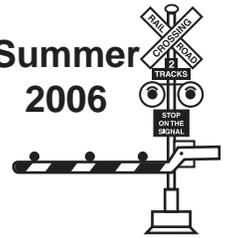


The Crossing Gate

Summer
2006



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

DIVISION AT CROSSROADS

by Dennis Rogers

The Twin Cities Division May 11th Annual Business Meeting was recessed until October 12th because no one came forth to run for three of the four open board positions. Most crucial to the continued viability of the Division is that of the Superintendent which went unfilled. The other unfilled positions were that of the Layout Tour Coordinator and NMRA Contest Chairperson.

Dave Houle stepped up to the plate to fill the Clerk position. He was elected by acclamation.

Following a protracted but unsuccessful effort to encourage members to come forth, the membership in attendance decided that the business meeting should be in recess until fall with the hope that with time members may come forward to serve. Outgoing Superintendent, Lynn McCall, agreed to stay on in an interim capacity until the October 12th meeting.

There have been repeated calls in this newsletter for people to take a higher level of participation in the continued operation of the Division, but these calls have met with few results. The Division now finds itself at a critical juncture. With no one to fill the Superintendent position, there is a leadership vacuum that cannot adequately be addressed by the remainder of the board. And, without a Layout Tour Coordinator or NMRA Contest Chairperson, major reasons for the Division's existence cease.

The resumption of the Annual Business Meeting on October 12th is extremely important to the continuation of the Division, and every member is urged to be there. Attendance at our meetings has been abysmal when one compares the membership rolls to the number of people who actually make the meetings. There are approximately 175 paid members, yet only about 30-40 show up for any given meeting. And attendance at the annual business meetings is even lower, perhaps they are more often than not--dull. However as the May 11th meeting demonstrates, these meetings are necessary for the organization to function. Admittedly, one of the problems with attendance has been the venue itself, and several members are working on finding a more suitable site. Never-the-less, without renewed involvement by individual members, the Division may be forced to fold.

It's our organization, and each of us has a choice!



Twin Cities Division
Board & Officers

For all Division business or questions:

Superintendent

Position Open
super@twincitiesdivision.org

To volunteer to give a clinic:

Assistant Superintendent

Bill Gisch
asuper@twincitiesdivision.org

To volunteer for a train show or "Timetable" entries:

Chief Clerk

Dave Houle
clerk@twincitiesdivision.org

For membership problems, CROSSING GATE
subscription or address problems, or website issues:

Paymaster & Webmaster

Tim Klevar
paymaster@twincitiesdivision.org

For article or photo submissions:

CROSSING GATE Editor

Dennis Rogers
763-780-4976
editor@twincitiesdivision.org

For Golden Spike or NMRA Certificate questions:

NMRA Achievement Program

Dave Hamilton
763-449-0058
ap@twincitiesdivision.org

To volunteer your layout for a tour, or suggest one:

Layout Tour Coordinator

Position Open
tours@twincitiesdivision.org

For hobby shop or door prize questions:

Public Relations

Don Smith
pr@twincitiesdivision.org

Director at Large

Bruce Notman
assistant@twincitiesdivision.org

Education Director

Bruce Selb
ed@twincitiesdivision.org

Popular Vote Contest Chairperson

Pam Notman

NMRA Contest Chairman

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, 9677 Able Street NE, Blaine, MN 55434, 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 Superintendent

Well, I hope that everyone has had a wonderful and complete summer thus far. As for myself, I married in mid June and went on the Lake Superior Circle Tour, plus rode the Algoma Central from Sault St Marie, Ont. to Hearst, Ont. round trip. If you get a chance to do this ride, it is well worth the overnight trip. We saw wonderful scenery and a different style of passenger operations.

On to the important stuff, last May the board decided that the Annual Business Meeting should be carried over to the Oct. 12 meeting at the Moose Lodge. A couple of big things were discussed during this meeting: A new location for the meeting to take place; and the continued operation of the Twin Cities Division.

As for a new meeting location, Dennis Rogers (TCD - Editor of the 'Crossing Gate'), has stepped forward to seek out a new place for the TCD to meet. I congratulate him in taking on this effort, but he will need the Division's help in doing this task. He is looking for suggestions as to where we want to meet and is looking for people to help find a suitable new place. So, if you have any helpful information for Dennis, please let him know.

Now as for the continuing operation of the Twin City Division, the Division does not have a leader, but there is an active Board of Directors. The Board will act in place of a Superintendent until such time as a new Superintendent comes forward and is elected to the office by the membership. As I promised at the May meeting, I will preside over the Oct 12 meeting, then turn my duties over to the Board of Directors at the time.

In closing, I would like to say that it has been a great experience and a fun time serving as the Superintendent of the Twin Cities Division. I would like to wish all of you 'Fair Winds and Following Seas!'.



From the Editor

It is with much regret that I must notify you of the untimely death of **Pat Walker**, member number 295. Pat was active in both the Twin Cities Division and the Thousand Lakes Region. He was instrumental in the organizing of the Northstar '99 NMRA Convention in St. Paul, and the Northstar '06 TLR Convention in Maplewood. A memorial service was held on August 8th at the Jackson Street Roundhouse.

As most of what I intended for this column appears in the front page article and in the Superintendent's column, I will keep the Editor column brief.

As Lynn McCall noted, I am looking for input and suggested locations from the members as to where we should hold our monthly clinics. Bob Clarkson has agreed to assist me, but I could still use more peoples' ideas and time. Perhaps it is nostalgia, but my objectives are to find a location that includes a location near the center of the metro area, a place for comradery over a reasonably priced meal, has a private area with a decent audio-visual system, and some connection to railroading. If you know of any such locations, please shoot me an email at editor@twincitiesdivision.org.

Contributors to this issue:
Lynn McCall, David Houle, Dave Hamilton, Jim Bernier

THANKS!

Deadline for next issue:
September 10 , 2006

Speaking of the Internet, some of you may have noticed a problem with our web site this summer, but not without more than a little effort, Tim Klevar has gotten it up and running again. Thanks Tim!!



BYLAWS

OF THE

TWIN CITIES DIVISION

OF THE THOUSAND LAKES REGION OF

THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC.

Amendments included - 13 May 1986, 10 May 1988, 9 May 1991, 14 May 1992, 12 May 1994, 13 May 2004 and 9 September 2004.

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.

Article II Meetings

1. Business Meetings

There shall be one annual business meeting for the election of officers, the time and place to be determined by the officers. At least three days notice shall be given.

2. Special Meetings

Special meetings can be called by the President. The purpose of the meeting shall be given in the call. At least three days notice shall be given.

Article III Officers

1. Slate of Officers

The officers of the Corporation shall be a President (Division Superintendent), a Vice President (Assistant Superintendent), a Secretary (Chief Clerk), a Treasurer (Paymaster), a Contest Director, a Public Relations Director, a Crossing Gate Editor, and a Director-At-Large.

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

B. The Treasurer, Contest Director, Public Relations Director, and Crossing Gate Editor shall be appointed by the President and approved by a majority of the elected officers.

2. General Prerequisites

The officers of the Corporation shall be Division Members.

3. Nomination of Officers

At the annual business meeting the Nominating Committee shall, by a written report, nominate the candidates for the offices to be filled by election.

4. Election of Officers

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.

5. Term Limits

No Member shall hold more than one office at a time, and no Member shall serve as an officer for more than six consecutive years.

6. Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy in any office by reason of a change in residence to outside the Twin Cities area, resignation, incapacity, or death, the Directors shall appoint a successor who shall hold office until the next annual meeting for the election of officers.

7. Removal from Office

Should an officer be suspected of misuse, misconduct, or detrimental performance while in office, said officer may be removed by a written petition against the officer signed by at least two-thirds of the officers. The vacancy will be filled according to Section 6 of this Article.

8. Board of Directors

The officers shall constitute the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Article IV Duties of Directors and Officers

The general management of the affairs of the Corporation shall be vested in the Directors. The officers shall be responsible for specific duties as follows:

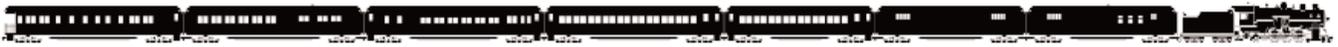
1. President The President shall:

(i) Preside at all meetings of the membership and of the Directors.

(ii) Be ex-officio a member of all the committees except the Nominating Committee.

(iii) Be an official representative of the Corporation on the TLR Board.

(iv) Perform such other duties as, by custom, devolve upon a President or are conferred upon him by the Corporation or the Board of Directors.



2. Vice President

The Vice President shall be the aide and assistant to the President and shall assume the duties of the President in his absence or at his request.

3. Secretary

The Secretary shall:
(i) Maintain accurate minutes of all meetings.
(ii) Keep the Division's official membership roll and call the roll when it is required.
(iii) Notify the membership of meetings and conduct the general correspondence of the Corporation - that is, correspondence which is not a function proper to other offices or to committees.
(iv) Maintain record books in which the articles of incorporation, bylaws, minutes, and membership roster are entered, with any amendments to those documents properly recorded, and to have the current record books on hand at every meeting.
(v) Provide an agenda for all meetings.

4. Treasurer

The treasurer shall:
(i) Keep an accurate record of all funds received and funds paid out and balance on hand.
(ii) Collect all dues and revenue from any sponsored activity.
(iii) Balance the books and prepare a written financial report at the end of each quarter in each year and at such other times as the officers may request.
(iv) Keep the books ready and available for audit.
(v) Report and provide a financial statement at the annual meeting.
(vi) Make disbursement by check upon receipt of an invoice or voucher. All invoices or vouchers must be approved by the person responsible for the expenditure. Persons authorized to make miscellaneous expenditures out of personal funds may be reimbursed in a similar manner. No funds may be expended without the approval of the Board.
(vii) Assist with matters of a financial character.
(viii) Prepare and submit tax documents.

5. Contest Director

The Contest Director shall have charge of all Division contests so declared by the officers.

6. Public Relations Director

The Public Relations Director shall:
(i) Welcome new participants.
(ii) Induce former Members to restore themselves to active status.
(iii) Secure as much good publicity for the Division as possible.
(iv) Be responsible for a Twin Cities Division public relations booth at functions as determined by the T.C.D. Board of Directors.

7. Crossing Gate Editor

The Crossing Gate Editor shall publish The Crossing Gate on a frequency to be determined by the Board of Directors.

8. Director-At-Large

The Director-At-Large shall assume those duties deemed necessary by the President with the advice of the other officers.

2. Special Committees

Such other committees, standing or special, shall be appointed by the President as the Corporation or officers shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on the work of the Corporation.

Article VII Priority

No act of the Corporation or requirement of these Bylaws shall conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws, or other regulations of the TLR or the NMRA. Article VIII. Amendments

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.

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.

Article VI Standing Committees

1. Nominating Committee
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.



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www.trainride.org*

Expires April 1, 2007

Railfan & Hobby Show CALL BOARD

COMPILED BY JIM BERNIER, DAVE HAMILTON AND DENNIS ROGERS

August 17-19, 2006 - Rock Island Technical Society Convention/Show Location: Waterloo/Cedar Falls, IA See <http://storm.simpson.edu/~RITS/> for details.

August 19-20, 2006 - Oelwein Heritage Days Location: Oelwein, IA See www.cgwo.org or williamandshirley@mchsi.com for details.

September 8-10, 2006 - Soo Line Technical and Historical Society Convention, Location: Duluth - Radison Harborview.

September 9-10, 2006 - The Wayzata Depot turns 100 this year! Special activities are planned to coincide with J.J. Hill Days. The steam engine #261 will be on-hand both days, providing rides in the morning to Minneapolis and back, and in the afternoon to Howard Lake and back. Three levels of service will be available. See www.wayzatahistoricalsociety.org/depot.htm for further information.

September 9-10, 2006 - 20th Annual Marinette Train Show, \$4.00 Admission, Location: Education Building, Minnesota State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, MN. See noise-maker383@yahoo.com for further information.

September 23, 2006 - Twin Cities Model Railroad Museum Hobby Sale, Location: Marinette Catholic Central High School, 1200 Main Street, Marinette, WI. See noise-maker383@yahoo.com for further information.

October 7, 2006 - PLD 20th Annual Fall Meet, 8:30a-9p, \$3 (banquet extra), Location: Regional Wellness Center, 415 S 18th St, Esterville, IA. See Pete31545@yahoo.com for further information.

October 14, 2006 - 12th Hutchinson Model Railroad Show, 9-4, \$3 or Kids<6 free. McLeod County Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, MN See Bruce Crosby at (320) 587-8073 for further information.

October 14, 2006 - Wisconsin Train Expo - Super Swap Meet, Sat 9-2, \$5 adults, \$1 kids 6-12. Location: Serb Hall, 5101 W Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI See Jim Welytok at (262) 246-7171 or www.uniqueeventsshows.com for further information.

October 14-15, 2006 - 5th Eau Claire Train Show (Indianhead MRRC), Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4, \$4 Adults, Kids<13 free with paid adult, Regis High School, 2100 Fenwick Ave., Eau Claire, WI, See Richard at (715) 830-1204 or ihmrcctrainshow@gmail.com for further information.

October 21, 2006 - Newport Club - Woodbury Flea Market, 10-3, \$4. Location: Woodbury Senior High School Woodbury, MN For More Info: Stan Whitingham 952-200-9729

October 21, 2006 - Randolph Train Show, 9-5, Free, Location: Randolph School & Museum, Randolph, MN

October 22, 2006 - 28th Annual Spud Valley Hobby Show, 9-3, \$3.75/under 12 free with paid adult, Location: Ramada Plaza Suits - Crystal Ballroom, 1635 42nd St S, Fargo, ND See Dennis Neumiller at 701-282-7058 or SYMRRCC@msn.com.

October 28, 2006 - Dakota Southeastern Home Layout Tour, \$5 or \$10 family (includes driving maps). Location 2 layouts in Harrisburg, 4 layouts in Sioux Falls Tickets available at: Hobbytown, 1007 W 41st St, Sioux Falls, SD For more info: 605-767-9743 or saatkamp@iw.net

Note:
The end of year raffle was postponed until the October 12, 2006 meeting. Bring all your raffle tickets from the past year!

Subscribe or renew NOW!

Send \$10 per year (two year max) to:
Twin Cities Division,
PO Box 2065, Maple Grove, MN
55311

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ year(s)

New subscription [] Renewal []

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email: _____

Home phone: (_____) _____

If you belong to the NMRA, please include your

membership #: _____

For updates, visit our website
at:
www.twincitiesdivision.org



TCD Timetable

THURSDAY, Oct. 12, 2006 7:00 pm
Resumption ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

THURSDAY, Nov. 9, 2006 7:00 pm
MODELING CLINIC - (to be determined)
PROTO PRESENTATION - (to be determined)
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST -
Passenger cars: detailed interiors (lighting optional)

THURSDAY, Dec. 14, 2006 7:00 pm
AUCTION NIGHT
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST -
Christmas Train

THURSDAY, Jan. 11, 2007 7:00 pm
MODELING CLINIC - (to be determined)
PROTO PRESENTATION - Trip to Northlantz by
David Houle
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST - Square
Foot Diorama: Railroad Crossings

THURSDAY, Feb. 8, 2007 7:00 pm
MODELING CLINIC - (to be determined)
PROTO PRESENTATION - (to be determined)
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST -
Oversized flat car loads (more than one car)

THURSDAY, Mar. 9, 2007 7:00 pm
MODELING CLINIC - Model Rail Fanning by
Lynn McCall
PROTO PRESENTATION - (to be determined)
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST -
Shay's Engines—all types

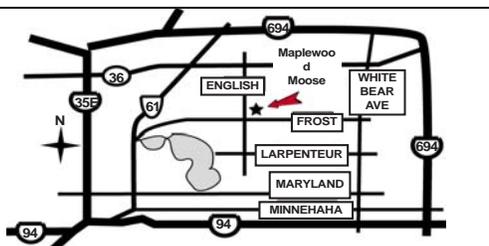
THURSDAY, Apr. 12, 2007 7:00 pm
SHOW AND TELL DISPLAYS-(Train
Projects)
POPULAR VOTE MODEL CONTEST -
Whimsical Railroads / NMRA Merit Point
Judging

THURSDAY, May 10, 2007 7:00 pm
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

THE CROSSING GATE
 Twin Cities Division, TLR, NMRA
 PO Box 2065
 Maple Grove, MN 55311

Next meeting:
 October 12 at 7:00 pm.
 Where:
 Maplewood Moose Lodge,
 1946 English St.
 Maplewood, MN

**(Check our website for
 any last minute changes
 including a possible
 change in venue.)**



Local Twin Cities hobby shops & sponsors

The listings in bold 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>

Choo Choo Bob's
 2050 Marshall Avenue
 Saint Paul, MN 55104
 (651) 646-5252

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
 952-926-7164

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

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
 (763) 477-6186 or (800) 789-5738

**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