

THE CROSSING GATE

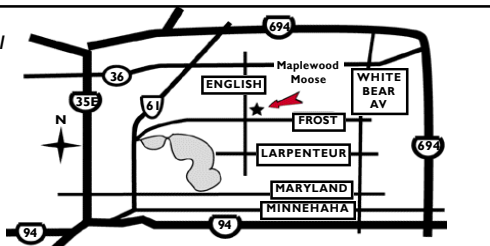
Twin Cities Division, TLR, NMRA
PO Box 14470
St. Paul, MN 55114

Inside:

- ◆ Special Meeting on Sept. 9
- ◆ Rideshare program created
- ◆ 4 feet, 8.5 inches?

Next meetings:
Sept. 9, Oct. 14 and Nov. 11
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

Beaumont's Quality Tools
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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
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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

Hobbies Plus
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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

Hobbytown USA
11319 Highway 7
Minnetonka, MN 55305
(952) 931-2262
http://www.hobbytown.com/zcl/detail.html?zcl_info_id=15

Hobbytown USA
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(651) 702-0355
http://www.hobbytown.com/zcl/detail.html?zcl_info_id=73

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(651) 905-9523
<http://hobbyzone.com>

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82 Minnesota Ave.
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(651) 490-1675
<http://hubhobbycenter.com>

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

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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

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

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

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

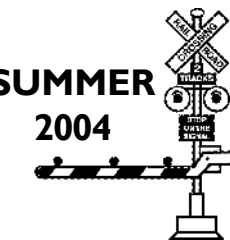
Scale Model Supplies
458 Lexington Parkway
Saint Paul, MN 55104
(651) 646-7781
<http://www.scalemodelsupplies.com>

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

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sponsors of the
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Show them your
support!**

The Crossing Gate

SUMMER
2004



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

Special Business Meeting to be held September 9 at 7p.m.

A special, unscheduled Division meeting will be held on Thursday, September 9, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. at the Moose Lodge in Maplewood. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and approve changes to the Division's bylaws and subsequently, to discuss and possibly raise the annual Division dues.

In accordance with the bylaws, the Spring 2004 issue of THE CROSSING GATE contained an article outlining proposed bylaw changes to the membership. At the May 2004 business meeting these changes were voted upon and approved by the membership. The result was the creation of two levels of participation in the division: Regular member and Subscriber. Regular members are defined as those who also belong to the NMRA. Regular members get voting rights within the Division, whereas Subscribers do not.

On further discussion, however, several members suggested additional word changes that would make the distinction even clearer. Those changes couldn't be approved on the spot because they must first be published 30 days before a vote can be taken.

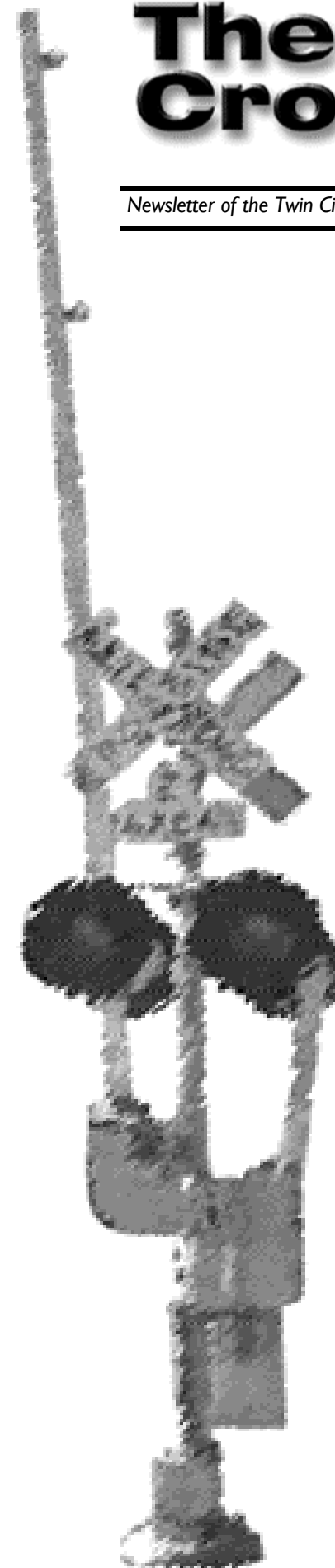
A further bylaw change was suggested by members at the meeting. Currently, the Twin Cities Division's bylaws specifically state the dollar amount of the annual dues. In order to change the dues amount, the bylaws have to be amended, published, and voted upon -- a lengthy and cumbersome process. Amending the bylaws to eliminate the specific dollar amount significantly streamlines the process.

These revamped bylaws, published elsewhere in this issue, will be voted upon at the Special Meeting, and, if approved, a second discussion will take place: raising the dues.

CROSSING GATE editor Gerry Leone began the dues discussion at the May 2004 Business Meeting by citing the fact that the dues haven't been raised since 1991. Meanwhile, printing and postage rates have significantly increased, raising the per-issue cost of the newsletter. In addition, the Division has purchased much-needed audiovisual equipment for clinics and presentations, and is paying a higher monthly rental rate for meetings since it moved to the Moose Lodge. In short, the coffers could use a little bolstering.

While Leone initially suggested \$8 per year for dues, the membership at the meeting felt that \$10 per year was more in keeping with inflation, and was still a manageable amount.

The dues discussion will be reopened at the September meeting, and will be voted on, pending the bylaw change.



**Twin Cities Division
Board & Officers**

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Popular Vote Contest Chairperson

Pam Notman

NMRA Contest Chairman

position open

Public Relations

position open

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.

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 \$5 per year. If you're not an NMRA member, become a Subscriber (you get a year's subscription to THE CROSSING GATE) for only \$5 per year.

From the Editor

This time around I've got a bunch of miscellaneous items to share with you:

THANKS First, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors and Officers, I'd like to thank those forty-some individuals who came to the business meeting last May. No, those meetings aren't as interesting as clinics or slide shows, but they're necessary to keep any organization on-track and moving forward. At times the Officers wonder if anyone really cares about all the "behind the scenes" stuff, so it's nice to have tangible proof that there are many members who do. Thanks.

BORNE AGAIN I know I promised at the May meeting that I'd be running Jeff Borne's great story about his pioneering journey on the Minnesota Prairie Line in this issue. Well, as you can see, I just ran out of space-- there's lots of business to be taken care of this time around! And though the events in the story took place in the Spring of 2003, I think it'll keep a few more months without spoiling. Hopefully the next issue will give the story and photos the space they deserve. Sorry, Jeff!

DISH UP SOME TRAINS Jules Loipersbeck sent along an email note mentioning that there are now two train-related shows on DISH-TV. The first, "I Love Trains," can be seen on Sundays at 3 a.m., Mondays at 9 a.m., Thursdays at 6 p.m. and Fridays at both midnight and 6 a.m. The show "Trains and Locos" is being dished out on Mondays at 11 p.m., Tuesdays at 11 a.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. He says that the programs can be found on DISH TV's channel 9409 RFD TV. Because I'm still in the "dark ages" and only have cable, I'm taking this on faith. Check your local listings... if there are such things as local listings on DISH TV.

ANYONE FOR CLINICS? Show us what you know! We're always looking for people willing to give clinics, either the modeling "how-to" kind or prototype slides or stories. If you think it'd be fun to do one -- and it is -- contact our new Assistant Superintendent, Bill Gisch. Don't forget: if you do a clinic, you'll get points toward your Achievement Program "Author" Certificate.

LET'S SEE LRT I'd love to publish a few photos -- and maybe even a story! -- about the opening of the Minneapolis LRT. If you have any shots (either digital or analog), send them along. Other commitments keep me from being there, so if you'd like to write something up, no one would appreciate it more than me. All photos will be returned.

YET MORE THANKS Once again I'd like to thank those folks who've taken the time to contribute items to THE CROSSING GATE. As I mentioned at our May meeting, there's nothing quite as empty as blank newsletter pages that need to be filled. I sure do appreciate your helping me fill them with interesting material. As always, I welcome any contributions, whether they're articles, photos, ideas, or even items you found somewhere else (I'll take care of getting permission to reprint). Keep THE CROSSING GATE in mind as you're reading, traveling, or modeling this Summer. Chance are, if you found something you thought was interesting, the rest of the membership will find it interesting, too!

Contributors to this issue:
Al Dowd and Jules Loipersbeck.
Thanks!
Deadline for next issue:
September 10, 2004

See you in September. -Gerry

Members made many motions at May meeting

Over 45 Twin Cities Division members and officers came to discuss the issues last May 13 for our annual Business Meeting. Besides giving away a huge array of great door prizes, the Division made several important decisions.

Bill Gisch will replace the retiring Bill Dredge as Assistant Superintendent. We'd like to thank both of the Bills: Mr. Dredge for the fine job he did last year, and Mr. Gisch for agreeing to take on the task.

Joe Reuben expressed his desire to step down from the position of Public Relations Director, a post he's held for over two years. This leaves the PR job

open. The PR Director's job involves spending just a few hours every two to three months soliciting door prizes from local hobby shops and leaving our flyers with them. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Superintendent Lynn McCall. Thanks for your work, Joe!

The start time for monthly clinics has been moved up to 7:00. Many members expressed concern about the clinics running long, so please be at the Moose Lodge and ready to begin by 7.

Sometime over the past several years the Division's election timing got 180-degrees off. Because our bylaws state that both the Superintendent and Chief Clerk are

to be elected in even-numbered years, both Lynn McCall and Al Dowd were re-elected, this time for two-year terms. Congratulations (again), guys!

The members and officers discussed a possible dues increase for the Division, raising it from the current \$5/year to \$8/year. After additional discussion, those present agreed that \$10/year would be even more reasonable and more in-keeping with inflation. Although members were ready to vote on the issue, it was brought to the Board's attention that the actual dollar amount of the dues was specifically stated in the Division's bylaws, and thus the bylaws would have to be changed -- a move that requires 30 days' written notice to the entire membership. You'll find the proposed amended bylaws elsewhere in this issue.

The membership passed the proposed bylaw change as outlined in the Spring 2004 CROSSING GATE concerning the creation of two classes of Division membership: Regular members and Subscribing members. After further discussion it was agreed that the bylaws should be reworded even further. The Division will vote on these additional changes at a special meeting on September 9. Please see the cover story for details.

Two "working groups" were formed, each to meet during the Summer and report back to the membership in the Fall. The first, proposed by CROSSING GATE editor Gerry Leone, concerned the creation of a lending library of clinics videotaped at various National conventions. The second, headed by Chief Clerk Al Dowd, will look into the feasibility of creating a piece of Twin Cities Division rolling stock, to be sold to the membership and at train shows.

Lastly, member Pat Walker suggested that the Division volunteer to host the 2007 Thousand Lakes Region Convention, citing the many layout and prototype tour opportunities in the Twin Cities as being reasons to expect a good turnout. With the members' approval, Pat volunteered to chair the committee and draw up the bid for hosting the convention.

Railfan & Hobby Show CALL BOARD

COMPILED BY CHIEF CLERK AL DOWD

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, July 17, 2004 - Model Railroad & Hobby Sale at Bandana Square, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Bandana Square, Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, MN. Free admission

Saturday, July 17, 2004 - Rail Fair, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Copeland Park, La Crosse, WI. Adults \$3.00, children under 12 free (with adult). For more information contact The 400 Foundation Limited, P.O. Box 3411, La Crosse, WI 54602-3411; (608) 582-4761 or (608) 784-0036; <http://www.lacrosseshortlinerr.org>

Friday, August 13, 2004 - Gopher Rail 2004 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm, at the U of M Twin Cities is tentatively set for this date. Visit <http://www.tc.umn.edu/~rrclubum/gopherrail.htm> for more information.

Saturday, September 18, 2004 - Wisconsin Train Expo, Super Swap Meet, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI. Adults \$5.00, children 6-12 \$1.00; Preview admission 6:30 am \$20.00. For more information: <http://www.uniqueeventsshow.com>

Saturday, September 25, 2004 - Model Railroad and Toy Train Sale and Show, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm, Minnesota State Fairgrounds, Education Building. Adults \$3.00; kids under 12 free. Free admission to Bandana Square with hand stamp from this event. For more information contact Sara Fish at (651) 489-8085 or Keith Engen at (952) 473-5276

Saturday, November 6, 2004 - Wisconsin Train Expo, Super Swap Meet, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI. Adults \$5.00, children 6-12 \$1.00; Preview admission 6:30 am \$20.00. For more information: <http://www.uniqueeventsshow.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. Adults \$2.50, children \$0.50 with adult. For more information, email heartlandrails@mchsi.com

Saturday & Sunday, November 13-14, 2004 - Great American Train Show, 11am-5pm, RiverCentre, 175 West Kellogg Blvd, Saint Paul, MN. 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/discout.htm>

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

Three local boys make good at the TLR's "Tracking to the Forks" 2004 Convention

The Thousand Lakes Region held its 2004 convention, "Tracking to the Forks," in Grand Forks, ND, over the May 21-23 weekend at the Town House Best Western hotel. The region offered the 80+ TLR members and spouses a whole host of activities, including tours of the Northern Lights Model



Railroad Club's layout, several clinics, a visit to the BNSF switching yard and shops, a modeling contest, a banquet, and a raffle featuring over 100 manufacturer-donated prizes.

The Twin Cities Division was well represented at the convention.

First, and most important, our new Education Director, Bruce Selb, was elected president of the Region. It will no doubt be beneficial to the TCD to have such easy access to the TLR's head

honcho. We wish Bruce all the best.

Second, our own CROSSING GATE editor Gerry Leone took "Best of Show" in the modeling contest with a single-sheathed C&NW boxcar. Leone scratchbuilt masters of the car sides, ends, roof and doors. Each featured rivet detail produced on a homemade riveter. The masters produced the 10 castings used to build the car. The model earned 117 out of a possible 125 points in Merit Award judging.

Third, John Hotvet, a TCD member as well as Treasurer and AP Director of the TLR, brought home a "First Place" award in the "Cabooses" category with his scratchbuilt model of a Minneapolis and St. Louis caboose.

Other notable awards at the convention included Ted Hotvet, John's son, who



made the TLR history books by winning the Teen Modeling Award for an unprecedented third straight year. His entry was of a B&O boxcar.

The "Best of Show" photography award went to Terry Davis of Hutchinson, for his prototype slide entitled, "BNSF Westbound at Wyalusing State Park."

The TLR Contest Director is Tom Mauszycki, who headed the TCD's Merit Award contests last April and October.



Modeling Tips & Tricks

Clunky window castings can be made to look quite delicate with this trick. Paint the windows flat black and then paint only the front surface (not the thick sides) with the window trim color. The window sash will look great.

Here's an easy way to get consistent

superelevation on curves made with flex-track: weed whacker line. It comes in several standard diameters (.020", .040", .060", etc.). Just tuck it under the outside of the ties before you lay your track.

Need a square glue joint on a building, bridge or just about anything else? Try

LEGO blocks! LEGOs can be built up to fit just about any application, be it squaring up the sides of a building or making sure a tunnel portal is square to the track. Or even setting up ribs on an airplane wing. Use wax waper between the blocks and any CA or epoxy glue joint or you will end up with a real mess!

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!

The horse's behind that designed our rail system

This was sent to us by Jules Loipersbeck, who received it in email. Truth? Urban legend? You be the judge. But entertaining? You bet!

Does the statement, "We've always done it that way" ring any bells...? The U.S. standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used?

Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates built the U.S. railroads.

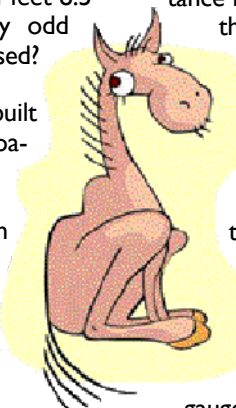
Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used.

Why did "they" use that gauge? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

So why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they

tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So who built those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built the first long distance roads in Europe (and England) for their legions. The roads have been used ever since.



And the ruts in the roads? Roman war chariots formed the initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. Since the chariots were made for Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

The United States standard rail gauge of 4 feet 8.5 inches is derived from the original specifications for an Imperial Roman war chariot. And bureaucracies live forever. So next time you're handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two

war horses.

Now the twist to the story. When you see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are the solid rocket boosters, or SRBs. The SRBs are made by Thiokol at its factory in Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs would have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory happens to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track, as you now know, is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So a major Space Shuttle design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago... by the width of a horse's ass.



TCD Timetable

THURSDAY, Sept. 9, 2004 7:00 pm

Special Business Meeting. See the story on Page 1 for details.

THURSDAY, Oct. 14, 2004 7:00 pm

MODELING CLINIC - *Dressing up Athearn Locomotives (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

MODELING CLINIC - *Correcting Kit Mistakes (Dave Norman)*
PROTO PRESENTATION - *Ore Operations (Mike Sofie)*
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - *Interurban Trains*

THURSDAY, Dec. 9, 2004 7:00 pm

POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - *Square Foot Diorama: Locomotive Service Facilities*

THURSDAY, Jan. 13, 2005 7:00 pm

POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - *Maintenance of Way Cars*

THURSDAY, Feb. 10, 2005 7:00 pm

POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - *Baldwin Locomotives*

THURSDAY, Mar. 10, 2005 7:00 pm

POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - *Tank Cars*

THURSDAY, Apr. 14, 2005 7:00 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: (____) _____

If you're an NMRA member include your membership #: _____

The proposed amendment to the bylaws of the TCD

The purpose of this amendment is to incorporate changes to the Bylaws of this Corporation, the Twin Cities Division, which reflect the consensus of the Members present at the 2004 Annual Business Meeting of the Twin Cities Division.

This amendment was prepared by the Executive Committee (Board of Directors) of the Division for consideration by the Members of the Division at a Special Meeting to be called for the express purpose of ratifying or rejecting proposed amendments to the Bylaws. The meeting will take place on September 9, 2004 at 7:00 pm at the Maplewood Moose Lodge.

This amendment refines the definition of participation in the Division and its activities (Article I) and normalizes terminology throughout consistently with that refinement.

The wording of the affected sections follows, alternated with the wording of the proposed changes.

Current wording:
Article I. Membership and Dues

1. 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.

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

A. 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

B. Subscribing Member (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 get voting privileges within the Division.

Proposed changes:
Article I. Membership

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

A. Member: Any person who is a member in good standing of the National Model Railroad

Association ("NMRA") may participate in the Division as a Member. Members are entitled to full voting privileges within the Division and may serve as officers of the Division.

B. Subscriber: Any person who is not a member of the NMRA, but who wishes to receive THE CROSSING GATE, may participate in the Division as a Subscriber. Subscribers do not have voting privileges within the Division and may not serve as officers of the Division.

2. Any person voluntarily expressing a genuine interest in participating in the Twin Cities Division may submit a Division application to the Secretary and payment of dues or subscription to the Treasurer. A year's membership or subscription is defined as 12 months from the date of payment and will include a year's subscription to The Crossing Gate. Renewals will start at the expiration of the person's current membership or subscription period.

Current wording:
III.1.A The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Director-At-Large shall be deemed by popular election by the members.

Proposed changes:
III.1.A The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Director-At-Large shall be determined by popular election by the Members.

Current wording:
III.2. The officers of the corporation shall be regular members residing in the Twin Cities area.

Proposed changes:
III.2. The officers of the corporation shall be Division Members.

Current wording:
III.4. The officers shall be elected by a simple majority of members present by ballot to serve two years or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected. The President and the Secretary shall be elected in even numbered years, and the Vice President and the Director at Large shall be elected in odd numbered years. To incorporate the changes, in May 1994 the Vice President and Director at Large shall be elected for one-year terms.

III.5. No member shall hold more than one office at a time, and no member shall be eligible to serve as an officer for more than six consecutive years.

Proposed changes:
III.4. The officers shall be elected by a simple majority of Members present by ballot to serve

two years or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected. The President and the Secretary shall be elected in even numbered years, and the Vice President and the Director at Large shall be elected in odd numbered years. To incorporate the changes, in May 1994 the Vice President and Director at Large shall be elected for one-year terms.

Current wording:
IV.1.F. Public Relations Director. The Public Relations Director shall:
(i) Welcome new members.
(ii) Induce former members to restore themselves to active status.

Proposed changes:
IV.1.F. Public Relations Director. The Public Relations Director shall:
(i) Welcome new participants.
(ii) Induce former Members to restore themselves to active status.

Current wording:
Article V. Voting
1. Each Regular Member of the Division, in good standing, with current dues paid, present at a meeting shall be entitled to one vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

Proposed changes:
Article V. Voting
1. Each Member, in good standing, with current dues paid, present at a meeting shall be entitled to one vote.
2. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

Current wording:
Article VI. Standing Committees
1. A Nominating Committee of three members elected by the officers except the president. It shall be the duty of this committee to solicit members to nominate candidates, in writing, for offices to be filled at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting and in a written report to present those nominations and those of the committee at the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee shall contact each person whom it proposes to nominate, in order to obtain his or her assurance that he or she will serve in the specified office if elected.

"Bylaw changes" continued on page 5

"Bylaw changes" continued from page 4

Proposed changes:
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her assurance that he or she will serve in the specified office if elected.

Current wording:
Article VIII. Amendments
1. The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any general meeting or at any special meeting called for that purpose, provided notice of the proposed amendment is sent to the members at least 30 days prior to the meeting. The notice shall contain the paragraph numbers, headings, and text

of the wording of the proposed amendment.

Proposed changes:
Article VIII. Amendments
1. The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Members present at any general meeting or at any special meeting called for that purpose, provided notice of the proposed amendment is sent to the Members at least 30 days prior to the meeting. The notice shall contain the paragraph numbers, headings, and text of the wording of the proposed amendment.

TCDivision creates a rideshare program for those who can't get to our monthly clinics

by Al Dowd, Chief Clerk

Folks: While I was sitting at my table at the Fairgrounds Swap Meet last May, a gentleman in an NMRA Life Member jacket stepped up and chatted. As he talked, he revealed that he'd joined the Division a year ago, but had not been able to attend our monthly clinics because he relies on public transportation.

That got me to thinking. How many other members are in similar situations, where lack of flexible transportation, failing night vision, or other constraints stand in the way of participation?

At the last Business Meeting, we adjusted the clinic start time to accommodate the needs of some members. Now is the time to look at additional ways to reach out to others.

I'd like to try to set up a ride-sharing database that would facilitate connecting people who drive to clinics with people in need of a ride. Hopefully it could be in place for our first regular clinic this October.

The question is how to set it up so it works effectively. I'm looking for your ideas, for a contribution of time, and for your commitment to making the TCD an

important part of model railroading in the Twin Cities. Let's get it started and see how it works with this sign-up form. I'll take an initial crack at making a "connections" database and we'll see how it goes. Perhaps you'd be willing to volunteer as the Assistant Clerk for TCD Rideshare to help this all work.

Help give a member a break! Fill out this form (or a copy of it) and send it to: Twin Cities Division, Attn: TCD Rideshare, PO Box 14470, St. Paul, MN 55114.

And thanks in advance for your help!

TCD... We Pull It All Together!

Need a ride? Can you give a ride? Fill out this form and send it to us!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

(check one)

_____ I'd like to come but I need a ride. I live near _____
(Major intersection or landmark)

_____ I can give someone a ride. I drive to meetings from _____
(City or town)

via _____
(Major streets)

Mail to: **Twin Cities Division, ATTN: TCD Rideshare, PO Box 14470, St. Paul, MN 55114**