

The Journal

The Prairie Lakes Division is a community of model railroaders from NW Iowa and SW Minnesota and operates within the Thousand Lakes Region of the National Model Railroad Association

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Spring 2020 Issue

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

By Jay Davis

The PLD held its fall meet in Albert Lea, Minnesota at the Northbridge Mall on December 7 & 8 in conjunction with Jerry Monson's annual December show. The show featured 75+ vendor tables and many operating layouts, large and small. The PLD had its activities in a vacant store front. Our module was also in that store. Unfortunately, we had a small turnout with only 48 members and general public attending. On a positive note, the contest table had many great models. Thanks to all who entered the contests!

The day was made great by two excellent presentations. We started off with John Galstad, who gave a visual history of the Alco line using slides he took himself. The presentation covered Chicago & Northwestern Alco's to the line's new owner, the Rapid City, Pierre and Eastern railroad, and everything in between. It was an amazing selection of original slides from his fantastic slide collection and he also brought in a bunch of engine models that he had detailed and painted himself.



John Galstad is pictured here with the engines and other items he used as part of his presentation.

Our other presenter was Terry Davis, who was promoting the upcoming annual Chicago & Northwestern Historical Society convention to be held in Mankato, MN on May 28-31, 2020. Terry is one of the chair persons for the convention. He has been working on digitizing photos and slides from photographers who captured historic shots of action around Mankato and on the Alco line. He also gave us a preview of these classic images and what activities will highlight this great convention. You can go to <https://www.cnwhs.org/convention.pl> for more information.

What made these great presentations possible, was our new projection screen which we acquired with a grant from the Thousand Lakes Region. The lack of our own screen has always been a thorn in my side when it comes to putting on clinics. Sometimes we get lucky, and the facility that we rent has a projection screen available, but when they don't, we have to scramble to come up with something. One time we used a white sheet. It worked but, it wasn't the greatest solution. So, a big thanks to the TLR board of directors for this great gift to the PLD!

The day ended with our business meeting. It was very lightly attended, which has been a trend over the last few years. At the meeting, our host Jerry Munson addressed the meeting and made a donation of \$100 dollars to the PLD. This helped us to push the meet into the black financially. Without the table rental money, and poor attendance, it was a close call on meet expenses. A big THANK YOU to Jerry for the donation and continued support of the PLD by being a regular vendor at our meets.

At the board meeting, I indicated that we had a poor turn out at our event, as well as at the board of directors meeting, and it wasn't even election time at the meeting! Unfortunately, this is the way it has been for quite some time. I have been superintendent for nine years this spring. Some time ago, we amended the bylaws to get rid of term limits since we couldn't get any one to step up. If you look at who is on the board currently, we've all been in those positions now longer than we expected to be.

(Continued on the next page)

(Superintendent's Report Continued)

None of the positions are difficult or very time consuming, but we have to have the volunteers to keep the division moving forward!

Denny Davids will be stepping down as contest director effective after the Sibley meet in October. Thanks to Denny for his many years of service to the division, it is much appreciated. If you are interested in this position, please contact me. We will help provide an easy transition into the position with the knowledge and assistance you will need to take on the role. The only requirement for any board position is that you must be an NMRA member, and

live in the boundaries of the Prairie Lakes Division. Also, if you serve on the board, you could earn an Association Volunteer Certificate from the national association.

Our spring event is in the works. We are going to a community that we haven't ever visited before. On Saturday April 11, we will be at the Kissinger Community Center in Merrill, Iowa. This is a unique community with three railroads running through town, the Burlington Santa Fe, Canadian National, and Union Pacific. The community center is located to the west of downtown Merrill. More details are to come, so mark it on your calendar and get to work on your contest entries!

Photos from the fall meet in Albert Lea



John Schneider manning the registration table at the meet

Entries for the non-revenue category





Diesel entries



Structure entries



All contest entries are voted on in a popular vote style by the people that attend the meet. Here a few voters are discussing entries.

DID YOU KNOW?

(Courtesy of northstateparent.com)

- The actual contact area between the steel train wheels and the steel track is about the size of a dime, thus there is very little resistance, making trains an efficient way to transport heavy goods.
- Freight trains carry 40% of the world's cargo.
- The Seikan Tunnel in Japan is the longest train tunnel in the world. It is 33.46 miles in length.
- The French TGV bullet train holds the speed record of 357 mph. It braked for 9 miles before coming to a stop.

Albert Lea PLD Fall Contest Results for December 7, 2019

1. Rolling Stock Revenue

1. Jay Davis, Everly, Iowa
2. Austin Cole, Emmetsburg, Iowa
3. Paul Berends, Ocheyedon, Iowa

2. Rolling Stock Non-Revenue

1. Paul Berends, Ocheyedon, Iowa
2. John Davis, Emmetsburg, Iowa

3. Structures

1. Gene Sorbo, Estherville, Iowa
2. Jay Davis, Everly, Iowa

4. Diesel Locomotives

1. Denny Davids, Sibley, Iowa
2. Austin Cole, Emmetsburg, Iowa
3. Austin Cole, Emmetsburg, Iowa

5. Steam Locomotives

1. Tim Lynn, Spirit Lake, Iowa
2. Tim Lynn, Spirit Lake, Iowa

6. Model Photos

1. Denny Davids, Sibley, Iowa
2. Denny Davids, Sibley, Iowa
3. Caleb Vander Brink, Sioux Center, Iowa

A note from Contest Director, Denny Davids

Thank you all for entering into the contests. Numbers were down but excellent modeling was again submitted. Remember to review the Spring Contest categories and make it a good participation. I know you all have a model or subject to enter and no entry is a loser. If you need a boxcar shell to paint I have 2 extra ones and will send it to you at no charge. Thanks again.

UPCOMING CONTEST INFORMATION

SPRING 2020 PLD CONTESTS

1. PAINT YOUR BOX CAR. (THESE WERE HANDED OUT AT 2019 FALL MEET)*
2. DIORAMA (NO LARGER THAN 12"X 12" AND MUST HAVE AT LEAST 1 TRACK)
3. STRUCTURES
4. DIESEL (FALLEN FLAG SCHEME: MILWAUKEE ROAD, CNW, GN, CB&Q, IC OR CC or ICG)
5. ROLLING STOCK
6. STEAM LOCOMOTIVE (FALLEN FLAG SCHEME: SAME AS DIESEL CRITERIA)

If you were unable to be at the 2019 fall meet, and would like a car for the contest, please see Denny's note above.

PLD Board of Directors Meeting — Albert Lea, MN 12/7/19 Submitted by Caleb Vander Brink

I. Minutes from last BOD meeting in August read and approved

II. Financial report read and approved

III. New Business

- a. John Davis put forward a suggestion to get a PLD embroidered rug to cover the cord running to the modular layout, for safety reasons and to promote the PLD.
 - i. Jay Davis will submit a grant request to the TLR for the rug
 - ii. John Schneider will get prices for the rug
- b. John Schneider is taking order requests for new PLD polo shirts
- c. Jerry Munson Donated \$100 to the PLD
- d. A motion was put forward for John S. to send out postcards reminding members to update their emails so they can receive the electronic version of the PLD Journal

IV. Contest

- a. Rolling Stock: 1st Jay Davis, 2nd Austin Cole, 3rd Paul Berrends?
- b. Rolling Stock NR: 1st Paul Berrends?, 2nd John Davis
- c. Structures: 1st Gene Sorbo, 2nd Jay Davis
- d. Diesel: 1st Denny Davis, 2nd Austin Cole, 3rd Austin Cole
- e. Steam: 1st & 2nd Tim Lynn
- f. Photo: 1st & 2nd Denny Davis, 3rd Caleb VDB
- g. Jay handed out undecorated boxcars for members to decorate for a special category for our next train show

V. Meeting Adjourned 3:04pm

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Upcoming Events

February 29-March 1, 2020 • Saint Paul, MN River Centre 175 West Kellogg Blvd, Saint Paul, MN.

March 7-8 2020 8th Annual Cosmo Train Show Sioux City, IA

March 28-29 Randolph Railroad Days High School Randolph, MN

April 11 PLD Spring Meet Kissinger Community Center 608 Main St. Merrill, Iowa 51038

May 14-17 TLR Convention, Sioux Falls, SD

July 12-18 NMRA National Convention, St. Louis, MO

October 3, 2020 PLD Fall Meet Sibley, Iowa

SAVE THE DATE: May 20-23, 2021 The 2021 TLR Convention will be in Bismarck, ND from May 20-23. Bismarck is the ND Capital and an easy 3 hours west of Fargo, on Interstate 94. The NP had its Yellowstone Division Headquarters in nearby Mandan, which the BNSF operates today. Mandan is also home to the North Dakota Railroad Museum. Keep an eye out for further updates. The convention hotel is the Ramada Inn—room rates will be posted soon!

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

If you have anything you would like included in the upcoming Journal or added to the PLD website, please contact me at:
jdandice22c@hotmail.com

Some of nicknames for various railroad jobs {taken from US Gen Net.org}

"Baby Lifter" - Brakeman. Maybe he helped carry babies on the train for their mothers? Not sure how that nickname got started.

"Bakehead" Nickname for the Fireman, because his head was so close to the fire box while he was shoveling coal.

"Big C" - The Conductor.

"Big E" - The Engineer.

"Boomer" - Itinerant railroad workers, always moving from one location to another.

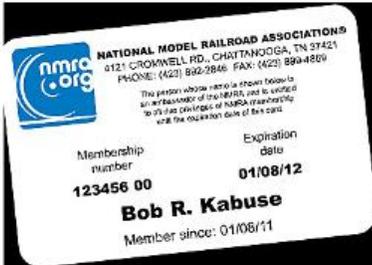
"The Brains" - The Conductor.

"Brass Hat" - A railway executive (usually a division manager or higher).

"Bull" - Railroad detective.

"Carman" - A person trained in the craft of inspecting and repairing railroad cars.

"Conductor" - Traditionally, the railroad employee who walked up and down the aisles of the passenger cars taking tickets, etc. This term was sometimes teasingly used on Brakemen who had pencils sticking out of their pockets.



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