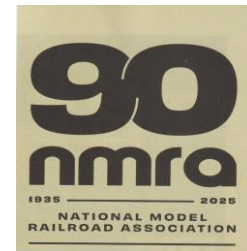




# The Whistle



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION



COWCATCHER DIVISION LONE STAR REGION NMRA

VOL 9 NO 2 FEBRUARY 2025

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FEBRUARY'S MEETING WILL BE AT 10am ON SATURDAY THE 8TH AT THE TEXAS WESTERN MODEL RR CLUB AND VIA ZOOM. SEE EMAIL FOR ZOOM LINK

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January was a busy month for Cowcatcher Division members We had a very informative meeting in January with Steve Crise presenting a great clinic, entitled "Moving Big Boy", followed by the Plano Train Show the following weekend. There was a very heavy turnout for the show which supported the fact that the show hit an all-time record of vendors registered and tables purchased.

This month's meeting will feature a clinic by Mike Mackay on Operations and will be one you can't miss. The title is "Operate like the Pros. Switching cars the prototypical way.

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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/>





DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONT.

Coming up in March, the Division will be participating in "Train A Palooza" at the Grapevine Convention Center on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2025. Attendance at this event is very strong and affords the Division a chance to introduce the membership benefits of the NMRA to a large number participants from Tarrant County and other western counties of the Metroplex. Mike Ross and I will be seeking members to help man the booth.

The LSR had a Board of Directors meeting at Baton Rouge last weekend of January. I attended as the D1 Director and Deborah Gifford, as At- Large Director, was there. The purpose was to conduct a two-fold conduct routine LSR business and get a look at the Blues Express 2025 convention hotel. The hotel is a recently remodeled Holiday Inn and will work very well for the convention. Registration is now open for the convention. Go to [cowcatcherdivision.org](http://cowcatcherdivision.org), click on coming events tab scroll down to 73<sup>rd</sup> Lone Star Convention and click on link .

I am happy to announce Wyatt Cook, the son of Dan Cook, was awarded a Youth Award by the Lone Star Region at the Board of Directors Meeting. This is the first youth award for Cowcatcher Division in several years.

Hope to see you at the meeting on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> and remember to bring a friend.

Dick Brannan  
Director-Cowcatcher Division  
LSR NMRA



Ash pit



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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

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

### **FEBRUARY 2025**

15<sup>TH</sup> HOUSTON TRAIN SHOW

### **JUNE 2025**

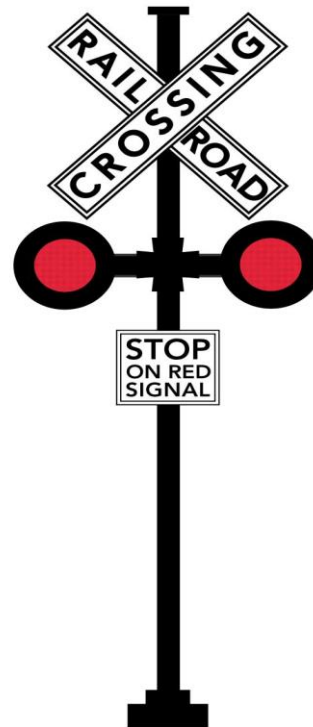
26<sup>TH</sup>-29<sup>TH</sup> LSR CONVENTION BATON  
ROUGE

### **JULY 2025**

14<sup>TH</sup>-19<sup>TH</sup> NMRA NATIONAL  
CONVENTION NOVI, MICHIGAN

### **SEPTEMBER 2025**

LABOR DAY WEEKEND THE 90<sup>TH</sup>  
ANIVERSARY OF NMRA



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## **REGIONAL TRAIN SHOWS**

GREATER HOUSTON FEB 15, 2025



## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

1 JANUARY BALANCE	\$1141.40
RECEIPTS	\$139.00
EXPENDITURES	\$236.83
31 JAN BALANCE	\$1043.57
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	\$22777.47

## **TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

WHAT IS A CINDER SKIPPER?

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

[bradyprrm1a@cableone.net](mailto:bradyprrm1a@cableone.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 7PM 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**

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 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

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**

THE BLACKLANDS RAILROAD:  
HENDERSON AND OVERTON BRANCH



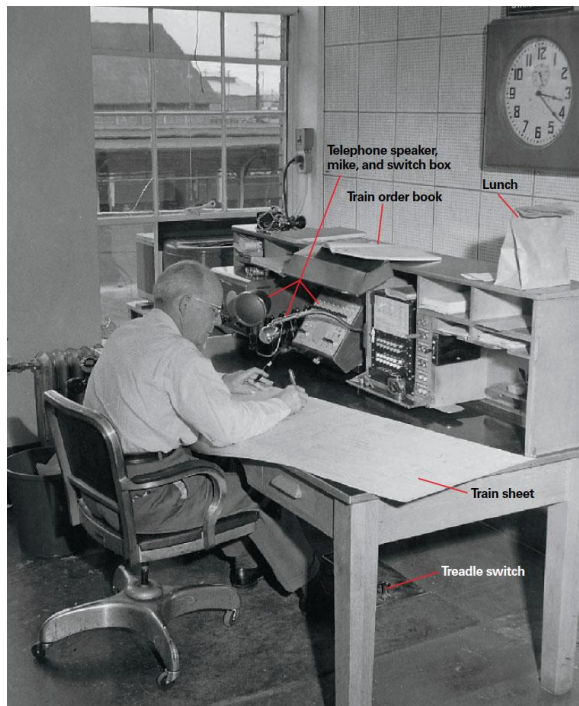
## FEBRUARY CLINIC

“OPERATE LIKE THE PROS”

MIKE MACKEY MMR

Mike Mackey, MMR, will be giving this month’s clinic. As opposed to the random movement of freight cars on some our layouts he will show us how to “Operate like the Pros”, switching cars the prototypical way. I (Program Manager) for one am looking forward to that.

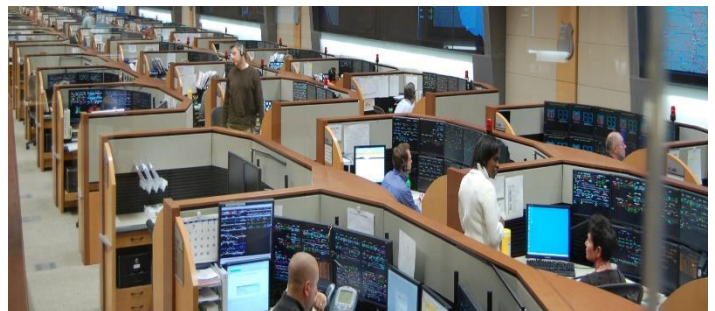
Harold Berenzweig also would like to thank Steve Crise for last month’s clinic on the movement of the Union Pacific Big Boy 4014 from Pomona where it was a static display back to the UP shops for operational restoration.



DISPATCHER WITH TRAIN SHEET



OLD TIME DISPATCHING



UP TRAIN DISPATCHERS

ANSWER TO THIS MONTH’S  
TRIVIA QUESTION:

YARD CLERK



**ANNUAL DIVISION AWARDS**

These awards were started in 2017 to recognize those members who have set themselves apart and have provided service leadership, dedication to the division. These awards specifically identify 3 categories:

- Service
- Overall Contribution
- Leadership
- and Craftsmanship

**Jim Norwood Award for Member of the Year**

For decades Jim supported Division 1 with his participation and kindness. This award honors the member who has shown exemplary leadership and service to the division

**DAVID KRANDA**



**John Garfield Award for Volunteer of the Year**

For years, John Garfield has been a stalwart when needed on a volunteer assignment. It is only fitting that an award bearing his name honors the volunteer of the year.

**TOM PEARSON**



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ANNUAL DIVISION AWARDS CONT.

**The Leo Palitti Craftsman Award of the Year**

In 2020 the division chose to memorialize another beloved member, Leo Palitti. He was a devoted member to the hobby, division, and his club, the Texas Western Model Railroad Club. Leo's craftsmanship was outstanding, and the list of awards garnered by his work would fill volumes. To honor the individual and continue his legacy of outstanding modeling we created this award that bears his name

DARREL COWLES



**Director's Award for Outstanding Leadership Team Member**

Created in 2021 to recognize a leader whose responsible performance went beyond expectation with results producing unique contributions for the betterment of the Cowcatcher Division and its membership.

JIM OGDEN



SHOW AND TELL



QUESTION WHO MADE THESE DIE  
CAST METAL FREIGHT CARS??

ANOTHER WAY TO ADD WEIGHT TO  
FREIGHT CARS WITH FUNNEL AND  
STRAW USING SMALL HOLE UNDER  
WALKS



SHOW AND TELL CONTINUED



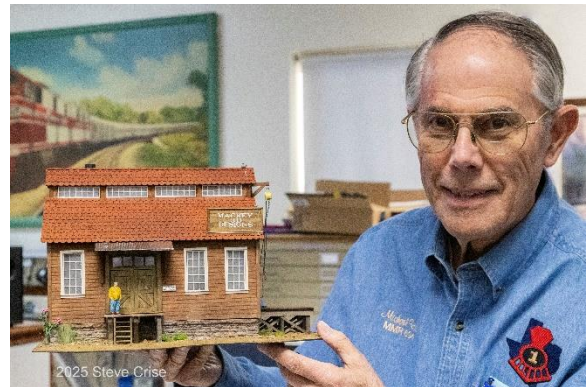
RUSSELL'S BRIDGE



OPERATING BRIDGE



MACKEY'S 3D DESIGNS



WEATHERING TECHNIQUE WITH PAN PASTELS



MIKE MACKEY FIGURE ON LOADING DOCK

CONVENTION INFORMATION

Registration Is Open at  
[www.BluesExpress2025.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.BluesExpress.com) website as more details become available.

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

A graphic for the NMRA National Convention. It features a blue and yellow train engine on the left. Above it is a sign that says "STATION No. VI". To the right of the train is a circular logo with "2025 NMRA" and "Novi, MI" below it. At the bottom of the circle is a banner that says "CELEBRATING 90 YEARS". To the right of the train is the text "SAVE THE DATE! NMRA National Convention". Below that are two logos: the NMRA logo and the "nmra.org" logo. At the bottom right is the text "JULY 14 – 19, 2025" and the website "www.nmra2025.com".

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

OPERATIONS ON THE LEE SUB  
PART 4 “CONCEPT OF  
OPERATIONS OF THE TEXAS  
AND SOUTHERN RAILROAD”

By BOB MANGRUM MMR 456

The area modeled by the Texas & Southern Lee Subdivision represents the geography and vegetation of Central and West Texas, specifically Taylor, Brown and Coleman counties in the month of May 1966. Although no real towns are modeled, an attempt has been made to capture the flavor of this area of Texas. Artistic license was indulged in setting both coal, sand and gravel occurrences at the same location (Silver Valley) as well as a backdrop rendition of the Texas and Pacific Building in Ft Worth standing in as the Union Station for both the T&P and T&S railroads at Lee. Lee, of course, is actually the location of Abilene where the T&P main line is encountered by the T&S. Glen occupies the

location of Brownwood on the north-south T&S main line.

Operations on the Lee Subdivision of the Texas and Southern Railroad follow prototype practices of the mid 1960s with one exception: instead of the commonly used Form 19s and Form 31s of a non-CTC route, the T&S uses a modified version of the track warrant control form. This is primarily so as to make it simpler and easier for the T&S operating crew.

**TRACK WARRANT**

No. .... MAY ....., 1966

To ..... at .....

1.  Track Warrant No. .... is void.

2.  Proceed from ..... to .....

3.  Proceed from ..... to .....

4.  Work between ..... and .....

5.  Not in effect until ..... am / pm

6.  This authority expires at ..... am / pm

7.  Not in effect until after arrival of ..... at .....  
..... at .....

8.  Do not foul limits ahead of .....

9.  Clear Main Track at last named point.

10.  Hold Main Track at last named point.

11.  Between ..... & ..... make all movements  
at restricted speed. Limits occupied by train or engine.

12.  Do not exceed ..... mph between ..... & .....

13.  Other specific instructions

14.  Joint with ..... between ..... & .....  
..... between ..... & .....

Ok ..... am / pm Dispatcher ..... Copied .....

Reported clear at ..... am / pm by .....



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The Lee Subdivision, consisting of Lee, Thomas, Silver Valley and Glen as well as two staging yards and two interchanges, is not equipped with CTC and is considered “dark territory.” All train movements, even scheduled timetable 1<sup>st</sup> class passenger service, are controlled by track warrants issued by the subdivision dispatcher (call sign Dispatcher 6). All 2<sup>nd</sup> class, 3<sup>rd</sup> class, and 4<sup>th</sup> class trains are treated as extras and operate as such with all movements controlled by track warrants. MOW trains are also considered extras. [The T&S subscribes to the Standard Code of Operating Rules.]

All trains, regardless of class, are required to report (OS) as they arrive and depart from the various stations comprising the Lee Subdivision. This is done by utilizing radios installed in the road’s cabooses; communication throughout the

division is maintained by relay antennas placed at strategic locations along the main line. The dispatcher records the train’s progress on a dispatcher’s record of movement form.

Lee represents a division point and consists of a freight yard, passenger car service facilities, locomotive service facilities, icing dock, an industrial area and interchange with T&P. As a division point, there are crew changes, locomotive and caboose changes on all through freights; passenger trains usually have pickups/set outs of dining cars, Pullmans and miscellaneous cars and locomotive/crew changes.

When a crew is called for a particular train, they receive the appropriate paperwork which includes a manifest indicating the cars comprising the train, any switching duties the crew will have to perform in route, a copy of the current timetable if a 1<sup>st</sup> class train, and valid

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Track Warrant. Once the conductor has verified his paperwork, he will contact the dispatcher to indicate his train is ready to roll. After receiving his track warrant orders, the train will proceed down the main line. At each station, the conductor will OS and receive new track warrants as necessary. The train will do its work of pickups and setouts as dictated by the manifest.

The T&S used car cards from February 1960 to August 2003 when management switched to the *RailOp* switch manifest program. [An attempt was made to adopt the *Ship It* program with its car cards but too many bugs and obstacles led to the abandonment of that program in the spring of 2003.] Management used JMRI Operations for several years but did not like the lack of manual input on switch manifests so in 2017 the T&S returned to *RailOp*. This app is so versatile that any type of train

(passenger, freight, or MOW) can, with a little preparatory work before an operating session, be run during an operating session.

In addition to train crews (which nominally consist of two individuals, an engineer and a conductor/brakeman), the T&S has a yardmaster at Lee, a loco hostler at Lee and a dispatcher at Lee. [The layout is constructed for operation with a minimum of one operator (the layout's owner) up to a maximum of six operators. When the club is present, we normally operate with 3-4.]

The yardmaster, using the Lee Switch List generated by *RailOP*, directs all yard activities and is responsible for making up and breaking up trains. Specific duties include Oversee the consolidated T&S/T&P freight yard, which includes the Passenger Coach Yard and Caboose Track; Block all outbound cars by destination; Ready pickups for through freights; Classify through freight setouts; Assemble local and way freights; Deliver cars within yard limits; Coordinate

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roundhouse hostlers to ready motive power for local freights, passenger, change of motive power at division point, and originating/ terminating trains; Work passenger coach yard; makeup and breakdown; and Coordinate T&P interchange trains.

The loco hostler (if there are enough operating crew to have a separate position) is responsible for all loco movements between the engine facility and the arrival/departure track at Lee. In addition, he performs the function of roundhouse foreman making sure the appropriate motive power is assigned, available and ready. *RailOp* allows the dispatcher to select the appropriate motive power based upon tonnage requirements for each train in the operating session. A worksheet is provided the loco hostler to indicate locos inbound as

well as outbound from the engine service facilities.

The dispatcher at Lee has several duties and responsibilities. As with the prototype, he is responsible for all train movements throughout the subdivision. He controls these movements by issuing track warrants and plotting the train's progress across the subdivision both in the dispatcher's record of movement of trains form and visually using the dispatcher's schematic found in the RailOp program. The dispatcher also records the track warrants issued in the Train Dispatcher's Order Book. Track Warrants, like Form 19s, are numbered consecutively starting at midnight (Rule 203) and transmitted, read back, and made "complete through a series of rules and forms with safety in mind. Said track warrants are transmitted by radio from the dispatcher directly to engineer and conductor.

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In addition, he also records the Clearance Form information issued during his work shift. Although not prototypical, the dispatcher also performs the duties of a station agent by recording information called in by trains arriving or departing Lee in the Train Register. He also fills out the Wheel Report for all arriving/departing trains at Lee. In addition, he generates all manifests for trains to be operated on the layout through the *RailOp* program.

Initially, the operating crew is not under any time constraints imposed by a clock; operators need to be used to running trains, obeying track warrants, and following sequence and rule book before a fast clock will be introduced into the mix. The T&S, when the fast clock is activated, uses a 4:1 fast clock.

Next month we will discuss how one creates a prototypical loco roster. Until then I hope you have only Green Boards and no hot boxes on your run.

Bob



Defect detector MP 721

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/>**

