

Cowcatcher Division

Division One of the Lone Star NMRA Region



Division 1 Whistle

Vol. 4 No. 12 December 2020

Division 1 Zoom meeting, Saturday, December 12th, 2020. From the comfort of your home. **Clinic:** Demystifying Scratch Building with Richard "Mossy" Mossholder.

www.cowcatcherdivision.org



Home for the Holidays.

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December's meeting will be held on Zoom.com

To attend the Zoom meeting, you will need to install the free Zoom app on your platform (PC, Mac, iPhone, Android, iPad, Tablet).

We will be sending out the link for the zoom conference via news@cowcatcherdivision.org.

Richard "Mossy" Mossholder from California to present December's Program:

"Demystifying Scratch Building"



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NMRA Lone Star Region
Cowcatcher
Division 1
Whistle

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Director's Report

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah everyone!

As this year draws to a close, I'm betting that everyone is ready for a fresh start in 2021. Let's all pray that the release of the highly publicized vaccine will help us rid our community of this hated virus. I know that we have current and past first responders within our midst, and from all of us, I wish to thank you for your sacrifice on a daily basis. Your dedication to service has been remarkable and nothing short of miraculous. You are truly angels walking amongst us.

It's with sadness that I announce that we have had to cancel our annual Christmas party. As of the writing of this article, we had 22 attendees register to attend... that's from our division AND division 3! There is no doubt that everyone's concern relates to COVID-19. I know that next year's party will be such a fantastic event that it will make up for this year's cancelled gathering!! Please be sure to attend the division meeting on December 12 at 10:00am as we will announce the recipients of the John Garfield Volunteer Award and the Jim Norwood Memorial Award for 2020. This year's recipients are certainly deserving of the honor they are about to receive.

Speaking of the December meeting, we are honored to have guest clinician Rich Mossholder from Santa Rosa, Ca. making a presentation on "Demystifying Scratch Building." Rich is an extremely accomplished modeler whose skills are evident in his work. Join us as he walks us through the ease of taking raw materials and turning them into awesome models. We are also going to have our segment of the meeting for "Show and Tell" so get your current projects ready to share with us all.

I'd like to thank our own Mike Corley for another super clinic! Mike's clinics are always top notch. If you missed his presentation in November, visit our division YouTube Channel where you can watch it in its entirety.

Don't forget to support our division with your purchase of division shirts and caps via our link on our website: www.cowcatcherdivision.org. It's quick and easy due to our affiliation with Daylight Sales. While you are there you can also purchase items that reflect your favorite railroad too. Check it out!

Until next month, stay safe, stay healthy and...

Keep training!

Mike Mackey

Mike Mackey, MMR
Director, Cowcatcher Division



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December's Program

Demystifying Scratch Building with Richard "Mossy" Mossholder

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the division's annual banquet and gift exchange has been cancelled in the interest of helping to keep our members safe and healthy. We are fortunate to have Richard Mossholder step-up to provide our December 12th clinic on Demystifying Scratch Building.

Rich began model railroading at the tender age of 4 years old. In his teens he developed an interest in narrow gauge railroads, and 15 years ago he focused his modeling interests strictly on narrow gauge, which he reports has made him a better modeler. Rich has built over five layouts, and now has a 16' x 56' HO_{n3} layout with code 55 rail, including all hand-laid turnouts. Being a modeler, and once owning a Hobby Store, Rich realized the savings to be made, and added fun to the hobby, by scratch building. Rich began scratch building everything from bridges, rolling stock, locomotives and structures including interiors.

Rich is a veteran of Desert Storm with the United States Airforce and is now the Senior Vice Commander of VFW Post 3919, as well as a 15-year member of the North Coast Narrow Gauge Club.

For our December clinic, Rich will show us how much easier scratch building can be compared to what we might think. He will discuss how a single photograph can create inspiration, the type and use of tools and jigs, and a little research to make the inspiration into a reality. Rich will also share some of his current projects, how they came to be and the steps moving forward to complete the projects.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the Zoom Meeting at 10:00am CST on Saturday, December 12th.

Respectfully,

Joe "LocoJo" Leising

Program Manager

Cowcatcher Division

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My Adventure in Model Railroading - 2020

Most of us in life are looking for a good adventure or maybe just a way to change the routine. I joined the NMRA in 2020 and believe me, I am so much better for it.

My first attempt to get into model railroading – other than the simple oval I had as a kid in the 1970's – happened in 2011. I went to my hobby shop at the time, read and talked and asked about model railroading to anyone who happened to be there – mostly the shop owner named Buddy, and of course ... I bought a few things.

My older brothers had Lionel and HO trains, but my first train set was an Atlas Santa Fe in N-scale. I was drawn to N scale for that reason and all the other reasons people decide to model 160 times smaller, space, space and more space.

With my newly acquired Lenz DCC system, N-scale merchandise, a bunch of foam and some lumber I set out to build my dream Colorado diorama and model railroad.

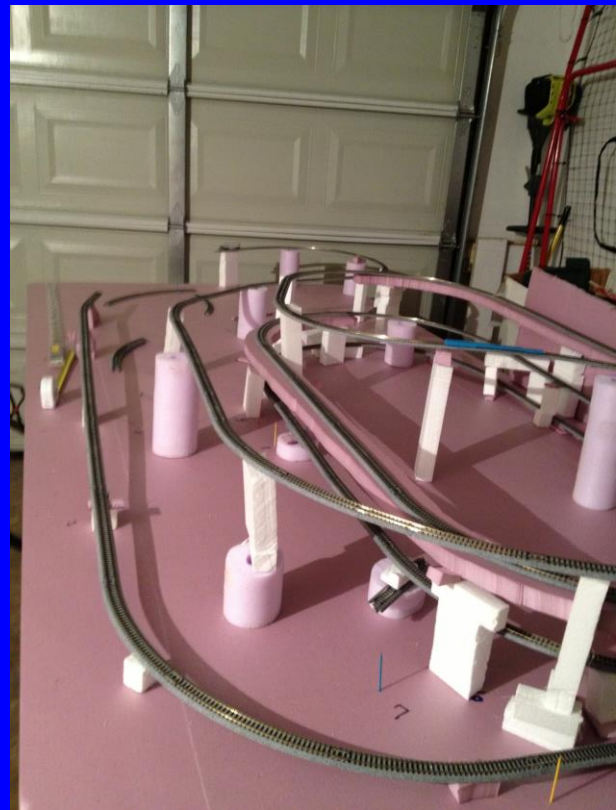
I entered into negotiations on where and how large my railroad empire was to be. "Anything bigger than that will interfere with the yoga & P90X space", so I ended up with a 4' x 8' plan and I went to work in the garage building the Hagerman Pass on the Colorado Midland.



The Continental Divide - Hagerman Pass - Colorado - The Colorado Midland Railway

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But, life happens. One day I heard, "It's been months and you haven't worked on your railroad. How long are you going to leave it sitting in the garage collecting dust?"

I took it apart and put it away.

Leap forward to 2019. The unscratched itch was still hanging around. I bought more books and scoured the internet for more things train related. Dug up my old plans for Hagerman Pass. I suddenly realized I had some time now. And I had some more resources. But how was I not going to repeat history and end up with an unfinished dream?

I found a link to the Lone Star Region's "Sunset Limited" convention and train show near Houston (Stafford) and made my plans to go. Wow, I entered a whole new world. Here were lots of knowledgeable people who were willing to share. Good, friendly people. I learned things and I made new friends.

This, friends, is the real reason for an adventure. Even at the ripe old age of 56, I need some boosts to my confidence, feel the satisfaction of accomplishment and find like-minded people, like I suspect we all do.

So, I joined the NMRA.

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I had been told one way to stay on course was to do more with my model train than have a pretty display. I found out about the Tulsa LDOP (Layout Design and Operations) event and arranged to go. I wanted to operate and find out what that was all about.

And then came Covid. It is worth mentioning here that, left to my own devices and without the NMRA, NMRAX and all the adaptations this organization is making... I would probably not be working on model trains right now. And would have never experienced this thing called "operations".

I had added what I thought was a staging yard below my Hagerman Pass, but it really had become a switching yard. Hmmm, so it can't be hidden anymore and I have no scenery planned for it. What to do about that? Enter my childhood and all that time having watched trains on Galveston Island with my grandmother.



She would load us up in her 1970 Chrysler Newport equipped with plastic covered seats for when we went to the beach, head to the port and watch Santa Fe, Rock Island, Southern Pacific, Katy, Burlington, Missouri Pacific and Galveston Wharves switchers running back and forth and back and forth. I didn't understand it, but it was fascinating to me. Add the ships coming into port (some of the adults called the Chrysler a boat even though it was only slightly smaller than the ships) and the shrimp or oyster poor boy sandwiches grandma bought for us and there was no better place to be for a young boy to be. The stage for my switching activities was set.

I leapt into reading about operations. I was scheduled to meet with Dave Salamon while at Tulsa. We emailed vigorously. My train plan took on a whole new direction.

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I trusted my guide implicitly. I planned and revised. Then the day arrived when Dave said: "Looks good!" He had no more suggestions and no more revisions to make.

I had not sawed any of the lumber I purchased for my benchwork. Why?

I have now operated on one layout a handful of times. Thank you Speed. Those three trips to the TxNamib gave me an answer to the question of why I had been hesitant – uncertainty. That uncertainty was well founded and the experience of operating on TxNamib gave rise to revisions to my plan and confirmed my U-shape design was the way to go. I am now confident my bench shape is set and not going to change. The track plan can and probably will. The weather outside is not frightful – it is just right.

If I did not have to finish this article for the newsletter, I would be out there sawing right now.

In this strange year, I am thankful for my adventure in model railroading. I have also presented a pair of clinics for NMRAX and one to the British Region virtual convention, something I never would have imagined doing. And now my new friends have expanded from Texas and Oklahoma to as far as Scotland and Australia, and I expect to make more.

With these adventures in mind of the year 2020, I truly wish you all a Merry Christmas,

David Hager
"Whistle" Co-Editor



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December 2020

1st - TMRCC Business Meeting
7 pm - 9 pm @ 6808 Forest
Hill Dr, Forest Hill, TX
76140, Masks are required
www.twmrc.org

3rd – Youth in Model

The group is actively looking
for a new director to carry on
this

group, if interested please
contact John Skiba:

westsidelumberco@gmail.com

12th - NMRA Lone Star

Region Cowcatcher Divi-
sion 1 Annual Christmas Party
5:30pm.

Forrest Hill Civic Center

www.cowcatcherdivision.org

17th - NMRA Lone Star Re-

gion Division 3 Meeting,
Virtual Meetings Continue
10 am - 1 pm, Saturday

www.trinityriverdivision.org

19st - Cowtown Model RR

Club General Meeting,
Handley Center, 3024
Forest Avenue, Ft Worth,
TX 76112, 7 pm - 9 pm,

<http://cmrc.webs.com/>

January 2021

- Texas Western Model
RR Club Business Meeting
for Members and
Prospective Members Only,

7 pm - 9 pm @ 6808 Forest

Hill Dr, Forest Hill, TX

76140, Masks are required,

Thursday

www.twmrc.org

- Youth in Model

DALLAS AREA TRAIN SHOW JAN. 16-17, 2021

The Dallas area Train Show is held at the
Plano Centre. It will be the January 16-
17, 2021. Hours 10am-5pm Saturday,
10am-4pm Sunday. 2000 East Spring
Creek Parkway. Go East from Central
Expressway (Exit 31).

Admission \$10.00 per person Children
12 and under are FREE. Now accepting
cards and cash at the door.

Please contact Chris Atkins
(chris@railroadmodelers.com) for more
information.

December 2020

12th - SPECIAL HOLIDAY TRAIN
SHOW STILLWATER
OKLAHOMA

9:00am to 4:00pm

North Hall at the Payne County
Fairgrounds

4518 Expo Cir E, Stillwater, OK
74075

For more information call Ron
Geminn at 917-869-7228

CANCELLED

~~Annual Christmas Party~~

~~Dec. 12th, 2020 Doors open @ 5:30pm.~~

~~Dinner served @ 6:30pm~~

~~Forest Hill Civic
Center~~

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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://cmrc.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@cableone.net or contact: Stan Schwartz, Email: ss124@sbcglobal.net for dates and times.
1/48 12X41 It/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>

TNMRC

Meets at 11999 Plano Rd, Suite 154, Dallas, 75243 Check our website for times. Website: <https://www.texasnorthern.org>

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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

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

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

Wild Bill's Hobbytown USA
535 E Shady Grove Rd
Irving, TX 75060



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

Check with your local hobby shops for their store hours. Most are now open.

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Effective March 31, 2020, in accordance with the policy adopted by the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) 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, the parent or legal guardian must sign a current document stating that they will remain in visual contact with their minor at all times.