



The Whistle



COWCATCHER DIVISION LONE STAR REGION NMRA

VOL 9 NO 5 MAY 2025

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MAY'S MEETING WILL BE AT 10am ON SATURDAY THE 10TH AT THE TEXAS WESTERN MODEL RR CLUB AND VIA ZOOM. THE ADDRESS IS 6808 FOREST HILL DRIVE, FOREST HILL, TEXAS 76140 SEE EMAIL FOR ZOOM LINK

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We are coming up on May 1st by the time you read this, and we will be a month away from the Blues Express Convention in Baton Rouge. It should be a great convention and the clinics look outstanding.

Keep in mind, Mother's Day is fast approaching, take a moment to honor your mother and spouse. (Remember she may be the VP of Real Estate for your railroad)

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Division for electing me to a second term. It is honor to lead this outstanding group of modelers and individuals. This will be my second and last 2-year term.

It seemed like everyone participating in the building of the freight house was extremely attentive to Duane 's instructions and was making great progress. Hopefully everyone will have their dock completed, 4 walls assembled, and roof painted. On behalf

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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

STEVE GRATKE

FOR CONTACT INFO SEE
COWCATCHER DIVISION WEB SITE

<https://cowcatcherdivision.org/>



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DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONT.

of the Division, I want to thank Duane for all his hard work at this clinic and everything he does for the D1.

In May's meeting Duane will wrap up the trim, doors, and roof of the freight house and Cole will teach us his techniques for painting detail parts. Cole is a very talented modeler and he should have some interesting techniques.

Our next meeting is Saturday May 10th, please bring a friend.

Dick Brannan
Director – Cowcatcher Division
LSR-NMRA



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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

MAY

17 JEFFERSON TX MODEL RR CLUB
SWAP MEET

JUNE

26TH-29TH LSR CONVENTION BATON
ROUGE

JULY

11-12 TRAIN SHOW STILLWATER OK

14TH-19TH NMRA NATIONAL
CONVENTION NOVI, MICHIGAN

AUGUST

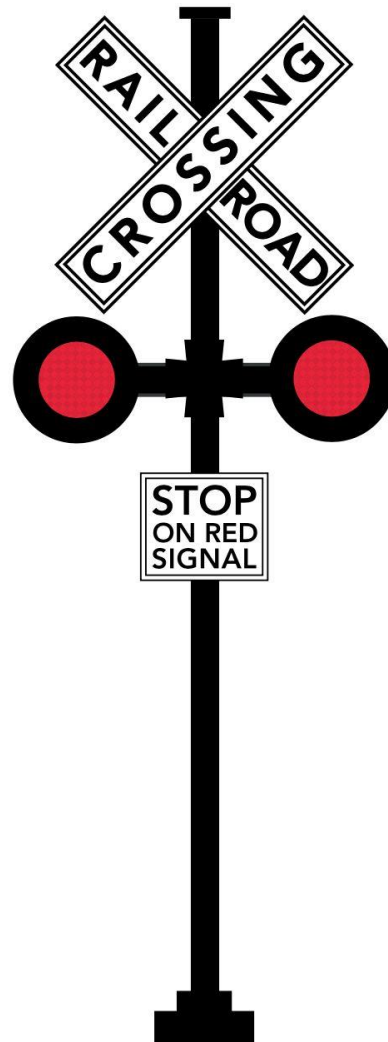
23-24 AUSTIN TX TRAIN SHOW

SEPTEMBER

LABOR DAY WEEKEND THE 90TH
ANIVERSARY OF NMRA

20-21 TEMPLE TRAIN SHOW

27-28 PLANO TRAIN SHOW



TREASURER'S REPORT

1 April BALANCE	\$9320.61
RECEIPTS	\$611.00
EXPENDITURES	\$1903.11
BALANCE	\$8028.50
CD BALANCE	\$23012.60



TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT IS A FREEZE A HUB?

LOOK FOR ANSWER IN THIS MONTH'S
NEWSLETTER

RAILFAN VIDEO OF THE MONTH ON YOUTUBE

HOUSTON INDUSTRIAL RAILROAD
SWITCHING ALONG THE PTR



PTRA LOCO

*ALSO OF INTEREST IS THIS VIDEO ON
YOUTUBE:*

AN UPDATE ON THE STATE OF THE
MODEL TRAIN INDUSTRY

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

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

MEETS 7:30-10:00 PM FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, OFTEN (BUT NOT ALWAYS) AT GRAPEVINE TOURIST & VISITORS INFORMATION CENTER AT MAIN ST AND FWWR RAILROAD TRACKS

<https://ntxnrhs.org>

TEXAS WESTERN MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

LOCATED AT 6808 FOREST HILL, 76140

VISITOR HOURS: SEE CLUB WEBSITE

<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

1113 W. PIPELINE RD

HURST 76053

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.



MAY CLINIC

Continuation of the make and take from April by Duane Richardson. It will be constructing a freight shed. Duane is one of several Master Model Railroaders in our division and although we all learn from each other it is always a special treat to hear from our most experienced and talented members.

The second part of the clinic will be led by Cole Rash who will teach us his techniques for painting detail parts. Cole is a very talented modeler, and this should be an interesting clinic.



An example of figure painting



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NMRA ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM HONOREES



Overall report AP this year

SHOW AND TELL



3D holder for glue cans



MIXING PAINT STORAGE BOTTLES



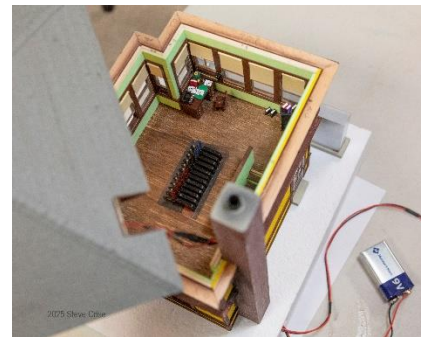
BRIDGE near New Orleans



SHOW AND TELL CONT.



O SCALE PRR Switch Tower with interior



ARMSTRONG LEVERS

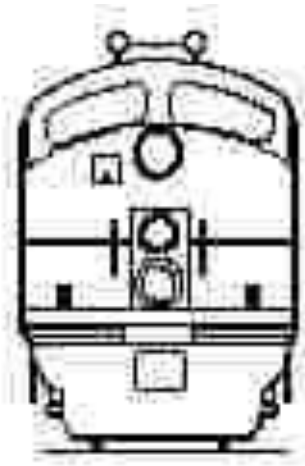
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APRIL CLINIC PHOTOS



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Clinic cont.



ANSWER TO THIS MONTH'S
TRIVIA QUESTION:

TO COOL A HOTBOX

OPERATIONS ON THE LEE SUB PART 7 “CREATING THE PPAPERWORK FOR A REALISTIC OPERATION SESSION ON THE TEXAS AND SOUTHERN RAILROAD”

Whether one is using card cards or manifests/switch lists to know which freight car goes where an additional way to create a more realistic and therefore enjoyable operation experience is the utilization of several pieces of paperwork that the railroads have used in accomplishing their work.

The first piece of paperwork one would need to replicate the work of the railroad would be a switch list or manifest directing the movement of the freight cars in a train.

[illegible]

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T&S used card cards until 2003 when management finally decided to enter the computer age. Initially trying Ship It, T&S turned to RailOP which produced a very easily understood switch manifest. Replacing RailOp with JMRI operations was easy as the same logic was involved with both software. But in 2017 T&S returned to RailOp for its better flexibility. To the right is a portion of a RailOP manifest and switch list.



TEXAS & SOUTHERN
MANIFEST for TRAIN 317
Printed 3:50 PM 10/1/2024
Train --Manifest South
SouthBound FROM: KC TO: CC
Departing at 16:00 on Route KC-CC
INSTRUCTIONS TO CREW
1. BEFORE DEPART CHECK MANIFEST FOR CAR ORDER AND OBSERVE RULES BLOCKING HAZARDOUS CARS.
2. CONDUCT AIR BRAKE TEST BEFORE DEPART.
3. IF MOTIVE POWER ASSIGNED IS STEAM OBSERVE WATER STOPS: LEE THOMAS GLEN.
4. SIGNALS INDICATE DIRECTION SWITCH THROWN.

Conductor _____
Actual Time of Departure _____

KC
PickUps (8)
~~RI Intch WM~~ MT X 28123 to WF
~~RI Intch T&S~~ LD L 14309 to LE
~~KC Tan T&S~~ MT X 400 to LE
~~RI Stati T&P~~ MT X 40940 to BGJ
~~KC Tan CPHX~~ MT T 100 to BGJ
~~LP Intc T&S~~ MT L 14605 to TE
~~RI Intch MRT~~ MT X 15531 to CC
~~SLSF In T&S~~ MT X 15125 to CC
-- 8 Cars Out, 340 Ft, 723 Tons, Power 0 Tons
MAY NEED MORE POWER!

WICHITA FALLS
PickUp Engine T&S GP38 # 2114 -- Address 2114
PickUps (1)
~~Gaboos T&S~~ MT N 9044 to LE
SetOuts (1)
~~Dana C WM~~ MT X 28123
-- 8 Cars Out, 417 Ft, 703 Tons, Power 950 Tons

The next piece of paper work would be the clearance card A and a track warrant. On the T&S we use this paperwork instead of Form 19s and 31s to follow the basic rule in all complex organizations (like the army) KISS, keep it simple stupid.

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T&S RR/T&P RWY

Date _____ May 1966
To: _____ On Loc Sub Division
C&E _____ At _____

CLEARANCE FORM A

Clearance No. _____ To Terminating Station _____
I have the following orders for your train:

TRACK WARRANT CONTROL

No. _____

☐ 1. Track Warrant No. _____ is void.

☐ 2. Proceed from _____ to _____ on _____ Track.

☐ 3. Proceed from _____ to _____ on _____ Track.

☐ 4. Work between _____ and _____ on _____ Track.

☐ 5. Not in effect until _____

☐ 6. This authority expires at _____

☐ 7. Not in effect until after arrival of _____ at _____

☐ 8. Hold main track at last named point.

☐ 9. Do not foul limits ahead of _____

☐ 10. Clear main track at last named point.

☐ 11. Between _____ and _____
Make all movements at restricted speed.
Limits occupied by train and engine.

☐ 12. Between _____ and _____
Make all movements at restricted speed
and stop short of men or machines fouling track.

☐ 13. Do not exceed _____ MPH between _____ and _____

☐ 14. Do not exceed _____ MPH between _____ and _____

☐ 15. Protection as prescribed by Rule 99 not required
Against following trains on the same track.

☐ 16. Track Bulletins in effect _____

☐ 17. Other specific instructions: _____

OK _____ Dispatcher _____
Relayed to _____ Copied by _____
Limits reported clear at _____ by _____
All switches are properly aligned & locked _____

T&S/T&P Word Form 27 Dec 2008

Mark "X" in box for each item instructed.

and movement of the trains on. This can take various formats. T&S has used a variety of versions from a very prototypical format to a very simple version. You could even record the information on a 3x5 card if so desired.

Next month we will explain in detail the traffic warrant form. Until then I hope you have Green Boards and no hot boxes on your run.

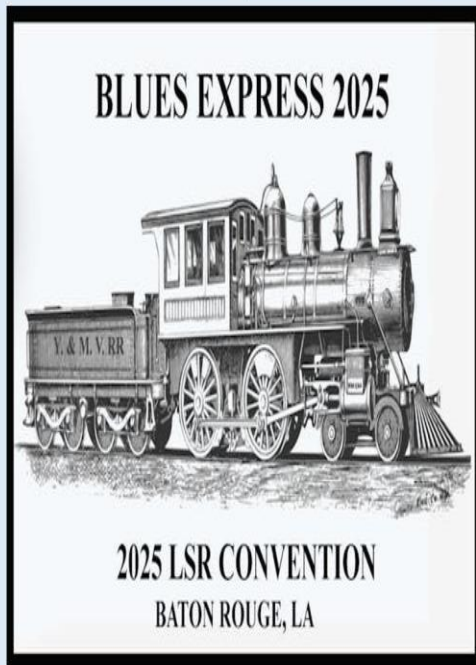
Bob



-30-

You also need some form that the dispatcher can record the track warrant info

Registration Is Open at
www.BluesExpress2025.com



Time is running out!

The Lone Star Region Blues Express 2025 Convention is getting closer by the day. Early Bird Registration Deadline closing May 15, 2025. It's getting down to crunch time for reduced registration.

Registration is now open for the convention at the convention website:

<https://bluesexpress2025.com/>

This site will help you see the register for the convention, show you the clinics available, book your hotel rooms and explain to you a whole slew of other things available at the convention.

The Early Bird Registration and discounted hotel rate will end on May 15, 2025. You shouldn't wait for that date. Get in early because for some activities there is limited space available.

Do not miss out, register today before the Early Bird discounted registration rate ends. Limited hotel rooms are still available at the groups discounted rate. A few seats are still available for the limited attendance Katy Speeder Shed Make-n-Take Clinic and the 3D Design for Railroad Modeling clinics. Time is running out, register today at <https://bluesexpress2025.com/>

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
2025 National Convention

STATION No. VI

Hosted by:
the NORTH CENTRAL REGION

July 14-19, 2025

Open to ALL model railroaders! You do not have to be an NMRA member to attend! **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!**

Our location – Sheraton Detroit-Nov, MI
A suburban location with FREE parking!



CONVENTION GOALS and HIGHLIGHTS -

Our main objectives are to provide events of value, items attendees will see as worth their money, all at the lowest possible cost. ** We will honor the traditions of past conventions but at lower cost and with greater flexibility. ** This convention will be shorter, starting at 1 PM on Monday and continuing through Saturday afternoon with a banquet Saturday evening. ** Note that registration includes all layout visits and operating sessions, and all activities at the hotel except Modeling with the Masters, and admittance to the National Train Show. ** We will support all the traditional activities of the SIG's. ** The National Contest will be fully supported. The contest will be in a prominent room and will be run by the National Contest team. There will be space for model displays, modular layouts and other functions. Those putting their models on display will have the option of entering the People's Choice Contest. ** We will have several prototype tours which may include a Ford plant tour and a cruise on the Detroit River with an emphasis on the industrial aspects of the waterfront. ** We expect to have at least 90 clinics. The clinics will be varied, and each will be given twice. ** We expect to have at least 60 layouts open for visit. Most layouts will be at least 900 sq. ft. in size running to over 3,000 sq. ft. in one or more cases. All layout visits and op sessions will be self-guided so you may take your time.

<https://nmra2025.com/>