



THOUSAND LAKES REGION

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

# The FUSEE



# Thousand Lakes Region Fall Fusee Edition

## Kicking off the modeling season in style!

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#### Cover Photo - by Dan Dossa



Leder Brothers Recycling on the Hiawatha Line. Dan created the scrap piles and gondola loads from stainless steel shavings that a friend sent him from his machine shop.

Save the date...

**2025 Thousand Lakes Region  
Convention (May 15-18)**



Willmar Minnesota

## View from the Cab



### President Art Suel

I am writing this on Labor Day Sunday and wondering where the summer went. While the summer is disappearing, us modelers are returning to the layouts and workbenches. What is on your workbench? Drop a short article to Neil Maldeis, MMR with a few photos. Or an article on your layout with photos. It could be in the next FUSEE.

The Willmar convention is shaping up. Saturday the convention will travel down to the Milwaukee Road Heritage Center in Montevideo MN. There is lots of old Milwaukee equipment on display besides a great model railroad in the depot. If you want to present at a clinic, contact Ken Zieska

to get on the schedule. The Willmar area has many points of interest for the non-modeler, and we will have events for them too!

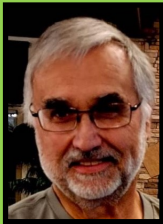
And just across the street is the former Great Northern railyard and facilities. There are locations where we can railfan safely and not trespass on the BNSF property.

Be sure to look over upcoming events to attend. I make it a point to make a few road trips each year to events outside the Twin City Division. Train Fest is back this year in Milwaukee. This year is downtown at the Convention Center, but it will be back at the Fairgrounds in 2025.

That is enough rambling from me, let us get to model railroading.

Art

## Neil's Nuggets - Still On My Soap Box



As summer winds down here in the upper Midwest and the shorter and cooler days of fall means the start of the swap meet/train show season, the opportunity to find treasures and an excellent reason to stay indoors and do some modeling. I look forward to this time of the year as it helps me justify or at least rationalize spending time in the basement. 😊

Some really exciting news for this issue in that we have 4 new contributors and we created 3 new columns TLR members have stepped up to the plate to do. Please thank them and let them know their efforts are appreciated.

I'd love to keep "What's on Your Workbench" and "Operations Corner" pages in the Fusee going as a place TLR members can share and see the excellent modeling work and share ideas in our region. **(However, I need your help to do this!)**. All you have to do is take a few photos of your projects and submit them with a short description or create some thoughts on operations to be shared in the Fusee.

There are a lot of talented modelers within our region and sharing photos and/or tips would be a great way to help us all become better modelers.

Maybe, consider writing an article, all content that gets published in the Fusee counts as credit that can be used in getting the Author AP Certificate. Reach out to me if you have any questions as I would be happy to help you get an article published!

I'm also looking for members to submit photos (Maybe photography is your thing!) that can be used for the cover of the Fusee. I'm open to layout, individual model/diorama or prototype shots that can be blown up and fill a whole page.

Bottom line, if you have a picture, tip, technique, modeling or prototype topic that is interest to you, there are most likely other members in the region that would like to know too!

Lastly, if you haven't checked out the NMRA Interchange, take some time and do so, there is a wealth of knowledge shared out there from around the globe on all model railroading topics. I think you will find it is worth the effort.

Neil

612 940 0757 (Voice and Text ok)

[Fusee Editor](#)



## TLR Contest Director Report - Shadow Redington

### 2025 TLR Convention in Willmar, MN

### Special People’s Choice Contest Category Announcement

The Special Project for the 2025 Willmar Convention has been identified. This year the theme will be “One Square Foot.” This is a special event that has only one rule: The entry can only be one square foot (total area) for the base. Participants may dimensionally configure the base as they choose as long as the total area does not exceed 1 square foot. (I.E. 1/2’ X 2’ would be ok)

In the case of railroad modelers, just a single square foot for its base. In “Z” scale it would be a fair amount of modeling. In HO, S, G, or F scale it would most likely have a lot of special detail.

In the case of the craft folks, same thing, only one square foot in size. It could be needlepoint, knitting, or sewing.

At the convention in Willmar, MN the Special People’s Choice model category is intended to encourage all participants to scratch build a structure. The objective is for individuals who have never scratch built anything to start with a basic structure. This structure is called, “One Square Foot.”

#### Requirements:

- 1) No kit or kit components, No kit bashing, 100% scratch built.
- 2) Detailed “One Square Foot” Modules can have homemade decals, dry transfers, but not commercial decals or dry transfers. These may be printed paper or card stock (up to 110 pound) and attached to scenery.
- 3) LEDs or other lighting to illuminate the module is acceptable but not a requirement.
- 4) Basic tools (hobby knives, rulers, etc.) available to all modelers are to be used. This excludes laser cutters, 3D printers, or home CNC machines.
- 5) More sophisticated tools may be used to make structures that are submitted in the “Judged Models” category as structures. What is described here is for submission to the People’s Choice category.
- 6) If your module has a humorous theme it may also be submitted in the “Thumbs” People’s Choice category.

If you have never scratch built anything, this is a great way to start. We are looking forward to seeing you at the 2025 Willmar, MN convention.


### Publishing Deadlines

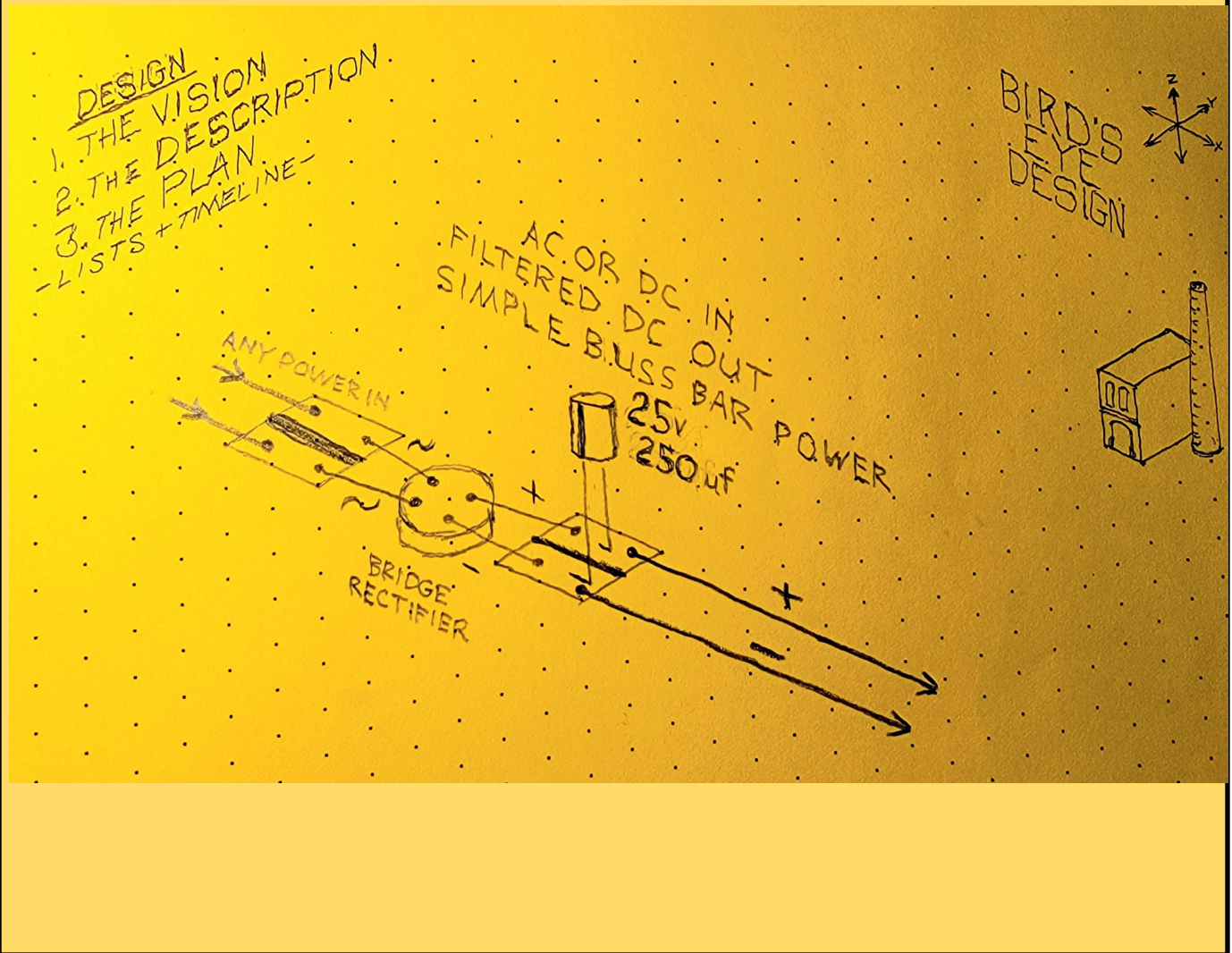
<u>Publishing Date</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>
March Edition	February 28/29
July Edition	June 30
September Edition	August 31
December Edition	November 30

## From the Desk of Matt Lentz - Simple Buss Bar Power Design

Matt shares a simple design of a filtered DC output buss power bar. Sketch below shows the components required and how they are connected to make the circuit.

I'm sure if you have any questions you can reach out to Matt and he'd be happy to help. (His contact info is on page xx)

Drawing by Matt Lentz 





## Model Railroaders on Social Media: Boomer Diorama

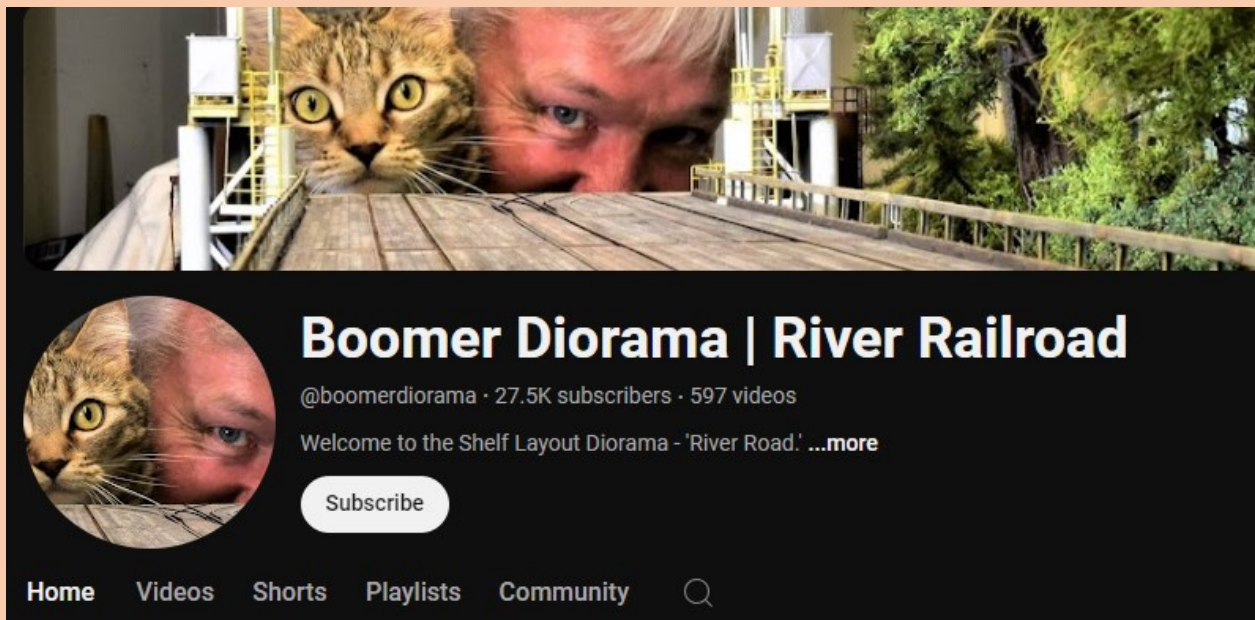
In my model railroading experience, I have learned much by reading books/magazines, watching DVDs and interacting with fellow modelers, as well as social media. In the past few years, I have subscribed to a few different YouTube channels that have model railroading/rail fanning content. One of my favorites channels is Boomer Diorama.

Boomer Diorama, aka Boomer, is a model railroader from British Columbia, Canada. He had experience, in his younger days, with military and ship building models, which led to a career in the tv, movie and theatre industry. His channel has nearly 600+ videos and has over 27000 subscribers.

At the beginning of his channel, Boomer documented his shelf layout Glover Road, which led him three years ago to build his current bedroom sized River Road HO switching layout. He models a proto freelance version of the SRY RR by blending a series of dioramas (or scenes) seamlessly. Or as he calls it "30 miles in 30ft".

His channel covers: scratch building, scenery and tree making, weathering and locomotive/rolling stock builds while passing on his knowledge to his viewers. My favorite videos of his, so far, have been the Carrier Princess boat "staging cassette" for his dock, his technics on roads and building a moose (yes, you read it right he built a moose). His knowledge and story telling is both entertaining and educational, while mentoring the viewer in growing their own skills. Always encouraging and never discouraging the viewer. A note pad would be handy to jot down the info for the various paints and products he uses, if you choose to try out some of his techniques. I highly recommend checking out Boomer Diorama on YouTube.

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@boomerdioramas>



### Meet Rob:

A lifelong model railroader currently in the middle of building his freelance Huron & Yale Northern HO scale layout and is a member of the Winnipeg Model Railway Club (No. 1 Northern). He lives in southeastern Manitoba with his wife of 14 years, Lilibeth. They share an interest in gardening, exploring small towns and cheering on their favorite sport teams.



## Modeling on a Dime- By Dan Dossa

### A Wall Mounted Exhaust Fan

There used to be a show on HGTV called “Design on a Dime” which featured inexpensive home

decorating ideas. I decided to start what I hope will be a forum in which we can share inexpensive modeling hacks and tricks. Hence, welcome to the birth of “Modeling on a dime.”

In our first installment, I’ll show how I modeled a wall mounted exhaust fan. These fans are a common, though not oft modeled, feature on industrial buildings.

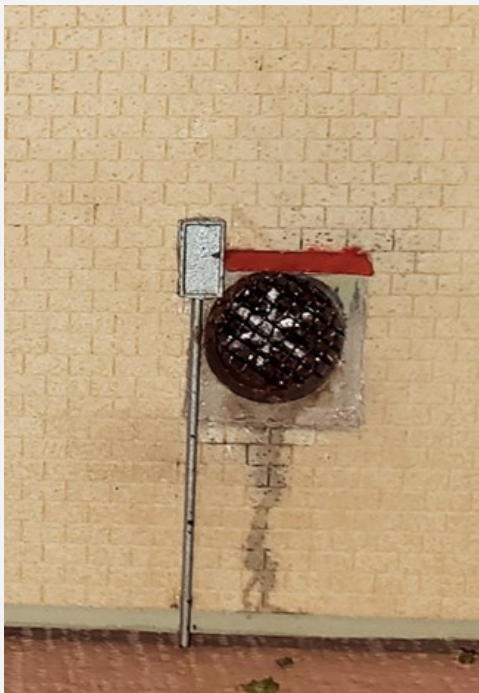
Fortunately for us, the material to create it is probably in your home right now and the price is right: free. Here’s how.



The starting point is one of those plastic silica containers found in pill bottles (photo below).



Looking at these, note that the ends have perforations, and ribs which have the appearance of fan blades. I separated the cap from the body and discarded the silica (the ones I use advise not eating the silica, so just don't, LOL). The cap has wider blades, while the body has deeper ones. I used the cap. I lightly painted a rusty primer color (be careful not to clog the perforations) and highlighted the fan blades with silver (photo below).



A screen added to what would be the outside of the fan dresses the unit up. A piece of window screen would work, but I used a patching piece from Menards, trimmed to fit. My building allowed scraping

away the outer block detail and drilling directly into the underlying siding. If that doesn't work a square of styrene with a hole the size of your fan will also work. I prefer drilling the hole slightly undersized and then fitting it by hand so that the outside of the "housing" fits flush. The square was painted to look like concrete (Rustoleum brand "Fossil" spray paint is a spot on match for the old Floquil Weathered

Concrete). With the fan in place, I finished by installing an electrical box and conduit (made from scrap styrene and wire) and an overhead rain shield.

Here is the result (Photo below). If I had a scrap of window screen (or could get one from a hardware store) the cost was essentially zero. Can't beat the price!

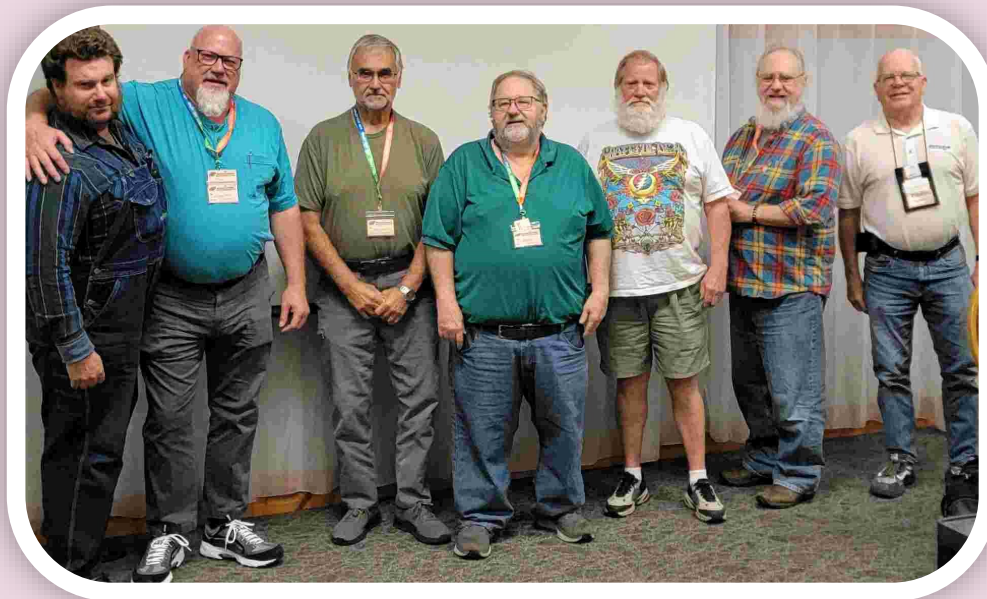




## From the TLR Historian:

I've got a special request for those of you that have pictures from the past. I'm especially looking for layout pictures from members who have passed. If you have layout photos from friends who are no longer with us contact me at [mkl@janushd.com](mailto:mkl@janushd.com).

Also are you an old Goat? Have you been a NMRA TLR member for more than twenty years or more? Let one of the board members know as there is a TLR "Old Goat" pin available to those that meet this requirement.



TCD Board - Left to right, Shadow Redington, Tom Gay, Neil Maldeis, Art Suel, Rich Holzapfel, Fred Holzapfel, Ken Zieska

## Zoom Meeting Highlights with NMRA President Gordy Robison - Ken Zieska

***Worth Sharing Again! I applied for the Grouper benefit and received it, definitely worth the effort to apply. (See below, Neil)***

The amazing power of the internet allowed NMRA President Gordy Robison to join us via Zoom for a conversation. Gordy greeted us from his Home in Scotland and then shared some interesting news from the NMRA National.

Gordy highlighted a new initiative the NMRA has been working on. Healthcare organizations have recognized the importance of people involved in group activities that keep the active and engaged. While this is true of all ages, it is particularly true for retirement age people. Grouper has been working with many health care insurers to help and they have rolled out a program with the NMRA where members over 65 can have their membership dues reimbursed just for being involved.

Applying for this benefit is easy. Go to [www.hellogrouper.com/NMRA](http://www.hellogrouper.com/NMRA). fill out the registration information and they will contact NMRA to confirm you are an active member and they will take it from there. To date over 500 members have signed up for the program and many have already received their checks. According to Gordy, not all healthcare organizations are participating but more are joining the program all the time.

Gordy also announced that the NMRA has stepped in to help support the return of Trainfest November 7-9, 2025. Trainfest will be again be held at the State Fair Park near Milwaukee in a 250,000 square foot space. In addition to all of the traditional Trainfest fun, there will be an RPM event held in conjunction.

## Weathering Grilles on Diesel Locomotives – Air Brushing Technique – Article and Photos by Joe Binish

After paint, decals, and a flat coat (I use Testor's Dullcoat), we are ready to start weathering the grilles on the locomotive. Try and be patient enough to let it dry, there should be no solvent carrier smell. Note the support structure of the carbody tool into the grills ☺



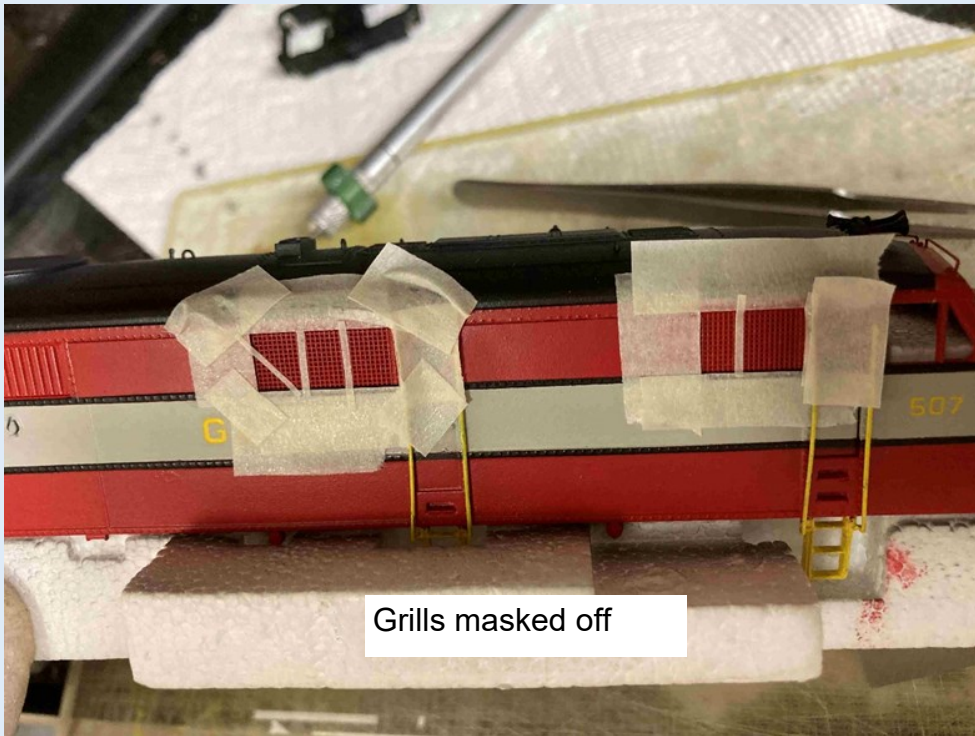
I don't like etched locomotive grills. Well, maybe they are ok on F3 phase 4, F7 or F9. Maybe E units. But "woven" grilles? No etching! The best looking are the Stewart/Kato HO scale Fs. Just my opinion, but no etching!!

So how to make them look like there is the day-to-day dirt on/in them? They are basically vacuum filters, keeping the air in the carbody of the locomotive "clean". I have used washes in the past (Tamiya or homemade taco sauce), the results were too random. Pastels in my hands are an area media, no control. So, I decided to airbrush grimy gray over the openings, masking to highlight the carbody structure behind the grills.

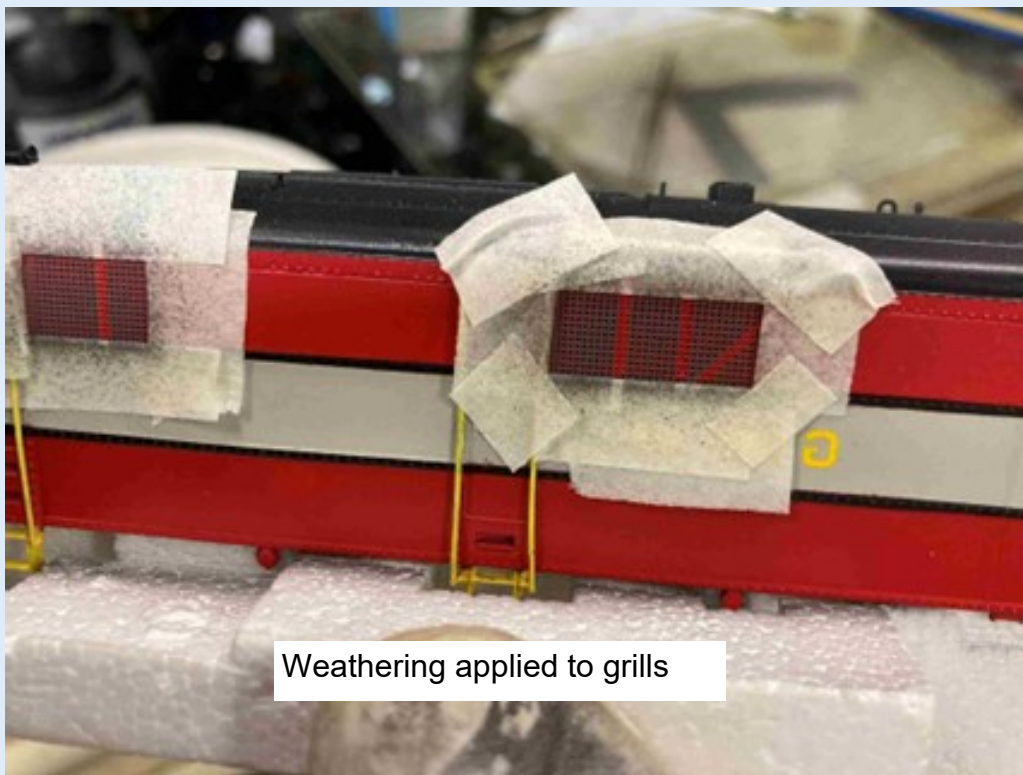
The materials I used are as follows:

- Testors 36081 Euro 1 gray (of course discontinued, thank you RPM), now I use Tamiya XF-63 German Gray.
- Duck Brand general purpose masking tape.
- Paasche VL airbrush.
- Lacquer thinner/Mr Color Leveling Thinner
- (Tamiya is an alcohol based acrylic, the Leveling thinner makes it spray as a lacquer)
- Use what ever paint you like, Mission Models and Vallejo make FS.36081 as well. I have a hard time spraying acrylics.

Follow along while I highlight the grills on a Proto 2000 FA1.



I have masked off the entire grill area and covered the support structure. I added more tape to cover the rest of the shell, I tend to blow paint all over....



The paint should be very thin-one or two drops of paint in a teaspoon pr so of thinner. It would be a wash if I were to apply with a brush.

Products that I now use...



I have removed the structure masking. It only took me about 4 times of having to remask the perimeter when doing previous locomotives to figure out to do the perimeter masking so I could leave it on for the next step

Final spray over the whole grill. Note how the structure elements have just a bit of grime on them, but still show up as "blocking" the airflow and dirt into the carbody.



Finished Weathering of Grills

Below are a few of my Central Of Minnesota F2/3s with the grill treatment. 80 has yet to get the grill treatment, but has had a "taco sauce" wash



Editor's note: The technique Joe use's here for grills can also be used for weathering of other areas on engines, rolling stock and structures that get dirt/grime build up. I have used this technique to get subtle streaking of grime/rust on structure roofs.



## Hennepin Overland Corner - Article and Photos By Bruce Johnson

One topic that comes up a lot when us older model railroaders get together is, how do we get the young kids interested in the hobby. When I was young, my grandfather had a layout in his basement. It was O scale and kind of rough compared to today's standards because almost everything had to be scratch built. The basement was dark, musty, cramped. To me, it was magical. The crossing gate actually went down when the train came along, the dinner was detailed and lit up on the inside, and he had both a passenger train and a freight train. I decided then, at age 10, that I was hooked and I wanted to carry on in my grandfathers' footsteps. I found out later that he was one of the six founding members of what is now the Twin Cities Model Railroad Club.

I am a member of the Hennepin Overland Railway Historical Society. My main job is the scenery committee chairman. We have been lucky to get several new young members. As scenery chair, I tend to approach them and encourage them to help us out with scenery projects. They are usually a little skeptical because it's fairly intimidating to look at what we have and think they can contribute up to our standards. I reassure them that I don't expect them to be an expert at their age. If they want to learn, are willing to try many different tasks, and take their time and strive for excellence, we can teach them anything. For me, it's rewarding to watch them try new things, learn and to see their confidence grow as they realize that they can create some amazing things.

The Hennepin Overland has been blessed with three young members that have stepped up and are contributing a lot to the layout. Sam Romig joined about three years ago. He started helping me with a retaining wall that we installed, painted, and weathered. He volunteered to help us out with lighting some buildings and now oversees all our lighting, sound, and animation. We now have a special building in his honor, Romig Engineering. Aiden Nelson has been with us for about 8 months now and after taking on an 8 foot long rustic wooden fence, is now our water effects master and many other scenery projects. Evan Bertram has only been a member for about 4 months but is volunteering with several projects and looks like he will be a valuable member.

### Sam

Trains have been in my blood from a very young age. I played with wooden trains extensively when I was little, and then later on I graduated to a Life Like HO starter set. Over time the collection expanded to a full 4x8 layout with track plans that changed a time or three. Building scenery was never my strong suit, but I did find the electrical side of things fascinating. One notable accomplishment I have from that era was wiring an engine terminal and turntable that was fully functional, where two DC mainlines could meet and take turns servicing their locomotives. As I went into high school, trains faded into the background for a while as I pursued other interests.

While I was in college, I was feeling particularly isolated during the pandemic, so my Dad nudged me towards the Hennepin Overland. When I joined the organization, more than anything I was looking to meet other people in the model railroading community, and maybe find some friends along the way. Attending work nights and operating for open houses allowed me to do just that. As Bruce mentioned earlier, I started out doing scenery with him, and then I went on to tackle building lights and animation projects. For our sawmill scene, I installed a set of computer speakers under the sawmill building and its beehive sawdust burner.



The speakers are placed so that the sound comes directly out of the sawmill and burner for our guests to hear. When the burner is turned on, a set of flickering LEDs light up the inside of the burner and makes the cinder screen glow. It really adds a nice touch to the scene for our Trains After Dark events and is one of the projects that I'm most proud of! As you can see, I have a couple of things I need to finish like the bleed through on the ground and the walls need painting on the inside to stop the light from coming through. Another project I'm excited about is our forest fire scene. In addition to the beautifully toasted trees the scenery guys made, I've been adding tiny LEDs scattered around the scene to simulate embers glowing after a big fire. The lighting parts of the scene are still a work in progress, but I'm really happy with how it's turned out so far. Making cool projects is satisfying by myself, but doing things as part of a team that really appreciates what I do makes everything ten times more

rewarding. I came to the Hennepin Overland looking for a community; I stayed because they gave me a way to contribute to something greater than anything I could do alone.

Hello, my name is Aiden Nelson. I've always been fascinated with trains, starting with wooden toys on the floor and Day Out with Thomas rides. When I was about eight years old, I inherited a collection of model trains from my great uncle; while nothing too special I had a loop of track and could run trains. As I got older I got to experiment a bit with custom car loads, weathering, and doing basic maintenance like replacing trucks and swapping horn hook couplers for Kadee's. As my interest in more serious modeling grew, so did my collection. I had been looking for a club for a while and finally in the winter of 2023 I got the chance to join the Hennepin Overland.

Being at the Hennepin Overland has been a great experience for me. I had taken quite an interest in doing scenery work but never really had an opportunity to. That is until Bruce and Chris took me in so to speak and told me what needed to be done and how to do it properly. My first project was replacing a wooden fence that was in dire need of work. I felt



very welcome and appreciated, but also not restricted in what I could do. After I finished the fence, Chris, who is another member of the scenery committee helped me with static grass and showed me how he does ground work. After Bruce gave the okay, I worked on scenery on multiple other parts of the layout. Currently we are revamping our farm scene with new ground cover, trees, water effects, and a new corn field. My other big project I have worked on is replacing the water fall underneath Clothespin Trestle. I used a technique I found online using wire with poly fiber, covered in water effects, and then snowflakes. I think the final result turned out great. It is an amazing scene on our layout that I think has been much improved with the new waterfall and all the new trees made by Chris. At the club I feel like I am a part of something, the

people are welcoming, and I don't feel like I am shut out of opportunities to improve the layout because I am young or don't have years and years of experience.

My name is Evan, I was initially into 3-rail O scale as my dad had got me a Lionel set when I was around 7, however just a few years later I saw my uncle throwing out an old HO scale set and I asked him if I could have it, the answer was a "Yes" and the rest is history. A few years later I was at a train show with my dad and he bought me an L&N U28B #2500 with DCC & Sound which to this day is still my favorite locomotive. Even though I mostly model Louisville & Nashville I don't limit myself to it and I own quite a bit of other stuff as well.

I joined the Hennepin Overland Museum in late winter 2023. I was only initially looking for a group of people with similar interests as me since my hometown has almost no one, however soon after joining I was interested in a few of the committees; the scenery, electrical, and car ones specifically. The club is very open to new people and there is something for everyone. I really enjoy running trains for other people. While I am not able to get to the club very often during the week due to work and living over an hour away, when I am able to make it and help out it is a nice feeling. Bruce, who is the head of the scenery committee has helped me a ton with learning how to build kits and do weathering, without his help I wouldn't know a lot of the good techniques that I now know.

For me as an old fart, this is so comforting knowing that the future is in good hands. Not only for Hennepin Overland, but for the hobby in general. As the scenery committee chair of the Hennepin Overland Railway Historical Society, it has been so rewarding getting to know these wonderful young men and having the opportunity to mentor them. Stop down at our open house hours sometime between Labor day and Memorial day, Saturdays and Sunday between 1-4pm and ask to meet these guys.

# Region Round-up

## The Dakota Southeastern Division - Scott Nesbit

Despite the hot summer the DSED remained fairly busy. In July we brought all our portable layouts to Canton, SD for Depot days. Held in their beautiful restored depot it's a great place to show off our railroads with the Trak on the main floor and the HO layout in the basement. Next, the first weekend in August the HO modular layout made its way to North Platte, NE for their railroad days. Our crew had a great time there and were treated to tours of both Bailey Yard and The Golden Spike Tower and were also feed very well! Work sessions continued on the new racks for our Trak setup which are now complete and show ready! Coming up in September will be our annual members and family's picnic which is always a great time. Then, it's full steam ahead (pun intended) for all our fall and winter shows!!

## South Red River Division — Matt Lentz



From the South Red River Valley Division... We are seeking modelers who need to have judged models evaluated. This February we will be holding an event where anyone may enter a model for Achievement Program Evaluation and a contest. This event, called Check Point, is way for those of you needing an evaluation for Merit or a check up to find out if you are on track to be evaluated at the convention. Every one who participates will get actual live feedback. You will get to discuss your model with our panel of judges. We have a sanctioned AP committee headed by past contest director Kennedy Gauger. Anyone who needs more information contact MK. Lentz, Superintendent, at [mkl@janushd.com](mailto:mkl@janushd.com).

## # 1 Northern - Ian Phett

#1 Northern has been pretty quiet this summer. The Free-Mo Group had a layout at the Carmen fair in Manitoba back in July. And they will be at the Manitoba Mega Train show last week of September which is held at the park west of Winnipeg.

## Prairie Lakes Division - Jay Davis

The Prairie Lakes Division will be having its fall event on Saturday October 12 from 8-3, at the Clay County Regional Events at Spencer, Iowa. Located on the Clay County Fairgrounds. The day will feature clinics, model railroad vendors, popular vote model contest, PLD modular railroad, door prizes, and a tour of massive Smokey Mountain Railroad which is a permanent display at the Clay County Fair

As of publishing deadline no reports from:

- Southeastern
- Minnesota River Valley

## Twin Cities Division - Thomas Gasior MMR©

The second annual Model RR Trunk sale is planned for September 7th at the St. James Lutheran Church of Crystal 6700 46th Place, Crystal. Please contact Dan Cohen if you'd like to be a vendor, or volunteer to help.

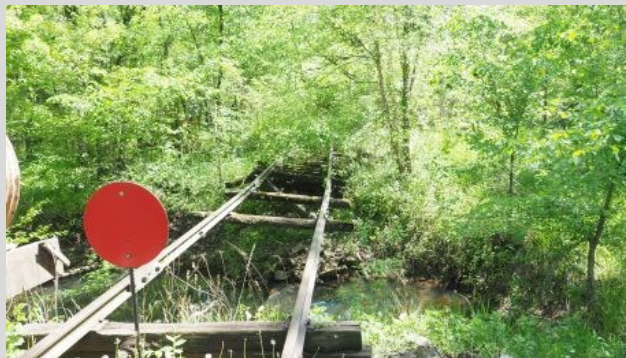
Fall is the time of year to get back into modeling and the Twin Cities has many swap meets, train shows and other modeling events planned for train enthusiast's

Be sure to check the events page on the TCD website for the latest information on activities around the Twin Cities. There is a lot of activities being planned for the 2024-25 season so be sure to mark your calendars and get out there and participate!

<https://tcdnmra.org/events/> for Updates)



## Activities Happening Around the Twin Cities Division



TCD Planned 2024-2025 Activities (Check TCD Facebook Page and website <https://tcdnmra.org/events/> for Updates)

- **September 7** Trunk Sale - St. James Lutheran Church of Crystal 6700 46th Place, Crystal
- **September 12th** Twin Cities Division meeting Davanni's (Plymouth)
- **October 10** Twin Cities Division meeting Perkins (Bloomington )
- **November 14** Twin Cities Division meeting Union 32 Craft House (Eagan)
- **December 14** Twin Cities Division Holiday party Davanni's (Eden Prairie)
- **January 9** Twin Cities Division Streamyard meeting on YouTube and Facebook.
- **February 13** Twin Cities Division meeting Davanni's (Plymouth)
- **February 22** Twin Cities Division Operators retreat
- **March 13** Twin Cities Division meeting Perkins (Bloomington)
- **March 15-16** 7th Annual Twin Cities Division Modelers meet. Mount Olivet Lutheran Church of Plymouth.
- **April 19** Twin Cities Division meeting Union 32 Craft House (Eagan).
- **May 8th** Twin Cities Division meeting (Location to be Confirmed)
- **May 15-18** TLR Convention Willmar
- **July 14-19** NMRA National Novi Michigan

If you do work on the layout or do modeling during the summer, please consider sharing your creations with us on the Facebook group. (Also with the [Fusee Editor](#))



At the NMRA National Convention in Long Beach Gerry Leone took “Best of Show” and “Best Special Effects” honors.



#39 Building a Train in the Rain

### ***Operations Corner***

I'm sorry to report I didn't get any content from members for this issue, I find it hard to believe with the large number of operating layouts in our regional there aren't a few of you out there that could provide some thoughts, ideas or tips on the subject. Anyway... I'll get off my soap box, I think this can be a great column to include in the Fusee that would be of interest to members.

If you would like to see this column continue and can help me out, please contact me and let's come up with some great topics for the winter edition.

Neil

612 940 0757 (Voice and Text ok)

[Fusee Editor](#)

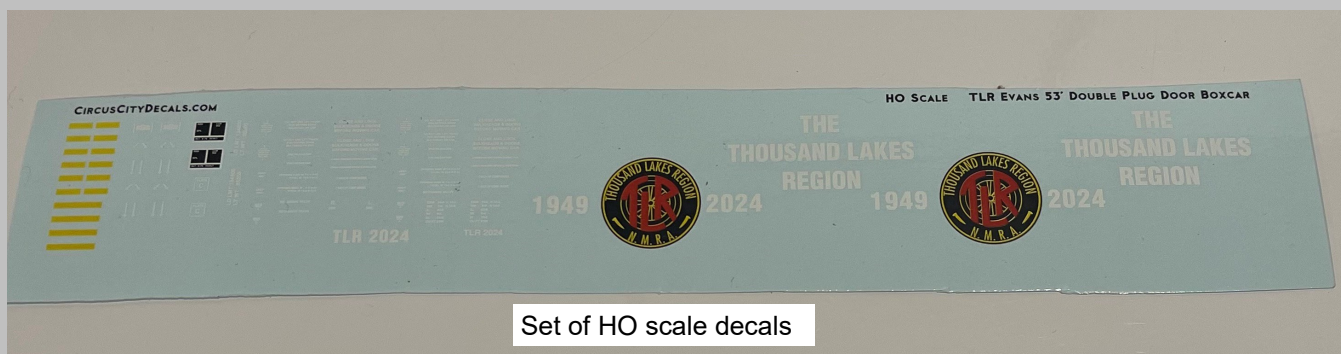
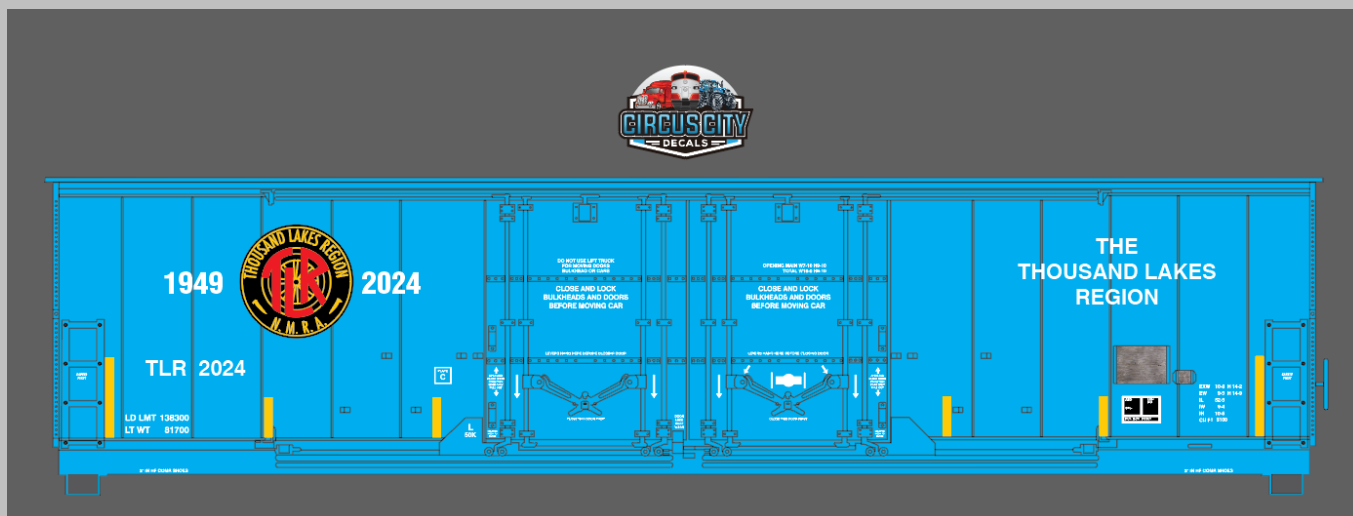
## TLR Celebrates 75 Years

The TLR is celebrating 75 years by issuing a set of commemorative decals.

Decal sets are available in N, HO, S and O scales.

Decals are \$6.00 which includes postage.

Contact Ken Zieska at ([mhry19@gmail.com](mailto:mhry19@gmail.com)) if you would like to purchase a set.



## Rail Days Event - North Platte Nebraska

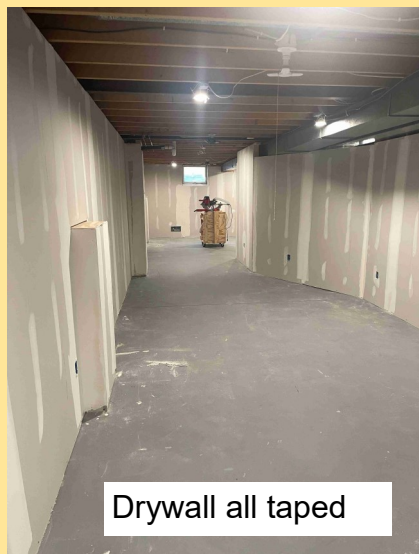
Photos by Kennedy Gauger



Rail Days Event - North Platte Nebraska (Cont.)



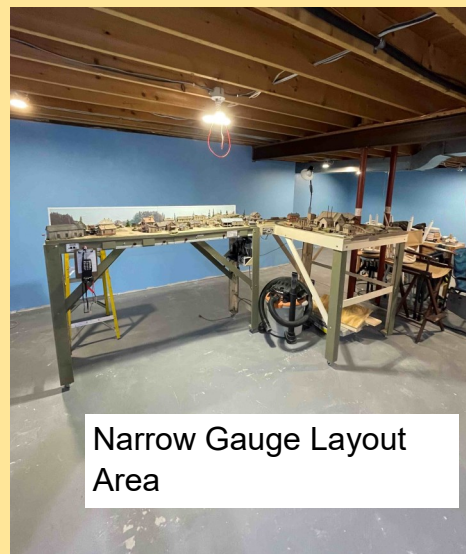
## What's on Your Workbench?



Drywall all taped



Standard Gauge  
Layout area



Narrow Gauge Layout  
Area

Some of you may know that I recently relocated to the Twin Cities (My wife and I downsized into a townhouse). The townhouse fortunately for me, has a large unfinished basement that I am in the process of transforming into my new layout room. Here are a few updated pictures of my progress since the last issue of the Fusee, Wiring has been completed, only ceiling and flooring left to do.



Here is what is literally on my work bench! I recently picked these older engines up off of eBay and at a train show for my new standard gauge layout. The GP-18 is an older Proto 2000, that unfortunately had the typical split drive axle gears needing replacement. I also installed a decoder and led lights. Still a decent value even with all the work it needed. The F-7 is an old MRC model it looks decent compared to the Athearn blue box versions, it required the motor (found a good used motor on eBay) and decoder to be replaced. Not the best deal I have gotten, but, the engine runs great now.

If you have a Model Railroad Project you are working on and would like to share with other members, send me a brief write up and a few pictures of what you are doing and I'll publish it in the next Fusee. I'd like to see a bunch of projects to share! Neil [Fusee Editor](#)

## Modeler's Tip

Article and Photos by Dan Dossa:

### *Creating scrap metal piles and gondola loads*

Leder Brothers is a scrap metal recycler along the Hiawatha Line of the Minnesota Commercial/CP/SOO/Milwaukee Railroads. Studying Google Maps I discerned piles of scrap steel and scrap aluminum awaiting shipment via rail. Creating the mounds of scrap metals found at Leder Brothers, and loads of scrap for gondolas was an enjoyable process. Here's how I created mine.

I have a friend who has a machine tool business and he was kind enough to send me a box of stainless steel shavings. Using tin snips I cut the shavings into smallish irregular pieces. I found I could also just break some with my fingers (be careful, the dang things can be sharp).



I built a small jig that can hold a wooden false floor for a gondola. On my line the gons are all 53' in length so I just cut the false floors ensuring they would fit. I painted those with flat brown primer. Once the false floors are dry, I place a plastic bag into the jig, and then put the floor piece



into it. I used Flex Seal gel glue, squirting it liberally onto the floor (you want this about 1/4" to 1/2" deep, although it doesn't have to be exact). In the center I put a bent paper



clip down into the glue to create a handle so the loads can be lifted out. Bend the paper clip so the loop at the top is about 3/8" above the load you will be adding. Once that is in place I fill the jig with aluminum scraps to roughly 1/2" deep. Using a rag or a few thicknesses of paper towel I press the scraps into the glue. Sometimes you have to work this around a bit, but the idea is to get the scraps secured into the glue. Put this aside and let it dry overnight. If you are modeling aluminum, remove the gondola, and spray it with a clear dull finish. This mimics the oxidation that happens to aluminum when left outside. If you are modeling steel, however, I spray the load with flat, dark brown primer. Then I overspray with a lighter color (mine was called "cinnamon"). Don't fully coat the loads, instead use this second spray to highlight your load and add a sense of depth to it. Try and keep your loads level with the top of the car sides. Railroads don't overfill scrap gondolas. If your load looks good but it isn't quite tall enough, just add some spacers underneath.

For scrap piles I used commercially available scrap piles as my bases. In truth, a piece of florist foam that is carved to shape will work just as well. I painted the bases with grey primer for the aluminum pile, and dark brown primer for the steel piles. Then, just as I did with my gondola loads, I spread a thick coat of Flex Seal glue over the piles and pressed the scrap pieces into it. For aluminum again I spray it with a flat clear coat. For steel, I use the two applications of paint described above, and then spray the pile with flat clear coat. Remember as you are doing this to feather the scrap piles outward from the bases. This creates a much more realistic appearance. I glued my piles in place, then added more glue around the base and pressed more scrap into it. If I needed to blend it more, I just glued

individual pieces in place. For this stage I paint the steel scrap before installing it.

And that's it!

Happy Modeling, Dan Dossa





Don't Forget to Check out the Twin Cities Division Podcast

<https://tcdnmra.org/>



**Minneapolis & Northland**



**Railroad Company**

I enjoy model railroading and want to share my experiences with you! You can see my build of kits, how-to's, painting information and much more on my internet blog. Check out <http://mnrailroadcab100.blogspot.com>.

Lester Breuer, MMR

**2024-2025 Region Roundup - model railroad-related events in and around the TLR**

Sept 7	TCD Trunk Sale	St. James Lutheran Church, Crystal, MN
Sept 14	Twin Cities Model Railroad Club	MN State Fairgrounds, St Paul, MN
Sept 21	Waconia Free-Mon Open House	Waconia, MN
Sept 22	North Metro Club Operations Day	Coon Rapids, MN
Sept 28-29	Manitoba Mega Train Show	Winnipeg, Manitoba
Oct 12	Newport Model Train Club Train Show	Woodbury High School , Woodbury, MN
Oct 12	Prairie Lakes Division Fall Event	Clay Cty Fairgrounds, Spencer, IA
Oct 20	Spud Valley Hobby Show	Red River Fairgrounds, West Fargo, ND
Oct 26-27	Great American Train Show	Canterbury Park, Shakopee, MN
Oct 27	N. Central Iowa MRR Club	Franklin Cty Conv. Ctr, Hampton, IA
Nov 2	North Star RPM Meet	Wyndham Hotel, Burnsville, MN
Nov 16	Granite City Train Show	River's Edge Convention Ctr, St Cloud, MN
Nov 23-24	Train Fest	Baird Center, Milwaukee, WI
Unknown	Greater Upper Midwest Train Show & Sale	Century College, White Bear Lake, MN
Jan 4	Newport Model Train Club Train Show (2025)	Woodbury High School , Woodbury, MN
Mar 15-16	Annual TCD Modeler's Retreat (2025)	Mt Olivet Church, Plymouth, MN
April 5	Newport Model Train Club Train Show (2025)	Woodbury High School , Woodbury, MN
May 16-19	TLR Annual Convention (2025)	Willmar, MN
July 14-19	NMRA National Convention (2025)	Novi, MI

# Skills Day - Saturday October 19th 2024

## The Twin Cities Division's "Hands on" Share Your Skills Day

This event is for all modelers – new and experienced – and everyone in between. Please join us and share a skill, as we make something, try something, do something – getting our hands dirty in the process, or at least having a better understanding on how to do a skill.

***\$5 for Members, \$10 for Non-Members (to help cover the cost of the materials)***

The following are the current planned skills:

- Skill #1 Weathering
- Skill #2 Track Ballasting
- Skill #3 Freight Car Tuning

Contact: [skills@tcdnmra.org](mailto:skills@tcdnmra.org)

Location:  
Ameritek  
155 Hardman Ave S  
South Saint Paul, MN 55075



## 46th Annual Spud Valley Hobby Show

Sunday, October 20, 2024  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

(under 12 free with paid adult)

**Red River Valley  
Fairgrounds**

**Hartl Building**

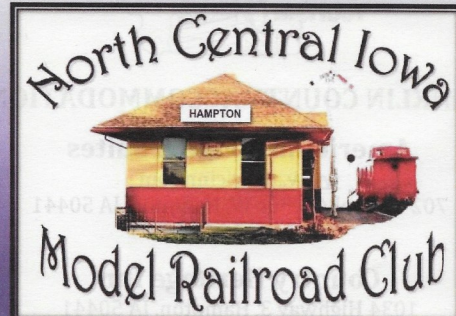
**1805 Main Ave W.  
West Fargo, ND**

- 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
- Lunch and ATM are available on site
- Lionel & American Flyer parts are available

Call Don-701-234-9351 or email: spudvalley@hotmail.com

## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale

Sponsored by



Sunday, October 27, 2024  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Franklin County Convention Center,  
Hwy 3 West, Hampton, Iowa**

Admission \$5.00 (Ages 10 & under Free with Paid Adult)

For Info or Updates Call (641)456-1998  
or Email: eastsidetrains@gmail.com



## River's Edge Convention Center

10 4th Ave. S  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Saturday, November 16th, 2024  
Show Hours: 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

Buy, sell, trade or just view hundreds of trains under one roof. Vendors will be selling and buying trains, accessories, books, videos, railroad collectibles & memorabilia, antique trains & toys, hobby items and more!

Operating model and toy train displays. Kids can help build a wooden train layout and run a model train.

Register to win door prize, a LIONEL train set.

Test track on site. Wheelchair accessible.

Admission: \$6.00. Kids 10 and under FREE.

For more information call 612-558-6484, email GraniteCityTrainShow@gmail.com or visit [www.GraniteCityTrainShow.com](http://www.GraniteCityTrainShow.com).

Map & Directions: [www.GraniteCityTrainShow.com/GCTS\\_map.pdf](http://www.GraniteCityTrainShow.com/GCTS_map.pdf).

HOBBYISTS: If you wish to display a layout, or have a vendor table please visit our web site for a printable layout display or vendor request form.

A NEW MODEL RAILROAD EVENT THIS FALL  
**ANNOUNCING THE FIRST EVER  
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[northstarrpm@yahoo.com](mailto:northstarrpm@yahoo.com)**

**WHAT IS A RPM MEET?  
RPM STANDS FOR **RAILROAD PROTO-  
TYPE MODELER**.  
THIS IS AN EVENT FOR MODELERS TO  
SHOW OFF THEIR  
**SCALE** MODELS AND SHARE  
MODELING TECHNIQUES.**

**IN HOUSE  
STEAK AND ALE  
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PARKING LOT**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2ND  
8AM EXHIBITER SET UP  
9AM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
CLOSE AT 4PM**



**AFTER THE SHOW, VISIT THE  
NORTHSTAR PROTOTYPE MODELERS FREE-MO HO LAYOUT  
ACROSS THE FREEWAY IN BURNSVILLE CENTER SHOPPING MALL.  
THEY WILL BE RUNNING TRAINS FROM 4-6PM FOR SHOW GUESTS.**

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**Dakota Division of Soo Line Railway**  
Thomas Gay



2015 Rose Creek Drive  
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[tomandkath@hotmail.com](mailto:tomandkath@hotmail.com)

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An HO scale model railroad in Bismarck, ND representing the Bismarck-Mandan area and branchline to Killdeer in the 1975-1980 timeframe. Regular operating sessions using computerized switchlists.

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To your next  
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Advertising should be mailed to THE FUSEE editor as camera-ready artwork or electronic files (jpeg, tiff, gif, or EPS with outlined fonts).

Enclose payment in U.S. funds, international money order, or by check drawn on U.S. banks. Checks should be made out to **TLR**. Contact the editor if you have questions.

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Commercial advertising from hobby shops, manufacturers, and businesses associated with model railroading interests are accepted. All ads can be run in a single issue at 35% of the annual rate.

**Railroad ads are for individual layouts, model railroad clubs, or other non-commercial groups and are FREE.**

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1/16 pg 1 1/8 x 3 1/2"	\$15.00	\$5.25	Free

THOUSAND LAKES REGION NMRA  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 19,2024  
EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 by Region President Art Suel
2. The minutes of the May 21, 2023 Annual Meeting we presented for approval.  
Gerry Miller moved approval and Dave Menard seconded. Motion passed.
3. The Treasures Report was presented for approval. Don Radeck moved acceptance, Duane Burr seconded and the motion was passed.

Old Business. None presented

New Business

John Bates, NMRA Canadian Director addressed the group. John noted he was elected by the Canadian Members however he also noted he represents every NMRA Member. John also spoke about the Grouper benefit that has just been announced. An easy way to find the information is to go to main page of the NMRA website and you will find the information prominently displayed. You can also apply for the benefit by going to [www.hellogrouper.com/NMRA](http://www.hellogrouper.com/NMRA) to fill out the registration information Grouper will contact NMRA to confirm you are an active member and take it from there. To date over 500 members have signed up for the program and many have already received their checks.

John also noted that the Regions and Divisions handbook has been updated and is now available on the NMNRA website.

John also announced future NMRA National dates and locations. In 2025, the National will be held in Novi Michigan, a Detroit suburb July 14-19 followed in 2025 by Chattanooga Tenn, in 2026.

Rich Holzapfel, TLR Convention Director's report. Rich gave a big thank you to Dave Menard and his Committee for the great planning and conduct of this convention. The Thousand Lakes Region 2025 Convention, TLR Travels Lines West to Wilmer\*, will be held May 15-18, 2025. \*Recognizing that much of the Thousand Lakes Region is West of Willmar it will be acceptable to call the 2025 Convention "TLR Travels lines East to Willmar". In either case, interesting clinics are already being lined up and there will be a great tour of the Milwaukee Road Heritage Center in Montevideo included in the activities. The 2026 Convention will be held in Thunder Bay the weekend of American Memorial Day. Be sure to have your passports updated and note that Thunder Bay is in the Eastern Time zone.

Elections for open offices was held. The following slate of officers was presented.

Thousand Lakes Region President, Art Suel

Thousand Lakes Region Treasurer, Tom Gay

Thousand Lakes Region Editor, Neil Maldeis

Gerry Miller motioned a white Ballot be voted. Duane Durr Seconded. Motion passed and the officers were elected.

Gerry Miller moved and Rich Holzapfel seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Thousand Lakes Region NMRA

Board Meeting May 19, 2024

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Board president Art Suel called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM with the following Board and General members in attendance.

Art Suel, Matt Lentz, Jay Manning, Neil Maldeis, Duane Durr, Dave Menard, Shadow Redding, Rich Holzapfel, Kennedy Gauger, Fred Holzapfel, John Bates NMRA Canadian Director and Ken Zieska.

Art presented the April 24, 2024 Board Meeting minutes for approval, they were accepted.

#### Chair Reports

Region Membership is down 20 people over the last year. This is disappointing as we have good gains particularly including the Number 1 Northern Division. We recognize several members passing and the loss of members since several large clubs in the Twin Cities are no longer 100% NMRA membership clubs because they have found other insurance. This is disappointing however few of the losses ever participated in NMRA activities and cost of membership was noted as a major reason for dropping. The bigger challenge/opportunity as to find out what activities would be of interest to these people to help them retain. A great note is the energy the Divisions are getting from new members.

AP Program John Hotvet submitted his report for a very active year of Achievement Award activity. It was asked if the TLR still awards 50.00 when a member achieves their first certificate. The question will be forwarded to John.

#### Division Reports

TCD The Division wrapped up a busy year in May. Each Month in the Summer, the Division will have a picnic where members can stay in touch. Picnic locations are selected to allow convenient rail fanning. The modeling year begins again in September and the Division has a full schedule planned.

Southeastern The Division is down to 5 members but continues to be active. This fall they will start round robin meetings and they will continue their March Train Show.

PLD The April Train Show was an overwhelming success, they had such great response, they needed to turn away vendors. The show included a modeling contest, clinics and layout tours.

No. 1 Northern The Winnipeg Model Railroad Club is 100% NRA. The Division has enjoyed record attendance at all of their activities and the next big event is their September Train Show.

DSED The Division conducts a Community Education Class around building T track modules. The last class had 10 attendees and 1 became an NMRA member. The Division will be exhibiting their layout throughout the Summer and Fall.

SRRV The Division is active and using the achievement program as a focus. They are planning an Achievement clinic in the fall.

Gerry Miller moved to adjourn and Neil Maldeis seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.