

Cowcatcher Division

Division One of the Lone Star NMRA Region



Division 1 Whistle

Vol. 3. No. 1 January 2019

Division 1 Meeting
Saturday, January 12,
2018. 10 am - 2 pm at
the Texas Western
Model Railroad
Clubhouse,
6808 Forest Hill Drive,
Forest Hill, TX 76140
**Program: JMRI and
Decoder Pro by Tom
Pearson**

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www.cowcatcherdivision.org

*Your Invited To The January 2019
Division Meeting!*

Year in review for 2018. It's been another great year, lets look back at the past year's photo's in D1. **Meetings.** Below: May meeting was hosted by Leo & Lorrie Palitti's at the annual Picnic. The photo is from their Fabulous HO/HOn3 layout the Black Bear & Bayou. **All photo's by the Editor.**
(Photo's Continued on Pages 5, 9 & 10.)



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NMRA Lone Star Region
Cowcatcher
Division 1
Whistle

Vol. 3 No. 1 Jan. 2019

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Director's Report

Happy New Year everybody!

Wow, where did 2018 go? Can you believe that it is already 2019? I know that it seems that the years seem to fly by faster and faster as we get older.

Looking back, we had banner year in 2018! Lots of great meetings, events and clinics, as well as a whole group of new modelers joining our ranks. Once again, welcome to everyone who joined in '18.

2019 looks to be even better than last year. Dick Brannan has put together a super schedule of outstanding programs for the year. Among them are a clinics on JMRI and how it can be used, a make and take clinic on a great little depot, a clinic on making your structures look real and a clinic on track planning. All an all a great line up! We are also talking to the Texas State Railroad about group trip next fall. In addition to that, the Lone Star Region's annual convention will be in Frisco this year in June. What a year!

I'd like to take a moment to publicly thank all of the Leadership Team for their hard work to make this division one of the best in the country. When I talk to other NMRA members around the country, they marvel at what is being accomplished in Division 1 of the Lone Star Region. Congratulations on a job well done! Here is a list of the members of your Leadership Team:

Ken Kaiser – Treasurer
John Garfield – Secretary
Dick Brannan – Program Manager
David Grein – Operations Manager
Leo Palitti – Achievement Program Co-Manager
Lorrie Palitti – Achievement Program Co-Manager
Chris Galvin – Newsletter Editor
Casey Akin – Contest Advisor Co-Manager
Cody Akin – Contest Advisor Co-Manager
Chris Atkins – North Texas Council of Train Clubs Representative
Dr. Michael Ross – Membership Manager
Mike Corley – Webmaster and Communications Manager

If you would, the next time that you see these individuals, please tell them "Thank you!" and share your gratitude for a job well done!

Let's get ready for a super year this year! See you soon!

Keep training,

Mike Mackey NMRA

Director, Cowcatcher Division 1



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Programs / Clinics

Cowcatcher Division 1 Program for January 12, 2019

Clinic Overview

Our program this month is about JMRI and Decoder Pro and is presented by Tom Pearson.

As model railroaders, we know DCC is intended to provide the user with a great degree of flexibility when running his trains. However, with flexibility comes an increasing amount of complexity. DCC decoders are programmed by changing what are called configuration variables (CV's). Before the advent of sound decoders, there weren't too many CV's to worry about

Programming with a throttle only lets you change one CV at a time and requires the user to either memorize the title for each CV or try to keep the manual open to the correct page

As the complexity of sound decoders increased the manufacturers needed to start indexing groups of CV's so the user needs to change 2 CV's to change something as simple as the volume.

The good news is that a bunch of dedicated modelers led by a professor at Cal developed a user friendly open source program called DecoderPro which helps overcome the complexity of programming decoders.

This clinic will cover downloading and installing JMRI/DecoderPro on different DCC systems and how to use it to program locomotives.

Tom like many model railroaders, started with a Lionel train but soon he and his brothers discovered his Dad's stash of post war HO scale craftsman kits and ventured into HO with rubber band powered Athearn diesels and a MRC Throttle pack. He started using DCC in the late 90's and soon became a DCC resource in central Texas and helped many fellow modelers make the transition to DCC control. He has presented numerous clinics on DCC and JMRI.

He has also contributed a "DCC minute" presentation at Central Texas Division NMRA meetings.

Dick Brannan

Director, Cowcatcher Division 1



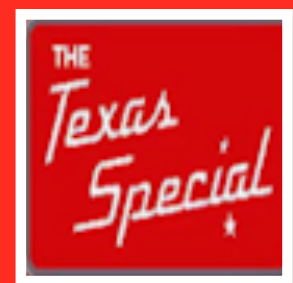
Lone Star Region
68th Annual
2019 Convention

June 27-29, 2019

Drury Inn & Suites
Dallas / Frisco

<http://www.2019TexasSpecial.com/>
OR
<http://www.LoneStarRegion.com/>

Clinics
Contests
Operating Sessions
Layout Tours
Banquet
Keynote Speaker: TBA



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AP Flyer

By Leo Palitti

It's been a busy couple of months for me and with the holidays over, that means one thing, MODEL RAIL-ROADING is at full throttle!!! I would like to hear some feedback from y'all this year. Lorrie and I have been writing in this newsletter for two years and we rarely hear much from the folks reading the news-let-ter each month. Without any feed-back writing this column every month is like like writing a movie review for the same movie every month and trying to make it more interesting than last month. A little feedback from you readers, helps to change the plot.

Questions, comments, we'd like to have them! Let us know if you actually read what we write every month. Let us know if you're going to enter something in the contest room at the Lone Star Region Convention. If we can help you, let us know how. If you do not need any help and are entering something in the Lone Star Region Convention in June, let us know that too!

Every NMRA sponsored contest room has a "Fun" category. This year at the

LSR, the fun category is a second life for a caboose. For something like this just take an old caboose and utilize it in any way you choose. I've always wanted to model the end to end caboose's in Silverton, CO. This may just me my chance to do so! Bottom line, let's all have some FUN!!

Dick is doing a terrific job of putting these clinics together and this year looks to be his best line up yet! One of those clinics will have to do with entering an NMRA contest. We'll let you know what to expect and how to do a proper write up for your entry. While this clinic may not sound too exciting, you'll want to attend. You will find the information very valuable.

Til next month, happy railroading!

Leo Palitti



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The Year In Review 2018

Top Left Photo: Dick Brannan stepped in to lead the January meeting in Mr. Mackey's absence. Below: Brian Murnahan of TEXRail gave us a presentation at the January meet on the new 27 mile commuter line being built in Ft. Worth.



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Calendar of Events & Train Shows



January

3rd – Texas Western Model RR Club Business Meeting & New BOD Installation Dinner, 7 – 9 pm @ Juarez Mercado Restaurant, I-20 & Matlock, S. Arlington.
www.twmrc.org

5th – YMR Longhorn Division Meeting, Texas Western Model RR Clubhouse, 6808 Forest Hill Dr, Forest Hill, TX 76140, 10 am – 2 pm, John Skiba, Organizer
westsidelumberco@gmail.com

12th – NMRA Lone Star Region Cowcatcher Division 1 December Meeting, at the Texas Western Model RR Club, 6808 Forest Hill Dr, Forest Hill, TX 76140, 10a – 2p

15th – NMRA Lone Star Region Division 3 Meeting, Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 821 S. Greenville Ave, Allen, TX 75002, 10 am – 1 pm,

17th – Cowtown Model RR Club General Meeting, Handley Center, 3024 Forest Avenue, Ft Worth, TX 76112 7 pm – 9 pm
<http://cmrrc.webs.com/>

21st – Cowtown Model RR Club General Meeting, Handley Center, 3024 Forest Avenue, Ft Worth, TX 76112 7 pm – 9 pm, Monday
<http://cmrrc.webs.com/>

19th – 20th – North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs 34th Dallas Area Train Show, Sat. 10 am – 5 pm, Sun. 10 am – 4 pm, Plano Centre, \$10. Adults,
dfwtrainshow.com

February

2nd – YMR Longhorn Division Meeting, Texas Western Model RR Clubhouse, 6808 Forest Hill Dr, Forest Hill, TX 76140, 10 am – 2 pm, John Skiba, Organizer
westsidelumberco@gmail.com

7th – Texas Western Model RR Club Business Meeting & New BOD Installation Dinner, 7 – 9 pm @ Club 6808 Forest Hill Dr, Forest Hill, TX 76140
www.twmrc.org

9th – NMRA Lone Star Region Cowcatcher Division 1 December Meeting, at the Texas Western Model RR Club, 6808 Forest Hill Dr, Forest Hill, TX 76140,

16th – NMRA Lone Star Region Division 3 Meeting, Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, 821 S. Greenville Ave, Allen, TX 75002, 10 am – 1 pm.

18th – Cowtown Model RR Club General Meeting, Handley Center, 3024 Forest Avenue, Ft Worth, TX 76112, 7 pm – 9 pm, Monday
<http://cmrrc.webs.com/>

Dallas Area Train Show

Jan. 19 - 20, 2019

Sat. 10 am - 5 pm
Sun. 10 am - 4 pm

\$10. Per Person
(12 & Under free with a paid adult.)

Plano Centre
2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy, Plano 75074

Free Parking
dfwtrainshow.com

Great Texas Train Show

Feb. 16-17, 2019

Sat. 10 am - 5 pm
Sun. 10 am - 4 pm

Adults: \$7.
Kids 11 & Under Free

Premier Events Center
Lakewood Plaza
1165 S Stemmons Frwy
Lewisville, TX

More info:
<http://trainshow.com/greattexasrainshow/>

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Special Notice !

During our February meeting we will be having a special time set aside for filling out Achievement Program paperwork. I know that there are more than 20 members of our division who have already completed the requirements for Volunteer, Author and/or other certificates. Take a few minutes to gather your thoughts and write down when and where you've helped with NMRA functions (train shows, clinics, open houses, articles written, etc.) and bring that information with you to the February meeting and we can help submit the paperwork for your certificates. Also, if you have locomotives, cars or structures that need to be judged for a merit score, bring those to the meeting too. Members can review your models and help you complete the requirement for these certificates as well. If you've done the work you might as well receive the certificate(s).

Mike Mackey NMRA

Cowcatcher Division

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The Call Board

by Mike Ross

Fellowship. There is no benefit of NMRA more significant than the friendships one develops in our wonderful hobby. And how many of those fellow friends attend the meetings? Here are a few interesting numbers. For the last half of 2017, average attendance was 32. For all of 2018, the average increased to 37.

You might think that the heavy fall rains diminished attendance. September and October 2018 attendance at meetings was however only down by 4 people – to 33. Mid-summer travel and outdoor activities may be a bigger factor, with only 23 in attendance in July, 2018. July was also the month with the lowest in 2017. The highest attendance figure was 50 in May 2018.

Michael Ross

Membership Chair



Cowcatcher Division

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The Year In Review 2018

Top Left & Top Right: Mike Corley presented a clinic in February on Detailing Roofing for our models. Bottom Left: Bill Heubner gave a clinic on airbrushing for Part I of a 4 part boxcar clinic. All photo's by Editor.



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The Year In Review 2018

Top Left: Ken Kaiser is greeted by Dick Brannan at the Annual Spring/Summer Cook Out at the June Meeting. Top Right: Darrell Cowles presented slides from Train Mt. Triennial. And Below Right: John Garfield. Photos' by Editor.



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Area Model Railroad Clubs/News

Cowtown Model Railroad Club

Meets at the *Handley Community Center*, Upstairs
3024 Forest Avenue, Ft Worth. Website:
<https://cmrrc.webs.com>



CLMRR

Meets Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays. The layout is located at
3904 Vista Ridge Ln, Alvarado, TX 76009 For information please
contact Lee Martin at [817-666-5367](tel:817-666-5367)



Dallas/Fort Worth O Scale Club

Normally meets two Saturdays per month in Richardson. Contact: Brady
McGuire, Tel: [903-868-2726](tel:903-868-2726), Email: bradyprrm1a@cablone.net or
or contact: Stan Schwartz, Email: ss124@sbcglobal.net for dates and
times. 1/48 12X41 lt/wt modular, 2-3 shows/year.



Denton Area Model Railroad Club

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm in the Denton Senior
Center Downtown. HO & N Scale modular layouts. Facebook Page
and Website: <https://www.facebook.com/damrrc/>



North Texas Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society

Meets 7:30 - 10:00 PM, First Tuesday of each month, often (but not always) at the
Grapevine Tourist & Visitors Information Center at Main St. and the FWWR railroad
tracks. Website: <https://ntxnrhs.org>

Texas Western Model Railroad Club

Meets every Thursday & Saturday from 4 pm - 9 pm, Located at 6808 Forest
Hill, 76140. Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/texaswesternmodelrailroadclub/>
Website: <https://www.twmrc.org>



Trinity N-Trak

Meets at Hobby World, Ft Worth at 6:30 PM. Check our website for time.
Website: <https://www.trinityntrak.com>



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Area Hobby Shops

Division 1 Sponsor

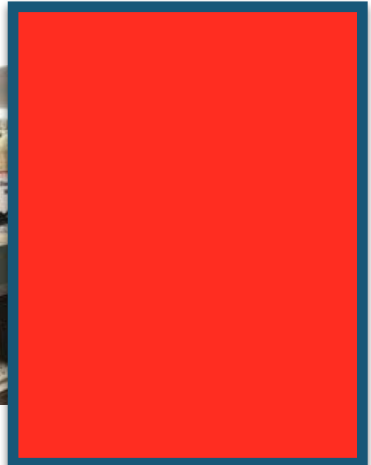
Discount Model Trains

4641 Ratliff Lane

Addison, TX 75001

972-931-8135

Hours: M-Sat. 10 AM - 6 PM



Angelo Hobbies
5600 Rufe Snow Drive Dr. #106
North Richland Hills, TX 76180

Hobbytown USA
746 Grapevine Hwy
Hurst, TX 76054

Hobby World
5658 Westcreek Dr. Ste. #500
Fort Worth, TX 76133

M-A-L Hobby
108 South Lee
Irving, TX 75060

Model Train Crossing
1113 W. Pipeline Road
Hurst, TX 76053

Hobbytown USA
500 E. Round Grove Rd
Lewisville, TX 75067

Hobbytown USA
677 Sherry Ln
Fort Worth, TX 76114



Division 1 would like to Thank
Discount Model Trains for their support !

