



The Whistle



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION



COWCATCHER DIVISION 1 LONE STAR REGION NMRA

VOL 9 NO 12 DECEMBER 2025

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DECEMBER'S MEETING WILL BE AT 5:30 PM
ON SATURDAY THE 13TH AT FOREST HILLS
CONVENTION CENTER SECOND FLOOR

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Most of us are now out of our Turkey Coma” after finishing up a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. As I write my final Director’s Report for 2025, I think it is a terrific time to recap the year the Cowcatcher Division had.

Our lineup of clinics was wide and varied, we saw Big Boy being moved as well as model railroads of all scales through the photos of Steve Crise. Mike Mackey demonstrated how to “Operate like the Pros” in his two-part clinic while Dave Hall showed us how he uses JRMI. We were transported back to the late 1890’s

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LEADERSHIP TEAM

DIRECTOR

DICK BRANNAN

SECRETARY

JOHN "TRAPPER" KIRKPATRICK

TREASURER

DAVID GREIN

PROGRAM MANAGER

HAROLD BERENZWEIG

**ASST PROGRAM MANAGER &
TRAIN SHOW COORDINATOR**

RUSSELL GIFFORD

OPERATIONS MANAGER

JIM DAVIS

ASST OPERATIONS MANAGER

DAVID RANNEY

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM ADVISOR

MIKE MACKEY MMR

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

ROBERT "BOB" MANGRUM MMR

CONTEST ADVISOR

CASEY AKIN

CONTEST ADVISOR

CODY AKIN

**NORTH TEXAS COUNCIL OF TRAIN
CLUBS REPRESENTATIVE**

DICK BRANNAN

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

MIKE ROSS MMR

ASST MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

DAVID CRUMPTON MMR

SERGEANT AT ARMS

DON ROWE

VIDEOGRAPHER

DAVID KRANDA

COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

ERIC SMITH

WEB MASTER

JARED ROBERTS

FOR CONTACT INFO SEE
COWCATCHER DIVISION WEB SITE

<https://cowcatcherdivision.org/>



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DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONT.

and saw how the Pullman Company started and grew up to World War 2 by Marita Richards.

Russell Gifford showed us how to make new look old with his weathering techniques while Eric Smith presented a plethora of gizmos and gadgets that would be useful in model railroading. We also had over 35 members sign up for the Freight House "make and take" presented by Duane Richards and Cole Rash which over 2 meetings resulted in a number of unique structures.

Darrell Cowles led a team consisting of Harold Berenzweig and David Steckler to develop novel ways to promote and grow the hobby. As a result of their tireless efforts the Division purchased a custom "pop-up canopy" with graphics showing how "Model Railroading is fun" to be used as a recruitment tool at festivals as well as a display case showing a railroad themed diorama to be displayed at libraries with a QR code directing the observer to the Division website.

Cowcatcher Division was well represented at the Blues Express Convention in Baton Rouge with members on the convention committee, presenting clinics and

entering models in the Contest Room. Wyatt Cook received an LSR Youth Award. Russell Gifford won "Best in Show" for his model "Circle J's General Store" and Deborah Gifford won First place and was the People's Choice for her painting in the "Arts and Crafts" Division. The painting will be displayed in the Louisiana Steam Train Museum.

The membership team for the Division, led by Mike Ross was very active, adding 2 members at "Train-A-Plooza" in Grapevine in March and two in the recent Plano Train Show.

Speaking of the Plano Train Show, it was very successful for the Division. Jim Archer and his team refurbished a "Pay it Forward" module and it generated a lot of interest at the show and was raffled off to a family living in Euless. In addition, the Division created a new attraction for the booth, directed entirely to children. Developed by Deb and Russell Gifford, the Junior Engineer Academy put a throttle in a child's hand so they could run a train on a small layout and experience the joy of operating. The Division handed out over 200 Engineer hats and stickers to the children.

Now let's close the year with a great Christmas Party! The Party on Saturday evening, December 13th, at 6 pm at the Forest Hill Civic & Convention Center, 6901 Wichita St.,

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Forest Hill, TX 76140. We will be in the larger upstairs room so we will have plenty of space. The dinner is being catered by Coburns BBQ,

entrees will consist of BBQ and smoked turkey with plenty of sides and dessert provided.

Each participant (rail or non -rail) in the “White Elephant “gift exchange should bring a wrapped gift in the \$30 range.

Please RSVP by December 6 th by signing up at at ww.PerfectPotluck.com/TNLJ9533. Any questions or concerns email Trapper at: Trapper47@charter.net.



Dick Brannan

Director Cowcatcher Division



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DATES TO REMEMBER

REGIONAL TRAIN SHOWS

THURSDAY TEXAS WESTERN RR CLUB BUSINESS MEETING FOR MEMBERS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS ONLY

7 pm -9 pm 6808 FOREST HILL DR.

FOREST HILL, TX 76140

DECEMBER 2025

6 DECEMBER GREATER TULSA AREA HOLIDAY TRAIN SHOW

JANUARY 2026

17-18 PLANO TRAIN SHOW

FEBRUARY 2026

21 GREATER HOUSTON TRAIN SHOW

MARCH 2026

28-29 WORLD'S GREATEST HOBBY DALLAS MARKET HALL

APRIL 2026

25-26 RAILFEST GALVESTON RR MUSEUM

25-26 NEW BRAUNFELS TRAIN SHOW

JUNE 2026

18-21 LSR CONVENTION AUSTIN



June 18-21
Wyndham Garden Austin
3401 South IH-35

JULY-AUGUST 2026

27 JULY-2 AUGUST

NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION
CHATTANOOGA



TREASURER'S REPORT

1 NOV BALANCE	\$5790.37
RECEIPTS	\$109.00
EXPENDITURES	\$2221.96
END BALANCE	\$3677.41
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT \$23327.57	

TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT IS NEW BOOT?

LOOK FOR ANSWER IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER



WHAT TIME DOES THE EXPRESS ARRIVE?

NEED A CHRISTMAS TREE?



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AREA MODEL RAILROAD CLUBS

COWTOWN MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

MEETS AT THE HANDLEY
COMMUNITY CENTER, UPSTAIRS 3024
FOREST AVE, FT WORTH,

WEBSITE <https://www.cmrrc.net>

CLMRR

MEETS TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS &
SATURDAYS

THE LAYOUT IS LOCATED AT 3904
VISTA RIDGE LN

ALVARADO, TX 76009

FOR INFO CONTACT LEE MARTIN AT
817-666-5367

DALLAS/FT WORTH O SCALE CLUB

NORMALLY MEETS TWO SATURDAYS
PER MONTH IN RICHARDSON

CONTACT TO BE IDENTIFIED

bradyprmla@cableone.net

STAN SCHWARTZ ss124@sbcglobal.net

DENTON AREA MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

MEETS 2ND TUESDAY OF EVERY
MONTH AT 7PM IN THE DENTON
SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER
DOWNTOWN

HO & N SCALE MODULAR LAYOUTS

<https://www.facebook.com/damrrc/>

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER OF NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chill Bar & Grill (Cotton Belt Room)

814 South Main Street

Grapevine, Texas 76051

(NW Corner of S. Main St. & Dallas Rd.)

Our new meeting hours are 7:30 pm - 9:30
pm. We still meet every first Tuesday of the
month.

<https://ntxnrhs.org>

TEXAS WESTERN MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

LOCATED AT 6808 FOREST HILL, 76140

VISITOR HOURS: SEE CLUB WEBSITE

[https://www.facebook.com/texaswesternmod
elrailroad club](https://www.facebook.com/texaswesternmodelrailroadclub)

<https://www.twmrrc.org>

TRINITY N-TRK

MEETS AT HOBBY WORLD, FT WORTH
AT 6:30PM

CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIME

<https://www.trinityntrak.com>

TNMRC

MEETS AT 11999 PLANO RD, SUITE 154,
DALLAS 75243

<https://www.texasnorthern.org>

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ANGELO HOBBIES

5600 RUFÉ SNOW DRIVE #106
NORTH RICHLAND HILLS 76180

DISCOUNT MODEL TRAINS

4641 RATLIFF LN
ADDISON 75001

MODEL TRAIN CROSSING

NEW ADDRESS 1 OCT

7801 Brandi Lane
North Richland Hills

HOBBYTOWN USA

746 GRAPEVINE HWY
HURST 76054

HOBBYTOWN USA

500 E. ROUND GROVE RD
LEWISVILLE 75067

WILD BILL'S HOBBYTOWN USA

1112 W. ARBROOK BLVD
ARLINGTON 76015

NMRA POLICY STATEMENT

EFFECTIVE MARCH 31, 2020, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION AT ITS BOARD MEETING ON MARCH 7, 2020, DIVISION 1 OF THE LONE STAR REGION OF THE NMRA, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE COWCATCHER DIVISION, WILL REQUIRE ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18, WISHING TO ATTEND ANY DIVISION EVENT, TO BE PERSONALLY ESCORTED BY THEIR PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN.

ADDITIONALLY, PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN MUST SIGN A CURRENT DOCUMENT STATING THAT THEY WILL REMAIN IN VISUAL CONTACT WITH THEIR MINOR AT ALL TIMES.

RAILFAN VIDEO OF THE MONTH ON YOUTUBE



SO YOU WANT A MODEL RAILROAD 1955

SHOW & TELL



TREASURER'S REPORT



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DEALOR DUD



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NOVEMBER CLINIC
GADGETS & GIZMOS



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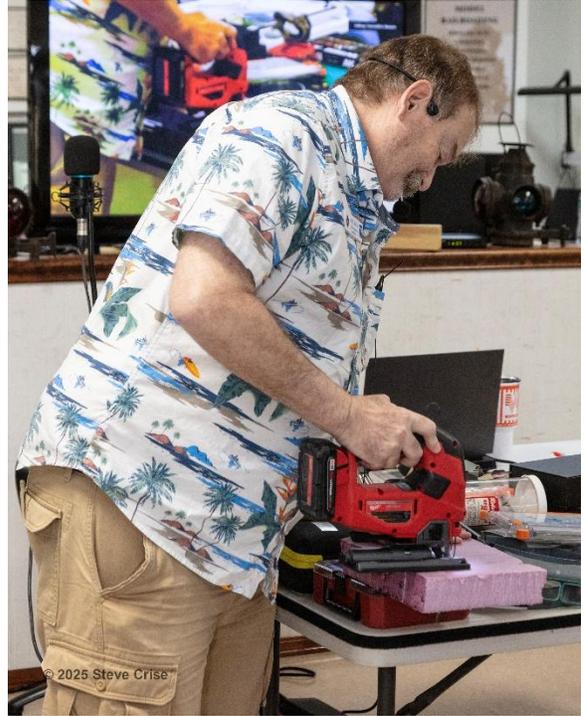


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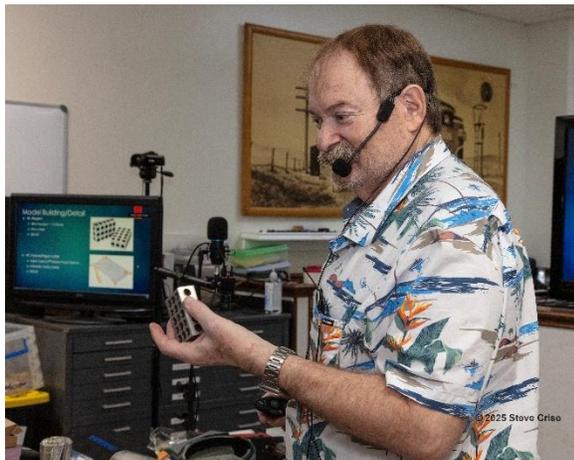


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CLINIC cont.



CLINIC cont



GAADGETS & GIZMOS

REFERENCE LIST

Gizmo's & Gadgets

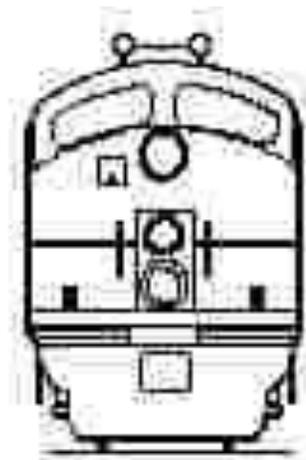
8-Nov-25

Item	Description	Vendor	Cost
1	USB C SD Card Reader	Amazon	\$ 8.00
2	Sim Card Reader	Amazon	\$ 10.00
3	SCARM	www.scarm.info	\$ 49.90
4	Anyrail	www.anyrail.com	\$ 65.00
5	3rd PlanIt	trackplanning.com	
6	Atlas	atlasrr.com	
7	XTrkCAD	sourceforge.net	
8	CADRail	sandiasoftware.com	
9	RR-Track	rtrack.com	
10	Precision Screwdriver Set with Molded Handles	Harbor Freight	\$ 7.00
11	Rechargeable 4V Cordless Pistol Grip Screwdriver	Amazon, Sams	\$ 38.00
12	Dremel 8250 Brushless Variable speed 12-volt	Lowes, Home Depot, Ace	\$ 149.00
13	7760 Variable speed 4-volt 2 -Amp Multipurpose Cordless	Lowes, Home Depot, Ace	\$ 60.00
14	Mini Drill Pen, 5-Speed, LED Lights, OLED Display, Resin Drill Set With 10 Small Bits	Amazon	\$ 48.00
15	Mini Pick and Hook Set	Harbor Freight	\$ 2.00
16	Pittsburg Pick set	Harbor Freight	\$ 5.00
17	Tracksetta	Discount Model Trains, Model Train Crossing	Varies
18	RibbonRail	Discount Model Trains, Model Train Crossing	Varies
19	NMRA	NMRA	Varies
20	Fabric Pattern Cloth Weight Set of 2 Heavy Duty Iron cast Fabric Weights	Amazon	\$ 49.00

21	Sweing Weights	Hobby Lobby, Michaels	Varies
22	Wild Sales Cornhole Bean Bags 4 Pack	Scheels	\$ 12.00
23	Terminal Blocks	Amazon, DigiKey, AiTex	\$12.00 & up
24	Suitcase Connectors 3M 905 & 560	Amazon, AiTex	
25	Platinum Tools Connector Pressing Telcom Pliers	AiTex	\$ 15.74
26	End Cutting Pliers	Lowes, Home Depot, Ace	Varies
27	TXIN 2 Pieces Seed Spreader Handheld Seed Planter Tool Seed Sower	Amazon	\$ 5.00
28	SakerPlus 3 in 1 Vacuum	Amazon	\$ 48.00
29	Bosch Foam Cutter Blade	Amazon	\$ 10.50
30	Magnetic parts holder	Harbor Freight	\$3.00 & \$4.00
31	Micro brushes	Amazon, eBay	\$ 10.00
32	Foam Ultra Wedge	Sally Beauty Supply	\$ 2.30

FADGETS & GIZMOS LIST cont.

Item	Description	Vendor	Cost
33	ONILAB Mini Vortex Mixer with Touch Function, Lab Mixing, Nail Polish, Eyelash Adhesives	Amazon	\$ 35.00
34	Hold-It Easy	Micro-Mark	\$ 17.00
35	Self-Contained Portable Fine Detail Airbrush	Micro-Mark	\$ 150.00
36	Micro-Mark Self-Contained Portable Broad-Spray Airbrush	Micro-Mark	\$ 150.00
37	No Clean Airbrush with disposable Nozzle	Amazon	\$ 108.00
38	AK Weathering set	Amazon	\$ 15.00
39	AK10047 Weathering Pencil Box	Amazon	\$ 51.00
40	15 Pack Surgical Blades #10 with Stainless Steel Scalpel Handle	Amazon	\$ 10.00
41	Pointed & Curved Tips Ceramic Tweezers Set	Amazon	\$ 10.00
42	Blade Protector	Goody/Goody	Varies
43	OptiVisor	Micro-Mark, Amazon	\$22.00 to \$150
44	Fiber Grip Tweezer Set with Leather Case	Micro-Mark	\$ 30.00
45	Magnetic Gluing Jig, 10-1/4 Inch Square	Micro-Mark	\$ 45.00
46	Magnetic Snap & Glue Set	Trains.com	\$ 50.00
47	Magnetic Bendable Alligator Clip Sticks Set	Amazon	\$ 10.00
48	Ultra Precision 1-2-3 Blocks	Micro-Mark	\$ 30.00
49	Fiskars SureCut™ Deluxe Paper Trimmer	Michaels, Hobby Lobby	\$ 38.00
50	Foam Cradle	Micro-Mark, Amazon	\$15.00 & up
51	Infini Model Softback Polishing Sticks	Micro-Mark	\$ 13.00
52	Sanding Twigs	Micro-Mark	\$ 20.00
53	Irwin 6" Quick Grip Clamp	Lowes, Home Depot, Ace	\$ 30.00
54	BLI CV Setter	Online	\$52.00 to \$84.00
55	BLI Address Setter	Online	\$ 80.00
56	Chopper II	Midwest Technology Products	\$ 56.80



ANSWER TO THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA QUESTION:

A NEW HIRE OR NEW EMPLOYEE

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OPERATIONS ON THE LEE SUB
Part 10 "SAMPLE OPERATION
SESSION OF 417 GLEN TURN ON
LEE SUB TEXAS AND SOUTHERN
RAILROAD" PART 5

By BOB MANGRUM MMR 456

This month we will follow the operations of 417 the Glen Turn as it works Glen on its way from Lee Centennial Yard south to Glen and return.

Having completed its work in Silver Valley, 417 contacts the dispatcher for a new track warrant. The current track warrant had indicated that 417 was to be on the passing siding so we find that the train had relocated to the siding.



TRACK WARRANT

No. 9114 30 MAY 1966

To 417 TS SIA at SV

1. Track Warrant No. 9115 is void.

2. Proceed from SV to GL

3. Proceed from to

4. Work between and

5. Not in effect until am / pm

6. This authority expires at am / pm

7. Not in effect until after arrival of 211 at SV

8. Do not foul limits ahead of

9. Clear Main Track at last named point.

10. Hold Main Track at last named point.

11. Between & make all movements at restricted speed. Limits occupied by train or engine.

12. Do not exceed mph between &

13. Other specific instructions

14. Joint with between &

Ok 1345 am / pm Dispatcher RGM Copied

Reported clear at am / pm by

Reorder Micro-Mark #84187

As noted on this TWC, 417 has been cleared to Glen but must await the arrival of 211 at Silver Valley.

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Through Freight 211 Southbound passing through Silver Valley.





Passing the Passenger Station in Glen.

211 Has passed and the headend brakeman throws the switch.



Arriving in Glen.



417 takes siding.

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GLEN
Local Moves (1)
TmTrk MKT MT XM 96367 to Yard
PickUps (1)
Caboos T&S MTN 5 to LE
SetOuts (2)
Frt stati NKP MT X 16425
Caboos T&S MTN 6
-- 1 Car Out, 94 Ft, 77 Tons, Power 900 Tons

Conductor checks his switch list for Glen.
Today it is light. One pick up and two set
outs.



TS 1412 moves from the freight station spur.





TS 510 backs onto main.



Noving south on main.



After switch thrown, backs to spot box car on freight station spur.



Back on the main.





After crew takes beans, 417 will be ready to depart for Silver Valley. At which time the conductor will request a new track warrant.



Lash up with caboose.



TRACK WARRANT

No. 9120 30 MAY, 1966
 To 417 T&S 510 at GL

1. Track Warrant No. 9116 is void.
2. Proceed from GL to SV
3. Proceed from to
4. Work between N59 and 595
5. Not in effect until am / pm
6. This authority expires at am / pm
7. Not in effect until after arrival of at
8. Do not foul limits ahead of
9. Clear Main Track at last named point.
10. Hold Main Track at last named point.
11. Between & make all movements at restricted speed. Limits occupied by train or engine.
12. Do not exceed mph between &
13. Other specific instructions

14. Joint with between &

Ok 1500 am / pm Dispatcher RGM Copied

Reported clear at am / pm by

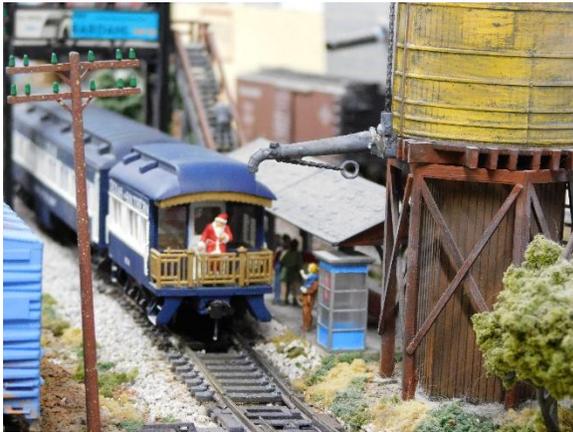
Reorder Micro-Mark #84187

At this point we leave the 417 crew to return home and have a hot cooked meal and bed.

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Next month we begin a survey of a history of railroads in Texas. Until then, may you have Green Boards and no hot boxes on your run.

Bob



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM
THE T&S SYSTEM!!**

-30-





27 JULY- 2 AUGUST
2026