An event during the LOTS South Bend, IN Convention in July 2008 included a visit to the Tri-State Station to see nine layouts they had in G, O, On30, HO and N gauges.

During a meeting of the Ford Model Railroad Club in Dearborn, MI, Darrell Topel (RM 7708) asked if anyone would like to join him on a trip to see the new, moved and revised Station. Bruce Urbanski and I went with him one Saturday and here’s what we saw.

The club’s site is in the town of Fremont, IN, which is tucked in the state’s northeast corner near where the state lines of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana all come together. They were still in the Outlet Shoppes at Fremont Mall as before and had moved to a larger, corner store. Their new site has more space and it is filled with a total of twelve operating layouts along with interactive displays and static exhibits around the walls.

The Station is home to the Greater Three Rivers and Cedar Creek Model Railroad Club which has this permanent G-Gauge layout and a portable one they take to shows. It takes up a large portion of the floor space.

One unique event we spotted on the G-Gauge layout was the use of incense in a house chimney to create smoke. A neat modeling trick!

The Northern Indiana O-Gaugers also call the Station home. Their layout is built on modules with green and brown ground foam for scenery.

Even the mountains are removable, which enables the layout to be changed without having to take it apart. They have enough modules to set up a second traveling layout.
The On30 scale layout is made up of two railroads: the Fall River Logging Co. built by Mike Miller (above) and Ron Taylor’s Chevez & Topock RR (below). One of Mike’s past layouts was in *Model Railroader* with an article and photo on the cover. Ron scratch builds locomotives, rolling stock, bridges and buildings.

Jeff Eichorn and his son Jeffery put together this N-Gauge layout of Smalltown USA that has engine facilities and a mountain area.

This same father/son team restored this donated HO layout to running condition and has added structures and scenery to it.

Nick Nordman built an O/O-27 display he calls the Loogootee & New Point, or L&N. All the structures are scratch built and this car dealership has special significance because he and his dad Gary are related to the Studebaker family.

An interesting display had cardboard boxcars of various roadnames, containing books of matches. I’d not seen any of these in quite some time.

This 8’ x 7’ O-27 layout by Duane Topel has a figure 8 track plan with a consist long enough that the front of the engine JUST misses the last car by a fraction of an inch at the crossover.

Here’s Darrell (left) with brother Duane (Tri-State President) in front of another HO layout with a Standard Gauge one to the right.

There are more layouts, displays, exhibits and interactive items for all to see.

For additional information, visit their web site at [www.tristatestation.org](http://www.tristatestation.org)