



Thousand Lakes Region

National Model Railroad Association

# The FUSEE



Volume 57 Number 3

[www.thousandlakesregion.org](http://www.thousandlakesregion.org)

Spring 2011

## Three rails, three states welcomes you aboard

### May 20-22 Thousand Lakes Region Dubuque convention promises plenty of variety

Ever been to or through the Dubuque area? It might be a bit of a hike (okay, car ride) to the eastern reaches of the Thousand Lakes Region, but Dubuque 2011 promises quality clinics covering a wide (and new) range of topics, plus tours of barge transloading, chemical manufacturing (no free samples at the end of the tour—this isn't a brewery!), and window and a door manufacturer on top of our usual fun.

Didn't get enough of the Mississippi River on our dinner cruise several years ago? Hop on board the Spirit of Dubuque for lunch on Saturday, one of the optional events on the ala



**The Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, located in the CB & Q freight house and 1910 restored depot features historical exhibits, a boat yard, dynamic aquariums, and a wetlands area. It's among the many options available for rail as well as non-rail fans during the upcoming Thousand Lakes Region con-**



**Railfans can get their fill in Dubuque. Three class I railroads operate through the area, including the ICE/DME (purchased by CPR), Canadian National, along with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe. Grab a rail map (we'll provide one) and check out the main line on both sides of the Mississippi River, where up to 35 trains operate daily**

The \$60 base price includes clinics, contest viewing, Friday social, ride to the top of Fenelon Place Elevator (and back), the banquet, and home layout tours. See pages four and five for the complete schedule (you can build your own weekend itinerary) and a registration form.

You can find the same information on the Thousand Lakes Region website (click on the convention links.)

**Want to see the action in store for us in Dubuque this May? Watch our TLR convention video on YouTube! Visit the TLR website at: [www.thousandlakesregion.org](http://www.thousandlakesregion.org) and click on the link.**

## View from the Cab

Most of us are glad to see spring is almost here. We can look outside and see something other than snow. I'm laughing as I write this (in January) while it's snowing.

I hope all of you are making plans to attend the TLR 2011 convention. The Southeastern Division has many activities planned for all. If you love to rail fan, bring your camera. The Tri State area has three class one railroads and a lot of photo opportunities too.

Many other points of interest are available to entertain you between convention events. The Mississippi River Museum, Diamond Joe and Mystique casinos, Fenelon Street Elevator (a trip is included in your registration), Dubuque Art Museum, and Dubuque Fest are all available to enjoy. A description of activities (page four) and registration form (page five) are included in this issue. You can also find information on the TLR website, including quick links to attractions and hotel reservations. It is a good idea to book your hotel room early. Dubuque Fest is the same weekend, so hotels will fill quickly. There's opportunity for a clinician or two to also demonstrate and share their talent.

## by TLR President Gerry Miller

Three board positions will be vacated in May. Treasurer Dave Hamilton rotates off after five years of service. Public Relations Director (and NMRA Communications Director) Gerry Leone completes his fourth year and will not seek reelection. Mike Engler's resignation last month leaves the Contest Director slot open. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss this important position. The modeling and photography contests are an integral part of our conventions, and we need a talented leader to organize and conduct the judging as well as to recruit capable folks to assist. Additionally, Secretary Paul Gerry's one year term ends in May. Paul is eligible to serve an additional term.

Thanks to Dave and Gerry for their devoted service, as well as to current board members—Paul Gerry, Paul Ullrich, and Jay Manning. If you are interested in becoming a board member or would like more information, please contact Alan Saatkamp or me. Enjoy the warmer weather—I look forward to seeing you in Dubuque.



## 33rd Annual Spud Valley Hobby Show

Sunday,  
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9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Admission: \$5  
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- ◆ 17th annual "Plastics on the Prairie" model contest
- ◆ Large and 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
- ◆ Valley RC Flyers display their planes

## FRED (FRom the Editor)

by Editor Alan Saatkamp

My how time flies! You've no doubt heard the phrase numerous times. As we get older, time does seem to pass more quickly. My favorite comparison is what one year means to a ten year old (10 percent of their lifetime) compared to a 50 year old (only two percent of their lifetime.) So proportionately, it does seem that a year goes faster the older we become.

As the age of model railroad hobbyists tend to be among the latter group, it's no wonder we marvel and ask where the last year went since we enjoyed (soggy though it was, which added more memories) Winnipeg. Now it's time to trek (hopefully not portage) toward the TLR eastern border to enjoy a convention first in Dubuque.

Each TLR gathering I've attended these past five years offered something unique as well as noteworthy. I too hope you join us for the fun. We gather to experience new attractions, see old friends, make new ones, share our talents, admire and learn from others' skills, and take advantage of the opportunities our NMRA membership offers. It's a good deal, and a good deal more when you make up your mind to take advantage of all that's available—and perhaps stretch beyond your comfort zone.



## No. 1 Northern Division forges ahead

story and photos by Paul Ullrich

The #1 Northern Division's new board, under the guidance of Superintendent Dennis Rietze, has been making great strides in promoting the hobby and the NMRA in Manitoba. The division displayed in October during the Winnipeg Model Railroad Club's fall open house and flea market as well as in December at the open house held by Ghooch's Hobbies in Winnipeg. The division's offer to manage the WMRC's monthly model display was accepted. This display is set up next to our portable NMRA display. A draw for a \$20 gift certificate at a local hobby shop is held for the participants. Money for these certificates is provided by the WMRC.

Our most ambitious project is to form a 100% NMRA member based modular group in Winnipeg. By having an official 100% NMRA member based group, we will be able to benefit from the NMRA by being completely insured when we display at various events. We will also be able to attend and participate in various NMRA events. We would initially be committed to two set-ups, which would be at the spring and fall open houses held by the WMRC. We are seeking other venues for display but will have no more than a total of six set-ups per year. A fee of \$15 per year and module ownership are required to join this group.

We have sent out invitations to all NMRA division members in Manitoba, inviting them to join this new group. Funding for these invitations was provided by the TLR's new funding initiative, which allows divisions to request funding from the TLR board for promotional purposes.

Dennis has written a 20 page outline of standards and guidelines for the new modular group. This document



**Pictured are No. 1 Northern Division Superintendent Dennis Rietze and NMRA Canada President Ron Einarson during the monthly model contest sponsored by the division and held during the January meeting**

covers all module building specifications and rules and regulations for the members. These standards are currently being reviewed by the #1 Northern board. We have already accepted a set of bylaws for the group. The name shall be the #1 Northern HO Gauge Modular Club. Until the modular group has its first

AGM, the #1 Northern executive will act as the executive for the modular group. Our guidelines follow all NMRA rolling stock standards. Dennis has also included several construction diagrams. The modular club will

*(continued on page 10)*

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# TLR DUBUQUE 2011 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

**Thursday May 19**  
 8-10 pm Early registration at Holiday Inn  
 The contest room will be open!

**Friday May 20**  
 9 am-5 pm Registration at the Holiday Inn  
 9 am Contest room open  
 10:45 am Bus departs for industrial tours  
 (box lunch provided)

**For the non-rails**  
 am Shopping in Cable Car Square  
 pm Carpool to Dubuque Arboretum

6:30 pm (everyone) Dessert reception at the Holiday Inn. Kevin Copsey from William K. Walther's will be our guest speaker

**Saturday May 21**  
 8-9 am Gerry Miller's clinic on painting and decaling Iowa co-op covered hoppers  
 8-9 am Jay Manning's clinic on casting plastic molds  
 9-10 am Dave Roeder's clinic on the Kirkwood cutoff—planning and designing an HO Scale model railroad  
 9-10 am Les Breuer's clinic on detailing a 50 ton offset side hopper  
 10-10:45 am Alan Saatkamp's clinic on trestles and the achievement program



Fenelon Place Elevator rides provide great views of a three state area



**For the non-rails**  
 9 am Craft fair in Washington Park  
 11:30 am (everyone interested) Optional riverboat cruise aboard the Spirit of Dubuque  
 5:45 pm Cocktails at the Holiday Inn  
 6:30 pm Banquet meal, contest awards  
 8:30 pm Chinese auction

**Sunday May 22**  
 9:00 am General membership meeting  
 12-4 pm Model train layout tours

**REGISTRATION FORM  
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**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 have ever received an NMRA "RailPass" membership to attend a previous TLR convention, you cannot use that again. You must sign up for full NMRA membership to attend this year.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ NMRA Number (required) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse or Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ NMRA Membership Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Event	Price	Total
NMRA Member Basic Registration (Received Before May 2, 2011) Includes 4th St. Elevator ride, all clinics, Friday Social, and Banquet	\$60	
Spouse or Guest Registration (Received Before May 2, 2011) Includes 4th St. Elevator ride, all clinics, Friday Social, and Banquet	\$60	
Industrial Tours Friday <small>Box lunch will be provided 40 person minimum</small>	\$20	
<b>Saturday</b>		
River Ride Lunch aboard the Paddle Wheeler Spirit of Dubuque	\$31	
Tickets for The Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium <small>Tickets are good for two consecutive days</small>	\$11.50	
Registration received after May 2, 2011	\$10	
Friday Social and Banquet only	\$45	
Non NMRA Member	\$10	
<b>Total</b>		

**Make checks payable to Thousand Lakes Region**

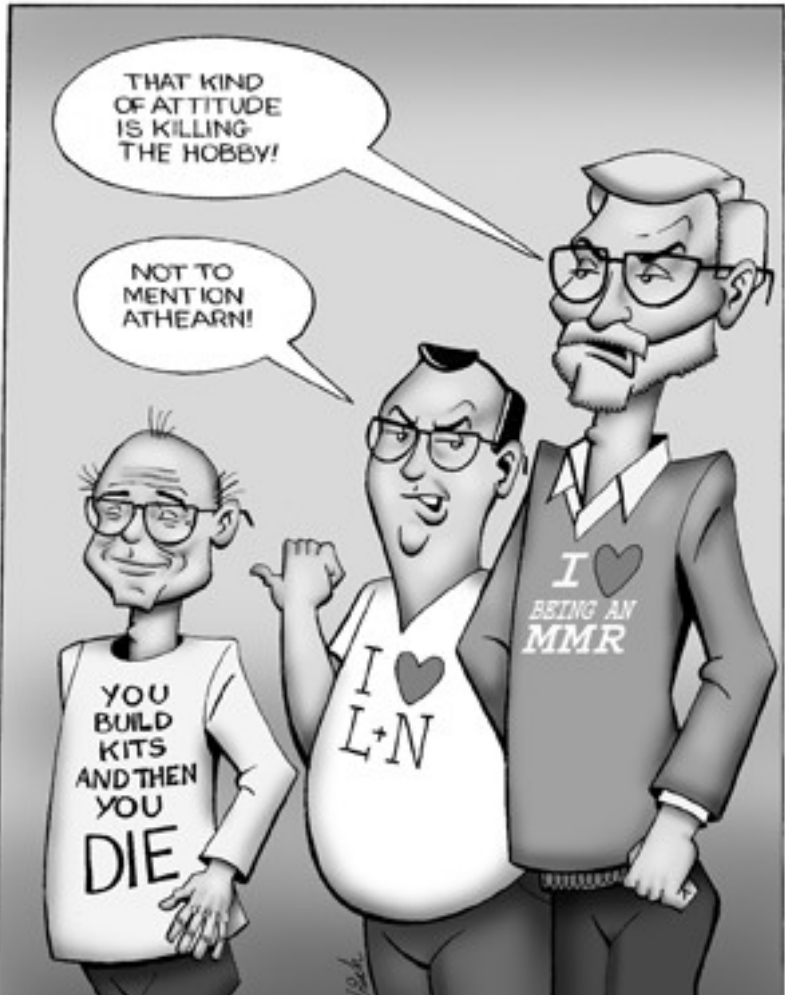
Mail the completed form and payment to:  
 Dave Hamilton, Treasurer  
 18015 33rd Place N.,  
 Plymouth, MN 55447

Please direct any questions to:  
 Gerry Miller, Convention Chairman  
 1040 Hawkeye Dr.  
 Dubuque Iowa 52001  
[miller20@gmail.com](mailto:miller20@gmail.com)  
 563-557-9646

## OnTrack Train Trivia - The Transcontinental Railroad

- 1) Known as "One of the classic icons of American imagery", the photograph "laying the last rail" shows two locomotives nose to nose after the last tie was placed and the last rail was spiked. With the 2 railroads formed the transcontinental railroad, in the photograph, which is on the left and which is on the right?
- 2) What are the locomotive numbers for the 2 locomotives shown in the photograph?
- 3) What were the eastern and western terminals for the railroad?
- 4) How long was the Transcontinental Railroad?
- 5) Which railroad laid more miles of track?

**answers on page seven**



SIOUX VALLEY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY  
PRESENTS

# TRAINS AT CHRISTMAS 2011

SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA  
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Saturday November 19 - 10am - 5pm  
Sunday November 20 - 11am - 4pm

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Contact Wayne at 605-373-0222 or [svmes@sio.midco.net](mailto:svmes@sio.midco.net)  
<http://www.svmes.net>

### Deadlines for submitting material (including ads) for The Fusee:

Summer issue, published June  
**Submissions due May 1**

Fall issue, published September  
**Submissions due August 1**

Winter issue, published December  
**Submissions due November 1**

Spring issue, published March  
**Submissions due February 1**

Questions? Give me a call at 605 767 9743 or email me at [saatkamp@iw.net](mailto:saatkamp@iw.net). Thanks for your willingness to contribute to The Fusee!



**Answers to Trivia p. 6**

- 1) The Central Pacific and the Union Pacific
- 2) The CP Jupiter is on the left, it has no road number. UP # 119 on right.
- 3) Sacramento, CA and Omaha, NE
- 4) 1,776 miles were laid between Omaha and Sacramento.
- 5) The Central Pacific laid 690 miles and the UP 1,087 miles. The government paid the railroads based on the amount of track laid, giving both incentive.

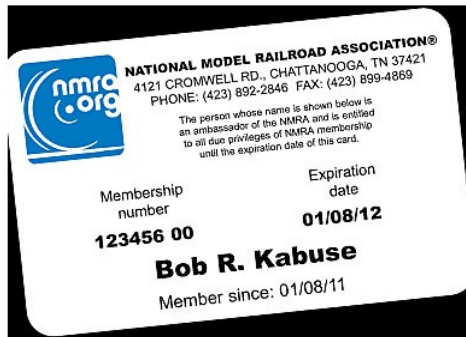


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See our website, e-mail or write us for catalog with closeout-priced items for GN, NP, SP&S, CB&Q, BN, MILW, UP, PRR, NYC, SP, C&NW, IC, RI, B&O, C&E, L&N, KCS, N&W, ERIE, ATSF, MP, CN, CP, VIA & Amtrak. Use HO sides with TSP, Rivarossi, Con-Cor, ECW, Bachmann, Kato, Walthers, our HO Basic Body Kit, or in N the ALM core kits or plastic dome car overlays. Send 2-oz. SASE for catalog and bulletin. Available through hobby shops or direct from us (\$4.50 for shipping, plus \$0.50 per ALM core kit if ordered.) Add 6.875% MN sales tax for MN orders. See our website for current information sheets, bulletins, 1964-72 DVD, and CV trucks.  
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**Train shows and events in and near the region**

Saturday 3/26 Prairie Lakes Division (PLD) spring meet 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Five Lakes Shopping Centre, located at Blue Earth Avenue and State Street in Fairmont, Minnesota. For more information contact Ron Peterson at 712 225 4780 or ron31545@yahoo.com. For table rentals contact John Davis at 712 852 2278 or iceboatd74jd@iowatelecom.net

Saturday 4/9 Minnesota River Valley Division (MRVD) annual meeting 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Pizza Ranch, 114 9th St. S., Olivia, MN. Meeting at 11:00 followed by silent auction, clinics, railfan videos/slides, model show-and-tell, door prizes and a visit to a large HO layout depicting NP's Yellowstone Division in 1955 (located in nearby Bird Island, MN). Contact Superintendent Terry Davis 320 587 7820 or ptdavis@hutchtel.net

Saturday 4/30 Granite City train show 10:00 am to 4:00 p.m. at the National Guard Armory, 1710 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud, MN. Admission \$5, kids 12 and under free. Model and toy trains, accessories, books, videos, collectibles, antique toys, more. Operating displays. For more info call 320-255-0033, or email edwardolson@cloudnet.com, or visit www.granitecitytrainshow.com.

Friday 5/20 to Sunday 5/22 annual Thousand Lakes Region convention in Dubuque, Iowa. See convention info and registration materials included in this issue.



### Staple Load

photo and story by Ron Einarson

One day when I was at our club layout I spotted a bulkhead car with an unusual load. The load was rows of large staples glued together and sprayed flat red primer. After it dried it was wrapped with chart tape to

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### Poling pockets—what they were and how to model them

*Tip by Les Breuer*

Freight cars and locomotives used to have dish shaped pockets, about six inches in diameter and 1-1/2 inches deep made from cast iron or pressed steel. These were used to move freight cars with the power on the a separate adjacent track.

Engineers stopped diagonally opposed to the freight car. Trainmen used a poling bar (made of hardwood, about eight feet long). While one trainman held the bar in the pocket of the freight car, the other held the bar in line with the pocket on the locomotive. The engineer slowly and gently moved the locomotive until the bar was snug in both pockets, then moved the locomotive pushing the bar and freight car to the spot. The practice seems to have fallen out of use for safety reasons during the 1950s

I used the ears off a Kadee coupler box—they were round, not too thick, and fit the sill on a Varney tank car I upgraded a few years ago. It worked great—and it could for you too!





## How to get more bang from a kit

Story and photos by Ron Einarson

Funny name for a model railroading article, but it definitely fits. We all go to the hobby shops and buy the ultimate kit for our layouts. We grin internally at how this beauty will look on our miniature railroad. We get home, open the kit and start placing the wall pieces where it will look best—only to find the kit is too large or takes up too much real estate. What to do? Can't return the kit, could try and sell it to a fellow modeler at a discounted price, or you could do what I did...make 3 separate structures from the kit. Each structure is a building flat with a little relief. One piece is a flat that sticks out about 1 1/2" from the backdrop while the other two have a corner protruding from the backdrop.

I started with a Walther's Water Street Freight Terminal building. I made the first flat from one side of the track loading facility and one side of the office complex. This structure looked like I had build the kit completely then sawed off a slice. As you can see in the photo's it looks not to bad a flat. (Figures 1 & 2).

Phase two was the truck terminal structures for another side of the layout which is only 24" wide by 36." For this part of the kitbash I angled the building from the backdrops creating a section for the truck loading facility and another office complex. I took the walls that were left over from the first kitbash structure, taped them together to see how they would fit in the scene and then proceeded to cut off the excess. After gluing all the walls together I braced the backs to make them durable if case they had to be moved and make it easier to work on when I added the details. (Figure 3).

I think the photos show what you can do with a little imagination and fun. Luckily I did not have to waste a good kit that otherwise would not have fit on my narrow layout. 🌟

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Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

## Railroad Wedding Vows

We are gathered here today in accordance with the FRA, AAR, STB, and other regulatory bodies to unite these two units in MultiUnit service. If anyone takes exception, file your grievance or get in the clear.

Do you take this woman to be your trailing unit, tying down your pin lifter forever, and permanently restricting yourself from interchange service, even with newer, freshly-painted units, remaining coupled despite flat wheels, sticking brakes, even unto bad orders and major derailments, until you are both rendered unto scrap? If so, signify by sounding your whistle as prescribed by GCOR Rule 5.8.2, example 4 (two short whistle blasts).

And, do your promise to pull this unit up ruling grade, using throttle and brake wisely to prevent rough train handling, broken knuckles, and pulled drawbars, applying sand as necessary to prevent wheel slip, so that you both crest the hill together, regardless of the trailing tonnage? If so, signify by sounding your whistle as prescribed by GCOR Rule 5.8.2, example 4.

And do you also promise not to cut away from the trailing unit, even when her side sheets have rusted through, and her paint job is faded? If so, signify by sounding your whistle as prescribed by GCOR Rule 5.8.2, example 4.

Now, do you take this man to be your lead unit, tying down your pin lifter forever, and permanently removing yourself from interchange service, even with newer series, high-adhesion, high-

horsepower units, remaining coupled despite flat wheels, sticking brakes, even unto bad orders and major derailments, until you are both rendered unto scrap? If so, signify by sounding your whistle as prescribed by GCOR Rule 5.8.2., example 4.

Do you also promise to remain coupled to your lead unit, even when he has a couple of traction motors cut out, and can no longer develop full horsepower? If so, signify by sounding your whistle as prescribed by GCOR Rule 5.8.2, example 4.

As a token of your intent to M.U., make the joint and stretch the slack.

By the power invested in me by the General Manager, Superintendent of Operations, and the Road Foreman of Engines, I now pronounce you permanently coupled.

You may cut in the air.

*(continued from page 3)*

operate using a DCC system. We presently have the following:

Six persons with 11 modules already constructed (includes four corners

One person who plans to build two modules

One person from outside of Winnipeg who is interested in joining.

Two persons from Winnipeg who are interested in joining.

The people with the 11 modules are from an existing modular group. These modules have to be considered when we complete our specifications. Dennis has also written a series of articles, titled 'Explaining the #1 Northern Division, NMRA and TLR' which have been published in the WMRC's monthly publication, 'The Lantern'. These articles give detailed information about the NMRA and the benefits to its members.



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All Aboard!

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Ron Bodin

*The FUSEE is a quarterly publication of the Thousand Lakes Region of the National Model Railroad Association and is mailed to all subscribers. A subscription runs for one year and costs \$10.00. Mail subscriptions to the treasurer.*

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My heartfelt thanks to this issue's Fusee contributors, including: Ron Peterson, Terry Davis, Gerry Miller, Les Breuer, Ron Einarson, Gerry Leone, and Paul Ullrich. This issue wouldn't have happened without your input!

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.

**Back issues of Model Railroader and other mags from '70s to early '90s. Many complete years. Call for detailed list. Best offer. Would rather give them away than recycle them.**

**Bill Rood 507 253 3650 (work) 507 269 1290 (cell)**

## **Fusee Advertising**

Commercial advertising from hobby shops, manufacturers, and businesses associated with a model railroading interest are 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.

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<u>Ad size (HxW)</u>	<u>Annual commercial rate</u>	<u>Annual commercial rate</u>	<u>Annual pike ad rate</u>
Full pg 9 5/8 x 7 1/8"	\$145.00	\$50.75	\$90.00
1/2 pg 4 3/4 x 7 1/8"	90.00	31.50	45.00
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 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



Spring 2011  
**The Fusee**  
18015 33rd Place N.  
Plymouth, MN 55447

#### **What's Inside?**

Convention details and registration form  
No. 1 Northern Division forges ahead  
Train Trivia—The Transcontinental Railroad  
Railroad wedding vows (after all, it's nearly spring)  
An inexpensive easy to build flatcar load  
More bang for your kit by kitbashing  
Another look back in time (see below)  
Plus more!

Check your expiration date!  
And... if you have questions (or a  
change of address) email Dave  
Hamilton at: [mzz64@yahoo.com](mailto:mzz64@yahoo.com)

### ***Back Trackin'***

#### **Excerpts from 1981, 1991, and 2001 Fusees**

*compiled by Alan Saatkamp*

##### **1981**

- ◆ Editor Bill Taylor changed the title of his column to "From the editor's shambles". The summer issue was late due to postal service problems in Canada, but more pertinent, a tornado had ripped the roof off the office housing The Fusee in Winnipeg
- ◆ President Duane Durr cites Nick Andrusiak and Ken Herman for helping TLR reach 300 members
- ◆ Bismarck, North Dakota hosts regional convention



##### **1991**

- ◆ TLR's nine divisions include Corn Belt, Lake Superior, No. 1 Northern, North Dakota, Kashabowie, Minnesota River Valley, Twin Cities, Prairie Lakes, Bluffs and Rivers, and Dakota Southeastern
- ◆ Originally entitled article by Bob Benzie called "Crapola from the Cupola" offers 15 tips for modeling
- ◆ Membership ranks swell to 663, including 370 in Minnesota alone
- ◆ Thunder Bay, Ontario hosts regional convention

##### **2001**

- ◆ Tom Mauszycki, future regional historian, writes two part feature on coal and the Powder River Basin, including addressing the DM & E's future potential role
- ◆ Spud Valley Model Railroad Club hosts Fargo Jct. regional convention in North Dakota