

Cowcatcher Division

Division One of the Lone Star NMRA Region



Division 1 Whistle

Vol. 5 No. 2 February 2021

Division 1 Zoom meeting, Saturday, February 13th, 2021. From the comfort of your home. **Clinic:** The Truth about DCC Boosters with Bruce Petrarca, MMR.

www.cowcatcherdivision.org

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February'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.

February's Program:

*The Truth About DCC Boosters
presented by Mr. DCC, Bruce Petrarca,
MMR*



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NMRA Lone Star Region
Cowcatcher
Division 1
Whistle

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Director's Report

Well, there's something in the air. Can you smell it?
Is it Love or COVID-19?

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

I seriously hope that you and your family are safe and healthy. I know that many of you have started receiving your vaccinations. A friend in the Phoenix area shared some local information as to their COVID situation. January was the worst month for them with cases peaking at over 7000 per day with a moving average of over 6000 per day. As of the first week of February, the seven-day number had dropped to 1620, with only 226 new cases daily. Let's hope this trend continues across the country and we can celebrate being on the recovery side of this pandemic!

By now you have received the news that Division 1 member, and MMR #475, Joe Batson has lost his battle with liver and kidney disease. Joe was an active member of the Texas Western Model Railroad Club and his friendship, as well as the many ways he contributed to the club, will be missed.

Our February meeting will be held online again, which has become the norm unfortunately. Please join us at 10am on Saturday, February 13, 2021 via Zoom where we will have a clinic presented by Mr. DCC himself, Bruce Petrarca. Naturally, we will have our usual segments during the meeting: Q and A, Tips and Tricks & Show and Tell. Get your projects ready to show everyone so we can see your progress.

Once again I'd like to thank Greg McComas for his presentation during our January meeting. If you missed seeing his beautiful layout you can still catch it by watching the meeting on our Division 1 YouTube channel. Simply visit cowcatcherdivision.org for the link.

Also, if you aren't using the website as a tool for information you are really missing out. You can find meeting information, our YouTube channel, contact information and much, much more. I urge you to take advantage of this useful tool.

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

Keep training!

Mike Mackey

Mike Mackey, MMR
Director, Cowcatcher Division

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February's Program

The February 13th program will be presented by Bruce Petrarca, MMR, also known as Mr. DCC. Bruce has been involved in electronics design and manufacturing since the 1960's, including a keyboard for the International Space Station. Bruce has worked for 5 years with a mainly MIL-SPEC electronics manufacturing firm, making him familiar with the techniques of high quality, high reliability electronics. He began serious modeling in 1998, including working with DCC. Bruce founded Litchfield Station in 2000, which ultimately became the second largest DCC specialty shop in the world. Bruce has decades of hands-on and theoretical electronics experience, as well as a bachelor's and master's degree in electronic engineering. Bruce has also been featured in Model Railroad Hobbyist magazine.

For the February program, Bruce will discuss DCC Boosters, with a Q&A session to follow. Bruce will also be available to answer other questions concerning DCC, so get your questions ready for Mr. DCC.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the Zoom Meeting at 10:00am on Saturday, February 13th, 2021.

Respectfully,

Joe "LocoJo" Leising

Program Manager



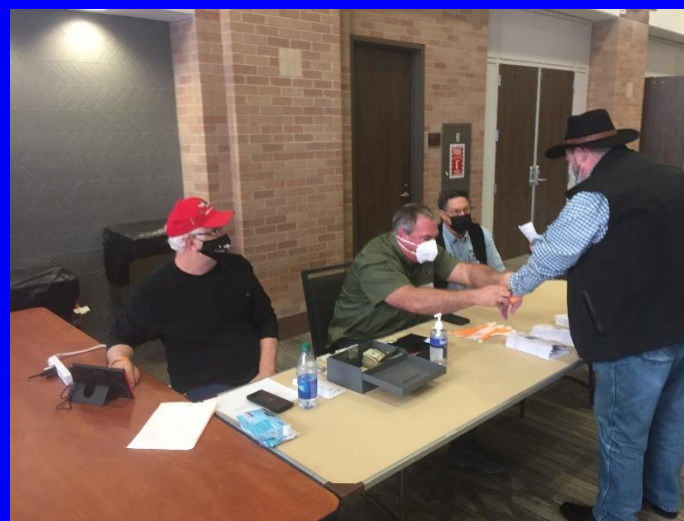
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Plano Train Show a.k.a. Dallas Area Train Show

Though I have been told past years attendance to the train show are typically larger, a number of people I talked with commented on how many people were there. At the NMRA booth as well as other places I saw a number of familiar faces:



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Here is one of the crowd taking it in.



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The T Trak folks. I noticed all their flashing lights attracted the attention of the kids.



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And finally, anyone for a train ride?



David Hager
"Whistle" Editor

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Congratulations to Joe Leising for his Associate Volunteer certificate:



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February 2021

13th - NMRA Lone Star
Region Cowcatcher Division 1 meeting via Zoom
www.cowcatcherdivision.org

20th - NMRA Lone Star Region Division 3 Meeting,
Virtual Meetings Continue
10 am - 1 pm, Saturday
www.trinityriverdivision.org

15th - Cowtown Model RR
Club General Meeting,
Handley Center, 3024
Forest Avenue, Ft Worth,
TX 76112, 7 pm - 9 pm,
<http://cmrrc.webs.com/>

March 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, March 4th
www.twmrc.org

- Youth in Model

San Jacinto Model Railroad Club,
Inc.

Presents

The Greater Houston Train Show

Saturday, April 10, 2021

10:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Stafford Centre

10505 Cash Road at Murphy Road,
Stafford, TX 77477

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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: bradyprmm1a@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.