



# The Whistle



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

COWCATCHER DIVISION 1 LONE STAR REGION NMRA

VOL 10 NO 5 May 2026

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MAY'S MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY 9 MAY  
AT THE TEXAS WESTERN MODEL RR CLUB  
AND VIA ZOOM.

SEE EMAIL FOR ZOOM LINK

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We are a third of the way through 2026 and fast approaching the blistering heat of June, July, and August in North Texas, but we have much to look forward to. Mother's Day is right around the corner so be sure to honor all those mothers and wives who are in our lives.

To beat that summer heat, keep in mind the LSR convention (Connections2026) is in Austin on June 18-21 st and the NMRA national convention is July 27 th thorough August 2 nd in Chattanooga, TN. Further information is at [Cowcatcherdivision.org](http://Cowcatcherdivision.org).

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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.

Last month's clinic by Mike Walter was outstanding. Scratch building a railroad station from wood or styrene is quite an accomplishment but building the majority of it from brass is in, my opinion "next level". (If you missed the clinic and want to see it go to [cowcatcherdivision.org](http://cowcatcherdivision.org) and click on the clinic tab).

Our clinic this month is "Moving the Mail to Texas" by Jim Ogden and will be very interesting.

As we mentioned last month, the Division is establishing a fund that could assist model railroaders to maintain their NMRA membership. Currently we have established a separate checking account for the fund, are working on the guidelines for administration and seeking 3 volunteers to work on the committee.

Last month the layout tour visited Harold Berenzweig's Front Range and Santa Fe, a double deck loop to loop layout, featuring Santa Fe and Burlington Northern equipment. Those attending saw a wonderful layout. Thank you, Harold.

This month, the Division will be visiting another member's layout. The address will be disclosed at the end of this month's meeting. Don't forget next meeting is Saturday, May 9th at 10:00 am and bring a friend.

Dick Brannan  
Director Cowcatcher Division



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## **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

### **JUNE 2026**

18-21 LSR CONVENTION AUSTIN



June 18-21  
Wyndham Garden Austin  
3401 South IH-35

### **JULY-AUGUST 2026**

27 JULY-2 AUGUST

NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION

CHATTANOOGA



### **AUGUST 2026**

29-30 AUSTIN TRAIN SHOW

### **SEPTEMBER 2026**

19-20 TEMPLE MODEL TRAIN SHOW

26-27 PLANO TRAIN SHOW

## TREASURER'S REPORT

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| BALANCE                | \$4146.26  |
| RECEIPTS               | \$90.00    |
| EXPENDITURES           | \$794.17   |
| END BALANCE            | \$3442.09  |
| CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT | \$23694.30 |

### TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT IS THROW IT IN THE HOLE??

LOOK FOR ANSWER IN THIS MONTH'S  
NEWSLETTER

### RAILFAN VIDEO OF THE MONTH ON YOUTUBE

5 STEPS STRAIGHT UP AND  
HIGHBALLING WITH STEAM



## **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

[bradyprmla@cableone.net](mailto:bradyprmla@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 6:45 PM 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**

Chill Bar & Grill (Cotton Belt Room)

814 South Main Street

Grapevine, Texas 76051

(NW Corner of S. Main St. & Dallas Rd.)

Our new meeting hours are 7:30 pm - 9:30  
pm. We still meet every first Tuesday of the  
month.

<https://ntxnrhs.org>

### **TEXAS WESTERN MODEL RAILROAD CLUB**

LOCATED AT 6808 FOREST HILL, 76140

VISITOR HOURS: SEE CLUB WEBSITE

[https://www.facebook.com/texaswesternmod  
elrailroad club](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

*NEW ADDRESS 1 OCT*

7801 Brandi Lane  
North Richland Hills

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**

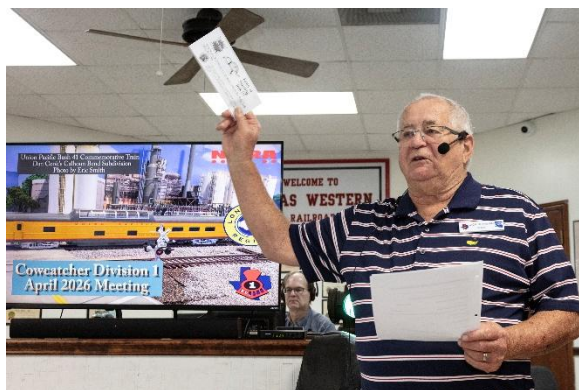
*EFFECTIVE MARCH 31, 2020, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION AT ITS BOARD MEETING ON MARCH 7, 2020, DIVISION 1 OF THE LONE STAR REGION OF THE NMRA, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE COWCATCHER DIVISION, WILL REQUIRE ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18, WISHING TO ATTEND ANY 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.*

TREASURER'S REPORT



AP REPORT



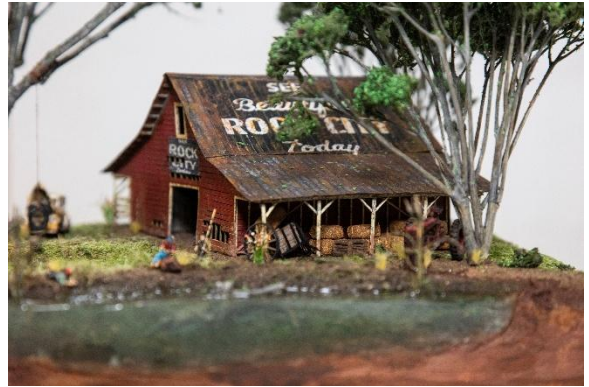
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SHOW & TELL



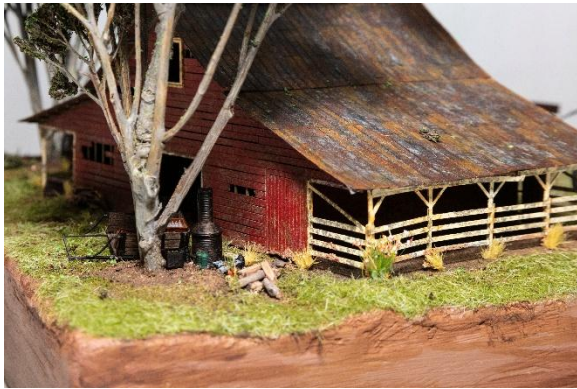
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SEE ROCK CITY BARN





SCORING A MODEL



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## MAY CLINIC

“MOVING THE MAIL TO  
TEXAS”

JIM OGDEN



ANSWER TO THIS MONTH'S  
TRIVIA QUESTION:

APPLY EMERGENCY BRAKES

APRIL CLINIC  
BUILDING A PASSENGER  
STATION

Elevated station

The station is elevated because there was not enough room between the freight yard and the main line for a station of appropriate size.



To view entire clinic go to  
Cowcatcher Division on Youtube and  
start at 1:38:15



Finished station

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A SURVEY HISTORY OF RAILROADS IN TEXAS, from the article found in the Texas Historical Association Handbook of Texas online, part 5.

During the 1880s the first railroad systems were developed as several of the independently owned Texas companies were bought by outside interests that controlled railroads in other states. The Southern Pacific acquired an interest in the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio and ownership of the Texas and New Orleans and the Houston and Texas Central, as well as several smaller companies, while the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe became a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Company. Jay Gould gained control of a number of Texas railroads, including the Texas and Pacific, the International and Great Northern, and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas (Katy).



He leased the International and Great Northern to the Katy and both the Katy and the Texas and Pacific to his Missouri Pacific Railroad Company.



Although the initial Missouri Pacific foray into Texas was soon to end and the various leases terminated before the end of the decade, all of the railroads, apart from the Missouri, Kansas and Texas, were to remain firmly in Gould's control until well into the twentieth century.

Despite power given to the state by the Constitution of 1876 to act against railroad abuses, and subsequent laws prohibiting rebates, by the mid-1880s shippers, farmers, and many state and local officials were protesting what they perceived to be high rates, rebates, traffic pools, and other restrictive practices. Railroads, the most powerful industrial force in Texas, were accused of running the state through bribery, hidden monopolies and controls, and favoritism to officials while profits, such as they were, went to outside

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capitalists. In 1888 Attorney General James S. Hogg filed several lawsuits, mainly against the Gould railroads, alleging that their control by companies chartered outside of the state were in violation of the Texas constitution. He also obtained a court decision against rail pools that set rates and divided available traffic among the larger systems. The success of these suits forced the reshuffling of the Gould empire and led to the termination of the lease of several Texas railroads by outside companies. In 1890 Hogg was elected governor with the establishment of a state railroad commission as the main issue in the race. Using rail reform as his key, Hogg won an overwhelming victory in the race despite bitter opposition from several Texas newspapers, notably the Dallas Morning News. The Railroad Commission, created in 1891, became one of the most powerful regulatory bodies in the state.

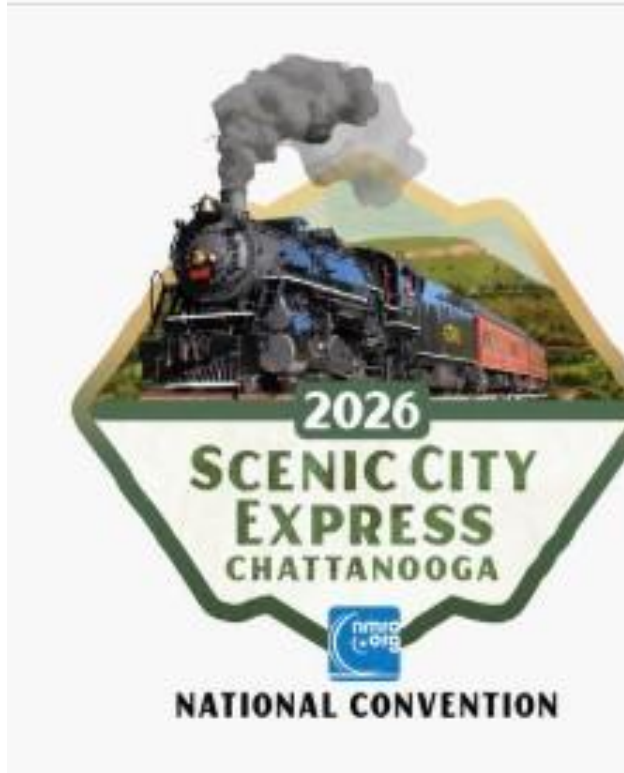
At the beginning of 1900 there was still less than 10,000 miles of railroad in Texas, which represented about five percent of the railroad mileage of the United States. Although only twenty-five percent of the national system, which peaked in 1916, was built after 1899, nearly forty-five percent of the Texas mileage was built between 1900 and 1932, when mileage reached

17,078. At the turn of the century the lower Rio Grande Valley had virtually no railroad mileage, while vast areas of the South Plains, Panhandle, and West Texas were also without railroads. These voids were filled over the next thirty years. New railroads were also constructed in the more developed areas of Texas. Two additional lines were completed between Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston, while a second railroad was built connecting Houston and New Orleans. In 1911 Texas became the state with the most railroad mileage, a position it still maintains.

Next month part 6.



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27 JULY- 2 AUGUST  
2026



**Time is running out !!!**

**...to connect with Connections 2026, the annual Lone Star Region 2026 Convention, and;**



**...save money with the discounted Early Bird convention registration fare which expires on April 30. Register today to save!!!**

**...make your hotel reservation while rooms and room types are still available at the discounted convention rate. Unless you have money to burn, the cutoff deadline date is fast approaching.**



**...have your choice of dates, times and locations for Operating Sessions. The earlier that you register for Connections 2026 the sooner you will receive an invitation to participate in Operating Sessions. Register for Connections 2026 today and stay ahead of the last minute rush to improve your options!**

**...be able to participate in the exclusive behind-the-scenes prototype tour of of the Ash Grove cement plant serviced by the Union Pacific Railroad, or the guided tour the yard and rolling stock of the Austin Steam Train Association. Tickets are limited, so register today!**



**Connections 2026  
June 18 - 20, 2026  
Wyndham Garden Austin, TX  
[www.Connections2026.com](http://www.Connections2026.com)  
**DO NOT MISS OUT,  
REGISTER TODAY!!!****

