



# The Whistle



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION



COWCATCHER DIVISION LONE STAR REGION NMRA

VOL 9 NO 3 MARCH 2025

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MARCH'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

Judging from the warm weather North Texas is experiencing it feels like we are leaving Winter behind and "highballing" into Spring. I hope everyone is making plans to spring into some new projects for their model railroad.

The Division had a great meeting last month with 49 people attending in person or via Zoom. Mike Mackay put on an interesting clinic on operating like the pros. He did such an excellent job last month he agreed to present Part 2 of his clinic, "Operate like the Pros. Switching cars the prototypical way" this month.

Speaking of clinics, the clinic for April is a "make and take" of a freight house. Be sure to sign up for your kit this month, the freight house is very versatile so it can be used in several ways on your layout.

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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.

Train-A-Plooza is at the Grapevine Convention Center on March 8th and 9th, Dave Steckler and Mike Walter will be manning the booth on Saturday, Mike Ross and I will be there on Sunday. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet modelers from Tarrant County.

Darrell Cowles, David Steckler, and Harold Berenzweig volunteered to explore ways to spend some of the proceeds from the National Convention to promote the hobby. The team's mission statement is "How to promote the model railroading hobby and grow membership in and promote the Cowcatcher Division and subsequently the NMRA", with the objective of developing 3 programs/projects (modest, medium, grand) centered around the mission statement.

The North Texas Council of Model Railroad Clubs fiscal year ended in February. For the show season, Cowcatcher Division received a check for \$1880. Thanks to everyone who participated in setting up/tearing down and staffing the booth, the "Pay it Forward Module", and attending the show.

Great job!

Our next meeting is March 8 th, please bring a friend.

Dick Brannan

Director – Cowcatcher Division

LSR-NMRA



## **DATES TO REMEMBER & REGIONAL TRAIN SHOWS**

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

### **MARCH**

8-9 GRAPEVINE TRAIN SHOW

### **APRIL**

7 SOUTHWEST RAIL CONFERENCE IN  
DALLAS

12-13 NEW BRAUNFELS TRAIN SHOW

12-13 OK CITY TRAIN SHOW

25-26 GREATER TULSA AREA TRAIN  
SHOW

### **MAY**

17 JEFFERSON TX MODEL RR CLUB  
SWAP MEET

### **JUNE**

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

### **JULY**

11-12 TRAIN SHOW STILLWATER OK

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

### **AUGUST**

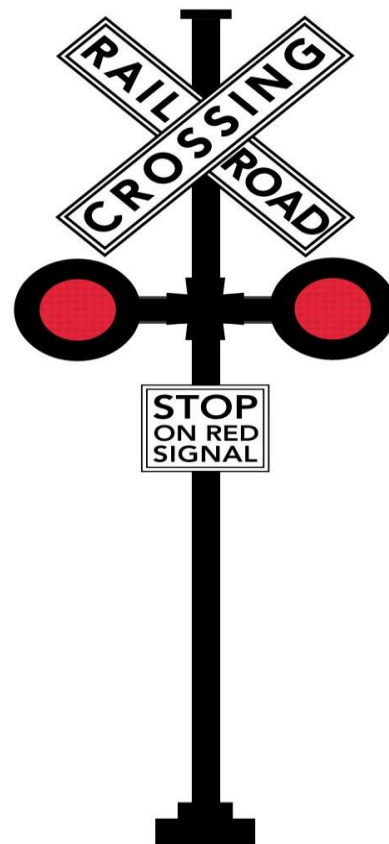
23-24 AUSTIN TX TRAIN SHOW

### **SEPTEMBER**

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

20-21 TEMPLE TRAIN SHOW

27-28 PLANO TRAIN SHOW



## TREASURER'S REPORT

1 FEBRUARY BALANCE	\$1023.57
RECEIPTS	\$6740.94
EXPENDITURES	\$183.31
28 FEB BALANCE	\$7581.20
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT	\$22859.09

## TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT IS A DOLLYFLOPPER?

LOOK FOR ANSWER IN THIS MONTH'S  
NEWSLETTER



## RAILFAN VIDEO OF THE MONTH ON YOUTUBE

KCS F UNITS ALONG THE BEAUMONT  
SUBDIVISION



## **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@cablone.net](mailto:bradyprrm1a@cablone.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.*

## **MARCH CLINIC**

David Hall can't give the March Clinic due to unforeseen circumstances and Mike Mackey has graciously stepped in with a second part on Prototypical switching.

### **“OPERATE LIKE THE PROS PART 2”**

**MIKE MACKEY MMR**

Bought back by popular demand Mike Mackey, MMR, will be giving this month's clinic. As opposed to the random movement of freight cars on some of our layouts he will show us how operate like the pros in switching cars the prototypical way on your layout.



**T&P 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET YARD ABILENE TX  
MARCH 1998**





**NMRA ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM  
HONOREES**



Eric Smith received his volunteer certificate.



David Grein received certificate for scenery

**SHOW AND TELL**



PINE TREE MAKER



Finished product!

SHOW AND TELL CONT.



RAILROAD LANTERNS



MODERN HANDHELD LAMP



LIGHTED 100 YEAR OLD LANTERNS



PRICE OF MODEL RAILROADER  
MAGAZINE THEN & NOW!



HEAVY 15-20 POUNDS

ANSWER TO THIS MONTH'S  
TRIVIA QUESTION:

A BRAKEMAN OR SWITCH TENDER,  
SOMEONE WHO THROWS SWITCHES

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!**



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



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### OPERATIONS ON THE LEE SUB PART 5 “LOCO ROSTER OF THE TEXAS AND SOUTHERN RAILROAD”

By BOB MANGRUM MMR 456

In developing your loco roster, the first thing to consider is the time era you are modeling. On the Texas & Southern the year modeled is May 1966. Although this is late for the “transition era” to end, in proto freelancing, one can “bend” the facts as one desires. As a result, T & S has some steam locos still in service in addition to switch engines. With May of 1966 as the “current” time, only locos built in May of 1966 or before that month would be considered for acquisition for the railroad. (Of course, there are always exceptions!! It is your railroad. 😊)

Once you establish the time constraints the next item to consider would be the locale you are modeling. If it is coal mine country or narrow gauge in the Rockies, this will

impact on the type (steam or diesel or both) as well as type (light duty or heavy duty.) In the case of diesel electric motive power, the manufacturer could be affected by the time frame modeled. Of course, again, if you have a love affair with a particular manufacturer or model that will influence your selection of models.

That brings one to the availability of a particular model. Whether we like it or not, we are dependent on what the manufacturer has produced and is available. If you are freelancing, you would probably be more interested in undecorated models to wear your chosen livery; if modeling a prototype, you will probably have that road offered in ready to run. (We aren't even considering another question which would be DC or DCC; Sound or not.)

Once you have determined the type(s) of locos you want to populate the

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layout and management has approved the purchase order(s), then there is the anticipation of the delivery of said items by the post office or UPS or Amazon. The next step, if proto free lancing, is the car shop. There you put your livery on the new motive power. If your empire is larger than one loco you will need to develop a logical numbering system for the various types of locos on the property. You might consider two-digit numbers for small switchers, and 3-4 digits progressively higher as the steam loco becomes larger or the diesel type production dates move forward towards the present. Another way is to use numbers that reflect the horsepower of the locomotives.

Texas and Southern has a variety of locomotive power available to the Train Master. In the steam loco group are two classic models, number 6 and number 106, both 4-4-0 American types: a venerable

switcher number 206, a 0-8-0. Next the T&S has a group of Moguls (2-6-0), numbers 441, 448, 565, and 573. T&S has one Pacific 2-8-0 numbered 721. A Mikdo, 2-8-2, numbered 2487 and a Decapod 2-10-0, number 2456.



The railroad has one Doodlebug gas-electric, number 48. One of the largest number of diesel electric units are the GP18s, numbered from 510-529. Two RS3s are also found on the roster, number 996 and 999.



EMD SW1200s include 1130,1131, and 1181. EMD F3As include 1501,1502, 1504 and 1508. Two FP7As are 1624 and

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1700. F7As are 1648 and 1649. GP7s are 1663,1666,1670,1675 and 1678.

Alco has two more representatives on the roster with number 1800 RS11 and 1806 a RS36. GP20s include number 1820, 1823 and 2106 while GP30s include number 1915 and 1919. An Alco Century, 1948 supplements the heavy duty GP38s 2000-2088, 2322 and 2327. Finally, two GE U boats U23B, 2263 and 2275 complete the T&S roster.

The Texas and Pacific also has some motive power on the layout. One steam switcher number 316, a 4-6-0 and SW8/900/600 number 812. Diesels include three F&As 925, 1534 and 1540. Freight locos include two GP7s 1110 and 1118, one GP9 number 1133 and two Alco RS11s numbered 4606 and 4611.



One might question the large number of motive power available, but Lee is a motive power and crew change point on the sub. Of course, it is proto freelance at its best 😊.

Now if you are modeling a prototype railroad and a particular sub or area you can consult the historical society for that railroad. These historical groups maintain records concerning motive power by years and types as well as photos. An internet search might yield similar results.

Developing or duplicating a historical roster of motive power for your area, time or railroad is a fun, learning experience.

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Next month we will discuss how one develops a historical correct /realistic looking freight car roster. Until then I hope you have Green Boards and no hot boxes on your run.

Bob



-30-



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/>

