

THE CROSSING GATE



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

Winter 2017/18

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- Small European Layouts, cont.
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TCD MEETS WITH MINNEAPOLIS, NORTHFIELD & SOUTHERN MODELERS AND RAILFANS

By Dave Herbert

The November TCD meeting was held on Saturday, November 18, 2017, at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel church in North Minneapolis, jointly with the annual Minneapolis, Northfield and Southern (MN&S) modelers and railfans get together. Joe Frishmon and Steve Gilligan, founders of the modelers' organization, had organized an extensive display consisting of models,



books, photos, artifacts, and DVDs about the MN&S covering its entire



history. Joe, whose father was a locomotive engineer on the MN&S, described its operation from its founding in 1918, from the former Dan Patch Line, to its takeover by the Soo Line in 1982. Currently, remaining trackage of the MN&S is operated by Progressive Rail, he said. Additional comments were given by Bob Byrne, a former brakeman and conductor, and Rodney Ovellette, a former track maintenance man.



Dave Hohle studies models and photos at the MN&S joint meeting with the TCD.

Photos by Dave Herbert

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

From the Superintendent

I enjoyed our September meeting, Train Fest in Milwaukee, a ride on Amtrak and the November meeting with the MN&S folks. Using UBER in Milwaukee was a nice experience in taxicab service.

Now that the weather has gotten colder, it may be time to come in and work on the model railroad.

On my layout: scenery, ballasting, building streets and sidewalks; these are the things I can see when they are done, and I get a feeling of accomplishment without too much of effort.

This fall I built fences that created boundaries between railroad property and the rest of the world. I was able to find only a few magazine articles for reference. Scale 2X4's, 4X4's, cardboard from lots of Wheaties boxes and a paper-craft fringe cutter from Michaels helped me complete the project.

Making streets look like streets using pan pastels, you might be surprised with the colors. Next lane markers, and other details, people, vehicles. You get the idea. Work on your layout, it's cold outside.

Oh I didn't say anything about the trains in this message. They're here, too. Some need work. Have a great holiday.

Supt. Jim Buck

**Ahh, it's winter once again!
How we love it! Quiet. No mos-
quitoes. No heat kinks in the
rails. Comfortable tempera-
tures. Plenty of overtime work.**



From the Editor

Though a bit tardily, since their electronic “magazine” is now on its seventh number, the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) will, nonetheless, receive kudos here for its “Turntable” online publication. When interest in paper magazines is dropping, this kind of effort by the NMRA fits our needs as members. It also can go into greater detail on subjects because there is little space limitation online. I had not noticed “Turntable” before now, but an email from NMRA alerted me to it, and I enjoyed the item on the history of 40-foot boxcars very much. If you have not looked at “Turntable,” you are missing something. It appears that TCD member Gerry Leone, MMR, is one of the sparkplugs who make it go. Such new products by the NMRA strengthen the value of membership in the organization.

WBjorlie, ed.

MORE ON SMALL EUROPEAN LAYOUTS

By Larry Vanden Plas

Unlike many other modeling hobbies, the models on model railroads actually move. Unfortunately many model railroaders don't have a place to run their models. Our fellow model railroaders in Europe have even less space. However, they have developed some ideas to be able to run their trains in small spaces. Their ideas can be applied here to provide an operating layout for you. Come to the January clinic to see four European layouts that will provide ideas to get your trains running. If you already have a layout, they can provide ideas to add to your layout or to add another layout. These layouts, and possibly more, will be available for your examination at the January meeting.

Layout one – N-scale layout demonstrates what can be done in an area only 2 feet by 7 feet.

Layout two – Inglenook Sidings demonstrates the action and fun that can be found on a 1x4-foot HO layout. This one easily stores in a space 2.5 inches deep by 1 foot wide by 4 feet high.

Layout three – This HOn30 narrow gauge layout can be operated by itself or as a part of a larger layout. It is only 21 x 30 inches.

Layout four – This is a double track HO layout 38.5x40 inches that is portable and easily stores against a wall because it is only 2 inches thick. This layout also demonstrates the “dead rail society” or “power on board” concept of the future. The lights, sounds, direction and speeds of the trains are controlled by small and light wireless handheld controllers. The wood cost about \$20.

The clinic will discuss the relationship between car length, required radius, reliable operation and layout size. You will also learn about similarities and differences between European and North American model railroads.

Please join us on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 9am for the special TCD meeting at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church of Plymouth, 12235 Old Rockford Road.



Photos by Mike Nollan of his “traveling N-scale layout.” A similar one will be at the Plymouth meeting on Jan. 13.

MEET RICHARD WEBB

Richard Webb's grandfather gave him a Lionel HO set in 1961, sparking his interest in model railroading. Richard grew up in Madison, WI. In high school, a librarian disposed of old *Model Railroader* magazines directly into his hands after they left the library shelf, and he joined the NMRA while still in high school. After high school, Richard put in two years



at Wisconsin and then came to the University of Minnesota. Now retired, he had a career in materials science at 3-M and has lived in Inver Grove Heights for over 30 years.

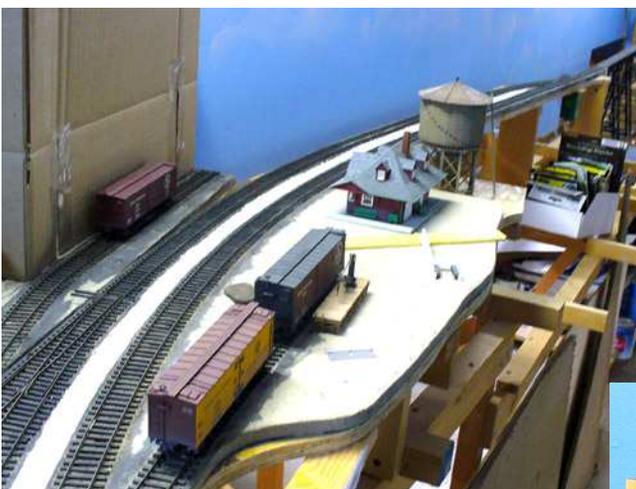


up and left home before he could begin work in earnest. He envisions a Great Northern division back in the 1930s and has cars mostly from that era. The general location he is modeling is the area around Wenatchee, Washington. At one time, he started construction of a helix in contemplation of a bi-level layout but finally decided on a single level. Richard has scratch built a number of structures including a row of warehouse fronts lining the far wall along the yard. The layout contains a few kit buildings, as well, on which he has done an excellent job of construction and staining. The track is hand laid.

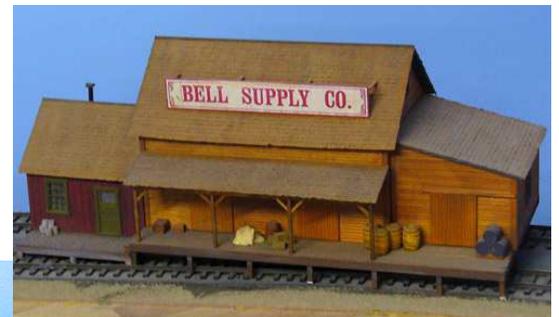
Richard had been thinking about his layout for years, but he had to wait until he retired and his two daughters grew



The layout features fairly intricate benchwork. The track does make a circle. Above, building fronts are located along the far wall. Bell Supply is a well-constructed kit with excellent staining.



At right, an uncommon detail kit showing an ashpit conveyor. Kit is from Scale Structures Ltd.



Text & photos by W. Bjorlie

CONTESTS ARE IMPORTANT FOR BOTH ENTRANTS AND THE HOBBY

By Ron Olsen

Our TCD contests have the winners selected by popular vote and recognize modeling skills only indirectly through voter appreciation. At the TCD level, our objective is to maximize participation and to recognize those who have made the effort to do a good job and offer their model for the education of other members. At the higher TLR level, however, judges evaluate the models under a point system that objectively covers various skills such as construction and weathering. In the hobby, there is a role for both types of contests.

Have you ever wondered what happens in the contest room at a regional TLR convention? Are you curious why some amazing looking models don't score high in judging and the one you thought was kind of plain looking won Best of Show? Or do you just want to know how to make your own contest entries score better in a contest?

There's a common answer to all of these questions - become a contest judge or shadow judge.

What's a shadow judge, you might ask. That's a great question. A shadow judge is a person who follows a contest judge around while he or she is judging the models. The shadow judge learns what the contest judge is looking at for the different categories and how to use the scoring tables to determine a fair score for the model. Once a shadow judge has built up some experience and confidence in their judging abilities, he or she could be a contest judge in a future contest.

Being a contest judge, as you may have already guessed, typically involves having at least some experience as a shadow judge. The contest judge has two responsibilities - to judge the models and also to mentor available shadow judges. The mentoring is important so that we don't run short on contest judges. As much as we'd like to hope, our contest judges won't be around forever. Plus having more judges to spread the work around makes everything easier for all of the judges.

For those of you who always wondered what happens during the contest judging, I challenge you to come to the TLR convention and volunteer to be a shadow judge. Learn how the judging works from the experts we have available, and be ready to volunteer as a contest judge when you feel you're ready to do so. Or, at least, come and bring a model to enter in the contest at the 2018 TLR convention. It's a great way to learn how to become a better modeler. It's also a way to show others what you've been working on that you're especially proud of. It might also be the piece that sparks a conversation with a new friend who has some of the same modeling interests. You might even win an award for it.

Ed. Note: Olsen is TLR Contest chair.

The TCD's November model contest was for grain handling/storage. **Art Suel** submitted the only entry, a very nicely constructed N-scale elevator with storage bins.

The October contest for business structures was kind of swallowed up by other activities of the eventful meeting in Plymouth, but it did have one entry. Nobody noticed, however, and no ribbon was awarded.

Photos by Dave Herbert



HOBBY SHOWS & RAILFANNING EVENTS

Every Sat Thru Feb 24	Twin Cities Model RR Museum Night Trains every Sat. 6-9pm. 668 Transfer Rd. St. Paul 55114. Adm: \$15. Group rates avail. Under 5 free. See trains and scenery with its own lighting. Exciting holiday spectacle!
Sat Jan 6 Sun Jan 7	Red Cedar Train Show UW Stout Indoor Fieldhouse, 220 13th Ave E, Menomonie, WI 54751 Adm. \$5, 10 & under free
Sat Jan 20 (Also Apr 7)	Newport Model RR Club Flea Market at Woodbury Sr. High School, 2665 Woodlane Dr. Woodbury, MN 9am-2pm Adm. \$5, under 12 free. Info: Ed at 651-233-3310.
Sat Jan 27	Great Tri-State Rail Sale. LaCrosse Center, 300 Harborview Plaza, LaCrosse, WI 54601 9am-3pm. Adm. \$5, under 12 free. Info: 608-781-9383.
Sat Feb 3 (Also Apr 14)	Greater Upper Midwest Train Show. Century College. 3300 Century Ave N (Highway 120) White Bear Lake, MN. 9am-2pm. Adm: \$5, under 13 free. Info: Tom Jefferson 651-894-2926.
Sat Feb 3 Sun Feb 4	Arctic Run Model RR Show. Holiday Inn Conv. Ctr. 1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54482. 16,000 sq ft of trains. Sat 9-5. Sun 10-4. Adm. \$3, under 11 free. Info: 715-341-2882. phil.jane.gjevre@charter.net
Sat Mar 3	North Metro Model RR Club Spring Flea Market. 9am-2pm. VFW Bldg. 1919 Coon Rapids Blvd. Coon Rapids, MN. 55433. Adm: \$5, under 13 free. Door prizes. Operating layouts. WWW.nmmrc.org
Sat Mar 17 Sun Mar 18	Three Rivers RR Club Model RR and Miniature Show. Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4. Omni Center, 255 Riders Club Rd., Onalaska, WI 54650 Adm: \$6.50 + nonperishable food item or \$7 for 1 day. \$10 for 2-day pass.
Sat Mar 24 Sun Mar 25	Randolph, MN, RR Days. Swap meet, layouts, collectibles. Adm: \$5, under 13 free. RR Museum free. Randolph School, 29110 Davisson Ave., Randolph, MN 55065 Sat 9-3, Sun 10-2. Info: 507-841-1683.
Sat Apr 7	Granite City Train Show. River's Edge Conv. Ctr. 10 4th Ave S, St Cloud, MN 56301 9am-3pm. Adm: \$6, under 11 free. Info: 320-255-0033. See granitecitytrainshow.com . Or email edwardolson@cloudnet.com

TCD Timetable

Schedule for 2018		Contests
Sat Jan 13	9:30 AM at Mt. Olivet, Plymouth. Larry Vanden Plas on Small European Layouts.	Open-top cars with loads.
Thurs Feb 8	7 PM Jackson St. Roundhouse. Ed Petry on operation of model railroads.	Boxcars with loads.
Thurs Mar 8	7 PM Jackson St. Roundhouse. Walt Thompson on JMRI Decoder Pro.	Car loading and/or unloading facilities.
Fri & Sat Apr 6-7	<p>Railroad Modelers' Retreat, Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, 12235 Old Rockford Rd. Plymouth, MN 55441.</p> <p>Fri 5-10pm. Sat 8am-4:30pm. Registration \$20. Lunch and Display table free with preregistration*. Limited commercial display space available. There will be three sets of presentations on Friday night followed by a Railfan viewing party. On Sat., open for setup at 7:00. Coffee will be on. Doors open at 8:00 for viewing and conversation. 6 hours of presentations begin at 8:30.</p> <p>Pre-registration send to: Ken Zieska, 11810 52nd Ave North, Plymouth 55442 Tel. 763-232-3455 email: mhry19@gmail.com</p>	Best RR or model RR photo shot by TCD member.
Thurs May 10	7 PM at Jackson St. Roundhouse. Annual TCD business meeting.	Figures, people or animal.

PRE-MEETING DINNER GET-TOGETHERS

WHEN MEETINGS ARE AT JACKSON ST. ROUNDHOUSE

McDonald's University Ave & Marion Street

GATHER ABOUT 5:30 PM ** EVERYONE IS WELCOME

** OR **

Keys Café and Bakery, 1682 Lexington Ave N, Roseville, MN 55113

5:15 on the day of TCD meetings. For those from the northern suburbs.

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

THE CROSSING GATE NMRA National Convention

Next Meeting: 9:30am, Jan 13. Mt. Olivet
Lutheran Church, 12235 Old Rockford Rd.,
Plymouth, MN. 55441.

See Page 7 for info on future meetings.

In accordance with stated NMRA
policy, to participate in almost any
regular Twin Cities Division activity,
you must be a member of NMRA or
become a member of NMRA after
three visits as a non-member during
your lifetime.



Kansas City, MO
Aug. 5-12, 2018

NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE CONVENTION

Sept. 5-8, 2018
Doubletree Hilton -Bloomington
Convention Center
Near MSP Airport.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:

Dave Herbert Larry Vanden Plas Mike Nollan Richard Webb Ron Olsen

The Twin Cities Division again figuratively doffs its collective hardhat to our members whose photos of their own layouts were featured in the 2018 NMRA Calendar. Thomas Gasior's RS-27s are featured on the April page, and Gerry Leone's old Number 25 of the BonaVista graces the July page. Not bad! One-sixth of the total monthly pictures in the calendar! Our heartiest congratulations to these two TCD modelers!

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These listings are sponsors of the Twin Cities Division. Please show them your support!

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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

Historic Rail

640 Taft St NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413
651.635.0100
<http://www.historicrail.com>

Minnesota Commercial Railway

508 Cleveland Ave N
St Paul, MN 55114

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>

Blick Art Materials (Roseville)

2389 Fairview Ave
Roseville, MN 55113

Menard's

4777 Menard Dr
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Osceola & St. Croix Valley Railway

P.O. Box 176
114 Depot RD
Osceola, WI 54020
715.755.3570
<http://www.trainride.org>

Scale Model Supplies

458 Lexington Parkway
Saint Paul, MN 55104
651.646.7781
<http://www.scalemodelsupplies.com>

Exact Rail

1053 S 1673 W
Orem, UT 84058

Coastman's Scenic Products

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