



# The Whistle



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

COWCATCHER DIVISION 1 LONE STAR REGION NMRA

VOL 10 NO 3 MARCH 2026

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MARCH'S MEETING WILL BE AT 10:00 AM ON SATURDAY THE 14TH AT THE TEXAS WESTERN MODEL RR CLUB AND VIA ZOOM. SEE EMAIL FOR ZOOM LINK

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Judging from the weather we should be looking forward to Memorial Day, instead of St Patrick's Day. I hope all of you have the "luck of the Irish on your model railroad journey this spring".

We had a terrific meeting in February! I want to thank Harold Berenzweig for his informative clinic on how grain moves from farm to market titled "Grain Transport and the Railroads. From Farm to Terminal Elevator". This month's clinic is presented by Mike Ross and will cover weather techniques using pan pastels powders, and we all know "if it ain't dirty it ain't done"

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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.

Train-A-Plooza at the Grapevine Convention Center is coming up on March 13 and 14 Train-A-Plooza at the Grapevine Convention Center is coming up on March 13 and 14th.

This show is a bit unconventional for NMRA, but it continues to attract large crowds, especially from Tarrant County. The city of Grapevine is installing a large banner in the downtown area on March 2 nd advertising the show and Fox 4 will start their advertising on 32 streaming channels on March 1st - 15th. I want Jim Ogden, Mike Walter and David Crumpton to manage our booth on Saturday , Mike Ross and I will cover it on Sunday.

Last month's Open House Layout tour was a Jim Packard's Nevadun layout. It is a fantastically detailed layout with much animation and sound, those making the trip were well rewarded. (see page 12 for several photos). This month's tour will be at a layout that is operational but under construction so it will be chance to see bench work, wiring and hidden trackwork. Attend the meeting and the address of the layout Open House will be revealed at the conclusion of it.

Hope to see you on Saturday March 14 and don't forget to invite a friend.

Dick Brannan

Director -Cowcatcher Division

LSR



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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

### **MARCH 2026**

13-14 MARCH GRAPEVINE TRAIN SHOW

13-15 MARCH

LAYOUT DESIGN OPS WEEKEND  
TULSA OK

28-29 MARCH

WORLD'S GREATEST HOBBY DALLAS MARKET HALL

### **APRIL 2026**

24-25 GREATER TULSA TRAIN SHOW

25-26 RAILFEST GALVESTON RR MUSEUM

25-26 NEW BRAUNFELS TRAIN SHOW

### **MAY 2026**

### **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



### **AUGUST 2026**

29-30 AUSTIN TX TRAIN SHOW

## TREASURER'S REPORT

1 Mar BALANCE	\$2363.20
RECEIPTS	\$3078.13
EXPENDITURES	\$721.24
END BALANCE	\$4720.09
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	\$23556.13

## TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT IS RABBIT?

LOOK FOR ANSWER IN THIS MONTH'S  
NEWSLETTER

## Railfan video of the month



North Platte Golden Spike Tower  
(West) Live Railcam

Steel Highway Railcam



T&S 916 2-8-0 WAITING FOR  
GREEN BOARD AT BUFFALO GAP  
JUNCTION

## **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@cablone.net](mailto:bradyprmla@cablone.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.*



## MARCH CLINIC

Dr. Michael Ross will be presenting  
“Weathering with PanPastels”



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- The Achievement Program (AP) began back in 1961. The program was designed by 2 Eagle Scouts and works in a similar way. There are 11 certificates in total in 4 groups. If you earn 7 of the 11 and at least 1 in each category, then you become a Master Model Railroader (MMR). To date, there are 810 MMRs.
- In the LSR we have 65 MMRs and have earned 1,070 certificates.
- There are only a handful of MMRs that have earned all 11 certificates. We have 5 here in the LSR.

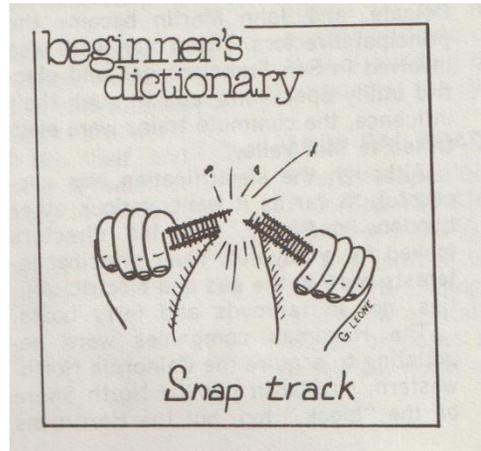
## SUMMARY OF INFO

## LSR AP PROGRAM TO DATE

## TIPS



## USING ZIP TIE HEAD AS AIR CONDITIONER ON HO BUILDING



## NMRA BULLETIN PG 31 DEC 1979

FEBRUARY CLINIC



IF YOU WANT TO SEE ENTIRE CLINIC ON YOUTUBE START VIDEO OF FEB 2026 MEETING AT 39:25

Grain Transport and the Railroads

Farm to Terminal Elevators

ANSWER TO THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA QUESTION:

DERAIL; AN ARRANGEMENT FOR PREVENTING SERIOUS WRECKS BY SIDETRACKING RUNAWAY TRAINS, CARS, OR LOCOS ON A DOWNGRADE. UNLIKE REGULAR SIDETRACKS, THE DERAILED ENDS RELATIVELY ABRUPTLY ON FLAT TRACKLESS LAND INSTEAD OF CURVING BACK ONTO MAIN LINE. THE TERM RABBIT IS APPLIED TO THIS DEVICE BECAUSE OF THE TIMIDITY INVOLVED

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Jim Packard's Nevadun RR



The yard at Miniville on Jim Packard's layout (photo by Eric Smith)



Zephyr headed into tunnel on Nevadun railroad (photo by Eric Smith)



A bumper crop of cucumbers being picked at Packer Pickles. (photo by Dick Brannan)

A SURVEY HISTORY OF RAILROADS IN TEXAS, from the article found in the Texas Historical Association Handbook of Texas online, part 3.

Three railroads, the Texas and New Orleans Railroad Company, the Eastern Texas Railroad Company, and the Washington County Rail Road Company, were completed and opened after the outbreak of the Civil War. Other operating companies, such as the Houston and Texas Central, were forced to suspend their construction efforts. Additional railroads, such as the Memphis, El Paso and Pacific Railroad Company and the Indianola Railroad Company, had graded rights-of-way or had construction materials on hand, but were unable to resume construction until much later. Although most of the Texas railroads did not suffer the depredations inflicted elsewhere in the South, all were in bad physical condition at the close of hostilities. Four years of constant use without materials or manpower for repairs had taken their toll. The Texas and New Orleans was forced to shut down between Beaumont and Orange. In addition, the rails of the Eastern Texas between Beaumont and Sabine Pass

had been removed to be used for fortifications and other military needs. General John B. Magruder ordered the destruction of the San Antonio and Mexican Gulf to prevent its falling into the hands of enemy forces. The Southern Pacific Railroad Company (later a part of the Texas and Pacific and not related to the present Southern Pacific) had been required to remove part of its line between Marshall and Swanson's Landing on Caddo Lake and to relay the rails to connect with the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Texas Railway Company near the Louisiana line, thus forming a route between Marshall and Shreveport, Louisiana. Late in the war, one short line was constructed in Houston when the Galveston and Houston Junction Railroad built a bridge across Buffalo Bayou, connecting the Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railroad Company with the Houston and Texas Central.

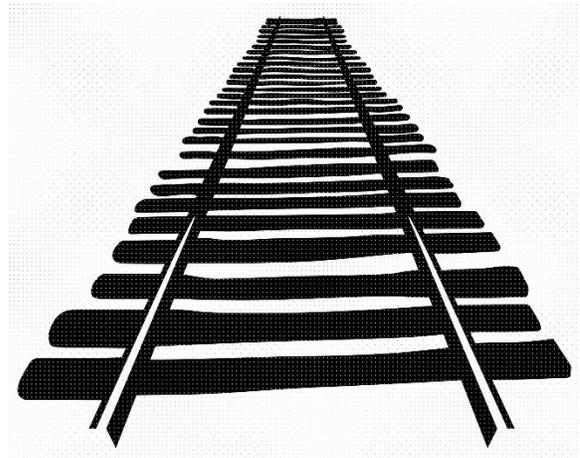
Although it was the decade of the 1870s before any significant new mileage was constructed in Texas, the Houston and Texas Central was able to resume construction in 1867. The company built steadily northward, reaching Corsicana in 1871, Dallas in 1872, and the Red River in 1873. At the same time, the company, having acquired the Washington County, began work on its Western Division, reaching Austin on Christmas Day in

1871. Meanwhile, the Missouri,  
Kansas and Texas Railway Company



reached Denison from the north on  
December 24, 1872, and with the  
completion of the Houston and Texas  
Central to that point the following  
year, the Texas railroad system was  
finally connected to the nationwide  
network. The San Antonio and  
Mexican Gulf was also rebuilt during  
the late 1860s by the occupying  
military forces.

Next Month part 4.



SEE YOU DOWN TRACK



27 JULY- 2 AUGUST  
2026