



The Whistle



COWCATCHER DIVISION

Division One of The Lone Star Region of the NMRA

December 2023



Directors Report

As we are in the middle of the holiday season, I hope you are discovering opportunities to spend quality time with friends, family, and possibly a few model railroaders. Whether you are decorating the Christmas tree, lighting the menorah, or volunteering in the community enjoy every moment of it.

Looking back over the year I would judge it as very successful and I would like to thank the members of Cowcatcher Division, through your efforts we have made it that way. Attendance at meeting continues to be strong, participation in "Show and Tell", "Tips and Tricks" and "What is giving you problems on your layout" is spirited and informative. Clinics continue to be a strong point, we had 35 people attend the loading dock "make and take".

Several D1 members were in leadership positions for the Texas Express 2023 National Convention and many more members contributed their time and talents to put on clinics, coordinated activities, hosted open houses, entered models and won awards in the contest room, and conducted operating sessions.

Speaking of volunteering, Chris Mahan is coordinating the Cowcatcher Division's effort in conjunction with Division 3 to build a modular layout to be raffled off at the Plano Train Show. This will enable a young boy or girl to have layout to develop their skills in model railroading. *(continued page 3)*

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December's meeting will be the Annual Christmas Party at the Forest Hill Convention Center 6pm-9pm

**The address for the Convention Center is:
6901 Wichita St
Forest Hill, Texas
76140**



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Planning Ahead

The 2024 NMRA National Convention



Surfliner 2024 NMRA National Convention

August 4 - 11, 2024, Long Beach California



url: <https://surfliner2024.org/>

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NMRA Lone Star Region
Cowcatcher
Division 1
Whistle

Vol. 7 No. 12
December 2023

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Directors Report (continued from page 1)

Just a reminder the Cowcatcher Division Christmas Party is December 9th starting at 6pm with a potluck buffet following by a "White Elephant" gift exchange. Rail and non-rail attendees should bring a \$25.00 wrapped gift. The party is at the Forest Hill Civic and Convention Center, 6901 Wichita St., Forest Hill, TX 76140.

Early next year there are two very important events coming up : the Plano Train Show on January 20 & 21, 2024 at the Plano Events Center and,

February 15 -17, the LSR Convention "The Eagle meets the Chief" at the Pasadena Convention Center. Check cowcatcherdivision.org for details and links.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and very Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah. Enjoy the holidays and Happy New Year

Dick Brannan
Director-Cowcatcher Division
LSR NMRA

November's Program

November's program is the annual Christmas party at the Forest Hills Convention Center. See the Director's Report above for details.

Treasurer's Report

From David Grein

November 1-30, 2023

Opening balance	\$2410.37
Receipts	\$67.00
Expenditures	\$369.54
Ending balance	\$2107.83

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December 2023

2nd – Texas Western Model RR Club Business Meeting for Members and Prospective Members Only, 7 pm - 9 pm @ 6808 Forest Hill Dr, Forest Hill, TX 76140
Thursday
www.twmrc.org

9th – NMRA Lone Star Region Cowcatcher Division 1 Christmas Party 6 pm - 9 pm
www.cowcatcherdivision.org

16th – NMRA Lone Star Region Division 3 Meeting, Christ The Servant Lutheran Church in Allan, TX, 10am - 1pm, Saturday
www.trinityriverdivision.org

21st – Cowtown Model RR Club General Meeting, Handley Center, 3024 Forest Avenue, Ft Worth, TX 76112, 7pm - 9pm,
<https://www.cmrrc.net>

19th – [NMRAx](#)

January 2024

6th – Texas Western Model RR Club Business Meeting for Members and Prospective Members Only, 7 pm - 9 pm @ 6808 Forest Hill Dr, Forest Hill, TX 76140
Thursday
www.twmrc.org

13th – NMRA Lone Star Region Cowcatcher Division 1 Meeting, 10 am - 1pm
www.cowcatcherdivision.org

16th – NMRA Lone Star Region Division 3 Meeting, Christ The Servant Lutheran Church in Allan, TX, 10am - 1pm, Saturday
www.trinityriverdivision.org

20th – Cowtown Model RR Club General Meeting, Handley Center, 3024 Forest Avenue, Ft Worth, TX 76112, 7pm - 9pm,
<https://www.cmrrc.net>

16th – [NMRAx](#)

Regional Train Shows

TCA Lone Star Division January 6, 2024

Council Train Show January 20-21, 2024

LSR Convention February 15-17, 2024

SAMRA Show February 24-25, 2024
(Garden Ridge, TX)

Austin Train Show August 24-25, 2024



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Area Model Railroad Clubs/News

Cowtown Model Railroad Club

Meets at the Handley Community Center, upstairs 3024 Forest Avenue, 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 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: bradyprrm1a@cablone.net or contact: Stan Schwartz, Email: 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 & N Scale modular layouts. Facebook Page and Website: <https://www.facebook.com/damrrc/>

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 & Visitors Information Center at Main St. and the FWWR railroad tracks. Website: <https://ntxnrhs.org>

Texas Western Model Railroad Club

Located at 6808 Forest Hill, 76140.

Visitor Hours: Tuesday & Saturdays 7 pm – 9 pm.

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/texaswesternmodelrailroadclub/> Website: <https://www.twmrc.org>

Trinity N-Trak

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

TNMRC

Meets at 11999 Plano Rd, Suite 154, Dallas, 75243 Check our website for times. Website: <https://www.texasnorthern.org>

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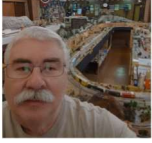
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- Angelo Hobbies** (817) 428-0190
5600 Rufe Snow Drive Dr. #106
North Richland Hills, TX 76180
<http://angelohobbiestrains.com>
- Discount Model Trains** (817) 428-0190
4641 Ratliff Lane
Addison, TX 75001
- Model Train Crossing** (817) 595-0800
1113 W. Pipeline Road
Hurst, TX 76053
<https://www.facebook.com/modeltraincrossin> (no "g" on the end)
- Hobbytown USA** (817) 581-1027
746 Grapevine Hwy
Hurst, TX 76054
<https://www.hobbytown.com/hurst-tx/1123>
- Hobbytown USA** (972) 315-3700
500 E. Round Grove Rd
Lewisville, TX 75067
<https://www.hobbytown.com/lewisville-tx/121>
- Wild Bill's Hobbytown USA** (817) 538-5088
1112 W. Arbrogk Blvd
Arlington, TX 76015
<https://www.htudallastx.com/hobbytown-usa-arlington-store-location/>
*** note updated location info***

Check with your local hobby shops for their store hours.

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From the Editor

Thanksgiving week I was coerced by a friend to go over to Cleburne with promises that I would like what I saw. We pulled up to a yellow building at the corner of N. Anglin and Brown Streets. I seemed to remember the building as a funeral home at one point, I may be wrong.

The sign on the side of the building read Dillon Depot and a railroad crossbuck was out in front. Now this got my interest up. We walked in the building and the lady who greeted us pointed the trains were to the left and the antiques were to the right. Still thinking this was a hobby shop we walked into a huge room with a large layout taking up the center of the room and pictures, memorabilia adorning the walls. In the back was an O gauge layout under construction and a smaller layout with those ceramic buildings we see most often at Christmas.

The layout was at one time owned by Dr. Randy Bulter, a professor at Southwestern Adventist University teaching criminal justice. The Dillon Depot acquired most of the layout and installed it in the main room.



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Everywhere you look there are interesting things to look at. Several other rooms hold antiques, another HO layout under construction, military memorabilia, and my two favorite things, an old-fashioned soda shop and a working player piano! The soda shop sells homemade ice cream made right there, try the strawberry and peach. They sell a reportedly famous chili cheese dog with fixings made from a local family recipe that looks scrumptious. The ice cream choices include some for lactose intolerant people and even people on a vegan diet.



For those who can't keep their hands off things there is a steam whistle, bells and horns they can operate. One of the memorabilia items caught my eye as I had never seen a real railroad post office mailbag. There it was hanging on the wall, amidst other items.

The Dillon Depot is a great place to take the family with something for just about everyone. Or go yourself so you can browse on your own timetable. This is a relatively new gem not too far away. Admission is free and they are open from noon to 8:00 pm every day. The address is 302 North Anglin in downtown Cleburne. This is a different attraction from the Cleburne railroad museum.

Effective March 31, 2020, in accordance with the policy adopted by the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) 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, the parent or legal guardian must sign a current document stating that they will remain in visual contact with their minor at all times.