

The Crossing Gate

SPRING
2004



Newsletter of the Twin Cities Division, Thousand Lakes Region, National Model Railroad Association • www.twincitiesdivision.com

The TCD: A founder looks back at the early years

[Editor's note: When I realized it would be fun to have an article about the early days of the TCD, I combed the membership roster to see who'd be a good candidate to author it. Turns out not only was Les Breuer the man who holds TCD Membership Card #1, but he was the first Super and was one of the Founding Fathers. Here's his recollection.]

by **Lester J. Breuer**

If you were to designate one day as the birthdate of the Twin Cities Division (TCD), it would be May 18, 1980. It was on that day, at a business meeting of the Thousand Lakes Region of the NMRA (TLR), that Gary Kraus volunteered to form the TLR division which would become the TCD. A short time later at a TLR convention (known then as a "meet") in St. Paul in 1981, I offered my services as the Division's first Superintendent, and together with three friends – Fred K. Holzapfel, Jim Perske, and Delores (De) Smith-Lindeen – I was off and running.

The first thing we did was meet with former TLR officers Gene Hickey and Gayle Olson to get input and ideas for the direction the TCD should take. Together we decided that the TCD should focus on these challenges: to incorporate as a non-profit tax-exempt organization, to unify the various railroad groups in the Twin Cities area, and, as stated in the Articles of Incorporation, "to promote, stimulate, foster, and encourage by all reasonable manner and means the hobby of model railroading, to engage in educational, recreational and social activities in connection with, and in furtherance of, the hobby of model railroading, and to promote fellowship among persons interested in this great hobby," and most important – have fun.

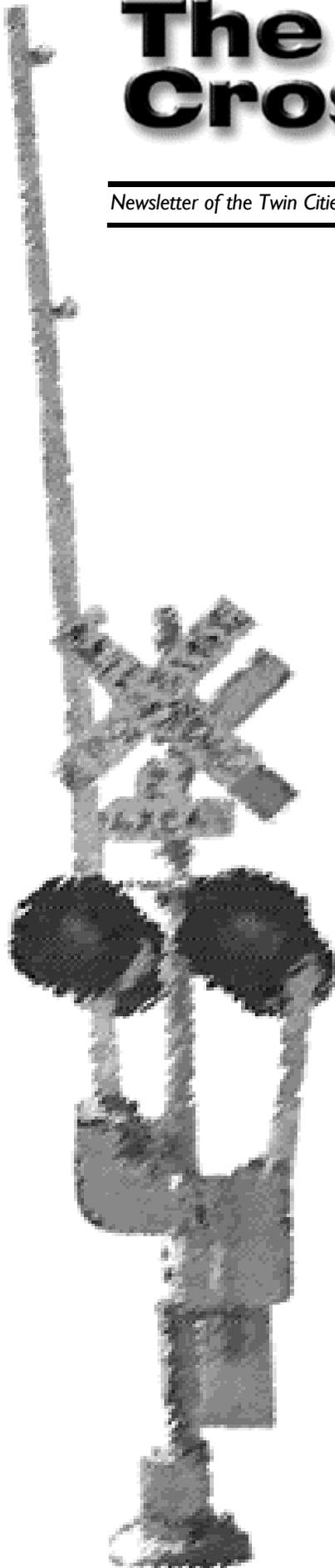
We achieved our first goal on April 4, 1982 at a general business meeting when the Twin Cities Division of the Thousand Lakes Region of the National Model Railroad Association adopted the Articles of Incorporation – a document which was signed and certified by the Minnesota Secretary of State on May 8, 1982. The official TCD area included the counties of Hennepin, Carver, Scott, Dakota, Ramsey, Anoka, and Washington. The first officers were: Lester J. Breuer, President; Fred K. Holzapfel, Vice-President; James B. Perske, Secretary; and De Smith-Lindeen, Treasurer. In September of that year the IRS and the State of Minnesota granted us tax-exempt status.

Unification of Twin Cities groups was next on our agenda. That process began with TCD officer visits to model railroad hobby retailers, clubs, and other railroad-related groups, asking for support. We felt a true sense of progress when the railroad community came together at the Model Railroad Industry Association (MRIA) show at the Minneapolis Convention Center in October 1982. For helping plan and promote the MRIA show, the TCD received the proceeds of the Company Store.

Our final goal – that of promoting model railroading – was answered by delivering TCD clinics, THE CROSSING GATE, and layout tours.

Clinics were the brainchild of John Schmidt, owner of John's Train Shop, near the corner of Lexington and University. (The Shop was eventually purchased and renamed "Scale Model Supplies" by the Gardner family.) The TCD approached John with the idea

Continued on page 7



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THE CROSSING GATE is published quarterly by the Twin Cities Division of the Thousand Lakes Region of the National Model Railroad Association. Material may be reprinted with permission.

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 Editor

Sometimes the journey of life gets so busy and complicated we accidentally miss seeing the mile markers along the way.

One such marker came in 2000, the 20th anniversary of the inception of The Twin Cities Division. Two more whizzed by in 2002 when the TCD's tradition of presenting modeling clinics turned two decades old, as did the 20th anniversary of the Articles of Incorporation. I only uncovered these facts when I began reading the old issues of THE CROSSING GATE which I inherited when I became editor.

So the question became: do I just forget about doing something special in THE CROSSING GATE for events that are two and four years behind us? Do I wait a year or three... and risk forgetting forget all about them between now and then? Or do I just do it now while I'm thinking about it? As you can see, I picked Door #3.

That's why you'll find my "A Brief History of (TCD) Time" (apologies to Stephen Hawking) in this issue, along with a look back by the guy who holds TCD membership card #1, Les Breuer, and a look at the hobby of model railroading today, as seen through the eyes of college student Andy Inserra, the president of The Railroad Club at the U of Minnesota.

Bottom line? I'd like to take this belated opportunity – on behalf of the entire current membership of the TCD – to sincerely thank the people who gave their time, energy, money, and talents to bring us to this 22nd and 24th birthday. Your efforts are truly appreciated! -Gerry

A volunteer needed & a volunteer found

We've got an opening for someone interested in spending a few hours a month helping the Division.

Assistant Superintendent – The Assistant Super is elected on a 1-year term. Duties include: arranging for clinic presenters and audio/visual equipment, assisting the Superintendent and standing-in for him/her if needed, and acting as head of the Nominating Committee.

If you're interested in this position, please contact Superintendent Lynn McCall, or Chief Clerk Al Dowd, whose phone numbers and email appear in the column at the left.



Bruce Selb has volunteered to fill the new position of **Education Director** for the Division. In his new position he'll be developing and maintaining a database of area clinicians (Divisional, Regional, and National), helping future clinicians fine-tune their presentations, and maintaining regular contact with both the TLR and National about availability of clinicians for Division meetings. Thanks for stepping up to the plate, Bruce!

Tentative agenda for the May Business Meeting

The following items have been submitted for discussion at our Annual Business Meeting on May 13th. If you have any you'd like to add, please see a Board member before May 12.

- Division dues increase
- Rewording of the Division By-Laws (see article on page 7)
- Election of Assistant Superintendent and appointment of new Board members

Contributors to this issue:

**Les Breuer, Andy Inserra, Neil Maldeis,
and Al Dowd. Thanks!**

Deadline for next issue:

June 10, 2004

Last Minute News! We received a call from Art Pew of the Minnesota Transportation Museum. Art wants to set up a model railroad exhibition at the Jackson Street Roundhouse on a Saturday (date to be determined). Any interested model railroad groups who'd like to display their modules at this exhibition should call Art at 651-429-5806.

A whole new generation of railfans and modelers gets turned on to railroading

by Andy Inserra

From the DCC to the Internet, digital photography to remote-controlled locomotives, the young crowd of railfans and modelers is right in the heart of the techno-explosion hitting the rail scene. We are in at the ground floor and ready to hit the "up" button on that elevator. So here is a bit of what we see in the modern rail scene for all you out there who have been in the hobby for decades, as well as what you can do to help the future of the hobby.

Model railroading is leaping forward with the newest technology. Look at it: plastic rolling stock with detail once thought only achievable by the masters, DCC, and so much more. And even though the hobby shops are not as abundant as they once were, there are still quite a few where an enthusiast can go for help or to see the latest releases. One of the big drawbacks we

run into is the price of model railroading; many of us are on a tight budget, especially with college is getting more and more expensive.

Railroads still offer a lot to capture our attention, from all the museums to the local shortlines. Add in today's latest AC power, intermodal innovations, and there is still a lot to capture our interest. There are more opportunities than in recent decades for youth to ride trains. There are many scenic railroads that offer affordable and interesting rides. Rail transit in major cities is cheap and even has the bonus of often running on or near freight lines. Finally, VIA and Amtrak still offer a variety of trains, from short haul to cross-country.

We all have probably heard how there are fewer young folks interested in the railroads, from railfanning to modeling. But how many of those same publications or groups made a real effort to put their

money where their mouth (or pen) is? Too often columns for teens are dropped from publications. Student membership rates for associations, clubs, and museums often aren't affordable or even available. When many newcomers to the hobby see a magazine full of articles by older folks, or a museum or club dominated by people (average age of 40 or more) with decades of knowledge, it can be very intimidating.

So how can you help? Support the next generation of railroad enthusiasts – whether donating to national groups like the Teen Association of Model Railroaders or college groups like the Railroad Club at the University of Minnesota. Or simply welcome them into your local club, museum, or even just an operating session. They are often more knowledgeable than you might think and can offer a lot of fresh viewpoints, a will to learn, tech savvy minds, and backs that won't give out. Try it – we'll all be glad you did!



TCD Timetable

THURSDAY, APR. 8, 2004 7:30 pm
MODELING CLINIC – *Basic Scenery (Mike Penn)*
PROTO PRESENTATION – *BC Rail (Don Carlson)*
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST –
Whimsical Railroads & NMRA Merit Award
Judging

THURSDAY, May 13, 2004 7:30 pm
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING -- If you have an item you'd like to see discussed, let a Board member know now and we'll add it to the agenda!

THE 2004 / 2005 SEASON

Here's a tentative listing of Popular Vote Contests for the upcoming year:

THURSDAY, Oct. 14, 2004 7:30 pm
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST – *Auto Parts or Transport cars*

THURSDAY, Nov. 11, 2004 7:30 pm
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST –
Interurban trains

THURSDAY, Dec. 9, 2004 7:30 pm
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST –
Square Foot Diorama: Locomotive Service
Facilities

THURSDAY, Jan. 13, 2005 7:30 pm
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST –
Maintenance of Way cars

THURSDAY, Feb. 10, 2005 7:30 pm
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST –
Baldwin locomotives

THURSDAY, Mar. 10, 2005 7:30 pm
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST –
Tank cars

THURSDAY, Apr. 14, 2005 7:30 pm
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST –
Whimsical Railroads & NMRA Merit Award
Judging

Join or renew NOW!

Send \$5 for one year or \$9 for two years to:

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

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: (____) _____

A brief history of (TCD) time

The following TCD history was gleaned from old issues of The Crossing Gate. Some of the issues are missing, so I apologize for any holes in, or misinterpretations of, the history. - Gerry

1983 – Volume 1, No. 2 arrives in the Summer on two sheets of stapled 8½"x17" paper folded in thirds. Fred Holzapfel is Division President, along with Jim Perske, Ernie Schwenke, and De Smith-Lindeen as VP, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively. The Division meets at 6pm for dinner at the Countryside Restaurant on Snelling in Roseville, followed by clinics. NMRA dues are \$15 and TCD dues are \$1.50. The CGATE laments, "the demise of the caboose is upon us." The Twin Cities Model RR Club gets its new home in Bandana Square.

1984 –The Spring Rally, a 3-day affair at the Thunderbird, features 20 layout tours, and prototype tours visit places like the NSP High Bridge Plant.

1986 – Ernie Schwenke is President, and the CGATE says "the TCD has grown by 50% in the past 9 months" and now has 253 members. The newsletter begins the year with 36 half-size pages and finishes as a regular-sized publication. Dues are raised to \$2/year and the Division holds shows at Northtown, Apache, and Har-Mar Malls. By mid-year over 100 members are attending clinics, and Fred admits "we've outgrown our meeting space" so the TCD moves to the Everett McClay VFW in Bloomington, where it would meet for over 10 years. By Winter the CGATE talks of the new 694/494 loop opening: "According to MNDOT, access to any point of the Twin Cities can be reached within 40 minutes." NMRA dues are \$20.

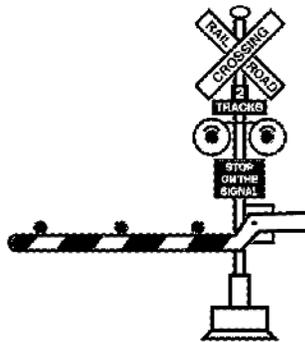
1987 – John Whitlock takes over as CGATE editor and grumbles (as all future editors would) that he'd only received article submissions from four people all year. The Super is Mark Wilson, TLR dues are \$5, and the CGATE is 20 pages. The Winter issue lists 39 new Division members.

1988 – Mark Wilson is in charge of the Division, and the amendment to raise the annual dues to \$3 passes unanimously. The Popular Vote contest is started.

1989 – Mike Penn is the Super, and the CROSSING GATE is edited by Rex Roberts, who had two assistants. First Class postage was 25-cents. Division meals at the VFW are moved to 5:30.

1990 – Jim Perske steps in as temporary Super, followed in mid-year by Ernie Schwenke. The Division is having trouble finding volunteers for layout tours: "We made over 100 calls and got no responses." Thus, there are no Fall Layout Tours. Clinic times are changed to 7:30 so people can avoid rush hour traffic. Later that year, Greg Hippen takes over as CGATE editor.

1991 – Dues are changed to \$5, and Director at Large and CGATE Editor are added to the Board. THE CROSSING GATE, which is 8 pages and edited by Greg Hippen, still features the custom-drawn cartoons of "NMRA Bulletin" cartoonist Milt Moore ("Thumbs"), as it has since 1986. The Division continues to sponsor contests at Har-Mar and Northtown.



1992 – Ron Schutts begins his 6 years as Division Super, and the CGATE gets Dave Smith as its new editor. The Division celebrates "ten years of clinics in the Twin Cities" with a small party honoring its founders.

1993 – De Smith-Lindeen wins the contest for a TCD patch design, and the TLR /TCD gets the go-ahead to submit a bid for the '99 National convention. Almost half the membership – 140 people – show up to an air-brushing clinic yet only 18 show up to the business meeting. The CGATE becomes a desktop published newsletter, and features 20 pages plus 3 inserts.

1994/95 – Rob Tow takes over as CGATE editor, the Division still meets at the Bloomington VFW, continues sponsoring Northtown and Har-Mar shows. Plans for Northstar '99 begin

taking shape in July, as committee chair John Hotvet comments, "we'll need about 300 volunteers."

1996 – Martin Hrabe creates the now-familiar CROSSING GATE logo, over 100 people are showing up to clinics, and the CGATE boasts "over 350 readers." Brian Grittner takes over as Super, and Rex Roberts returns as CGATE editor. "Twin Rails '97," the TLR convention, is in the Twin Cities. The proposed change to raise dues to \$7/year ("dues haven't been raised since 1991") is defeated.

1997/98 – The CGATE is at 12 pages, and Northstar '99 plans are reaching a frenzy. After starting '98 with no Division Super, Mike Penn takes over. Bruce Notman assumes the role of Division Assistant.

1999 – Northstar '99 comes off nearly perfectly in July, and after 10 years the Division moves from the Bloomington VFW to United Methodist Church in Osseo because airport expansion puts the VFW's future in doubt. Rex Roberts assumes his second stint as CGATE editor, and Dave Hamilton becomes Chief Clerk.

2000 – The first season in Osseo sees Mike Penn as Superintendent, acting CGATE editor and Achievement Program Director. That Spring Michael Mornard becomes Layout Tour Coordinator, Lynn McCall becomes Chief Clerk, Dave Hamilton moves to AP Director, and Dave Burnell steps in as CGATE editor by summer.

2001/2002 – Michael Mornard takes over as Super, McCall moves up to Assistant Super, and Al Dowd becomes Show Coordinator. Joe Reuben is added as PR man in Winter.

2003 – Our current officers assume their positions, and the membership votes to move meetings to the Maplewood Moose Lodge. A motion to change the meeting time to 7:00 is tabled.

All these people and events made the Division what it is today... informative, cohesive, and most important, fun! With your help, the future will look just as bright for the TCD.



Spring 2004 Layout Tours

Saturday, April 17, 2004, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

John Hotvet

John has a huge HO layout depicting the Santa Fe and D&RGW in 1954. John's layout takes up the whole third story of his house, and is approximately 25' X 42'. It's a fine example of a model railroad depicting the glory days of heavy steam and first generation diesels.

John is the TLR AP Director and a Master Model Railroader. After visiting his layout it'll be obvious that he has more than earned the privilege to join such an elite group!

John's fortunate to have the space to create a railroad empire with over 400 feet of handlaid mainline track. He's also a prolific modeler and has scratchbuilt dozens of superdetailed or craftsman kits.

Be prepared to spend some time at John's layout-- it will take you a while to see everything!

Michael Moormann

The TCD owes a special thanks to Alice Moormann for opening up her home to let us visit the fantastic N-scale layout built by her late husband, Michael. Those of you who don't think you can have a high level of detail in the smaller scales will marvel at what Michael accomplished in his lifetime!

The layout is huge by N-scale standards, running around three walls and over 30 feet in length. The trackwork is a mix of code 55 and code 70 rail that has been blended so well with the scenery and structures you almost forget that it's N-scale.

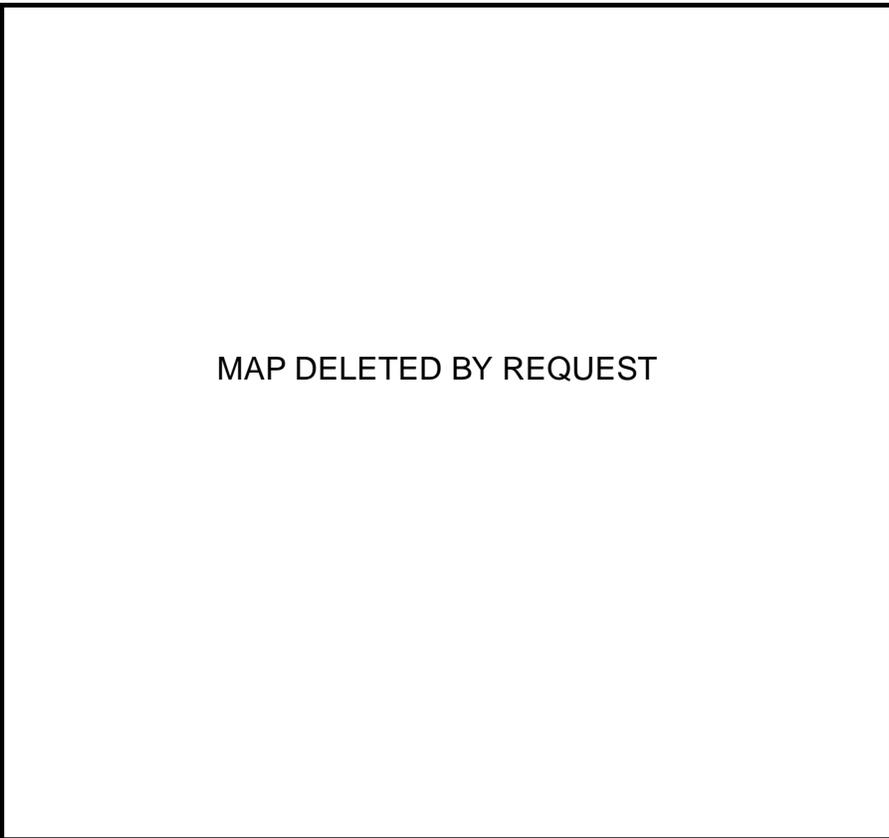
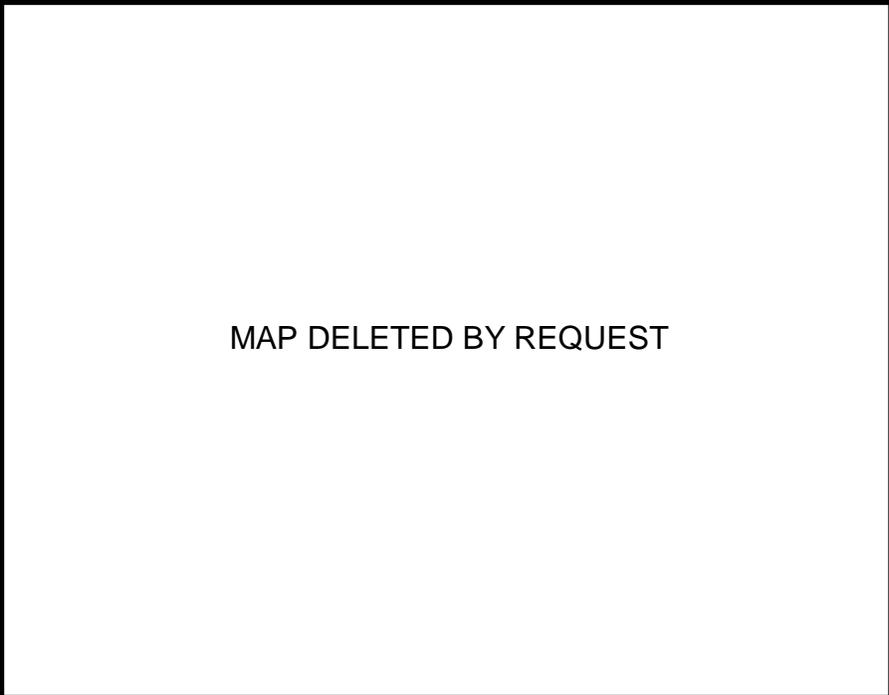
Michael created the Sogn Valley Railroad as a fictitious railroad operating in southern Minnesota. The setting for the layout is 1936 and all of the motive power is steam. Like the other modelers on the tour Michael also scratchbuilt and superdetailed dozens of structures and equipment for his layout.

Thanks again to Alice Moormann for giving our Division the opportunity to visit one of the finest N scale layouts in the Twin Cities. It is truly an honor.

Les Breuer

Les has a highly detailed HO 15' X 22' layout that's stood the test of time. Some sections are 30 years old, but you'd never know it. He's done an outstanding job of creating a freelanced shortline, The Minneapolis & Northland, set in Southern Minnesota in the Spring of 1954.

That Les's layout is a labor of love is quite apparent in the amount of time and care that were taken in building and setting the scenes and equipment on the layout. The structures are scratchbuilt or heavily modified, and all have much added detail. Les's layout contain dozens of mini scenes that each have a unique life and character.

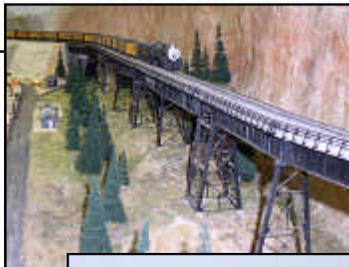




Spring 2004 Layout Tours

I hope everyone who visited the Winter Tour had a chance to see what prototype operation was like! All the layout hosts had a great time and enjoyed the opportunity to share their layouts with us. Many thanks to our hosts!

The Spring Tour moves to the City of Minneapolis for three layouts that are all within a mile of each other! You should be able to spend plenty of time at each and still make it to all three. Detailed construction is the key theme for these layouts, as they all have fantastic structures, scenery, motive power and rolling stock. If your interest is in craftsmanship in modeling don't miss these layouts! -Neil



Above: John Hotvet's Santa Fe and D&RGW
Below: Les Breuer's Minneapolis & Northland
Not pictured: the late Michael Moormann's Sagn Valley

All photos by Neil Maldeis

Photos deleted by request



Modeling Tips & Tricks

If you've ever taken apart a model that has a million screws, bolts, nuts, and small parts, one of the best ways to keep track of them and have a record of the order they were removed is with an old plastic ice cube tray. Just number the cube compartments, then put the parts in each in numerical order. For reassembly, just go backwards through the compartments.



Many modelers use small nuts or BB's in their paint to help mix the pigment. However those items can leave rust or residue in water-based paints. Solution? Ax-Man sells small marbles by the pound -- perfect as mixers in paint bottles. If you haven't been to Ax-Man, you're not a real model railroader. There are three Twin Cities locations: 1639 University Av. St. Paul; 8008 Minnetonka Blvd, St. Louis Pk; 1071 E. Moore Lake Dr., Fridley.



Besides bottles, switches and other model railroading goodies, don't forget to pick up a bundle of disposable emery boards. They're perfect for cutting into odd shapes, and you can't beat the price: 30 for \$1.

The cheapest possible holder for airbrushing HO boxcars is right there in the center of your roll of toilet paper. (Use the paper first!)



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!

Proposed by-law change to be voted on in May

One of the items on the agenda for our May Business Meeting is a change to the TCDivision's by-laws. This change is necessary for two reasons. First, the NMRA's proposed Long Range Plan eliminates the need for a separate Regional membership, and second, the NMRA's insurance policy only covers NMRA members, so it has asked all Divisions to ensure that its members are NMRA members. So, the bottom line is that we need to redefine TCD "members."

This is the wording as it currently exists in the TCD by-laws:

ARTICLE 1.

Membership and Dues

Any person within the Twin Cities area, defined as Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington Counties shall be eligible to membership in this Corporation, the Twin Cities Division.

There shall be two classes of membership in this Corporation, the Twin Cities Division, as follows:

Regular: Any member of the Thousand Lakes Region ("TLR") and National Model Railroad Association, Inc. ("NMRA") within the Twin Cities area in good standing with current dues to TLR and NMRA paid is a member of the Twin Cities Division.

Active: Any person voluntarily expressing a genuine interest in membership may become a member of the Twin Cities Division upon application to the secretary and payment of dues to the treasurer equal to five dollars (\$5.00) for one (1) year or nine dollars (\$9.00) for two (2) years.

Two (2) year maximum. A year's membership is defined as 12 months from the date of payment and will include 4 issues of THE CROSSING GATE. Renewals will start at the expiration of the person's current membership period.

Article I Section I is geographically too limiting – we have members who live outside the seven county metro area; some even live outside of Minnesota. Section A becomes obsolete if the NMRA's Long Range Plan passes. Section B needs to be restated to fall within NMRA insurance guidelines.

The proposed wording change to the by-laws would incorporate any change in dues, but in its current form it would read as follows:

ARTICLE 1.

Membership and Dues

Any person voluntarily expressing a genuine interest in becoming a part of the Twin Cities Division shall submit a Division application to the clerk and payment of dues to the treasurer equal to five dollars (\$5.00) for one (1) year or nine dollars (\$9.00) for two (2) years. A year's membership is defined as 12 months from the date of payment and will include 4 issues of The Crossing Gate. Renewals will start at the expiration of the person's current membership period.

There shall be two classes of membership in this Corporation, the Twin Cities Division, as follows:

Regular Member (hereafter referred to as "members"): Any person who is a member-in-good-standing of the National Model Railroad Association ("NMRA"). Regular members are entitled to full voting privileges within the Division.

Subscribing Members (hereafter referred to as "subscribers"): Any person who is not a member of the NMRA but who wishes to receive THE CROSSING GATE. Subscribing members do not have voting privileges within the Division.

Because of those changes, Article 5 also needs to be reworded. Currently it reads:

ARTICLE 5.

Voting

Each member in good standing, regular or active, with current dues paid, present at a meeting shall be entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

The proposed wording change would read:

Each regular member in good standing... [the rest remains as is].

We plan to discuss this issue and vote on these by-law changes at our May Business Meeting. Please plan to attend!

"TCD History" continued from page 1

that the clinics become the responsibility of the Division, with support from all area hobby retailers. Schmidt liked the idea, and the result was the type of TCD clinics we continue to attend today.

THE CROSSING GATE was started in 1981 by Fred Holzapfel, who became its first editor. He – and all TCD officers – felt that communication with members was critical to the survival of the TCD. THE CROSSING GATE continues to meet that need today.

Finally, layout tours as we've come to know them took some years to fully develop. Ernie Schwenke, past TCD President, and his fellow officers developed the layout tour concept we know today. Their efforts made layout tours a real member benefit we continue to enjoy. [Ed. note: Very coincidentally, Les's layout is on our Spring tour.]

Since the beginning the first officers – and all that have followed – have continued to move your Twin Cities Division forward to where it is today. I encourage you to continue to support the Twin Cities Division to allow our organization to grow and prosper.

How can you help? Simple. By renewing your membership. By volunteering. By getting one or more of your friends to share in the fun by becoming members.

Railfan & Hobby Show CALL BOARD

Saturday, May 1, 2004 & Sunday, May 2, 2004 - Spring Rail Fest at the Hutchinson Mall 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Saturday, 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Sunday; 1060 Hwy. 15 S., Hutchinson MN. Admission: Free Operating model railroads in many scales and a model flea market. Sponsored by the Luce Line Railroad Club, Inc. The club welcomes layouts for display. Contact David Zachmeyer at (320) 587-8641 or zachmeyer@mac.com.

Sunday, May 2, 2004 - 28th Northland Antique Toy, Doll, & Advertising Show 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM, Progress Center, MN State Fairgrounds, Falcon Heights, MN. Admission: \$5; children free. For more information: Northland Toy Shows, Inc., 2576 N. Avon, Roseville, MN 55113; (651) 464-4550

Friday, May 21 - 23, 2004 - Tracking to the Forks The 2004 Thousand Lakes Region Annual Convention, Townhouse Best Western, 710 1st Avenue North, Grand Forks, ND. See the insert in this issue for details or visit <http://www.thousandlakesregion.org>

Sunday thru Sunday, July 4-11, 2004 - "Puget Sound Express" National Model Railroad Association's National Convention in Seattle, WA. All the details are at <http://www.nmra2004.org/>

Saturday & Sunday, November 13-14, 2004 - Great American Train Show, 11am-5pm, RiverCentre, 175 West Kellogg Blvd, Saint Paul, MN. Admission: Adults - \$7; Children 12 and under - free. For more information: <http://www.greatamericantrainshow.com/schedule/index.htm>. For a Discount Coupon: <http://www.greatamericantrainshow.com/discount.htm>

THE CROSSING GATE

Twin Cities Division, TLR, NMRA

PO Box 14470

St. Paul, MN 55114

Inside:

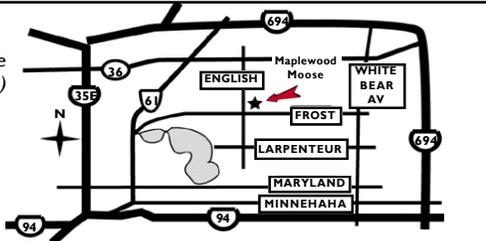
- ◆ Our Birthday issue... sort of
- ◆ A look back and a look ahead
- ◆ Spring Layout Tours

Next meetings:

April 8, and May 13 at
7:30pm. (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

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>

Creative Trains
3090 Courthouse Lane
Eagan, MN 55121
(651) 905-1144
<http://shop.store.yahoo.com/creativetrains>

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

Douglas Designs
4120 Yosemite Ave. S.
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
763-926-7164
bryants4@rea-alp.com

Hobbytown USA
7916 Brooklyn Park Blvd.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445
(763) 424-5900
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

Hobbytown USA
1750 Weir Drive
Woodbury, MN 55125
(651) 702-0355
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/>

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/>

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

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