindling in the process — the re-rail frog was finally brought out and we were back on track in 15 minutes. This delay cost two hours.

Leaving Gibbon, one wondered what the construction engineers were thinking when they designed this mile or so of track that seemed to be perched on top of a glacial esker. But within minutes we finally reached the best track so far, which lasted for around six miles. We could have run at 10 mph or better, but stuck to the 5 mph decree.

Pulling into Fairfax we were rewarded with the sight of a preserved Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad depot and semaphore signal. West of Fairfax, the track was a mix of good and bad. The lesser quality track consisted of short, severe, southward dips, a joint bar with bolts on only one side of the joint, a number of wider-than-comfortable gauge rail sections and some private grade crossings scooped out by the pilot plow.

Prairie Line (MPL). There was quite a gathering at the preserved Minneapolis & St. Louis depot for the departure of the first eastbound revenue run. The power was two ex-TC&W GP-10s, lettered for MPL, trailed by 25 covered hoppers destined for Canada.

Over the summer a huge amount of work had been done, and the decrepit line was upgraded to 10 mph track (5 mph Hamburg to Norwood). What a change from what the line was like when I rode and filmed it back in April at 2 mph. A lot less rock 'n roll now.

The eastbound train moved along at track speed until it reached Winthrop where it waited almost three hours for a ballast train to get out of the way. Perhaps the mindset was that



(Above) Fairfax – The first revenue train ready to depart. (Below) Gibbon – The first revenue train headed east. At this point it's just about over the switch where locomotive derailed in April.

financial backing, the MPL has received and will continue to receive funding from federal, state, county, shipper and TC&W in-kind service sources.

Wish them the best since this will probably be the last best hope for this former M&St.L. line.





# Fall 2004 Layout Tours

**Saturday, October 23, 2004, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

Welcome back to another season! I hope you had a great summer (despite our unusually cool and rainy weather) and are looking forward to enjoying some great layouts.

If you visited last year's tour layouts I hope you had a good time and were inspired by some of the fine work by our hosts. All of them had a enjoyed the opportunity to share their layouts with us. Many thanks to them!

This year's Fall Tour focuses on three outstanding layouts on the East side. "Realistic prototype operation" is the key theme for these layouts, as all the hosts have researched and designed around prototypes and operate them to run like a real railroad.

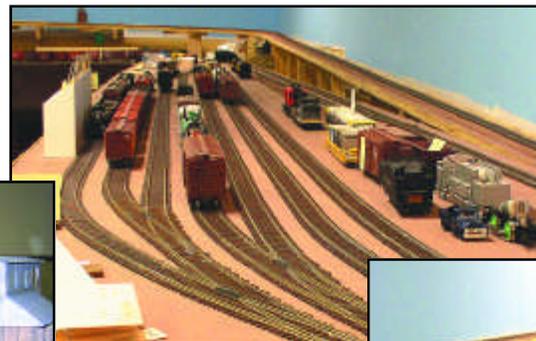
The layouts on the tour offer you a unique opportunity to see a range of layout development, from the initial stages of bench- and trackwork all the way up to a layout several decades in the making! -Neil



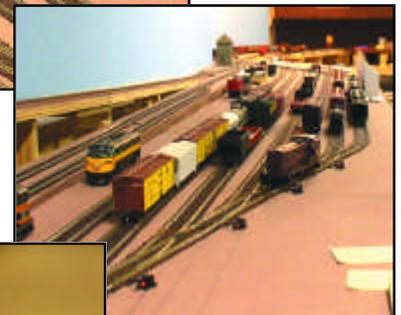
**Gary Freseman's Arcwood & Rice Creek Railroad**



**The Third Subdivision of the Great Northern's Butte Division by John Thomas**



All photos by Neil Maldeis



**Dave Zuhn's St. Paul Bridge & Terminal Railway**



**Please follow the rules! TCDivision members ONLY, plus only 1 guest ♦ Be ready to show your TCD membership card ♦ Sign the guest-book ♦ Be courteous! Don't arrive before 1:00 p.m. Leave coats outside the layout area (save the scenery!) ♦ No smoking, please**

## Gary Freseman

Gary has a fantastic HO scale multi-level fictitious branchline that links Arcwood, Blair and Rice creek to the C&NW. Gary changes the era of his layout every year, starting in the 50's and cycling through the 90's. Currently it's 1971 on Gary's layout.

The layout is a complete and beautifully detailed model railroad, amazing not only because of its size but the level of detail in creating realistic prototype scenes.

Gary's layout can handle 7 operators, with a chief dispatcher managing their efforts over telephone. There will be several operators on tour day so there should be lots of action!

## John Thomas

John has an outstanding HO scale prototype operation of the Great Northern set in 1955. John's multi-level layout is 17' X 22' and is fine example of how to create layout with operation in a moderate space.

The setting is Havre, MT and operation spans from Butte to Williston, ND. John runs freight and passenger trains true to the era and can have 6-7 operators running at a time..which means a lot of action!

The layout features beautiful handlaid track and functional scratchbuilt switch throws -- just like the prototype. He's in the process of completing scenery so you'll have an opportunity to see how the benchwork and scenery come together.

## Dave Zuhn

Dave has a large multi-level walk-around HO scale layout (approx. 23' X 35') modeling a true switching operation serving the St Paul area. Dave's layout is in the early stages of construction and will give you a unique behind-the-scenes look at a true point-to-point operation with a focus on switching. Dave's era is the fifties and operates a mix of steam and first generation diesels.

Dave and his crew operate under prototype practice made up of a mix of Northern Pacific, Chicago & Great Western and Rock Island rules. He's done a significant amount of research to ensure a true-to-the-prototype setting, and has documented and identified many key industries and landmarks along the line. Visitors familiar with rail operations in St Paul will appreciate the work Dave has put into modeling the prototype. You can also visit his website [www.stpaulterminal.org](http://www.stpaulterminal.org).



## Modeling Tips & Tricks

Here's a nifty way to get your model paintbrushes really clean. Cut a small piece of window screening and fold the sides, so that it's "U"-shaped. Turn it over and put it in the bottom of the glass of water you have on your workbench for cleaning brushes. When time comes to get the paint out, just gently rub the bristles on the window screen -- it will help loosen all the paint that's up in the top of the bristles. near the ferrule. But be sure to be gentle or you'll rub the bristles off!



A great way to simulate frosted glass in passenger cars or structures is to use Scotch Magic tape on the *back side* of the acetate (or whatever you use for glass). If you burnish it down evenly, it will make the glass look "frosty." Plus, it's easy to remove if you don't care for the effect.



Looking for a small, inexpensive T-square when putting together cars or structures? Look no further than your slide collection. Try to find a "dud" slide that's in a plastic mount. Pop the

film out of the frame, cut the frame at two opposite corners, and voila! You've just made yourself two perfect 90-degree T-squares (so ok... they're really "L-squares") If they get hacked up or grungy, it's easy enough to make a few more!



If you use "craft paint" (Ceramcoat, FolkArt, etc.) a great thinner is blue windshield washer fluid. ("Splash" is one brand.) Works better than water, and and keeps your airbrush flowing smoothly.

*Have a tip, hint, trick or technique you think is the greatest... or at least pretty good? Share it! Drop us a note in snail mail or email!*

# Non-rails: the 2006 TLR Convention wants YOU!

by Pat Walker

Attention Non-Model Railroaders!

If you're a model railroader, there's no need to read any further. Please give this to your "significant other" and ask him or her to read it. It's about the 2006 TLR Convention in the Twin Cities. Don't worry -- there will be plenty of model railroad information coming your way soon. But this article is for the nonrails.

One of the annual problems at a TLR convention is the lack of activities, organized or not, for nonrails: spouses and children. It's a Catch-22: because no nonrails come, there are no activities; and because there are no activities, no nonrails come.

We're hoping, and working on, changing, that

for 2006. We will be planning special activities for nonrails of all ages. And we hope you will come.

There will be special spouse and children registration rates. We will use the number of people registering at these rates to determine the number of activities to plan. So please, as soon as registration is available, register!

There are many, many interesting places available for touring in the Twin Cities. Have you ever made bread from scratch? I mean *really* from scratch, by starting out harvesting the grain. Ever toured a winery? Ever toured a brewery? Ever seen a book made by hand? Ever wonder what life was like 150 years ago? Ever wanted to research your family tree? All of these are possible tour destinations in 2006.

There are many, many interesting clinic/demonstration possibilities in the Twin Cities. For instance, according to the American Craft Council, the fastest growing hobby in the United States is: Jewelry Making! (Sorry scrapbookers, you're now number 2.) There is a large jewelry making store here in the Twin Cities that has a large international mail order business. We are in touch with them about a hands-on demonstration.

Say "Mall of America" and most people think "shopping." My response: I guess most people haven't been there. Yes there's shopping, but there are also two roller coasters, a ferris wheel, bowling, a 1.2 million gallon shark tank, a NASCAR simulator, more than fifty restaurants, concerts, and special events for all ages practically everyday...and yes, shopping. All indoors.

So yes, there's plenty to do. And you'll be with other "railroad widows" to make the time even more enjoyable. There are two things you need to do: register and attend the 2006 convention, but first, let us know what you would like to do! Email us at [2006@thousandlakesregion.org](mailto:2006@thousandlakesregion.org) and let us know what ideas above tickle your fancy. Or what other ideas you have about what to do. We want to hear from you.

Let your railroading spouse know that s/he should keep watching THE CROSSING GATE for more information about the 2006 Convention. There will also be information available online at the region's website, <http://www.thousandlakesregion.org>. We look forward to having you join us.

## Members vote: change dues and Popular Vote contest

By a unanimous vote, members at the September 9 Business Meeting agreed to amend the Division's by-laws with wording that will raise the annual dues to \$10 per year, or \$18 for two years.

After some discussion, the members agreed to change the format of the Division's Popular Vote modeling contest. Beginning immediately each scale will have its own Popular Vote "First Place" winner if there are two or more models entered. If only one model of a given scale is entered, that entrant receives an "Honorable Mention." Members will also get to vote for their overall favorite "Best of Show" model. That winner will receive a \$10 gift certificate to the hobby shop of his/her choice. There's money involved, folks... so let's bring in those models so you can bring home the cash!

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## Railfan & Hobby Show CALL BOARD

COMPILED BY AL DOWD (WITH JIM BERNIER)

**Saturday, October 9, 2004 - 10th Hutchinson Model RR Show**, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, McLeod County Fairgrounds, 780 Century Ave SW, Hutchinson, MN. \$3.00, under 12, free. For more information call (320) 587-8641 or visit <http://luceline.tripod.com>

**Saturday, October 23, 2004 - Newport Club Railroad Flea Market**, 10:15 am - 3:00 pm, Woodbury High School, 2665 Woodlane Drive, Woodbury, MN. \$4.00, under 12 free with paid adult. For more information visit <http://newportclub.us>

**Saturday, November 6, 2004 - Wisconsin Train Expo, Super Swap Meet**, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI. \$5.00, children 6-12 \$1.00; Preview admission 6:30 am \$20.00. For more information: <http://www.uniqueeventsshows.com>

**Sunday, November 7, 2004 - 19th Annual Dubuque Model Railroad Show and Swap Meet**, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Tri-State Independent Blind Society, 3333 Asbury Road, Dubuque, IA. \$2.50, children \$0.50 with adult. For more information, email [heartlandrails@mchsi.com](mailto:heartlandrails@mchsi.com)

**Saturday & Sunday, November 13-14, 2004 - Trainfest 2004 Sponsored by the WISE Division of the NMRA**, 9:00 am - 5:30 Saturday, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm Sunday, State Fair Park Exhibit Hall at S. 84th St. and W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis, WI. \$10 (adults and seniors), 14 and under free. Parking is \$5. For more information, visit <http://www.trainfest.com>

**Saturday, November 20, 2004 - Greater Upper Midwest Train Show & Sale**, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Century College West Campus, 3300 Century Ave North, White Bear Lake, MN. \$4.00, under 12 free. For more information, contact Tom Jefferson at (651) 429-2885

**Saturday & Sunday, December 11-12, 2004 - 2nd Annual West Metro Collectible Toy & Train Show**, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Orono Discovery Center, 5050 Independence Street, Maple Plain, MN. Adults \$3.00; Early bird admission \$7.00 (7:30 - 9:00 AM) For more information: (763) 479-1530

**Saturday, January 29, 2005 - Great Tri-State Rail Sale** 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, La Crosse Center, La Crosse, WI. \$3 admission, \$20.00 tables. For more information call (608) 784-0036 or (608) 582-4761, or email [trainmaster@lacrosseshortlinerr.org](mailto:trainmaster@lacrosseshortlinerr.org)

**Saturday, February 5, 2005 - Greater Upper Midwest Train Show & Sale**, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Century College West Campus, 3300 Century Ave North, White Bear Lake, MN. \$4.00, under 12 free. For more information, contact Tom Jefferson at (651) 429-2885

**Saturday, February 26, 2005 - Minnesota RPM**, Rosemount Community Center, 13885 S. Robert Trail (Hwy 3), Rosemount, MN. \$10.00, families \$15.00, under 16 free when accompanied by paid adult. For more information contact Greg Smith at (952) 891-1013 or email [smithavmn@juno.com](mailto:smithavmn@juno.com)

# THE CROSSING GATE

Twin Cities Division, TLR, NMRA

PO Box 14470

St. Paul, MN 55114

## Inside:

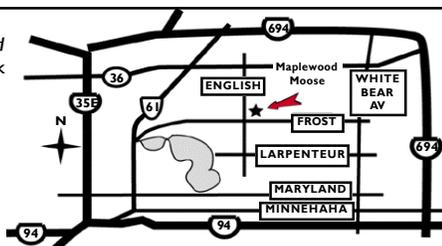
- ◆ A ride on the Minnesota Prairie Lines
- ◆ Fall Layout Tours
- ◆ Calling all Non-Rails!

### Next meetings:

Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9, and Jan. 13 at 7:00 pm. (Check our website for any last minute changes.)

### Where:

Maplewood Moose Lodge  
1946 English Street  
Maplewood, MN



Check the mailing label to see when your membership expires... then renew now!

## Local Twin Cities hobby shops & sponsors

The listings in red are sponsors of the Twin Cities Division. Show them your support!

Beaumont's 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)

Douglas Designs  
4120 Yosemite Ave. S.  
St. Louis Park, MN 55416  
763-926-7164  
[bryants4@rea-alp.com](mailto:bryants4@rea-alp.com)

Hobbies Plus  
1536 White Bear Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
(651) 778-1550

**Hobbytown USA**  
7916 Brooklyn Park Blvd.  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445  
(763) 424-5900  
[http://www.hobbytown.com/zcl\\_detail.html?zcl\\_info\\_id=14](http://www.hobbytown.com/zcl_detail.html?zcl_info_id=14)

**Hobbytown USA**  
11319 Highway 7  
Minnetonka, MN 55305  
(952) 931-2262  
[http://www.hobbytown.com/zcl\\_detail.html?zcl\\_info\\_id=15](http://www.hobbytown.com/zcl_detail.html?zcl_info_id=15)

**Hobbytown USA**  
1750 Weir Drive  
Woodbury, MN 55125  
(651) 702-0355  
[http://www.hobbytown.com/zcl\\_detail.html?zcl\\_info\\_id=73](http://www.hobbytown.com/zcl_detail.html?zcl_info_id=73)

**Hobby Zone**  
1960 Cliff Lake Road Suite 115  
Eagan, MN 55122  
(651) 905-9523  
<http://hobbyzone.com>

**Hub Hobby Center**  
82 Minnesota Ave.  
Little Canada, MN 55117  
(651) 490-1675  
<http://hubhobbycenter.com>

**Hub Hobby Center**  
6416 Penn Avenue S  
Richfield, MN 55423  
(612) 866-9575  
<http://hubhobby.com>

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/>

Minnesota Transportation Museum  
193 Pennsylvania Ave. E.  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
(651) 228-0263  
<http://www.mtmuseum.org>

**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/>

Only Trains  
7780 State Highway 55  
Rockford, MN 55373  
(952) 477-6186

**Osceola & St. Croix Valley Railway**  
P.O. Box 176  
114 Depot RD  
Osceola, WI 54020  
715-755-3570  
<http://www.trainride.org>

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

Prairie Works Productions  
6300 Sequoia Circle  
Eden Prairie, MN 55346  
<http://www.prairie-works.com>

**Scale Model Supplies**  
458 Lexington Parkway  
Saint Paul, MN 55104  
(651) 646-7781  
<http://www.scalemodelsupplies.com>

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