



The Whistle



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION



COWCATCHER DIVISION LONE STAR REGION NMRA

VOL 9 NO 6 JUNE 2025

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JUNE'S MEETING WILL BE AT 10am ON SATURDAY THE 14TH AT THE TEXAS WESTERN MODEL RR CLUB AND VIA ZOOM. THE ADDRESS IS 6808 FOREST HILL DRIVE, FOREST HILL, TEXAS 76140 SEE EMAIL FOR OM LINK

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I hope everyone had a great Memorial Day weekend and we spent some time reflecting on our military and first responders who have sacrificed for our great nation.

Last month we completed our "Make and Take" on the freight house. I want to thank Duane for putting on such a great clinic and for designing such a versatile kit. Several participants may not have finished during the clinic, hopefully you can finish it and do a "Show and Tell" at a future meeting.

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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

JARED ROBERTS

FOR CONTACT INFO SEE
COWCATCHER DIVISION WEB SITE

<https://cowcatcherdivision.org/>



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DIRECTOR'S REPORT CONT.

We still have a few kits that were ordered but have not been picked up. I will put out a reminder list this week so they can be picked up at the June meeting.

Speaking of the June meeting, it is the Division's yearly picnic.

Not only will the Operations crew, headed by Jim Davis be cooking hot dogs and burgers but prior to the picnic we will have, a 20-minute video about the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway. It is a 15" gauge light railway in Kent, England. It uses live steam and has a 13 1/2-mile line.

Keep in mind, the picnic is a wonderful time to meet your fellow modelers and to introduce visitors to the hobby and the division, so please bring a friend.

Later this month the Blues Express 2025 takes place in Baton Rouge on June 26 – 29th. It will be a great convention and one you don't want to miss. It is not too late to register, go to <http://www.bluesexpress2025.com> and sign up today.

Dick Brannan
Director-Cowcatcher Division LSR
NMRA



**SIGN AT ATSF YARD
BROWNWOOD TX
MARCH 1993**



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

JUNE

26TH-29TH LSR CONVENTION BATON
ROUGE

JULY

11-12 TRAIN SHOW STILLWATER OK

14TH-19TH NMRA NATIONAL
CONVENTION NOVI, MICHIGAN

AUGUST

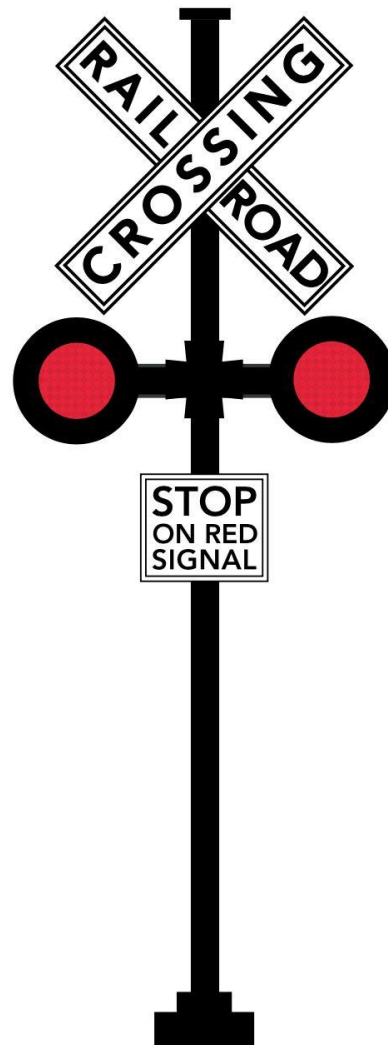
23-24 AUSTIN TX TRAIN SHOW

SEPTEMBER

LABOR DAY WEEKEND THE 90TH
ANIVERSARY OF NMRA

20-21 TEMPLE TRAIN SHOW

27-28 PLANO TRAIN SHOW



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TREASURER'S REPORT

1 MAY BALANCE	\$8048.50
RECEIPTS	\$104.00
EXPENDITURES	\$816.93
31 MAY BALANCE	\$7335.57
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT \$23012.99	



ATSF GP60M BROWNWOOD TX

22 MAY 1991

TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT IS A GASKET?

LOOK FOR ANSWER IN THIS MONTH'S
NEWSLETTER



FLAGMAN PROTECTING TRAIN ON T&S

RAILFAN VIDEO OF THE MONTH ON YOUTUBE

TEMPLE & CENTRAL TEXAS RAILWAY
MORNING SHORT LINE SWITCHING
OPERATIONS



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

STAN SCHWARTZ ss124@sbcglobal.net

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/>

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>

AREA HOBBY SHOPS

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.



JUNE CLINIC

The Cowcatcher Division has its yearly picnic. Prior to the picnic courtesy of David Steckler we are going to have an approximately 20-minute video about the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway. It is a 15" gauge light railway in Kent, England. It uses live steam and has a 13 1/2-mile line. It should be very entertaining.



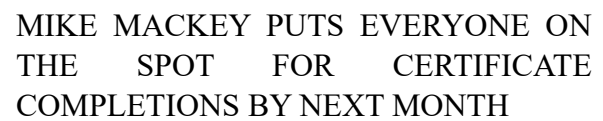
**ATSF GP7u BROWNWOOD TX
MAY 1990**

COMING IN 2026:



**ATSF BROWNWOOD TX
WESTBOUND AT
FISK STREET CROSSING
MAY 1990**

NMRA ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM HONOREES



LASER CUT MODEL



HAPPY NATIONAL TRAIN DAY!!



HOOK AND LOOP TO HOLD
BACKDROP



WITH MASONITE ATTACHED



CARDBOARD BACKDROP ATTACHED
TO MASONITE



DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZE





N SCALE!!



EXAMPLE OF FREIGHT HOUSE BUILT
LAST MONTH WITH VERY DETAILED
INTERIOR



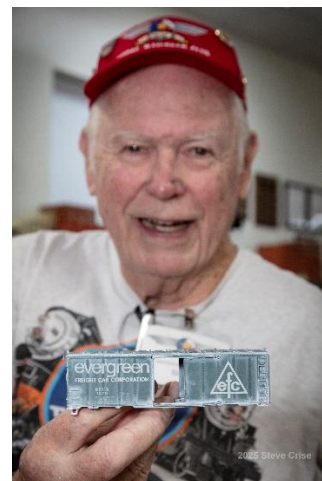
CLOSE UP OF FREIGHT HOUSE



DOOR PRIZE WINNER!



EXAMPLE OF FREIGHT HOUSE BUILT
LAST MONTH



EXAMPLE OF SIMPLEWEATHERING

MAY CLINIC



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CLINIC CONTINUED



ANSWER TO THIS MONTH'S
TRIVIA QUESTION:

A DOUGHNUT



ATSF BROWNWOOD TX

DODX 014 FM

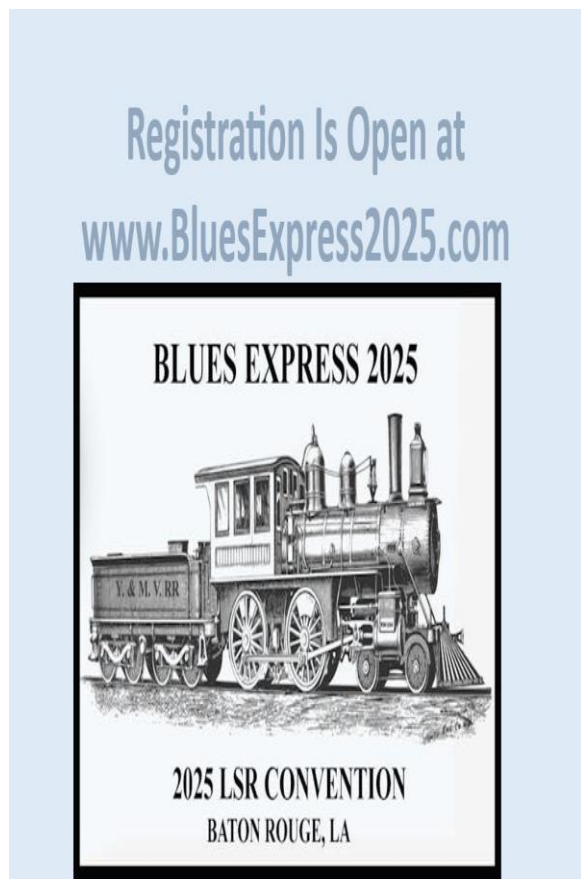
AUGUST 1993



ATSF BROWNWOOD TX

TRACK GEOMETRY CAR

18 NOV 1991



Time is running out!

The Lone Star Region Blues Express 2025 Convention is getting closer by the day. Early Bird Registration Deadline closing May 15, 2025. It's getting down to crunch time for reduced registration.

Registration is now open for the convention at the convention website:

<https://bluesexpress2025.com/>

This site will help you see the register for the convention, show you the clinics available, book your hotel rooms and explain to you a whole slew of other things available at the convention.

The Early Bird Registration and discounted hotel rate will end on May 15, 2025. You shouldn't wait for that date. Get in early because for some activities there is limited space available.

Do not miss out, register today before the Early Bird discounted registration rate ends. Limited hotel rooms are still available at the groups discounted rate. A few seats are still available for the limited attendance Katy Speeder Shed Make-n-Take Clinic and the 3D Design for Railroad Modeling clinics. Time is running out, register today at <https://bluesexpress2025.com/>

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OPERATIONS ON THE LEE SUB PART 8 “EXPLAINING THE TRACK WARRANT FORM USED ON THE TEXAS AND SOUTHERN RAILROAD”

By BOB MANGRUM MMR 456

This month we will answer a basic question, how do the prototype railroads control trains? There are several methods that railroads have used to control the movement of trains including TT&O Timetable and Train Order, CTC Centralized Traffic Control, ABS Automatic Block System, DTC Direct Traffic Control, and TWC Track Warrant Control.

The difference between DTC and TWC is as follows: DTC has fixed block boundaries while TWC allows the dispatcher to set boundaries when he issues the TW.

On the T&S we use TWC for its simplicity. The T&S TWC form is combined with Clearance Form A primarily for my

operating crews convenience as there are fewer pieces of paper on the clipboard.

A clearance form is defined as follows: no train can occupy a main track without the dispatcher's ok which is issued as a Clearance Form A.

A track warrant is a prewritten train order form. Check boxes are on the form for most common situations. The Conductor fills in the blanks for most common details.

Looking at the form the heading includes the date, who the TWC is to by train number, road and locomotive, and the present location of this train,

Clearance Form A has a number issued of this particular train.

T&S RR/T&P RWY

Date 31 May 1966
To: TS 417 On Lee Sub Division
C&E TS 2088 At Lee

CLEARANCE FORM A

Clearance No. 1 To Terminating Station
I have the following orders for your train:

TRACK WARRANT CONTROL

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On the track warrant portion of the form a number is assigned to this TWC. These are issued in sequence with some railroads starting over at midnight each day.

Box 1 *Track Warrant* number is void.

This will be marked for each subsequent TWC after the initial order has been issued.

Box 2 *Proceed from/ to* which the train authorizes a move between these two locations.

Box 4 *Work between* determines the limits of track that the train has control over.

Box 5 *Not in effect* defines start time of TWC while box 6 *denotes time TWC expires*. Box 7 is *not in effect* until defines time TWC becomes effective based upon the arrival of another train. Box 8 *hold main line* instructs train to remain on main track at last named point while box 10 *clear main track* instructs the train to take siding. Box 17 *other specific instructions* not covered by

pre-printed form. When the TWC is complete it is marked void.

T&S RR/T&P RWY

Date _____ May 1966
To: _____ On Lee Sub Division
C&E _____ At _____

CLEARANCE FORM A

Clearance No. _____ To Terminating Station
I have the following orders for your train:

TRACK WARRANT CONTROL

No. _____

☐ 1. Track Warrant No. _____ is void.

☐ 2. Proceed from _____ to _____ on _____ Track.

☐ 3. Proceed from _____ to _____ on _____ Track.

☐ 4. Work between _____ and _____ on _____ Track.

☐ 5. Not in effect until _____

☐ 6. This authority expires at _____

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

☐ 8. Hold main track at last named point.

☐ 9. Do not foul limits ahead of _____

☐ 10. Clear main track at last named point.

☐ 11. Between _____ and _____
Make all movements at restricted speed.
Limits occupied by train and engine.

☐ 12. Between _____ and _____
Make all movements at restricted speed
and stop short of men or machines fouling track.

☐ 13. Do not exceed _____ MPH between _____ and _____

☐ 14. Do not exceed _____ MPH between _____ and _____

☐ 15. Protection as prescribed by Rule 99 not required
Against following trains on the same track.

☐ 16. Track Bulletins in effect _____

☐ 17. Other specific instructions: _____

OK _____ Dispatcher _____
Relayed to _____ Copied by _____
Limits reported clear at _____ by _____
All switches are properly aligned & locked _____

T&S/T&P Word Form 27 Dec 2008

Mark "X" in box for each item instructed.

Using this TWC form has several benefits. It gives the operations a more realistic feel but also stretches the layout as the dispatcher can control the train movements and, if you have a hotrodder among your

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operational crew, this will definitely work to slow that activity down to a more realistic speed. 😊

On the T&S we have used this method of train control for several years and it has made the play much more enjoyable.

Next month we will explore the operation of passenger trains on the T&S. Until then may 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/>

