



# The Whistle



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION



COWCATCHER DIVISION LONE STAR REGION NMRA

VOL 10 NO 1 JANUARY 2026

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JANUARY'S MEETING WILL BE AT 10am ON SATURDAY THE 10TH AT THE TEXAS WESTERN MODEL RR CLUB AND VIA ZOOM. SEE EMAIL FOR ZOOM LINK

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope you had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends.

The Christmas Party was a huge success, we had about 50 people in attendance and the food catered by Coburn's did not disappoint and the White Elephant gift exchange was worth a few laughs. I want to thank Trapper for all his hard work organizing the party.

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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.

The annual Division Awards were also presented at the Christmas party and the recipients were:

Jim Norwood Award Deb Gifford

John Garfield Volunteer Award Jim Davis

Craftsman of the Year Award Darrell Cowles

Outstanding Leadership Team Member Dr. Harold Berenzweig

At the January 10<sup>th</sup> Division meeting we are going to “restart” a very popular feature we have done in the past—after the meeting a member will be opening his layout for viewing. The member and his address will be announced at the end of Saturday’s meeting, so please mark your calendar. The clinic for Saturday’s meeting is “Layout Planning and Building” presented via Zoom by Don Winn.

The Plano train show is January 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Table sales have been very strong for this show and the Plano Event Center is completely sold out, so it should be another great show.

See you at the meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup> and don't forget to bring a friend.

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

### **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**

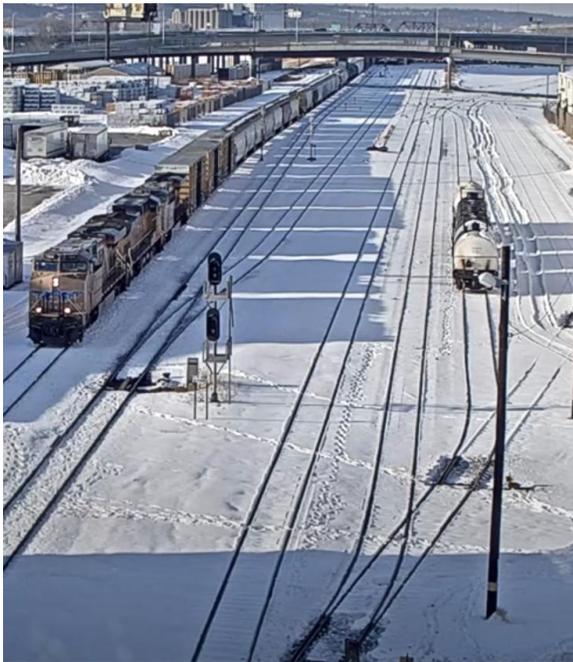
27 JULY-2 AUGUST

NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION  
CHATTANOOGA



# TREASURER'S REPORT

31 Dec BALANCE	\$3677.41
RECEIPTS	\$0
EXPENDITURES	\$1297.22
END BALANCE	\$2380.19
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT \$23479.69	



## SCREEN SHOT

**UP at KANSAS CITY  
WEST BOTTOMS YARD  
9 JAN 2025**



## TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT IS ON THE GROUND?

LOOK FOR ANSWER IN THIS MONTH'S  
NEWSLETTER

## **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](mailto:bradyprmla@cableone.net)

STAN SCHWARTZ [ss124@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ss124@sbcglobal.net)

### **DENTON AREA MODEL RAILROAD CLUB**

MEETS 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF EVERY  
MONTH AT 6:45 PM 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**

WHAT IS THE COST OF MOVING A CAR?



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## JANUARY CLINIC

### LAYOUT PLANNING

Our January clinic will be given by Don Winn. The title will be Layout Planning. Building a layout takes time and money and he will be examining best practices from leading experts. It will be done remotely. For those who don't know him he was a member of Division 1 until moving to San Antonio in 2018. He is a member of the Layout Design Special Interest Group (LDSIG) and was the LDSIG Coordinator for the Grapevine Convention.



BERTRAM TX

A&TC RSD15

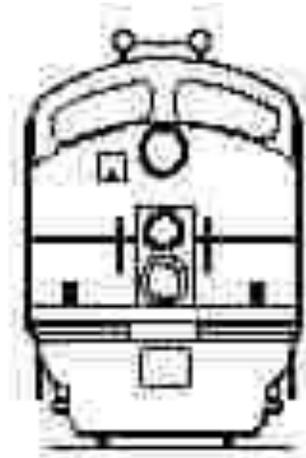
7 JUN 2007



DUBLIN, TX

FW&W GP 38-3

16 MAY 2002



ANSWER TO THIS MONTH'S  
TRIVIA QUESTION:

ON THE TIES, AS A DERAILED TRAIN

A SURVEY HISTORY OF RAILROADS IN TEXAS, from the article found in the Texas Historical Association Handbook of Texas online, part 1.

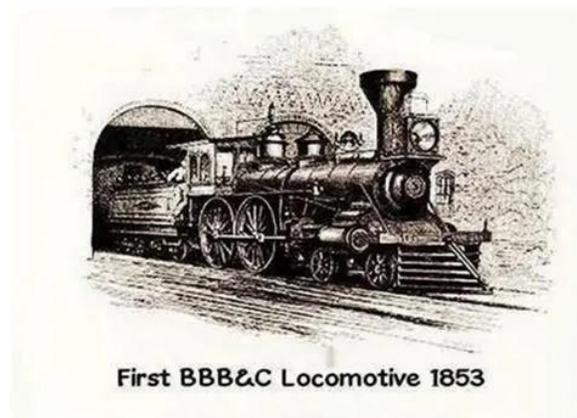
Transportation was a major problem facing early settlers in Texas. As late as 1850 the settled area of the state was largely confined to the river bottoms of East and South Texas and along the Gulf Coast. Although steamboat navigation was common on the lower stretches of a number of such rivers as the Rio Grande, Brazos, and Trinity, Texas rivers were not deep enough for dependable year-round transportation. Roads were either poor or nonexistent and virtually impassable during wet weather. Ox carts hauling three bales of cotton could only travel a few miles a day and the cost of wagon transport was twenty cents per ton mile. Many proposals to improve internal transportation were both considered and attempted during the period of the Republic of Texas and early statehood. These included river improvements, canals, and plank roads in addition to railroads. However, it was the railroads that made the development of Texas possible, and for many years railroad extension and economic growth paralleled each other.

On December 16, 1836, the First Congress of the Republic of Texas chartered the Texas Railroad, Navigation, and Banking Company to construct railroads "from and to any such points...as selected." This occurred less than ten years after the first public railroad was chartered in the United States. Although many leading citizens were included among its incorporators and it had the sanction of Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston the scheme aroused the public's suspicions, mainly due to the banking and monopoly provisions attached to the charter. These were bitterly attacked by many Texans, including Anson Jones and Houston newspaper editor Francis Moore, Jr. The charter and the company it would create became a major issue in the second congressional elections. Although the company was still active in mid-1838, it collapsed soon after without making any attempt to build a railroad.

However, the problem of transporting goods to market and travel remained acute. Three additional railroad charters were granted by the Republic of Texas to run from Galveston Bay, from Harrisburg, and from Houston to the Brazos Valley. Two of the companies, the Brazos and Galveston Rail-road and the Harrisburg and Brazos Railroad, were tied to real-

estate promotion schemes. Although all three companies awarded contracts, none was able to construct a railroad. The Harrisburg and Brazos, subsequently chartered as the Harrisburg Railroad and Trading Company with Andrew Briscoe as its first president, graded about two miles and made other efforts to construct a railroad before it, too, ended in failure. However, the Harrisburg project was the precursor for the first successful railroad in Texas. In early 1847 Gen. Sidney Sherman acquired the Harrisburg town lots and surrounding land from Briscoe and his associates, and later that year he was successful in attracting northern capital to his project. This led to the chartering of the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado Railway Company on February 11, 1850. Among the other incorporators were William Marsh Rice and John Grant Tod, Sr. from Texas, and Bostonians

Jonathan F. Barrett, Elisha H. Allen, and John Angier. Work on this railroad began in 1851, and the first locomotive, named for Sherman, arrived in late 1852. The initial twenty-mile segment from Harrisburg (now a part of Houston) and Stafford's Point (now Stafford) opened by September 7, 1853. The Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado was not only the first railroad to operate in Texas, but it was also the second railroad west of the Mississippi River and the oldest component of the present Southern Pacific.



Continued next month part 2.

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27 JULY- 2 AUGUST  
2026