

Three Lakes Model Railroad Club

Members helping members to promote the hobby to prove that “Model Railroading is Fun”.

The Three Lakes Model Railroad Club (TLMRC) was established to promote the hobby of model railroading for all ages. From Thomas Tank Engine to classic Lionel we invite all gauges and scale molders to join us in our love of trains.

In the greater Three Lakes area we have participating members with layouts under construction in Lionel, On30, HO, and N gauge and a display layout with 3 gauges operating. While our primary layouts are located in the Three Lakes WI area but we enjoy operating on members layouts throughout the North Woods. As a club we enjoy working with members of the NMRA from around the country who enjoy the North Woods and operations and history of railroading in our area. Communications via the Internet allows us all to share our operations and knowledge with each other any time.

Many of our members have grandpa's or their uncle's trains in boxes and do not know if they work or how they can be used with today's equipment. Our members provide support with answers and equipment testing or layout visits to help any modeler get his or her layout back in operating condition. The many changes in the technology of model railroading, be it AC, DC, DCC, DCS, TMCC, we have joined together to help each other understand what works and how to make it so. By helping each other we also help the new and old members of the model railroad hobby to enjoy the trains they loved as a child of any age.

The TLMRC is proud to be a 100% NMRA club promoting and supporting the hobby.

As a traveling club TLMRC meets at different locations at times when layouts are available. We try to have an even amount of operations, construction and tech support meetings as needs and opportunities arise. By visiting each other's layouts members may bring equipment that may not operate on their scale or power system and enjoy their past or armchair collections on a layout that supports a scale different than their layout.

Lumbering brought the rails to the area of Three Lakes and that brought the rails of the Chicago North Western and the Thunder Lake Lumber Company to our town. Modeling the area lumber lines as well as local class one railroads provides many varied opportunities for our members. Standard or Narrow gauge prototype modelers share their knowledge to support each other and the local clubs. We have members who come from all around the country and bring their prototype modeling with them.

Join us in the “Greatest Hobby” as a member of the THMRC.

Featured Layouts in the Three Lakes Railroad Club

The Thomasville Region of the C&NW

This layout is a multi layer 3 rail O gauge operation designed for multi operators. The layout was designed and built to provide hands on design, construction and operation training by Roger Blocks for his six grandchildren. This layout has been featured in clinics given at the National conventions of the NMRA. Classic or DSC operations are controlled by dispatcher panels built for operation of the many areas of the layout. The scenery provides a workshop of ideas for using available materials for quality construction at low cost while providing realistic scenes with local connections.



With four Divisions, each on a different level, this layout allows for different activities while tying all the divisions together to form an operational layout that, at realistic speeds, can take about 42 min for a round trip. Layer 0 has switching and underground action in staging and realistic depot action.



Layer 1 allows for sweeping curves where passenger trains pass through scenic vistas. On layer 2 we find the revenue generating industries and interchange with other railroads. As we reach the summit in layer 3 we find lumber operations in the vast forests and minerals being extracted from several mining camps.

The Perch Lake Lumber Company connections with the SOO Line



In an operation like the Roddis Lumber and Veneer Company in north central Wisconsin, the Perch Lake and Superior Railroad provides standard gauge support for the Perch Lake Lumber Company operations in the woods and transportation to their mills. This is an HO standard gauge layout connecting Lumber camps to the local town of Perch Lake and the connection to the main line of the PL&S. Lumber camps operating with rod and geared locomotives transport logs to the mills and interchange with the local class one railroad. Staging of Class one operation allow for scheduled freight and passenger service as well as local switching at Perch Lake yard. Interchange with the SOO Line or the C&NW, depending on the night, allow visitors to operate their equipment on the line.

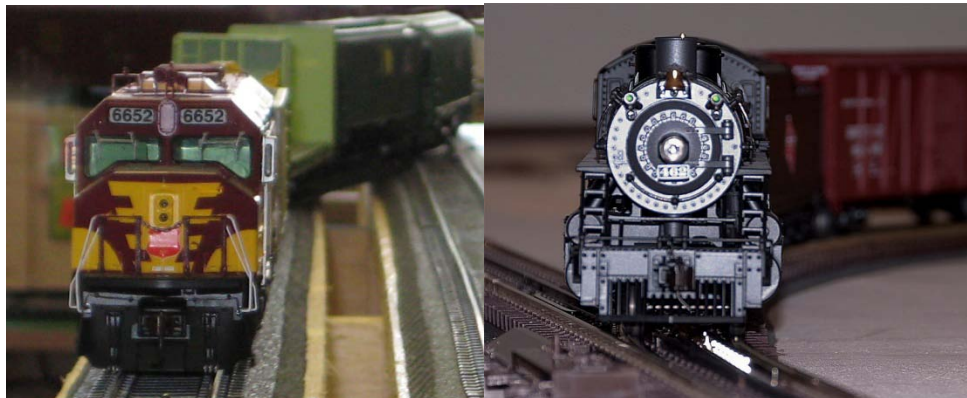


This railroad is a shelf layout under construction in HO with NCE DCC.

The CHOO ChoO Store Display Layout



Located in The Choo Choo Store in Three Lakes WI this layout provides visitors the opportunity to see operating 3 rail O scale, HO and N gauge trains during store hours. Dale, the store owner, has at least 5 trains operating on the tracks showing different periods of railroad development from early lumber steam operations to WWII Milwaukee Road service up to the modern day Wisconsin Central which served Wisconsin towns as close as Rhinelander. The layout is equipped with a number of power systems that will support almost any gauge or scale.



The layout is a display layout with the ability to have operating sessions on the layout as this display layout was planned for operations. DCC and DCS allow operation across the O and HO layouts with track warrants and block signals. The diverse scales and power systems allow testing and minor repair of almost any model railroader's equipment. Clinics on construction electronics and scenery highlight the evenings on this layout.

The Union Pacific in Wyoming

Bon French models the area around Cheyenne Wyoming on his layout. This layout features wide curves and photo realistic backdrops. The layout uses NCE DCC to control trains on a dual track main with a mountain branch that leads to a Powder River style coaling tipple. The layout uses a hidden staging yard to hold scheduled freight and passenger trains, while the yard crews work hard at handling classification in the Cheyenne yard. Local freights operate out of this yard to service local industries.

The large staging and yard facilities have allowed operations of “History Passing on the Rails”, a parade of trains from early steam, through the Big Boy era into the most modern equipment. This operation is a favorite of guests at the French’s house during the holidays.



Visiting Wisconsin equipment enjoys the bridges and backgrounds on this layout.

