



# *The Whistle*



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION



COWCATCHER DIVISION 1 LONE STAR REGION NMRA

VOL 10 NO 7 JULY 2026

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JULY'S MEETING WILL BE SATURDAY 11 JULY  
AT THE TEXAS WESTERN MODEL RR CLUB  
AND VIA ZOOM.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I am writing this just a few days before our nation's 250 birthday and I have taken a couple hours reflecting upon how great this country is and how lucky we are to be Americans. I hope each of you do the same and spend a wonderful day with family and friends enjoying the holiday.

Judging from the turnout at last month's meeting it was a remarkable success, turnout was one of the highest of the year. I want to thank Bob Barnett for attending in person. It was nice for him to see such a large turnout and have a chance to see the

I want to thank Dave Ranney and Jim Davis for doing all the

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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.

“Promote the Hobby” diorama up close. I want to thank Dave Ranney and Jim Davis for doing all the grilling for the dogs and burgers. I am sure their cooking skills also contributed to the great turnout we had.

Steve Crise put on about a 30-minute clinic on “Texas Railroads” displaying his wonderful photographs.

Mike Walter graciously opened his house for the layout tour and everyone attending got to see a great layout and how that scratched build station fit so well into his layout.

This month's clinic will be presented by Mike Mackey and will focus on his ever-growing military train as well as the history of military trains. It is a fascinating topic.

Duane Richardson will be discussing his upcoming “make and take” that will be the clinic in August and September meetings.

Please attend the meeting so you can sign up for the make and take.

The other interesting event that occurred at June's meeting is Darrell Cowles displayed the “Promote the Hobby” diorama which was outstanding. It is an excellent display

of modeling skills. This display will go into various libraries in North Texas and will have a QR code leading to a special page for people interested in model railroading.

The LSR wrapped up a very successful convention in Austin last month and the NMRA convention in Chattanooga in July is fast approaching. It is not too late to sign up.

Don't forget the meeting on July 11th and please bring a friend.

Keep Training!!  
Dick Brannan  
Director Cowcatcher Division  
LSR NMRA



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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

### **JULY 2026**

5-11 July

HEARTLAND TRAIN SHOW  
STILLWATER OK

JULY 24-26

EAST TEXAS YRAIN SHOW PORT  
ARTHUR

27 JULY-2 AUGUST

NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION  
CHATTANOOGA



### **29-30 AUGUST**

AUSTIN AREA TRAIN SHOW

19-20 TEMPLE MODEL TRAIN SHOW

### **11-12 SEPTEMBER**

ABILENE TX RAILROAD FESTIVAL

### **26-27 SEPTEMBER**

PLANO TRAIN SHOW

## TREASURER'S REPORT

|                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| BALANCE                            | \$2898.14 |
| RECEIPTS                           | \$138.00  |
| EXPENDITURES                       | \$1071.43 |
| END BALANCE                        | \$1964.71 |
| CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT \$23,831.00 |           |

## TRIVIA QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHAT IS ALLEY??

LOOK FOR ANSWER IN THIS MONTH'S  
NEWSLETTER



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



## **RAILFAN VIDEO OF THE MONTH ON YOUTUBE**

**NORFOLK SOUTHERN HUMP ACTION TIL THE BIG BOY 4014 DEPARTS & CHASE THAT LOCO**



## TIPS & TRICKS



## TREASURERS REPORT



## MICROMARK WHEEL TOOL

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## CHEAP FIGURE HOLDERS FOR PAINTING

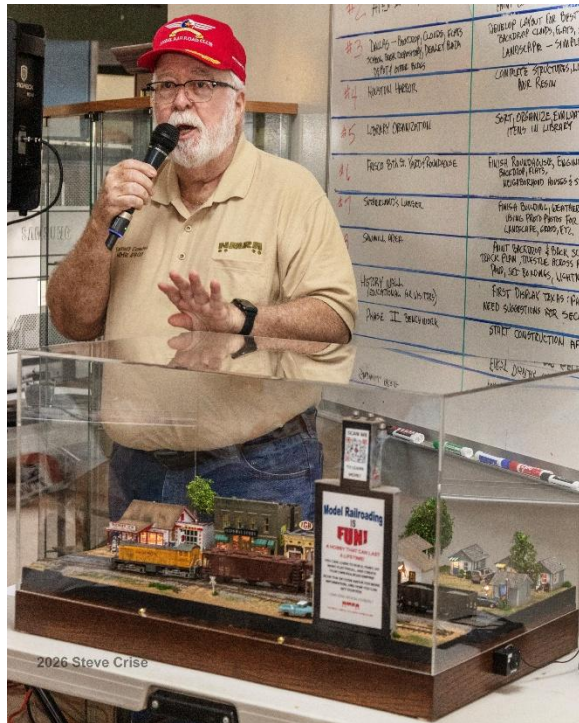


## WAEATHERING PENCILS



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### DISPLAY FOR AREA LIBRARIES

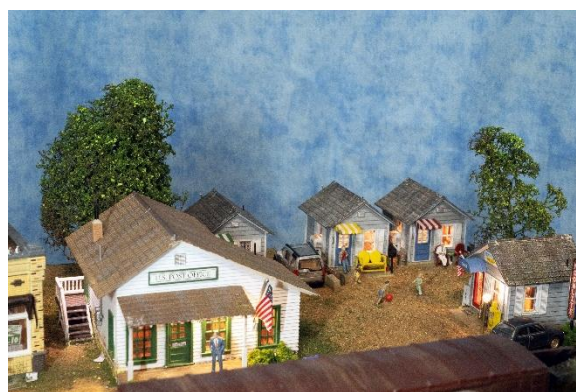
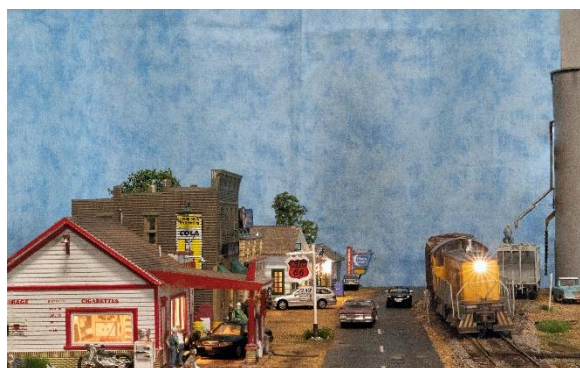
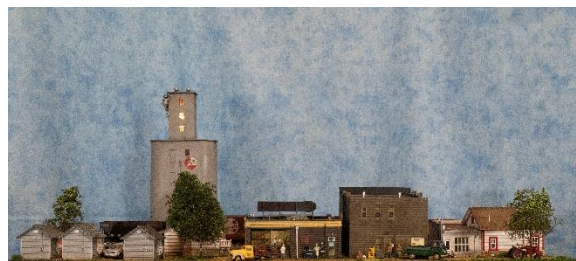


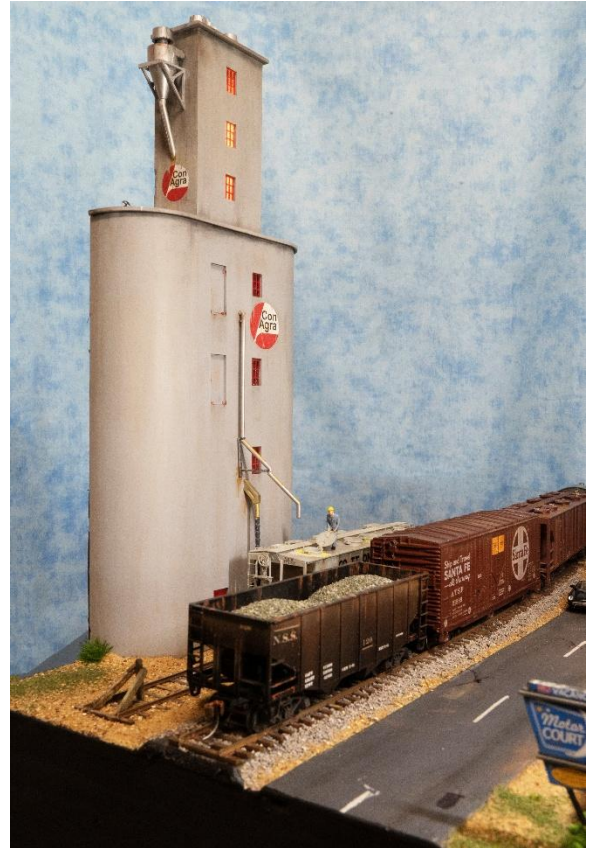
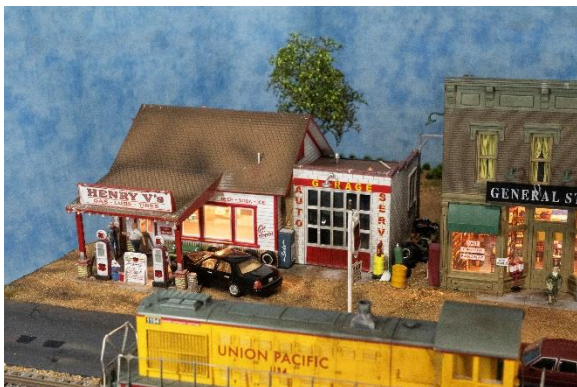
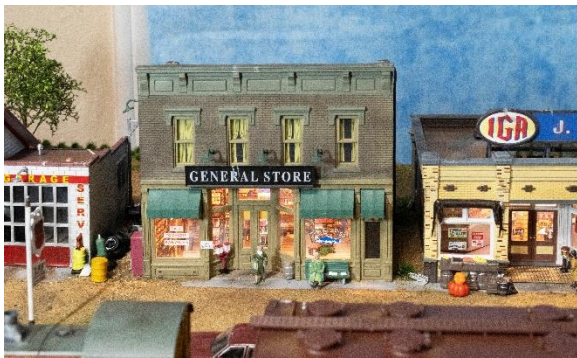
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Here I am setting up the diorama at the Watauga Library on Monday with the Assistant Director Betty. They are going to help us move this from one library to others around the area.

Darrell Cowles, MMR 802





DEAL OR DUD



WINNER OF DRAWING FOR  
WOODLAND SCENIC BUILDING



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SHOW & TELL



Winner at LSR!!



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### JULY CLINIC

The July clinic will be given by Mike Mackey about his ever growing military train and the facets of military transport.

Duane will be doing a make and take in August and September on building a wooden trestle so folks should be prepared for opting in if they are interested.



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JUNE CLINIC

STEVE CRISE



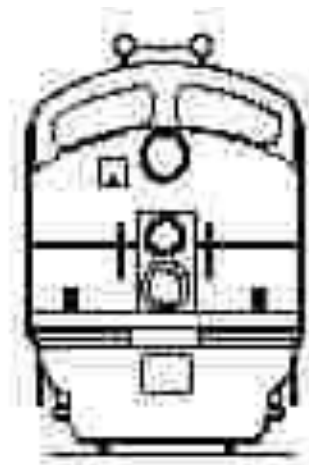
TO SEE COMPLETE CLINIC GO TO  
YOUTUBE COWCATCHER DIVISION  
JUNE 2026 AND START AT 58:37



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HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup>!!



ANSWER TO THIS MONTH'S  
TRIVIA QUESTION:

A CLEAR TRACK IN A SWITCHING  
YARD.

A SURVEY HISTORY OF RAILROADS IN TEXAS, from the article found in the Texas Historical Association Handbook of Texas online, part 7.

When the Texas Legislature passed the Law to Regulate Railroads in 1853, it required that the railroads operating in the state be headquartered in Texas. This requirement was later included as part of Article X of the Constitution of 1876. As a result, the various railroad systems operating in Texas did so through subsidiary companies. Some, such as the Southern Pacific, Missouri Pacific, and the Santa Fe, retained the corporate names of Texas railroads they had acquired. Others, such as the Missouri, Kansas and Texas, chartered separate subsidiaries to operate in Texas. However, the Transportation Act of 1920 gave additional regulatory powers to the Interstate Commerce Commission. In 1934 the Kansas City Southern Railway Company sought to lease the Texarkana and Fort Smith Railway Company lines in Texas. Although the Interstate Commerce Commission gave approval to this lease, the state of Texas fought the case to the Supreme Court of the United States, which upheld the federal agency. The Missouri Pacific and its subsidiaries

came out of receivership in 1954, at which time all of the companies in Texas operating as part of the Missouri Pacific Lines were merged into the parent company. The Katy merged its Texas subsidiary in 1960, while the Southern Pacific merged the Texas and New Orleans in 1961. The Santa Fe followed suit in 1965. The last of the separate Texas railroads was the Fort Worth and Denver, which merged into the Burlington Northern Railroad Company in 1982.

The Burlington-Rock Island Railroad Company inaugurated the first streamlined diesel passenger service in 1936, when the *Sam Houston Zephyr* began operating between Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth. Shortly thereafter, the Texas and New Orleans acquired streamlined equipment pulled by a steam locomotive for its *Sunbeam* between Dallas and Houston. By 1938 both companies were providing double daily streamliner service between Houston and North Texas. In 1940 the Fort Worth and Denver inaugurated the *Texas Zephyr* between Dallas and Denver, Colorado. In the optimism following the end of World War II, the various railroads ordered new equipment for their major trains. Existing trains such as the *Texas Special*, operating between St. Louis and San Antonio, and *Sunset Limited*, running between New Orleans through Texas to Los Angeles, were

streamlined, while other railroads added new trains. These included the *Texas Chief* between Chicago and Houston-Galveston on the Santa Fe and the *Texas Eagle* of the Missouri Pacific and the Texas and Pacific operating between St. Louis and all of the major Texas cities.

Although these trains were initially well patronized, the improvement in highways, primarily the construction of the interstate highway system, and the inauguration of jet air transportation siphoned off most of the rail passenger traffic. By 1970 only the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific were still operating passenger trains in Texas. On May 1, 1971, the remaining trains were turned over to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, better known as Amtrak. Amtrak chose to continue the *Sunset Limited* on a triweekly basis and initially operated the *Texas Chief* between Houston and Chicago. This train, later renamed the *Lone Star*, was subsequently discontinued. The only other Amtrak route in Texas at the end of 1995 was the *Texas Eagle*, operating from Chicago to San Antonio on a triweekly basis. Unlike several other states, Texas did not fund additional passenger train service. This, along with the failure of

the proposed Texas high-speed rail connecting the four major cities to obtain financing, meant that additional rail passenger service in Texas was unlikely. However, several operators have attempted to operate excursion trains on a regular basis. These have included runs over the Texas Mexican Railway between Corpus Christi and Laredo, the *Texas Limited* between Houston and Galveston, and a dinner train operating out of San Antonio. All three have discontinued service. In 1995 three steam passenger trains were in operation. These were the Texas State Historical Park between Rusk and Palestine, the Austin Steam Train Association between Cedar Park and Burnet and the Tarantula Train at Fort Worth.

Next Month part 8



27 JULY- 2 AUGUST  
2026