

# Whistle

Vol. 2. No. 6



June 2018

[www.cowcatcherdivision.org](http://www.cowcatcherdivision.org)

**Division 1 Meeting**  
**Saturday, June 9, 2018**

9am at

**Cowtown Model  
Railroad Club**

<http://cmrrc.webs.com/>

**3024 Forest Ave,  
Ft. Worth, 76112**

**Program: Scenery for  
your trackside boxcar**

**By Jeff Palmer**



## In This Issue:

- Meeting Information.....1
- Director's Report.....2
- Program Director.....3
- Travels to New Zealand.....4
- Calendar of Events.....7
- NMRA Layout Listing....7
- Contest Corner.....8 & 9
- O Scale Meet.....10
- Club Directory.....11
- Area Hobby Shops.....12



The next meeting of the Cowcatcher Division will be on June 9, 2018 at the Cowtown Model Railroad Club at 9am. (See sidebar on the left for location information) *Please note the start time for this meeting.* We have a hard stop time at noon, so we will be starting an hour earlier. Due to a water leak at our normal meeting location, the Cowtown Club has graciously stepped up to host our meeting. We'd like to publicly express our thanks to the Cowtown Club for help the division on this short notice. Don't miss the opportunity to see the HO Scale layout in the room above the meeting location!



## Division Officers

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## Directors

## Report



**W**ow! What a great

meeting in May!!

I want to thank Leo and Lorrie Palitti for being such fabulous hosts. The behind the scenes work it took to deliver such a beautiful setting for our annual Spring/Summer Picnic did not go unnoticed. From the new umbrellas that they bought to make sure we had shade to the soothing Koi pond and the luxurious conversation pit under their canopy, nothing could have been better. You guys did a great job!

I want to send out congratulations to all of our NMRA members and families who either graduated recently, or had family members who did. We are proud of you for such a great accomplishment.

June is a very busy month for all of us. Our monthly meeting is being held and the Cowtown Model Railroad Club on the east side of Fort Worth this month (**See the lead article for details**) and lets us finish our boxcar project that we've been working on the last few months. Be sure and bring your scenery materials, 6-10 detail parts, your model, and a small piece of 1" pink foam (Styrofoam is NOT recommended) or gator board about 3"- 4" larger on all sides than your boxcar to mount your boxcar on and finish the scene. You want to make sure that your base for your model is waterproof so when you apply your adhesive to hold your scenery it doesn't begin to warp. (Continued on page 10)



## ***Programs/Clinics***

June Program – Final installment on our boxcar clinic –

### **Setting the scene**

We have all been working very hard on this 4 part box car clinic, so now in our June meeting we will set a scene and landscape it.

Here is what all participants need to bring;

- A small piece of gator foam ( 8x8 or 10x10 )
- Six to eight detail parts of your choosing could be a figure or two, railroad junk, tools, barrels or whatever else your imagination can come up with.
- Your painted, decaled, and weathered boxcar
- Landscaping material of your choice

Jeff Palmer will lead the clinic with tips on applying landscape material and setting the scene.

Jeff has been involved with model railroading most of his life starting like most of us with a Lionel under the Christmas tree.

In BC (Before Children), Jeff modeled in N scale. His first layout was an Atlas designed layout that measured 4x10 in his garage.

Currently Jeff is the secretary for the Lone Star Region and has been active in the region since 2007.

He is currently pursuing his MMR certificate, 6 APs to his credit, and has recently received his certificate in scenery. Many of you went to see Mike Mackey's layout during the Sn3 Symposium in April, and saw some of his handy work.

***Dick Brannan***

Division 1 Program Manager

**2018 Lone Star  
Region Convention  
The Austin Eagle  
June 13 - 17, 2018**

**[www.austineagle.org](http://www.austineagle.org)**

Wingate by Wyndham  
Round Rock Hotel  
And Conference Center  
1209 North Interstate Hwy 35,  
Round Rock, TX  
(512)-341-7000

**Keynote Speaker:  
Trevor  
Marshall**

**2018 NMRA  
National Convention  
Sunday, August 5th to  
Sunday, August 12th, 2018  
Kansas City, MO**

The Westin Kansas City at Crown  
Plaza  
1 E Pershing Rd, Kansas City,  
Missouri 64108

**<http://www.kc2018.org/>**

**Banquet Speaker:  
Tony Koester**

**Clinics  
Layout Tours  
Prototype Tours  
Contest Room  
Non-Rail Activities  
Modeling with the Masters  
Operations Road Show**





## Travels to New Zealand - John Garfield

In April, my wife Ginny and I had the pleasure of traveling to New Zealand to attend the graduation of our daughter Dawn for her Doctorate from the University of Canterbury in Christchurch. While there, I made contact with Phillip Cossar through Division 1 member Leo Palitti. Railroading in New Zealand is much like it is here – no basements. So layouts are built in garages, outbuildings and any other place modelers can find. Sound familiar? I also visited the only club layout there, but unfortunately my camera had run out of power so I have no pictures. The club is actually in a public park and well done. I do however have some photos from Phillip's layout. Here are a few pictures from Phillip's layout in his garage. I also visited the layout of David Broom in his suburban home. His layout modeled on the Arizona desert. It was surprising to me that almost all modelers that I came in contact with model American railroads (mostly due to product availability and influence over the hobby). So take a gander and enjoy from down under.



Phillip Cossar models the UP and Santa Fe in a one car garage. It is double decked but not connected.



Another View of Phillip's lower layout. His upper layout is more of an urban setting with a depot.





Check out this Z Scale operating layout built inside this 100 year old suitcase!



David Broom built this diorama of the desert in Arizona. He visited it once when attending an NMRA Conference.



# Calendar of Events & Trainshows



## June

**2nd** - YMR Longhorn Division Meeting, Texas Western Model RR Club, 6808 Forest Hill Dr, Forest Hill, TX 76140, 10 am - 12 pm, John Skiba, Organizer [westsidelumberco@gmail.com](mailto:westsidelumberco@gmail.com)

**7th** - Texas Western Model RR Club Business Meeting, Texas Western Model Railroad Club, 6808 Forest Hill Dr, Forest Hill, TX 76140. 7pm - 9 pm <http://twmrc.org/>

**9th** - NMRA Lone Star Region Cowcatcher Division 1 May Meeting, Cowtown Model RR Club, 6808 Forest Hill Dr, Forest Hill, TX 76140.

**16th** - NMRA Lone Star Region Division 3 Meeting Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 821 S. Greenville Ave, Allen, TX 75002 10 am - 1 pm, <http://www.lonestarregion.com/>

## June

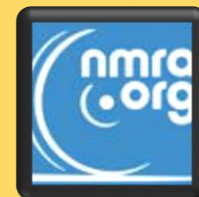
**17th** - Cowtown Model RR Club General Meeting, Handley Center, 3024 Forest Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76112. 7 pm - 9 pm <http://cmrrc.webs.com/>

## July

**28th - 29th** - CLMRR Open House, 10 am - 7 pm Both Days, 3504 Vista Ridge LN, Alvarado, TX 76009. Flea Market, Sell Swap Train Stuff, Bring Your Own Tables and Chairs, NO Fees, Clinics: How to make trees, signals, & scenery. Free Admission. Contact: Lee Martin, 817-666 5367.

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1





## CONTEST CORNER

By Cody and Casey Akin



Well if you've hung in there this far, you're starting to finish up those models for the **The Austin Eagle** contest room. The show is merely days away, and although you've put in lots of time on that build, the most important part of your entry is soon to come... the *write-up*! A write-up is basically a written document that accompanies each entry, and it explains in detail exactly how much work and research you've done to complete your model. We have had great success in previous convention contests, and most of that came from backing each entry with a solid write-up. The following article will explain what has worked for us in the past so you, too can get every point you deserve!

Upon contest room check-in, you will receive an *Entry Form* for each model, as well as a *Judges' Score Sheet*. Each sheet will have various boxes you must check, with a pen, so the staff/judges will know what you've entered and to which contest they will apply your entry. The *Judges' Score Sheet* will also have several blank lines, for each judging category, where you are expected to write down all of the research and work you have put into your build. The problem is, when filling these out, there is rarely enough space to legibly, and completely document all of the information needed for the judges to properly score your entry. The best solution is to do a more-thorough supplemental Write-Up, prior to your arrival, to pair with your entry. This way you can fully layout all of the details of your build and take all of the guess work from the judges.

Our preferred method for making a supplemental Write-Up is to type it out on the computer at home; that way everything is nice, neat and legible for those old Judges' eyes! After printing the document, we always put it in a folder with a clear cover just to give it a nice finished look, although simply stapling it together would work as well.

First, we start with a cover page. This usually contains a prototype photo that resembles our finished model, as well as a title of the entry, and a VERY brief description of the prototype. The photo will usually catch the judges eye right away and give them an idea of what you tried to replicate. Also on the cover page, we like to put a small table of contents that tells each judging group exactly what page to turn to in order to find their specific category. Remember, there are 5 judging groups that are split up to individually score the following categories: *Construction, Detail, Conformity, Finish and Lettering, and Scratchbuilding*.

Following the cover page, there should be a numbered and titled page, for each of the 5 categories, that corresponds with the table of contents. When the judges are scoring a room full of models late at night, they don't have time to go hunting aimlessly through paperwork, so giving them their own page to read makes it quick and easy to find what they need. Also, as an added scoring time-saver, instead of lengthy paragraphs, we've found it best to layout the majority of details in bullet form. From our limited judging experience, by the time you read a hundred different paragraphs, for a hundred different models, the eyes can tend to glaze over a bit, so keep everything nice, neat and to the point. BUT...on the other hand, don't skimp on the details! Judges may think they know everything about everything, but I assure you they do not! For example, they may know a thousand things about their Rio Grande boxcar, but not know a thing about your Santa Fe locomotive, so when writing details for each category, always do so with this phrase in mind, "DON'T ASSUME THE JUDGES KNOW!"

Some things to include for each category in a write-up:

(Continued on the following page)





## **Construction-** Largest points category.

- How long to complete your model?
- How did you build it? Fabricated or kitbashed? Purchased parts, or made your own? Materials?
- Explain the complexity. What were the hardest parts? What joints did you use? Board by Board? Full interior?

## **Detail-** Time to brag!

- List all detail parts used as well as the quantity of detail.
- How hard was it to build?
- Board by Board? NBWs/Nails? Door hardware? Working doors?
- Color and Lettering complexity/accuracy.

## **Conformity-** Be sure to include plans and prototype photos with your entry.

- Does your model appear as the prototype?
- Freelance, or follow plans?
- Describe your research.
- Was selective compression used, and where?
- Is the lettering/paint accurate?

## **Finish and Lettering-** Looking for quality here.

- Describe the colors. How were they applied? Are there stripes?
- Decals, dry transfers, or painted lettering?
- How did you hide decal film? Dullcoat? Are there bubbles showing and why?
- Homemade lettering, or bought?

## **Scratchbuilding-** What % of your model is scratch built?

- Which parts are scratchbuild? How did you build them? Which are bought?
- Did you make your own plans?
- Include photos taken during the building process.
- List exempt parts. (Purchased doors and windows don't count against you)

In conclusion, many modelers overlook the importance of the write-up process, and their would-be-award-winning models get a less-than-fair score simply because the judges had too-little information. Please take the time to get all of this documented so you will get all of the credit you deserve! Also, when you arrive at the beginning of the convention, take your models and paperwork to the contest room ASAP. The longer the models are displayed in the room, the more exposure they will get to attendees and judges, and when it comes to things like Popular Vote, more exposure can equal more votes! Also, many judges tend to form opinions about models during the show, and usually have their favorites picked out early on, so give them something to remember! Additional information on regional contest rules can be found at [lonestarregion.com](http://lonestarregion.com) under *Contest Info*. For reference, if you would like a copy of one of our write-ups we did for a previous convention, please feel free to email us at [cnctrainsco@yahoo.com](mailto:cnctrainsco@yahoo.com).

Thank you, and good luck in the contest room!

Cody and Casey Akin



## O Scalers announce Annual Meet

The Southwest O Scale Meet has for over 20 years been one of the nicest of the small model railroad gatherings. The 2018 meet will be held Oct 19-20 at the Fort Worth Academy gym, 7301 Dutch Branch Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76132. The DFW O-scalers will be displaying TWO layouts to the show – their mainline-operations layout (12 x 36 feet) and their new traction layout (3 x 22 feet). Friday clinic: spraying acrylics by a master painter. Saturday clinic: TexRail - Texas' newest railroad (see what it takes to build a 12 inch scale railroad). Sales and trading tables / home O scale layout visits. Michael Ross. 817-346-3416. <http://www.oscalesw.com> or [swoscalemeet@gmail.com](mailto:swoscalemeet@gmail.com).

### *Directors Report* (continued from page 2)

Also in June is our annual Lone Star Region convention. Be sure and make your plans to attend this year's convention in Round Rock. Our friends from Division 4 have done a super job planning what expects to be a terrific event. Visit [www.austineagle.org](http://www.austineagle.org) to register and get more information.

Until next month...

Keep training!

*Mike Mackey, MMR*

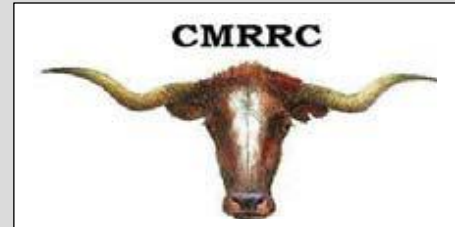
Director, Cowcatcher Division



## Area Model Railroad Club Directory & News

### \* Cowtown Model Railroad Club

Meets at *the Handley Community Center* Upstairs,  
3024 Forest Avenue, Fort Worth. Website:  
<http://cmrrc.webs.com/>



### \* CLMRR

The **CLMRR** is having a **Open House on July 28-29th 2018 from 10am to 7pm on both days.** The CLMRR will be sponsoring a flea market for those modelers who want to sell their wares. In addition they will be giving clinics on scenery, tree making, building switches using fast track, and building signals for less \$2.50. The address is 3504 Vista Ridge Lane, Alvarado, TX 76009. For information please contact Lee Martin at **817-666 5367.**

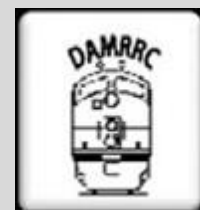


### \* Dallas/Fort Worth O Scale Club

Normally meets two Saturdays per month in Richardson. Contact: Brady McGuire, Tel: **903-868-2726**, Email: [bradyprmla@cableone.net](mailto:bradyprmla@cableone.net) or contact: Stan Schwartz Email: [ss124@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ss124@sbcglobal.net) for dates and times. 1/48 12X41 lt/wt modular, 2-3 shows/year

### \* Denton Area Model Railroad Club

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 PM in the Denton Senior Center downtown. HO and N scale modular layouts. Facebook page and website:  
<https://www.facebook.com/damrrc>/<http://www.trainweb.org/dramrrc?>



### \* North Texas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society

Meets 7:30-10:00 PM, first Tuesday of each month, often (but not always) at the Grapevine Tourist & Visitor Information Center at Main Street and the FWWR railroad tracks. Website: <http://ntxnrhs.org>

### \* Texas Western Model Railroad Club

Meets every Thursday and Saturday from 4:00 pm-?  
Located at 6808 Forest Hill Dr. in Forest Hill, Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/texaswesternmodelrailroadclub/>  
Webpage: <https://www.twmrc.org>.



### \* Trinity N-Trak

Meets at Hobby World, Fort Worth at 6:30 PM  
Check website for time.  
Website: <http://www.trinityntrak.com>

# TNT





## Area Hobby Shops

### Division 1 Sponsor Discount Model Trains

4641 Ratliff Lane

Addison, TX 75001

972-931-8135 Hours: M-Sat. 10 AM - 6 PM



#### Angelo Hobbies

5600 Rufe Snow Dr. #106

North Richland Hills, TX 76180

#### Hobbytown USA

4634 S. Cooper St. #182

Arlington, TX 76017

Hobbytown USA 746 Grapevine Hwy

Hurst, TX 76054

( Division 1 Members Receive A 10% Discount )

#### Hobby World

5658 Westcreek Dr. Ste. #500

Fort Worth, TX 76133

#### M-A-L Hobby

108 South Lee

Irving, TX 75060

#### Model Train Crossing

1113 W. Pipeline Road

Hurst, TX 76053

#### Hobbytown USA

500 E. Round Grove Rd

Lewisville, TX 75067

#### Hobbytown USA

677 Sherry Ln

Fort Worth, TX 76114

#### Wild Bill's Hobby Shop

535 E. Shady Grove Rd

Irving, TX 75060



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