



The Whistle



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION



COWCATCHER DIVISION LONE STAR REGION NMRA

VOL 8 NO 12 DECEMBER 2024

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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14 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, TX 76140



As we enter the holiday season, I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and of course a Happy New Year. This is a wonderful and busy time of the year so whatever you are doing be sure to find the opportunity to spend quality time with friends and family.

As 2024 ends, it is always good to recap the year. We started the year with a successful Plano Train Show where Cowcatcher and Triniy River Divisions built the first "Pay it Forward module" that was *cont. on page 3*

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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

STEVE GRATKE

FOR CONTACT INFO SEE
COWCATCHER DIVISION WEB SITE

<https://cowcatcherdivision.org/>



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DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONT.

raffled off and won by a young man from Justin, TX who promptly joined the NMRA. Several other new members signed up at the train show and at "Train-A-Plooza" in Grapevine early in March.

Our clinics took us from Livestock Operations on the ATSF by Steve Standifer, to the origins of Railroad Time and the watches that made everything work by Pat McCarthy. We traveled to the UK to see how Steve McEwan modeled the New York and Atlantic and listened to and saw the differences in diesel horns presented by Ken Fitzgerald. Russ Gifford introduced us to "Magnorail", while Eric Smith educated us on 3D Printing. We finished the year with a great "Make and Take" conducted by Duane Richardson

Towards the end of the year Cowcatcher Division, built another "Pay it Forward" module for the fall Train Show that generated tremendous interest and was successfully raffled off. The Division also participated in 4014's visit to Fort Worth. We wrap up this successful year with a Christmas "Potluck" on

Saturday December 14th at 5 pm., at the Forest Hills Convention Center, 6901 Wichita St., Forest Hills, TX 764140 Rail and non-rail attendees wishing to participate in the "White Elephant" gift exchange should bring a wrapped gift (marked "rail or non-rail") to the Christmas Party. The gift should be in the \$30.00 range.



DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 2024

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

7TH-8TH 14TH-15TH, 21ST-22ND SANTA'S
RAILROAD WONDERLAND SAN
ANTONIO

14th COWCATCHER DIVISION
CHRISTMAS PARTY 6:00 PM

JANUARY 2025

18TH-19TH PLANO TRAIN SHOW

FEBRUARY 2025

15TH HOUSTON TRAIN SHOW

MARCH 2025

8-9TH 11TH ANNUAL MODEL TRAIN
SHOW GRAPEVINE TX

APRIL 2025

12-13 SPRING NEW BRAUNFELS
TRAIN SHOW

JUNE 2025

26TH-29TH LSR CONVENTION BATON
ROUGE

JULY 2025

14TH-19TH NMRA NATIONAL
CONVENTION NOVI, MICHIGAN

AUGUST 2025

23-24TH AUSTIN MODEL RR SOCIETY
TRAIN SHOW

SEPTEMBER 2025

27-28TH PLANO TRAIN SHOW

LABOR DAY WEEKEND THE 90TH
ANNIVERSARY OF NMRA



REGIONAL TRAIN SHOWS

PLANO TRIAN SHOW JAN 18TH-19TH 2025

GREATER HOUSTON FEB 15,2025

TREASURER'S REPORT

1 NOVEMBER BALANCE	\$2368.79
RECEIPTS	\$123.00
EXPENDITURES	\$538.98
30 NOV BALANCE	\$1952.81
30 NOV CD	\$22,609.97



CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT IS AN AIR MONKEY?

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 CHECK BACK

NO WEBSITE AT THIS TIME

DENTON AREA MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

MEETS 2ND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7PM IN THE DENTON SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER DOWNTOWN

HO & N SCALE MODULAR LAYOUTS

<https://www.facebook.com/damrrc/>

damrrc@gmail.com

NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER OF NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETS 7:30-10:00 PM FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH, OFTEN (BUT NOT ALWAYS) AT GRAPEVINE TOURIST & VISITORS INFORMATION CENTER AT MAIN ST AND FWWR RAILROAD TRACKS

<https://ntxnrhs.org>

TEXAS WESTERN MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

LOCATED AT 6808 FOREST HILL, 76140

VISITOR HOURS: SEE CLUB WEBSITE

<https://www.facebook.com/texaswesternmodelrailroadclub>

<https://www.twmrrc.org>

TRINITY N-TRK

MEETS AT ALTA MESA CHURCH OF CHRIST 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

1113 W. PIPELINE RD
HURST 76053

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

DOWN HOME TEXAS STYLE
RAILROADING

Very interesting video on Angelina and Neches River Railroad in East Texas

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ANNUAL DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY & WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT

14 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, TX
76140



From LSR officers

Reminder of Fake Emails

Phishing is the use of email messages that impersonate a person or company with the intent of getting money, access to your private data, or to install malware on your computer. Please be aware that because the names of the LSR's officers, chairs, and directors are public information, it's fairly common for malicious actors to send emails that look like they are coming from one of those people asking you for your help - to purchase some gift cards or review some document, for example.

If you receive an email (or text) that comes from one of the LSR leaders that you're not expecting or seems suspicious, do NOT respond to it, click on a link in it, or open any attachments in it. Instead, you can reach out to that person separately (a new email, a new text to a known phone number, or a phone call) and confirm they sent the message.

It is quite easy to make an email *look* like it comes from any email address (it doesn't mean the person has been hacked). Here's a short guide to protecting yourself from phishing: <https://www.mass.gov/news/tips-to-protect-yourself-from-phishing-scams>.

**ANSWER TO THIS MONTH'S
TRIVIA QUESTION:**

AIR BRAKE REPAIRMAN



CHRISTMAS TREE SALESMEN

NOVEMBER CLINIC RECAP

MOVING BIG BOY

STEVE CRISE

Union Pacific 4014 was at the Pomona Fairgrounds Rail Giants Museum and Steve was able to document the reawakening of this sleeping giant.

You have seen Steve Crise's photography in various magazines, Trains, Railfan & Railroad, CTC Board, and the superb multipart series on Rod Stewart's phenomenal Pennsylvania layout. He has done work for Union Pacific and BNSF. He was based for a number of years in Los Angeles and got to meet all the old-school railroad photographers on the west coast.

Trains come naturally to Steve. He remembers getting trains every Christmas, wooden toys, Marx, American Flyer, Tyco, and eventually built a small HO layout. He wanted his trains to look like the real thing and turned to photography. Over the years, he has captured some of the most iconic images in railroading. He also does a photography workshop on the Nevada Northern every winter.

Steve Crise is going to do his clinic on 4014 in January. As you recall, we didn't get it done because of technical difficulties in November.



Registration Is Open at
www.BluesExpress2025.com



**Register and Save the Dates, June 26 – 29, 2025,
for the Annual Lone Star Regional Convention**

The 2025 Lone Star Region Convention will be held in Southern Louisiana for the first time in thirty years and you won't want to miss it! There will be layouts and other railroading opportunities you've probably never seen, in a region rich with interesting and exciting sights. (And food!)

**June 26 - 29, 2025
Holiday Inn Baton Rouge South
9900 Airline Highway
Baton Rouge, LA 70816**

Visit www.BluesExpress2025.com to register, make hotel reservations, and see updates on convention activities. Stay tuned to *The Marker Lamp* and the www.BluesExpress.com website as more details become available.

**Register today for the Early Bird Discount,
mark your calendars and plan to attend!**

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT
TOURS, CLINICS, LAYOUTS,
SPECIAL CONTEST SEE THE
NEW ISSUE OF THE
MARKER LAMP FOR
SEPTEMBER 2024



LOOKING FORWARD TO
NEXT YEAR:

July 14 – 19, 2025
www.nmra2025.org

Like no other
NMRA National
Convention
you have ever
attended!



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OPERATIONS ON THE LEE SUB
PART 2 “A HISTORY OF THE
TEXAS AND SOUTHERN
RAILROAD”

By BOB MANGRUM MMR 456

*(Editor’s note: The T&S is a proto
freelance model railroad.)*

Initially composed of several small,
short lines, the railroad that became the
Class I Texas and Southern Railroad
Company dates to 1876 when the Corpus
Christi and Pacific was chartered. Initial
track was built from Corpus to San Antonio.

Building northward from San
Antonio towards Austin, it was absorbed by
the Texas and Colorado Railroad in 1880.
The Texas and Colorado, originating in
Austin, was surveyed from the state capital
to Glen, at the north end of the Hill Country.
Purchasing the CC&P, the Texas and
Colorado provided the interior of the state
with a major sea port from which to ship the
growing bounty of western Texas. By 1891,

the Texas and Colorado had reached Lee,
which had been established as a railhead in
1881 by the Texas and Pacific Railway
building westward from Ft Worth towards El
Paso and the Pacific Ocean. Developing a
thriving interchange at Lee with the T&P,
the Texas and Colorado continued north,
ultimately reaching Wichita Falls in 1907.

At this juncture, the Texas and
Colorado encountered the Great Southern
Railroad building from Kansas City through
Oklahoma City towards Wichita Falls. The
Great Southern, originating in Kansas City,
had initially begun the drive across the
Indian Territory to capture the profitable
longhorn cattle trade; with statehood and the
subsequent oil boom in Tulsa, the company
pushed southwestward across Oklahoma to
the state capital and Wichita Falls reaching
the Red River in 1908.

Connecting with the Texas and
Colorado at Wichita Falls, the Great

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OPS part 2 cont.

Southern had an excellent ocean outlet at Corpus Christi. In 1927, the two entities merged into a larger, stronger railroad. The result was 1,202 miles of main line stretching from Corpus Christi-San Antonio-Austin-Lee- Wichita Falls, Oklahoma City-Tulsa to Kansas City, Missouri. Reflecting their early heritage, when the roads merged a new corporate name was selected which retained both roads historical identities: the Texas and Southern Railroad.

Despite the economic hardships that followed the merger in the wake of the Great Depression, the T&S weathered the storm and, with WWII, again became quite prosperous. Following the war and the return of peace, the road was able to repair and replace much equipment and rolling stock.

One of the earliest Class Is to replace steam with diesel electric, the T&S was in the forefront of transportation innovations. Today the motive power is primarily first generation EMD diesels, although a few ALCO units and a few steam locos still are working hard on the road. Newer second-generation EMD units are also beginning to make an appearance.

The T&S owns several subsidiaries including short lines: the Abilene & Southern (purchased 1926), the Abilene and Northern (purchased 1952) and the Missouri Pacific (purchased 1925).

The Texas and Pacific Railway, a wholly owned subsidiary, runs east to west from New Orleans through Dallas and Ft Worth to El Paso; it was acquired by the T&S through stock purchases and by June 1928 T&P had become a majority-owned subsidiary. By December 1963 the percent of stock owned by the T&S totaled 82.86%.

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OPS part 2 cont.

To affect economies in operations, the two roads have recently begun to consolidate costly duplicate facilities and begun the integration of passenger services. Although renumbering is not an option, some repainting of passenger cars in the T&S scheme has been accomplished. System use of motive power has also begun. Likewise, the traditional paint scheme of T&P motive power has begun to reflect such integration as the T&S solid dark blue with white stripe color scheme is being applied to both new T&P motive power as well as repaint jobs as T&P units are repaired.

Next month we will examine the mission statement of the Texas and Southern Railroad and how that impacts actual operations on the layout. Until then I hope you have only Green Boards and no hot boxes on your run. Bob



Texas & Southern



T&P GP7 1118 traveling east towards Ft Worth.



MERRY CHRISTMAS from the Texas and South

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
2025 National Convention

STATION No. VI

Hosted by:
the NORTH CENTRAL REGION

July 14-19, 2025

Open to ALL model railroaders! You do not have to be an NMRA member to attend! **REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!**

Our location – Sheraton Detroit-Novi, MI
A suburban location with FREE parking!

CONVENTION GOALS and HIGHLIGHTS -

Our main objectives are to provide events of value, items attendees will see as worth their money, all at the lowest possible cost. ** We will honor the traditions of past conventions but at lower cost and with greater flexibility. ** This convention will be shorter, starting at 1 PM on Monday and continuing through Saturday afternoon with a banquet Saturday evening. ** Note that registration includes all layout visits and operating sessions, and all activities at the hotel except Modeling with the Masters, and admittance to the National Train Show. ** We will support all the traditional activities of the SIG's. ** The National Contest will be fully supported. The contest will be in a prominent room and will be run by the National Contest team. There will be space for model displays, modular layouts and other functions. Those putting their models on display will have the option of entering the People's Choice Contest. ** We will have several prototype tours which may include a Ford plant tour and a cruise on the Detroit River with an emphasis on the industrial aspects of the waterfront. ** We expect to have at least 90 clinics. The clinics will be varied, and each will be given twice. ** We expect to have at least 60 layouts open for visit. Most layouts will be at least 900 sq. ft. in size running to over 3,000 sq. ft. in one or more cases. All layout visits and op sessions will be self-guided so you may take your time.

<https://nmra2025.com/>

