



# Whistle

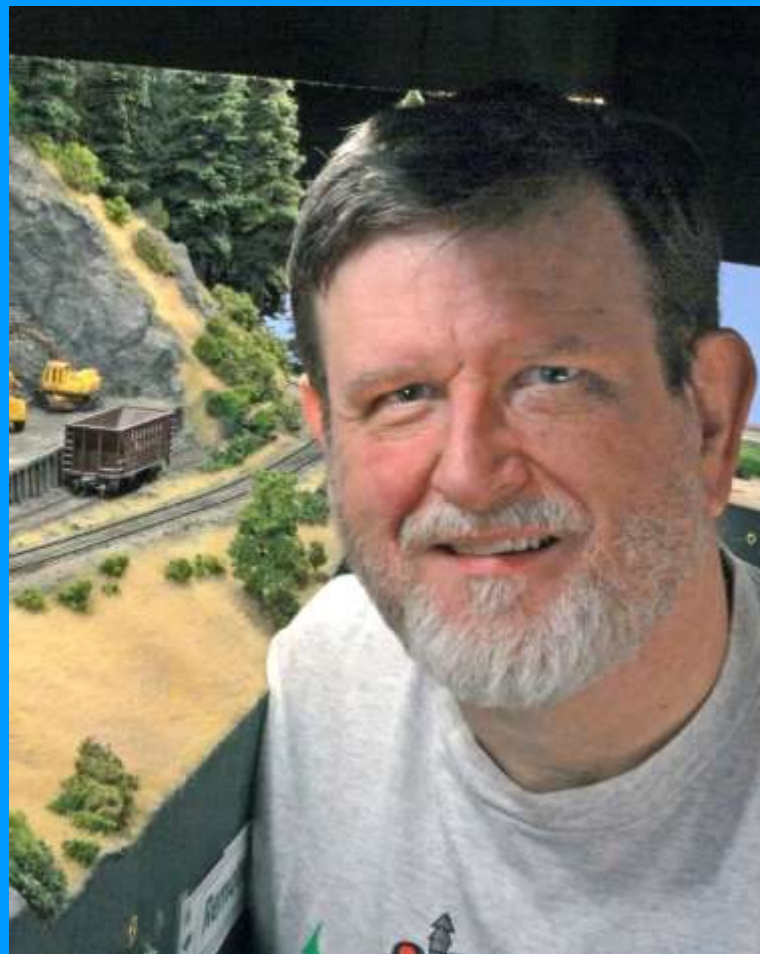


**COWCATCHER DIVISION**  
division one of the Lone star nmra region

**April 2023**

## Joe Fugate

Make It Run Like a Dream



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April's meeting will be 10am on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> at the Texas Western Model RR Club and via Zoom.

The address for TWMRC is:  
6808 Forest Hill Drive  
Forest Hill, Texas 76140

See Dick Brannan's email for the Zoom link!

# Cowcatcher Division

Division One of the Lone Star NMRA Region



NMRA Lone Star Region  
Cowcatcher Division 1

## Whistle

Vol. 7 No. 4  
April 2023

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## Director's Report

Spring is upon us in North Texas and I want to wish everyone and their family a Happy Easter.

Last month we had a great clinic presented by "Speed Muller" on Arduinos. Thank you "Speed"!

As a note, if you want to continue your education on Arduinos, Speed is presenting several clinics on the subject at 2023 Texas Express, the NMRA National Convention and Train Show at the Gaylord Texan.

Speaking of the convention please check out the website, [www.2023texasexpress.com](http://www.2023texasexpress.com). There have been several updates and more will be happening in the next few days. The clinic schedule is on there now and pricing for all tours will be added shortly. If you haven't registered, remember an early registration gives you priority in selecting clinics.

Last month, several Cowcatcher Division members were manning a NMRA booth at the 9th annual Train-A-Palooza model train show put on by the Lone Star Hi-Railers in the Grapevine Convention Center. Thank you Ken Kaiser and Joe Leising for your efforts.

This month's clinic "Make it Run like a Dream" is being conducted by Joe Fugate, a nationally known modeler and founder, publisher, and editor of Model Railroad Hobbyist (MRH). Joe has been in model railroading since the late 1960s and is known for his HO Siskiyou Line which pioneered the mushroom benchwork configuration. Don't miss this clinic for getting and keeping your equipment and layout running as flawlessly as possible.

We will see you on Saturday April 8 at 10:00 am

Regards,

*Dick Brannan*

Dick Brannan

Director, Cowcatcher Division




Image available on the internet

# Cowcatcher Division


Division One of the Lone Star NMRA Region



SUPERCHARGED - HIGH SPEED

 **TEXAS EXPRESS**

**AUGUST 20-26**  
**Dallas/Fort Worth**  
**GAYLORD RESORT, GRAPEVINE**



**NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW**  
**AUGUST 25-27 only**

**BNSF HEADQUARTERS TOUR**

**GRAPEVINE RAILROAD EXCURSION**

**MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN RAILROAD**

**NMRA National Convention**  
**2023 TEXASEXPRESS.COM**

# Cowcatcher Division

Division One of the Lone Star NMRA Region



April's Clinic

## Make It Run Like a Dream

with Joe Fugate

Joe Fugate is the founder, publisher, and editor of Model Railroad Hobbyist (MRH) magazine, first published in January 2009. Joe's been a model railroader since the late 1960s and is a published model railroad author. Joe has a rich background in web software development, publishing, and video production – Model Railroad Hobbyist is just the latest of his hobby media projects.

Joe's HO Siskiyou Line layout, a pioneering mushroom benchwork configuration, was first discussed in depth by Joe in the January and February 1997 issues of Model Railroader magazine. Joe's also helped popularize the use of auto taillight bulbs for short management on DCC layouts.

Model Railroad Hobbyist is a free, online, digital magazine published monthly. The magazine's website includes the MRH Forum that offers a place for model railroaders to meet and talk about their hobby activities. MRH reports that it has about 30,000 subscribers." Advertise with MRH!"

Want your trains to run as good as (or better than) they look? Joe Fugate shares several decades of learnings and expert advice for getting and keeping your equipment and layout running as flawlessly as possible.



Cole Rash  
Program Manager

### *Treasurer's Report*

The D1 ending balance for 3/31 is \$3754.52.

*David Grein*

David Grein.

# Cowcatcher Division

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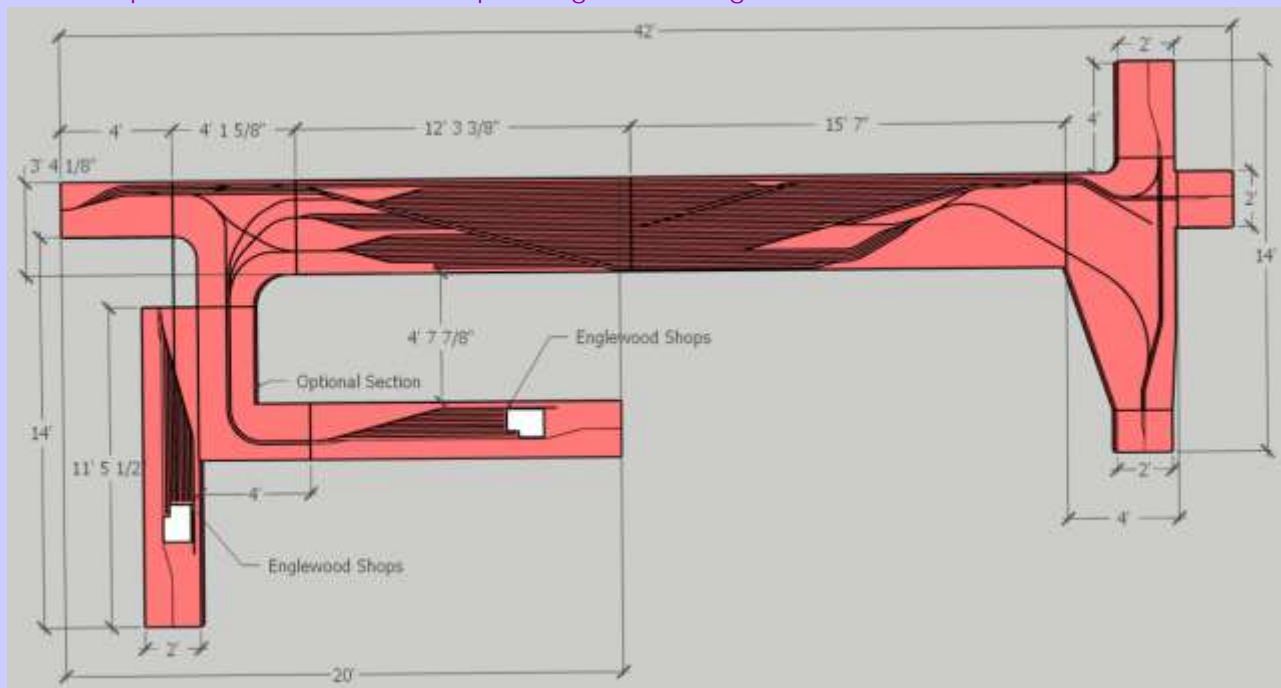


## How I Got Coaxed Into Building a Free-moN Module for the Operations Roadshow at National Convention

by David Hager

I had heard of the Free-moN meet in Evanston, Wyoming from several people. It sounded amazing to me. It took about 8 hours to make the complete loop. I had also listened to Gordy Robinson talk about the virtues of Free-moN. Looking at the layout from Evanston 2021, my thought was that there was a definite lack of yards for doing operations. I started asking questions about what would be needed in a yard for an event like Evanston: how many mainlines should feed it to keep it busy? how many yard tracks? how big? Do I want to build Free-moN modules?

After some thought, I started with Englewood yard in Houston pre-hump era. Here is the initial plan with an alternate placing of the engine facilities:



It was pointed out to me that it's really big! And after some time and calculations I realized, "it's rather expensive too." So where to go from here?

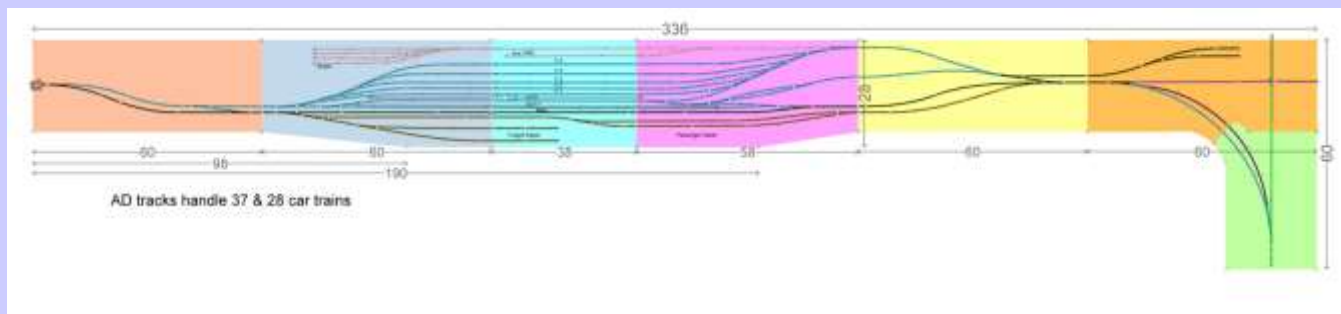
# Cowcatcher Division

Division One of the Lone Star NMRA Region



*How I Got Coaxed Into Building a Free-moN Module for the Operations Roadshow at National Convention Continued*

Well, here is the modification that was arrived to by me with Speed's consultation:



It has a through mainline, two A/D tracks, five yard tracks, an engine facility/yard, a freight depot, a passenger depot and an interchange. I was happy with it. It was seven sections and the yard lead was almost a second mainline. I even added one spur for some sort of industry. It resembled a scaled down Englewood. Word of caution here, be careful what you share with Speed or Gordy. It turns out there are MANY chat groups out there. Quite a few are by invite only. Suddenly, I have invites to a couple of them – all related to Free-moN modules and building a Free-moN yard. One was for the operations roadshow layout at the NMRA 2023 National Convention. Speed had posted it to those guys and asked if I could be invited into the discussion group. The next thing I know I am committed to helping get a yard built for the convention. A short time later, Speed and I are to build the yard with some of the guys helping by supply some things like turnouts and legs and whatnot. The interchange has been removed for the convention module as well as the freight depot, passenger depot and engine facility (although a future expansion turnout is included for the engine shop & yard).

Meanwhile, Speed worked a onetime wholesale deal with Jeff Rykiel to build benchwork modules and asked if I wanted any. What do you do? Well, what I said was, “yes, 2 please”. It was a good deal. Maybe a week later, the gentleman drawing up the layout for the convention, Lee Calkins, asked if anyone was bringing a union station passenger depot. I have drawn up the Santa Fe depot for Texas western in HO for 3D printing and am just waiting on a motherboard for my printer (which arrived while I was in Galveston last week and I just now found). That would be easy enough in N scale. I also have Galveston Union Station almost done drawing up. I had not decided on a plan for my 2 modules, so I picked one of the two - Galveston. It would be prototypical and a sample of what my home layout will be. I figured I could use the experience. So, I volunteered to build and bring it. Only one of my modules was completed by Jeff and I asked if he could modify the others and I would pay the additional costs.

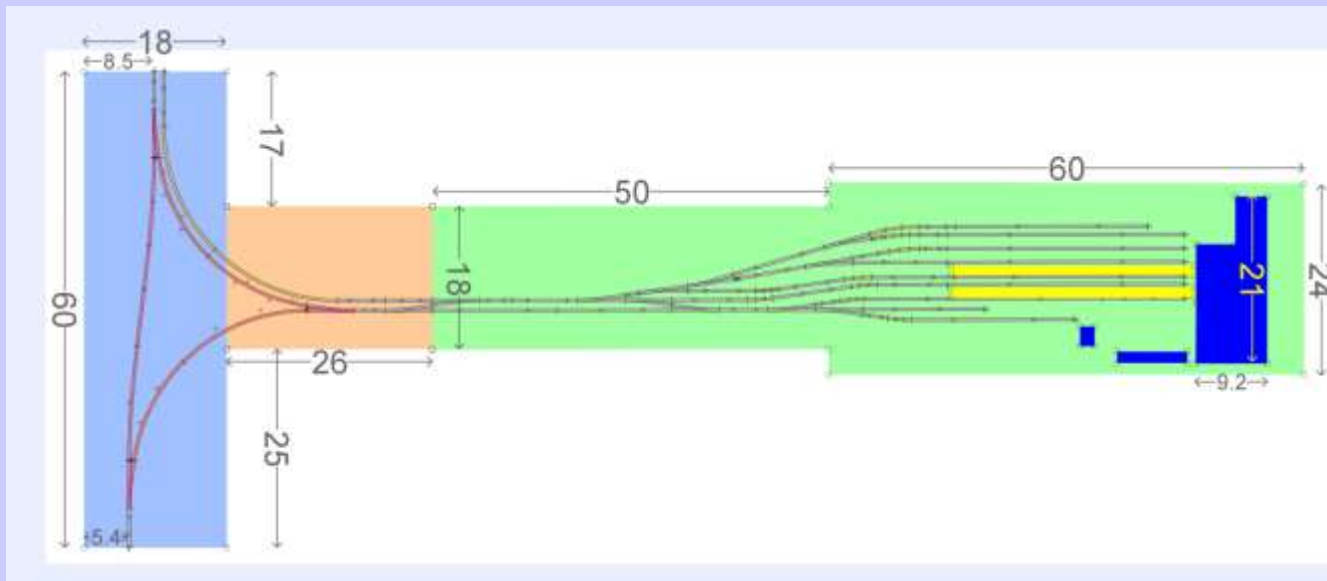
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Division One of the Lone Star NMRA Region



*How I Got Coaxed Into Building a Free-moN Module for the Operations Roadshow at National Convention Continued*

Two 50" x 18" inch modules became this instead:



Four sections that all fit in the back of my pickup. Thanks to Jeff, I now have this:



Check out his video on benchwork from NMRAX:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVSB8T3nQA>

# Cowcatcher Division

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*How I Got Coaxed Into Building a Free-moN Module for the Operations Roadshow at National Convention Continued*

I have the foam mostly cut now. Some needs a bit of trimming. I am now starting on prep work for the primer coat before painting them.



One goal of my Galveston trip was to get a better picture of this for the Union Station model.



Stay tuned as I continue to build this module and come see it at the National convention in August!

Side note: the Santa Fe Historical and Modeling Society National convention is in Houston this year during June 7-11. See <https://sfrhms.org> for more details.

PS: Mike Mackey - I need to calculate the square feet, but this may be a candidate for a Golden Spike. The wye is not prototypical track plan, but I needed to do it for the convention plan.



# Cowcatcher Division

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## April 2023

6<sup>th</sup> – 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](http://www.twmrc.org)

8<sup>th</sup> – NMRA Lone Star Region Cowcatcher Division 1 Meeting, 10 am - 1pm  
[www.cowcatcherdivision.org](http://www.cowcatcherdivision.org)

15<sup>th</sup> – NMRA Lone Star Region Division 3 Meeting, Christ The Servant Lutheran Church in Allan, TX, 10am - 1pm, Saturday  
[www.trinityriverdivision.org](http://www.trinityriverdivision.org)

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

22<sup>nd</sup> – NMRAx

## May 2023

4<sup>th</sup> – 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](http://www.twmrc.org)

13<sup>th</sup> – NMRA Lone Star Region Cowcatcher Division 1 Meeting, 10 am - 1pm  
[www.cowcatcherdivision.org](http://www.cowcatcherdivision.org)

20<sup>th</sup> – NMRA Lone Star Region Division 3 Meeting, Christ The Servant Lutheran Church in Allan, TX, 10am - 1pm, Saturday  
[www.trinityriverdivision.org](http://www.trinityriverdivision.org)

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

**TEXAS EXPRESS** AUGUST 20-26  
Dallas/Fort Worth  
SUPERCHARGED - HIGH SPEED - STREAMLINED

**NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW** August 25-27  
**SPENCER CHRISTIAN** Banquet Speaker  
**GAYLORD RESORT** 4-star Hotel and Water Park  
**BNSF HO TOUR** Dispatching Center and Intermodal Yard

**CLINICS**  
SIG ACTIVITIES  
LAYOUT TOURS  
OPERATION SESSIONS  
CONTEST AND DISPLAY  
FREEMO-N OPERATIONS

**RAIL TOURS**  
Texo Grain Mill  
Private Railcars  
TexRail Back Shop  
Texas State Railroad  
Trinity Rail Car Plant  
BNSF Intermodal Yard  
Six Flags Railroad Shop  
Grapevine Vintage Railroad  
McKinney Ave Trolley Shops  
Trinity Tank Car Cleaning Plant  
BNSF National Operations Center  
Museum of the American Railroad  
BNSF Private Western Art Collection  
T&P, Santa Fe, & Dallas Union Stations  
Fort Worth & Western Railroad Back Shop  
Union Pacific Dallas International Terminal  
Light Rail & Commuter Shops (DART & TRE)

**GENERAL INTEREST**  
George W Bush Library  
Fort Worth Stockyards  
Grapevine Wine Tour  
Sixth Floor Museum  
Fort Worth Modern  
Holocaust Museum  
Kimbell Museum  
Globe Life Park  
AT&T Stadium  
Dealey Plaza

**NMRA National Convention**  
2023 TEXAS EXPRESS.COM

## Regional Train Shows

New Braunfels	April 15 & 16, 2023
<a href="http://newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org/nbrr/train-shows">http://newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org/nbrr/train-shows</a>	
Austin	May 6 & 7, 2023
<a href="https://austintrainshow.org">https://austintrainshow.org</a>	
Temple	September 16 & 17, 2023
<a href="http://centramodrr.com/train-show">http://centramodrr.com/train-show</a>	
Plano	Sep. 30 – Oct. 1, 2023
<a href="http://www.dfwtrainshows.com">http://www.dfwtrainshows.com</a>	
Oklahoma City	November 4 & 5, 2023
<a href="https://www.oklahomarailwaymuseum.org/events/okc-train-show/">https://www.oklahomarailwaymuseum.org/events/okc-train-show/</a>	
Greater Houston	November 18-19, 2023
<a href="http://www.sanjacmodeltrains.org/GHTS.php">http://www.sanjacmodeltrains.org/GHTS.php</a>	



## New Braunfels Train Show

April 15 & 16, 2023

New Braunfels Civic Center

375 South Castell Avenue  
New Braunfels, Texas 78130



## Austin 2023 Train Show

May 6 & 7, 2023

Palmer EventsCenter  
900 Barton Springs Road  
Austin, Texas

# Cowcatcher Division

Division One of the Lone Star NMRA Region



## 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](tel:817-666-5367)

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

Normally meets two Saturdays per month in Richardson. Contact: Brady McGuire, Tel: [903-868-2726](tel:903-868-2726), Email: [bradyprrm1a@cableone.net](mailto:bradyprrm1a@cableone.net) or contact: Stan Schwartz, Email: [ss124@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ss124@sbcglobal.net) for dates and times.  
1/48 12X41 It/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 FWR 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.trinitytrak.com>

### **TNMRC**

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

# Cowcatcher Division

Division One of the Lone Star NMRA Region



## Angelo Hobbies

5600 Rufe Snow Drive Dr. #106  
North Richland Hills, TX 76180  
<http://angelohobbystrains.com>

(817) 428-0190



## Discount Model Trains

4641 Ratliff Lane  
Addison, TX 75001

(817) 428-0190



## Hobby World

5658 Westcreek Dr. Ste. #500  
Fort Worth, TX 76133  
<https://www.facebook.com/hobbyworldfw>

(817) 263-5750



## Model Train Crossing

1113 W. Pipeline Road  
Hurst, TX 76053

(817) 595-0800

<https://www.facebook.com/modeltraincrossin> (no "g" on the end)



## Hobbytown USA

746 Grapevine Hwy  
Hurst, TX 76054

(817) 581-1027

<https://www.hobbytown.com/hurst-tx/1123>



## Hobbytown USA

500 E. Round Grove Rd  
Lewisville, TX 75067

(972) 315-3700

<https://www.hobbytown.com/lewisville-tx/121>



## Wild Bill's Hobbytown USA

535 E Shady Grove Rd  
Irving, TX 75060

(972) 438-9224

<https://www.hobbytown.com/irving-tx/1183>



**Check with your local hobby shops for their store hours.**

# Cowcatcher Division

Division One of the Lone Star NMRA Region



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.