

# General Information for New & Potential Members of the Minnesota Central Model Railway Club

Dear Prospective or New Member,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Minnesota Central Model Railway Club. We think we have one of the better clubs and facilities in the area. After we tell you more about our club and the benefits of membership, we hope you will agree and decide to become a member.

## *History of the Club*

The club was founded in 1987 after several years of operating as a HO scale modular layout group. We were first located at the West Gate Shopping Center in St. Cloud. We then moved to Midtown Mall in St. Cloud and occupied a shop on the upper level. In August of 1988, we moved into a 30 x 32 foot room at the rear of the R & R Hobbies store in the Centennial Plaza Shopping Center in St. Cloud where we built and operated a permanent layout until December of 1992. At the present time our HO scale layout is in the renovated Great Northern Depot Building on the Stearns County Pioneer Club Grounds in Albany, MN. The layout occupies a 23 x 50 foot room with a 1,000 feet of mainline track. In 2008, the club decided to also build a HO scale modular layout to take to Flea Markets & Train Shows to advertise our club and the Albany layout. When the layout is not at a show, we try to rent a location in the St. Cloud Metro area to set it up and continue up-grading it.

The Minnesota Central Model Railway is a nonprofit Minnesota Corporation with it's members as it's only stockholders. The Corporation is responsible to pay all the expenses associated with the club. These funds are generated from member dues and from other functions such as our open-houses, flea markets, etc.

The club was formed by a group of individuals who shared the same interests and wanted to provide a way for anyone with those same interests to join a group and learn (or teach) others the skills or tricks involved with Model Railroading. The club feels that one of the best ways for everyone as a group to learn the skills of the hobby is by constructing and operating a common layout. The club pays for all authorized structures, scenery, etc. for the layout. The membership then provides the rolling stock by loaning and maintaining a few cars to the club's general use on the layout.

*Tradition:* Every member works for the benefit of the club, with any gain from club activities going to the club.

*Principle:* No one member, new or old, is more important than the club as a whole. Disruptive members find themselves to be non-members.

## ***Meetings and Other Functions***

Club Work Nights are held every Wednesday evening from about 6:00 pm. to 9:00 pm. at the Club Layout Site in the Depot Building on the Stearns County Pioneer Club Grounds in Albany, Minn. and at the module location. On work nights, there is no operating between those times, except for authorized training. Operating nights are scheduled at regular intervals to allow members to run trains on the layout.

Business Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm. at the Albany location unless the membership is notified otherwise. All members are welcome to attend and take part in discussions at the meetings, however, only Life and Senior members may vote.

Open Houses, Flea Markets and Shows will be the club's primary source of revenue. The Shows and Open Houses are the club's major contact with the public and press. The actions and courtesy of all members during those events reflect on the club -- for good or bad. A maximum effort is required of all members in order for shows, open houses and flea markets to be successful. Our dues are relatively low because of the income earned in these activities.

As part of our agreement with the Stearns County Pioneer Club, we are required to be open for public viewing during their Pioneer Days Show in mid-September. We can also hold our own Open Houses at other times during the year if our club so chooses. Open Houses are held at the Module location at various times also.

## ***Club Organization***

The club is governed by a Constitution and By-Laws which were enacted by (and may be changed by) the Membership. The leadership of the club is provided through a Board of Directors, Officers, Committees and ultimately through the General Membership.

## ***Entry Class***

An Apprentice Membership Class has been set up and is generally occupied by new members while they are getting to know (and be known by) the club. The club's Board of Directors accepts applicants to Apprentice Membership, while the voting membership as a whole, decides on full membership. Apprentice members have no vote and no club building key.

If you decide to join us, you will become an Apprentice member (if over 21) for the first nine months. After that time, you will be voted on to become a full Senior member.

When you visit the club, you will find a sign-in sheet. All members sign-in on this sheet. The first time you visit the club building ask someone (preferably a Club Officer) to explain how it works.

We suggest that all members wear their name tags whenever at the club building. This helps other members learn your name and you to learn ours. You should be issued a name tag when accepted for membership or soon afterwards. Ask a Club Officer and they will see that you get one. Name tags are left in the club building between visits so that they are always available when needed. Name Tags are to be worn at all Open Houses.

Club policy requires that a Senior level member be present when an Apprentice, Junior or Youth member is in the building. We ask that you respect this policy. Only Senior, Life and Sustaining members are issued keys to the club building.

Apprentices are expected to work with other members to learn about the club organization, layout construction and to become known to the club membership in general, who will have to vote on their elevation to Senior membership.

Apprentices are also expected to sign-in and list the net hours worked while at the club (or when working on an authorized project at home). Apprentices are expected to attend as many Wednesday work nights as possible during their apprenticeship period so that they can get to know the club's members.

Model Railroading is even more fun in a group.

The Officers and Members of the  
Minnesota Central Model Railway

Website: [mcmr.weebly.com](http://mcmr.weebly.com)