



The FUSEE



Volume 54 Number 3

www.thousandlakesregion.org

Spring 2008

GREETINGS, TLR MEMBERS!

Once again the TLR Board has decided to send this issue of *THE FUSEE* to all NMRA members within the Thousand Lakes Region boundaries.

We hope you'll like what you see here and will decide to become a regular subscriber. You'll find the form on page 11.

But more important, we hope you'll take a look at the 2008 TLR Convention details in this issue and will decide to join us in Duluth this May. From the prototype tours to the train ride to dinner on the boat, we're looking forward to a great time! We'd love to see you there!

Gerry Leone, MMR
Editor

**Convention
Registration form
on page 7!**

Twin Ports Express: non-stop and first class all the way

Get set for a jam-packed three days as Twin Ports Express – the annual convention of the Thousand Lakes Region – leaves the station on May 2. It'll be a combination of indoor activities at the Duluth Depot, and outdoor trips and tours around town.

Before we get into the nitty gritty, we need to remind you that you're on your own for lodging for the three days – a hotel room isn't included in the registration fee. However, the Duluth/Superior area has many fine hotels and motels to choose from. Note that the Duluth Radisson Hotel, located just a block from the Depot, is giving the TLR a special rate on rooms for the duration of the convention: \$89 per night. We've reserved a block of 50 rooms, so if you'd like to stay there, make your reservations early.



When you register at the Depot, you'll receive a spiffy Convention Packet which includes the daily schedule, layout tour information, and other things you'll need to know. As an extra bonus, all convention attendees will receive a free Family Membership to the Lake Superior Railroad Museum, good for the remainder of 2008. That's a \$60 value!

The convention begins on Friday, May 2, bright and early. In fact, if you can, arrive in Duluth on Thursday night. Convention registration will be open at The Depot until 10 p.m. that evening, in addition to all day Friday and from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday. You'll find registration materials at the main desk in the Depot.

FRIDAY FOR THE RAILS: When the opening bell sounds at 8 a.m., the Contest Room doors will swing open to receive your models and will remain open until noon. Meanwhile, at 8 a.m., Patrick Dorin will get things off to a rolling start with his clinic, "Passenger Services in Duluth/Superior." If you thought you knew passenger operations in this part of the country, you may be in for quite a surprise. Patrick promises to tell many interesting stories.

He'll be followed at 9 a.m. by Cody Grivno, Associate editor of *Model Railroader* magazine, and his clinic, "Wisconsin Railroads," a look at rail activity in our neighbor to the east. At that same time in our second clinic room, Prairie Lakes Division Superintendent Doug Harding will talk about the colorful history of the Fairmont Railway Motor Company.

At 10 a.m. Cody and Doug will switch gears and present two different clinics. Cody's "Railfanning in the Dakotas" will provide a wealth of information for modelers of the Upper Midwest. Doug will deliver an interesting clinic on "Railroad Livestock Handling Facilities."

"Convention" continued on page 10

***The Radisson Duluth
is giving TLR
members a special
rate of \$89/night.***

Singing the song of the unsung heroes

I was going to begin this diatribe with a sentence that went something like, "Most of you don't realize how much time and effort it takes to..." But I have a hunch you do.

I know you know it takes time to do the big stuff, the "flashy" stuff... to put together a convention, to go to Board meetings, to put THE FUSEE together, to organize all the stuff that needs organizing. Blah blah blah. You know it takes time. I'm not telling you anything there.

But I wanted to point out two smaller things that take a lot of time... things that most of us – myself included – tend to take pretty much for granted. And to thank the unsung heroes who do those jobs in the pretty much in the background for the benefit of all of us.

The result of the first of those jobs appears on the back page of this newsletter: the "events" calendar. It's there, every issue, and it's up-to-date and helpful. It's the fruits of a lot of labor, and those fruits are mostly gathered by Jim Bernier. Jim takes the time to solicit the dates and info from the folks who put on the shows, he updates the list, he circulates the list, he sends me the list and I just plop it on the page. It's all time Jim could be spending in his basement with his layout.



Jim's also the Contest Director for the TLR. So while everyone else is out gallivanting around during our conventions on tours, Jim's holed-up in a closed room judging models. He's missed some fine tours as a result of that dedication.

Jim's one of those unsung heroes, who's doing the job, obviously not for the glory, but because he knows there's a need. Thanks, Jim, on behalf of all of us.

Jim's one of those unsung heroes, who's doing the job, obviously not for the glory, but because he knows there's a need. Thanks, Jim, on behalf of all of us.

You can see the work of the second unsung hero when you type "www.thousandlakesregion.org" into your web browser. In the short year-and-a-half Dave Hamilton's been our webmaster, he's literally brought our website back from the dead by adding new content, by constantly updating the events calendar (there's Jim's calendar again), by adding the new convention information, and photos of previous conventions... and on and on. (See his article on page 3 if you want more proof.) As with Jim, this is all time that Dave could be spending running some trains. Dave had to learn website programming from scratch when he took on the job. More modeling time traded away.



As with Jim, this is all time that Dave could be spending running some trains. Dave had to learn website programming from scratch when he took on the job. More modeling time traded away.

You'll notice, too, that Dave's the TLR's Treasurer. If that isn't the job of an unsung hero, nothing is... keeping track of who's paid-up, who's not, who's in, who's out. And if that isn't enough, he actually *volunteered* to be the Registrar for the convention this year. Some guys just know how to have all the fun. Speaking of fun, Dave's the guy that prints out THE FUSEE address labels, for me, too. Now *that's* a good time.

I don't think we're handing out medals for volunteerism, but if we were, Dave would be right up there in the front of the line. Dave, for everything, thanks!

There are more unsung heroes out in Alexandria, MN. Most of you don't realize it yet, but that's where our 2009 TLR Convention will take place. The guys out at the Lakes Model Railroad Association have been working tirelessly to get their relocated layout in shape, plus do all the other things it takes to host a Regional convention. They're unsung now, but in 14 months we'll be singing their praises. Look for details in future issues. But until then... thanks guys!

Who was Jock Oliphant and why does he have an award named after him?

Each year at the General Membership meeting at our TLR Convention, we have a brief awards show at which winners of the modeling contest are recognized. One of the awards given out is the "Jock Oliphant Award for Model Craftsmanship." Many of our newer members, and newer model railroaders, don't really know who Jock was.

Jock was a TLR member who lived in Manitoba and was renowned for his attention to detail and craftsmanship. In fact, Jock was the only modeler to ever in the NMRA's Best In Show model contest three years in a row, from 1962 to 1964. People knew him best for his large, highly detailed structures, such as mines and coal docks. Every one of those Gold Award winners was incorporated into his magnificent home layout.

In addition, Jock was a lifetime member of the NMRA and was Master Model Railroader #15. He died in 2000 at the age of 78

And one more thing: That had better not be me in that cartoon, Ullrich.

THANKS!
Contributors to this issue
(in order of the second letter
of their first name):

Paul Ullrich, Dave Hamilton, Dennis Rogers, Les Breuer MMR, Alan Saatkamp, Ron Einarson, and Fred Holzapfel

Next issue's deadline:
May 10, 2008

The TLR Treasurer and Webmaster reports

By **Dave Hamilton**
TLR Treasurer & Webmaster


Treasury: In accordance with a motion made at our 2007 Thousand Lakes Region convention in Winona, MN, a contribution in the amount of \$1,000 was made to the NMRA Patent Challenge. More information can be found on the NMRA website (www.nmra.org) and in the January, 2008 issue of *Scale Rails*.

In short, "The NMRA undertook this patent challenge because we are dedicated to the

idea of keeping DCC open to all in the hobby. This challenge is necessary for the NMRA to continue to fulfill one of its key missions, promoting and ensuring the interoperability of railroad equipment and hobby technologies."

Website: On the website front, our TLR History pages (President's Award, Bent Spike Award, etc.) are now completely up to date. The photo album pages have a few new pictures, including photo credits, and more are planned. In addition to the Twin Ports Express schedule and registration forms, a link to our

YouTube convention preview video has been added. We also added a hit counter to the Welcome page on January 1st and since that date the TLR site has been viewed over 360 times.

We are always looking for more of your favorite pictures – prototype or model – that you might like to display for the rest of the internet world to see. If you have something to submit for the website, such as links, photos or events, or if you have any other suggestions, please send me an e-mail. [See page 11 for Dave's email address.] 

In memoriam

In memory of Jim B. Perske

By **Lester Breuer & Fred Holzapfel**

Jim Perske, National Model Railroad Association life member, Thousand Lakes Region member and founding member of the Twin Cities Division died peacefully at home on January 30, 2008 surrounded by his loving family. At 78 years of age Jim led a full life with a love of model trains that started in his youth while railfanning with his father. During his youth he accompanied his father while filming movies of the colorful and varied railroads throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota. In his attic they would set up and run a wide variety of early tinplate trains. Eventually Jim married Audrey, and moved East in his occupation as a safety engineer working for the St. Paul companies. He was a member of the Washington, D.C. model railroad club and made time to railfan when driving between inspections. Jim grew to love the Clinchfield Railroad and an obscure little narrow gauge called the East Tennessee and North Carolina RWY (The Tweetsie).

After returning to the Twin Cities Jim would frequent Woodcraft Hobby shop on Lake Street to purchase equipment for his railroad, named "The Clinchfield and Ohio." There he met Doug Hodgdon who invited him to join in regular operating sessions on Friday nights at Doug's home. For Jim this was just a starting point. Jim's passion for model railroading and love of people drove him to become involved in many different railroad groups throughout his life. Among groups not already mentioned: G-Whiz Gang, Tuesday Night Roundhouse, Minneapolis Society of Model Engineers, Twin City Model Railroad Museum, and various historical societies.

Jim was not a person who joined a group just to be a member; he was active, he was a "doer." At conventions and train shows he was always helping promote the hobby. At monthly get togethers at the Countryside Restaurant, later TCD monthly clinics, he frequently assisted with the model railroad clinic.



Jim at Trainfest 2007. Photo by Fred Holzapfel

ics. In the 1970's and 1980's we were fortunate to have annual model train shows at Har Mar Mall and Northtown. At the shows Jim became a frequent displayer which led to his being invited to display his modeling at the 1977 MRIA show.

In 1981 the Model Railroad Industry Association, MRIA, began plans to return to the Twin Cities with their annual industry show and meetings. Jim was one of the original committee members who helped plan and make the 1982 MRIA show a success.

In May 1982 the Twin Cities Division became a Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation. Jim was the first Secretary of the TCD. He helped organize, set the vision and the standard for the new Division. During his first year as an

officer the TCD was the local sponsor of the 1982 MRIA show. Jim continued to serve as TCD Vice-President in 1983-1984.

After Jim joined the Thousand Lakes Region he became an active volunteer recruiting new members. He served on the TLR Board of Directors as Secretary for 1983 – 1984 and Treasurer for 1985-1986. While serving the TLR Jim received the President's Award in 1988, the Bob Dew, Sr. Memorial Service Award in 1994, as well as being recognized with the "Bent Spike" award in the same year.

He joined with others to build a modular layout that could run long trains. Jim would often let children run the train. With a sparkle in his eye he would introduce a child to the joys he remembered from his youth. That simple action eventually resulted in a "Junior Engineer Certificate" that he would fill out with their name and give to them after running the train around the layout.

Jim was passionate about his hobby and compassionate with people. He hated conflict. He was always one to find the best in others and see both sides of an issue. His skills helped us all while he was an active member of the Thousand Lakes Region and Twin Cities Division.

Jim is survived by his wife Audrey; children Jay (Cindy) Perske and Jeanae (James) Justen; grandchildren, Nickolas, Nastassia, Josiah, Elijah, Zackary, Jacob and Jessa; brother Gerald (Elsie) Perske and a large extended family.

His contributions of time and energy were enormous. Jim will be missed; but not forgotten.

Portable switching layout proves to be a big hit during “Trains at Christmas” in Sioux Falls

By Alan Saatkamp
Photos by Bill McKean

Hundreds of model train fans of all ages enjoyed viewing and operating on the HO-scale Airlake Industrial Park, featured during “Trains at Christmas” last November in Sioux Falls. Just as with the prototype found in Lakeville, MN, there’s no runaround track in the park. This requires the engineer and conductor to use two switchers to complete their work. The 36” x 159” layout sits on two hollow core doors with pink foam insulation subroadbed. Painted and ballasted Atlas code 83 track with #5 turnouts, Caboose Industries ground throws, and a foot high sky blue hardboard backdrop give the layout a realistic look. A Digtrax DCC Zephyr system operates the layout.

Sessions consist of making pick-ups from among the 14 industries, gleaned from one of the three cycle switch lists. Outbound cars move onto the two industrial park tracks adjacent the Progressive Rail warehouse.

Next, inbound cars are pulled off the Canadian Pacific mainline, running from Northfield to Savage, modeled along the front edge of the 50” high layout. This keeps the main free for CP traffic. Next, the switching crew figures out how to make the setouts before shoving outbound cars back on the CP main.

The layout made its public debut during the Chicago and Northwestern Historical Society convention held in Huron. It’s entertained hundreds of train fans and will hopefully do so in the future...under someone else’s ownership. Plans are to sell the layout



Owner Alan Saatkamp makes some minor adjustments to his popular switching layout at “Trains at Christmas” last November in Sioux Falls.

to help fund other projects. You can find out more information by sending an email to saatkamp@iw.net

Clinics, layout tours, contests and more highlight Twin Cities Division’s busy season

By Dennis Rogers,
Editor, *The Crossing Gate*

The Twin Cities Division continues to hold clinics, layout tours, and contests.

Monthly clinics are held by the Twin Cities Division at the Mill City Museum in downtown Minneapolis on the second Thursday of each month from October to April. Generally, each clinic consists of three parts: a modeling clinic focusing on techniques to improve our modeling skills, a prototype clinic which usually consists of slide presentations on various railroads, and the modeling contest where participants bring in examples of their best modeling efforts of a certain theme which changes from month to month.

Recently, our modeling clinics have included structure building, programming DCC decoders, and how to care for your

magazine collections. Upcoming modeling clinics will deal with tree construction, and sound for our trains.

Prototype clinics that have happened so far this year have been a slide presentation on the CB&Q and upper Midwest railroad stations. The February clinic featured one member’s trip around the country on Amtrak, and turned out to be a lesson on how riding the rails in the USA can still be a fine way to get around the country.

Contest themes have included Steam Engines, Cattle Cars, and photo displays. Upcoming are Maintenance of Way Equipment, Boxcars, and Whimsical Railroads.

After a hiatus of over a year, we have again begun to have layout tours. Two occurred in 2007, and another is tentatively planned for April 2008.

Superintendent Ron Bodin has made it an objective to visit every model railroad club in

the Twin Cities metropolitan area in order to foster more cooperation between the TCD and local clubs. He has hit most of them, but has a few to go.

The Crossing Gate, TCD’s newsletter, has changed to accommodate technological advances by offering members a choice between the traditional paper newsletter in black and white, or a color version sent via email. We are encouraging as many members as possible to switch to the email delivery mode as the cost savings allows the TCD to provide other benefits to members.

Finally, TCD is addressing the issue of membership that has been a hot topic in the NMRA lately. We are re-writing our bylaws and are more clearly defining the rights and responsibilities of membership. It is the goal of the TCD Board of Directors to increase the number and level of participation in the NMRA of model railroaders in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area.

Shakey's layout

By Paul Ullrich

I just saw Neil Young's trailer on Portage Avenue" I read Ian Lisakowski's e-mail. "Why is there a Lionel logo on it?"

That Lionel logo could only mean one thing. Neil Young brought his trains with him.

Neil Young has a large portable Lionel layout that he takes with him while he's on the road. I didn't think he was going to haul them up with him on the Canadian leg of the 2006 Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young tour.

Being a model railroader means that you have many friends in high and low places. Tim Houge, who does PR at the MTS Centre (the venue where CSN&Y was playing) is one of them. Ian sent an e-mail to Tim to find out if Neil Young brought his layout with him. Tim confirmed what Ian saw. Sure enough, Shakey had taken his trains with him.

Neil Young has a reputation for being a recluse, and this tour wasn't going to be a much of a homecoming to the city where he attended Kelvin High School and learned how to Rock and Roll playing in the local community club circuit. He didn't even go to pick up Manitoba's highest honour, the Order of the Buffalo, at Government House! Lieutenant-Governor John Harvard had to go to the concert and present it to him on stage (I wonder if he had to pay for his own ticket?).

But as the co-owner of Lionel Trains, Neil's been known to be downright gregarious. He makes regular appearances at model railroad conventions to glad-hand and talk trains to the faithful.

The wheels in my mind started turning. Surely, there must be some way that Neil would allow us to see his layout! I do have some connections to Shakey, but they're a bit shaky. When his father, Scott Young, was writing a biography of his son, I supplied him with some photos of his son when he played for the Squires in the early 60's. The king of grunge was squeaky clean back then, and wore a brightly coloured blazer. Long-time TLR member Ron Einarson is the (smarter) brother of another Neil Young biographer, John Einarson.

Ian and I aren't rock groupies, we're his fellow model railroaders!

We're part of a sacred brotherhood! Perhaps we could tempt him with a layout hop, or a WMRC membership!




Ian and I dispatched all of this to Tim. In confident anticipation of a positive response, we practiced two part harmony on "After the Goldrush" as we waited for his reply (I sang low, Ian sang high).

But the news was not good. Tim forwarded the instructions the MTS Centre brass had given all staff members concerning CSN&Y. It read:

"Don't speak to any member of the band.

"Don't make eye contact with any member of the band, especially Neil."

Drat! Skunked by those who stoke the starmaker machinery behind the popular song.

The closest I got to Neil Young this year was when I played CSN&Y's album, "Deja Vu," as I ran my own layout in my basement. I played his solo track, appropriately titled "Helpless," over and over again. 

30th Annual Spud Valley Hobby Show

Sunday, October 12, 2008
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

- ★ 14th Annual "Plastics on the Prairie" model contest
- ★ Large & small operating model railroads
- ★ Vendors selling farm toys, plastic models, model railroad items, die cast vehicles, old toys, railroad collectibles and more
- ★ Door prizes -- No need to be present to win

Admission: \$4 (under 12 free with paid adult)

For information, call Gerald: 701-799-0534

**Ramada Plaza Suites
Crystal Ballroom
1635 42nd St. S., Fargo ND**



May 2-4, 2008

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Get set for a great family vacation as we head for one of the most popular railroading spots around...Duluth, Minnesota. There's plenty for "rails" and "non-rails" alike, so take a look at the schedule, then use the back side of this page (or a photocopy of it) to make your reservations!

Watch our convention preview video! Go to www.thousandlakesregion.org and click the link!

Special TLR Radisson Duluth room rate: \$89/night.

You're on your own for lodging, however the Radisson Duluth is giving us a special convention rate on 50 rooms. Be sure to tell them you're with the TLR Convention if you choose to stay there!

Thursday - May 1, 2008

4pm-10pm: Registration at Duluth Depot

Friday - May 2, 2008

8am - 8pm Registration at Duluth Depot

RAIL

8am Contest room opens
 8am-9am Clinic:
 Pat Dorin, "Passenger Services in Duluth/Superior"
 9am-10am Clinics:
 Doug Harding, "Fairmont Railway Motor Co."
 Cody Grivno, "Wisconsin Railroads"
 10am-11am Clinics:
 Doug Harding, "Railroad Livestock Handling Facilities"
 Cody Grivno, "Railfanning in the Dakotas"

11am-12pm Lunch on your own
 12pm Contest room closes
 12pm - 4pm Board the tour bus for Cenex Harvest States, Hallet Dock, and MERC tours
 4pm Tour bus returns to Duluth Depot
 4pm - 7pm Dinner on your own

NON-RAIL

8am Board bus at Radisson for tour of Glensheen Estate and Great Lakes Aquarium
 12pm Tour bus drops riders at Grandma's (lunch on your own anywhere downtown)

1pm Bus returns from Grandma's to Depot and begins round trips between Depot and Canal Park Shopping area
 4pm Bus returns to Duluth Depot for final time
 4pm - 7pm Dinner on your own

EVENING (EVERYONE)

7pm - 8pm Dessert Reception, diesel cab ride auction & drawing, other auctions (main floor of the Depot)
 8pm-9pm Guest speaker: David Schauer, "DM&R Steam In Its Last Years"
 9pm Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday - May 3, 2008

8am - 12pm Registration at the Duluth Depot

RAIL & NON-RAIL

10am Board the Twin Ports Express train to Two Harbors
 10am-12pm Train ride to Two Harbors
 Box lunch will be served
 12pm-2pm Explore Two Harbors
 2pm-4pm Train ride back to Duluth
 6pm Board the boat for dinner on the harbor
 9pm Boat returns and contest room opens for viewing

Sunday - May 4, 2008

RAIL & NON-RAIL

9am General membership meeting and awards ceremony
 11am - 2pm Swap meet at the Duluth Depot
 12pm - 5pm Local layout visits on your own



May 2-4, 2008

REGISTRATION FORM

Note: You must be a member of the National Model Railroad Association to attend. Membership will be checked. Spouses or significant others need not be NMRA members. If you used an NMRA "Rail Pass" membership to attend the '06 or '07 conventions, you must sign up for full NMRA membership to attend this year. If you haven't been an NMRA member for at least 3 years and choose not to join the NMRA as a full member, you will be issued a "Rail Pass" membership for an additional \$10. See below.

All inside activities will take place at The Duluth Depot, 506 W Michigan St., Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 727-8025

Name _____ NMRA Number (Required) _____

Spouse or Guest Name _____ NMRA Membership Expiration Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

	Price	Write in your cost
NMRA member attendee registration (received before April 10, 2008) Includes all clinics, industry tours, 2008 Lake Superior Transp. Museum Family pass, Dessert Reception, train ride, dinner cruise, and swap meet entry. Dinner cruise entree is Prime Rib <u>and</u> Champagne Chicken. <i>Registration received after April 10, 2008: add \$10</i> <i>NMRA Rail Pass 6-month membership (non-NMRA members, see note above): add \$10</i>	\$100 +\$10 +\$10	_____ _____ _____
Spouse or significant other registration (received before April 10, 2008) Includes transportation and entry fee to Glensheen Estate and Great Lakes Aquarium, access to bus between Canal Park and Depot (Friday only), Dessert Reception, train ride, dinner cruise, and swap meet entry. Dinner cruise entree is Prime Rib <u>and</u> Champagne Chicken. <i>Registration received after April 10, 2008: add \$10</i> <i>If spouse or significant other will not be attending the Estate/Aquarium tours or using the "shopping bus": deduct \$25</i>	\$100 +\$10 -\$25	_____ _____ _____
TOTAL		

Make checks payable to The Thousand Lakes Region

Mail the completed form and payment to:
Dave Hamilton, Treasurer
18015 33rd Place N.,
Plymouth, MN 55447

Please direct any questions to:
 Chris Dancy, Convention Director
 613 N. Vine, West Union, IA 52175
 cjdancy@msn.com

Quick and easy modeling project: a gondola load

Text and photo by Lester J. Breuer, MMR

With Spring just around the corner, many of us don't want to start on a major modeling project. So if you're looking for a quick and easy project to get the modeling juices flowing I suggest you try a corrugated culvert pipe open load.

To model the load you'll need some corrugated culvert pipe, 2"x4" scale lumber, graphic art tape, and Walther's Goo.

The corrugated culvert pipe I used is Sadders Enterprises corrugated culvert pipe. Each package contains four pipes, so you'll need two packages for this project. If you can't find it at your local hobby shop you can order it online at www.saddersenterprises.com, part number MS-32. The graphic art tape is available at the local office supply store. I could only purchase a 1/16" wide tape, so I bought that. If you can find a 1/32" wide tape, purchase that instead.

I took a gondola and measured the inside width with a caliper, although a scale rule will work fine. Mine was 8' 9". I cut the 2"x4" scale lumber that length. If you build the culvert load as pictured, three culvert rows high, you need 12 pieces of 2"x4" material.


To build the load I used the gondola itself as a jig. I placed the first four pieces of lumber on the floor in the bottom of the gondola. The culverts will rest on these. I didn't glue the lumber pieces to the gondola floor because the load needs to be removable later on to add the banding. Even if you want a removable load, wait to glue the stripwood to the gondola floor until after the banding is added. You can glue it into the gondola after the banding is added. I personally like removable loads for operation.

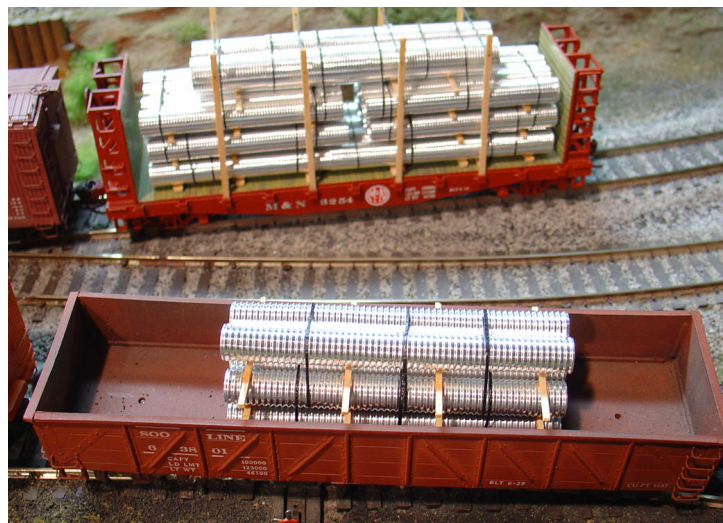
The first culvert is then glued in the center on top of the four lumber pieces using Walther's Goo. I simply eyeballed the center line. Then glue the two outside culverts in place to create the three-wide culvert load. Another row of 2"x4" lumber is added on top of the culverts, being sure to line each up with the one in the bottom row. Add another row of three culverts.

Now use the graphic art tape to create the banding for the bottom two rows. I attached the tape at the bottom of the load and wrapped the tape around the culverts until I met the starting point. While you can use the 1/16" wide tape as-is, I cut it in half for what I thought was better looking banding. However, this is not necessary to get a good looking load.

Once you have the first and second row banded, add another row of 2"x4" lumber pieces on top and the last two corrugated culvert pipes. Finally, add the banding to secure the second and top row together. I just passed the graphic art tape between the first and second row and attached it to one of the top row culverts. With one end attached to a top culvert, the other end is just wrapped around the second and top row culvert meeting the other end of the tape at the top start point. The load is now complete. For additional strength I put a tiny drop of CA glue at each wood and pipe joint that I could easily reach.

You now have completed a good looking corrugated culvert pipe load. With the creative modeling juices flowing you might want to try a more difficult load, such as the culvert load on the flat car in the background.

For an easy modeling project, give corrugated pipe loads a try! 



Gondola loads of culvert pipe are not only quick and easy to make, they produce visually interesting cars.

Correction

The Board of Directors meeting minutes in Winter 2007/2008 issue of THE FUSEE incorrectly stated that Stafford Swain had sent a check to TLR Treasurer Dave Hamilton for \$1,500. This is incorrect. The check amount was for \$5,000. The mistake was THE FUSEE's.

www.granitecitytrainshow.com



SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2008

Buy, sell, trade or just view hundreds of trains under one roof.

9am-2:30pm - National Guard Armory - 1710 Veteran's Drive - Saint Cloud, MN

Admission: \$3.00 - Kids under 12 FREE!

REGISTER TO WIN

DOOR PRIZES FOR VISITORS AND VENDORS

REGISTER TO WIN

FOOD & REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

COME SEE! Model & Toy Trains (all scales), Accessories, Books, Videos, Railroad Collectibles and Memorabilia, Antique Toys, Hobby Items and More!

TEST TRACK ON SITE

Operating Model and Toy Train Displays

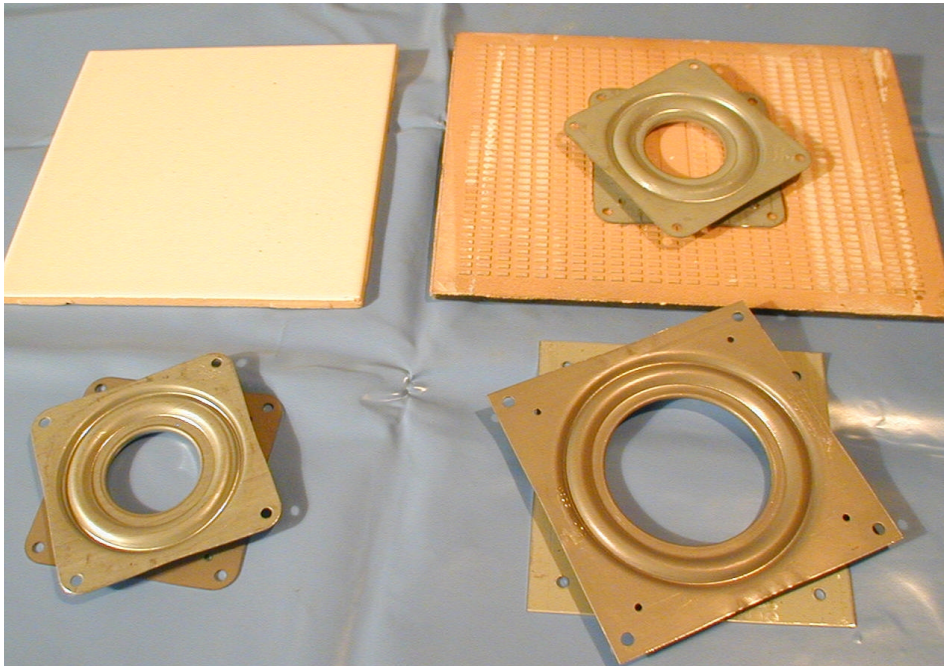
Childrens' Railway Play Area - Kids can help build a wooden train layout or run a model train.

Vendors and hobbyists welcome!

Call 320-255-0033 or visit www.granitecitytrainshow.com
email: edwardolson@cloudnet.com

Don't Miss Santa at our December 6, 2008 Show!

A painting turntable for small items



By Ron Einarson

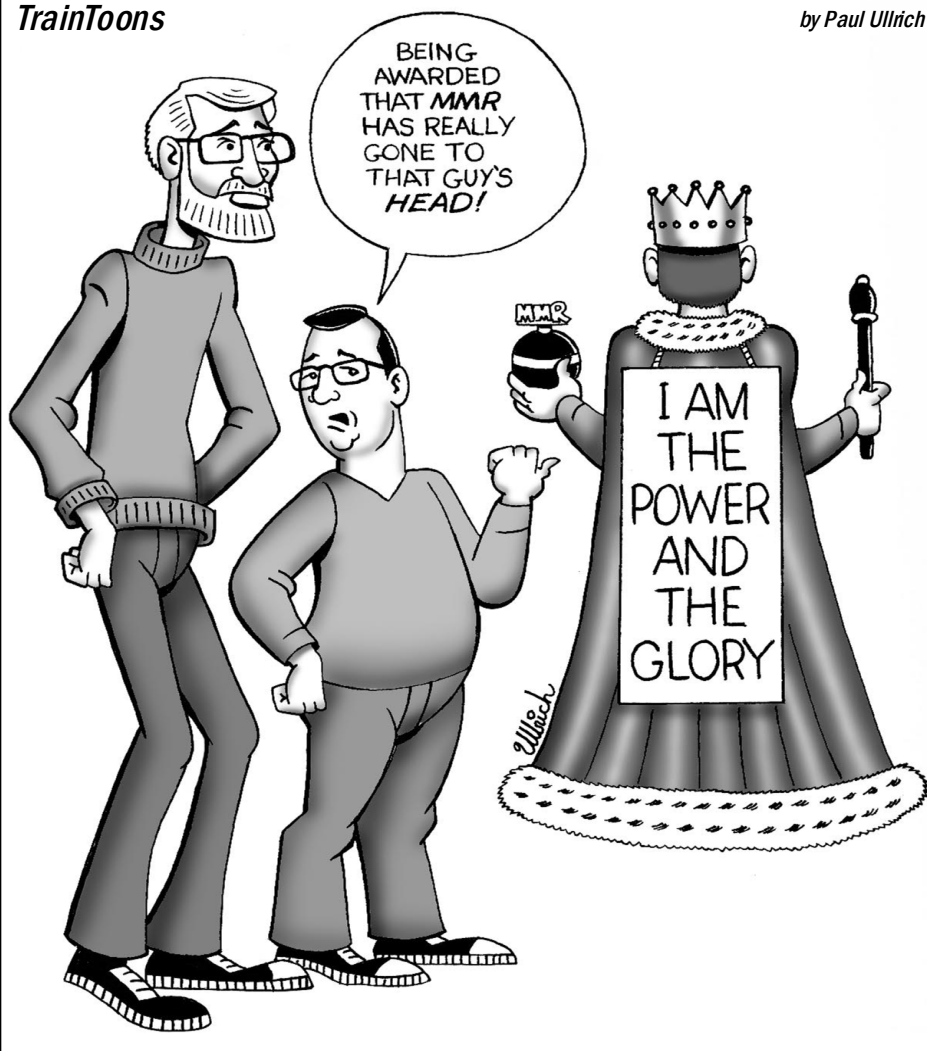
Here is an inexpensive and easy way to create a turntable for painting small to medium sized parts. Go to the local home hardware center and pick up a ceramic tile 4" x 6" or 6" x 6" as well as a 3"x3" Lazy Susan swivel. It's about \$6 for both unless you want to buy a fancy tile.

When you get home, flip the tile over and epoxy the Lazy Susan to the bottom. Let this dry for a day or two, then turn it over and use it. That's it! Quick, easy, cheap and simple, but does it come in handy when you are airbrushing parts. Now you don't have to hold the parts and try to turn them with one hand while you hold the airbrush with the other. I even use this device when I brush paint parts - it's much simpler to turn the tile than move the parts around.

A quick tip: if you tape a piece of wax paper on the tile, clean up is easier and the parts don't stick. Plus it keeps your tile looking clean and presentable next to your bench.

TrainToons

by Paul Ullrich



Recent N-Scale Releases

GN 48-seat 1215-series PS Coach. Also CB&Q 1219-20, SP&S 300. Our #512 GN 1181-88 "Glacier" 16-4 Sleeper #525 NP/CB&Q 56-seat Coach 588-99 #504 NP/CB&Q/SP&S 8-6-3-1 P-S Sleeper #505

On our Reservation List

HO & N: MILW 1935 *Hiawatha* coach sides (basis for CGW 200-201 coach); NP "Holiday Lounge" 487-93; GN/CB&Q 8-4-4 "Pass" Sleeper for 1947 *Empire Builder*, *Western Star* & *Blackhawk*.; UP-C&NW 12-4 "Western" and Wabash "Blue" PS Sleeper.

Still available: #412 DVD "Indiana, Minnesota, and Early Amtrak Railroad Memories". Organized in 13 Chapters, including St. Paul, Northfield, and Chicago, with memorable scenes of the *Zephyrs*, *Rockets*, *Hiawathas*, *North Coast Ltd.*, *Empire Builder*, *Mainstreeter*, *Western Star*, *Dakotan*, *Blackhawk*, and many other favorites. Color, 107 minutes, boxed. \$35 postpaid. Add 6.5% MN sales tax for MN orders. See our website for bulletins, catalog sheets, reservation forms and other data. www.brasscarsides.com

Brass Car Sides, 715 S. 7th St.
St. Peter, MN 56082-1435

“Convention” continued from page 1

That brings us to 11 a.m. You're on your own for lunch, but don't make it a long one because the tour bus will be leaving the Depot at noon for Hallett Dock, Cenex Harvest States, and the Midwest Energy Resources Company (MERC). This is a prototype tour par excellence.



Hallett Dock loads limestone and other aggregates, and offers a spectacular, up-close view of Duluth's famous DM&R ore dock.

Cenex Harvest States is a huge grain handling facility with its own locomotive fleet.

MERC is the largest coal unloading dock in the world and features a 4-car rotary dumper.

The tour bus is scheduled to arrive back at the Depot at 4 p.m., giving you plenty of time to explore downtown Duluth, visit Carr's Hobby Shop (about a mile from the Depot), or simply gaze at those digital photos you took earlier in the day.

Our Dessert Reception begins at 7 p.m. on the main floor of the Depot and you won't want to miss it. We'll be holding an auction and a drawing for two diesel cab rides for a portion of Saturday's trip to Two Harbors. The winners will ride up front with the engineer for approximately 1 hour each. Each winner's ride will cover half of the trip to or from Two Harbors. Drawing tickets will cost just \$5, and you can buy as many as you'd like.

But all is not lost for those who don't win the ride! Besides the cab ride, we'll be holding drawings for several big bundles of great model railroad "stuff." So you could still come out a winner.

Following the Reception our guest speaker, David Schauer, will give his dynamic slide presentation on "DM&R Steam in Its Last Years."

That will be followed by the TLR Board meeting, and all members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

FRIDAY FOR THE NON-RAILS We know that not everyone is completely enthralled with railroading, so we've planned things for the non-rails among us, too.

Friday at 8 a.m. non-rails will board a bus and spend the morning touring two of Duluth's more famous landmarks, the Glensheen Estate and the Great Lakes Aquarium. Admission to both is included in the convention registration fee. By noon the bus will drop passengers off at Grandma's Saloon and Grill, located in the Canal Park Shopping Area.

While convention goers don't have to eat there, this will be the Canal Park stopping point for the bus throughout the day, as it makes its continuous circuit to and from the Depot. The first bus departure time will be about 1 p.m.

After lunch non-rails can spend the afternoon perusing Duluth's fabulous downtown on foot via the skyway system. The last bus run from Grandma's to the Depot will take place at 3:45 p.m.

After a dinner on your own, non-rails can join the rails at our Dessert Reception on the main floor of the Depot at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY FOR EVERYONE

Everyone will have a special treat on Saturday. You can sleep-in, or continue exploring downtown Duluth in the morning. Registration will again be open for late-comers from 8 a.m. until noon at the main desk in the Depot.

At 10 a.m. we'll all board the Twin Ports Express at the Depot. The TPE is a specially chartered train just for members and guests of the Thousand Lakes Region, and will feature three vintage passenger cars pulled by a classic diesel engine. The ride to Two Harbors will take approximately two hours, the majority of which runs along lovely Lake Superior. A box lunch will be served on the train.

Passengers will be able to stretch their legs for two hours in Two Harbors, visiting the famous lighthouse, the Dwan/3M Museum (*did you know that 3M got its start in Two Harbors?*), the Two Harbors Depot, or the Edna G steam powered tugboat. There are also two well-stocked antique stores in town. If time per-

mits, the Twin Ports Express train will make a photo run-by. We'll re-board at 2 p.m. and should return to the Depot by 4 p.m.

But the fun isn't over yet. At 6:00 everyone will gather at dockside to board the Vista Queen on a harbor dinner cruise. (Don't worry -- the boat's enclosed and heated!) Dinner will be a combination of both Prime Rib and Champagne Chicken. Address any special dietary needs to convention director Chris Dancy; contact information is on the Registration Form.

We'll return back to port by 9 p.m. and the contest room will be opened for viewing by everyone.

SUNDAY FOR EVERYONE We'll begin the day with our TLR General Membership meeting at 9 a.m. We'll be electing some new officers, so please try to attend. We'll also hold our annual awards ceremony at this meeting.

At 11 a.m. the swap meet doors will be opened for one hour to TLR members only. The general public is admitted at noon. The meet is sponsored by the Lake Superior Transportation Club, and promises good deals for everyone.

Finally, to top off a great three days, we'll have several local layouts you can visit on your way home. Names, addresses, and maps will be provided in your convention packet.

That's the Twin Ports Express!



See page 6 of this issue for a condensed daily schedule, and see page 7 for the Registration Form. Yes, you *could* just rip the form out of this newsletter but you'd break your editor's heart. So photocopy it, fill it out, and send it in.

Then get ready to have three days of non-stop first class fun, and the time of your life this May 2-4! Hope to see you there. 🚂

The Thousand Lakes Region of the NMRA

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THE FUSEE is a quarterly publication of the Thousand Lakes Region of the National Model Railroad Association and is mailed to all subscribers. The subscription year runs from June 1 through May 31. A subscription costs \$10.00 per year, and should be mailed to the Treasurer. Mid-year renewals or new subscribers will be sent all prior subscription year issues.

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Changes of address should be sent to the Treasurer.

FUSEE Advertising

Commercial advertising from hobby shops, manufacturers, and other businesses with a model railroading interest is accepted. Pike ads are for individual layouts, model railroad clubs, or other non-commercial groups. All ads can be run in a single issue at the rate of 35% of the annual rate.

Ad size (HxW)	Annual Comm. rate	One time Comm. rate	Annual Pike ad rate
Full pg 9 3/8" x 7 1/8"	\$145.00	\$50.75	\$90.00
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1/4 pg 4 3/4" x 3 1/2"	45.00	15.75	25.00
1/6 pg 4 3/4" x 2 1/4"	35.00	12.25	18.50
1/8 pg 2 3/8" x 2 1/4"	25.00	8.75	15.00
1/8 pg 3 3/4" x 2 1/4"	25.00	8.75	15.00
1/12 pg 2 3/8" x 2 1/4"	18.50	6.48	10.00
1/16 pg 1 1/8" x 3 1/2"	15.00	5.25	7.50

All advertising should be mailed to THE FUSEE editor as camera-ready artwork or electronic files (jpeg, tiff, gif, or EPS with outlined fonts). Payment must be enclosed and should be in U.S. funds, international money order, or by check drawn on U.S. Banks. Questions? Contact the Editor!

Subscribe to THE FUSEE!

If you're an NMRA member residing within the boundaries of the Thousand Lakes Region, you're automatically a TLR member. So why not keep up with what's happening in the Region? Use this form to subscribe to THE FUSEE. If your subscription has lapsed, use this form to renew.

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**Mail to: Dave Hamilton, Treasurer
18015 33rd Place N., Plymouth, MN 55447**



Spring 2008

THE FUSEE

18015 33rd Place N.
Plymouth, MN 55447

INSIDE:

**Convention registration
and schedule**

**Quick and easy
modeling project**

Shakey's Layout

Train shows & events in and near the Region

Compiled by Gerry Leone, Jim Bernier, and Terry Davis

Saturday & Sunday, 3/8-9/08, La Crosse & Three Rivers Train Show, 10 AM - 6 PM (Sat), 10 AM - 4 PM (Sun), La Crosse Center, La Crosse, WI. For more information contact Marilyn Klawitter at 507-894-4787 or Shane Lambert at 608-780-2536.

Saturday & Sunday, 3/29-30/08, Fairmont Train/Tractor Hobby Show, 10 AM - 5 PM (Sat), 10 AM - 4 PM (Sun), Fairmont Mall, Fairmont, MN. For more info contact Don Oechsle at 507-235-5026 or dstropies@bevcomm.net

Saturday 4/5/08, Greater Upper Midwest Train Show, 9 AM - 2 PM, Century College, 3300 Century Ave. N., White Bear Lake, MN. Admission: \$4. For more info contact Tom Jefferson at 651-429-2885

Saturday, 4/12/08, Luce Line Model Railroad Club Spring Mall Show, 10 AM - 6 PM, Hutchinson Mall, Hutchinson, MN. Admission: free. For more information contact mkbraun@hutchtel.net

Saturday & Sunday, 4/12-13/08, Happy Grandparents Model Train Show, 9 AM - 5 PM (Sat), 10 AM - 4 PM (Sun), Menomonie Middle School, 920 21st St. South, Menomonie, WI. Adults: \$5, Students: \$3, Families: \$12, Kids under 12: free. Food donation: 50-cent discount. For more info call 715-879-4185

Saturday 4/19/08, Newport Club's Woodbury High School Flea Market, 10 AM - 3 PM, Woodbury Senior High School, Woodbury, MN. Admission: \$5. For more information, contact Stan Whittingham at 952-200-9729

Saturday 4/26/08 Prairie Lakes Division Spring Meet, Siouxland Historical RR Ass'n Milwaukee Road Roundhouse, 3400 Sioux River Road, Sioux city, IA 51109. Admission: \$3, children 12 and under free. Tours, clinics, flea market, contests and more. For more info, call Ron Peterson 712-225-4780 or pete31545@yahoo.com, or James Van Delton, 402-833-5531 or genjvan@msn.com

Saturday & Sunday 4/26-27/08 Titledown Train Show, 9 AM - 5 PM, Shopko Hall, 1901 South Oneida St., Green Bay, WI. For more info: 920-217-5318

Friday - Sunday 5/2-4/08 Twin Ports Express: The 2008 TLR Convention, Duluth, MN. See inside for details and sign-up form or visit www.thousandlakesregion.org

Saturday 5/3/08 Granite City Train Show, 9 AM - 2:30 PM, National Guard Armory, 1710 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud, MN. Admission \$3, under 12 free. For more info, 320-255-0033

If you're in the Thousand Lakes Region and would like your train show, swap meet, Division meeting, club meeting or other railroad/model railroad-related event listed in our calendar, please send it to Jim Bernier at jr.bernier@hotmail.com by the deadline listed inside.