

Cowcatcher Division

Division One of the Lone Star NMRA Region



Division 1 Whistle

Vol. 5 No. 3 March 2021

Division 1 Zoom meeting, Saturday, March 13th, 2021. From the comfort of your home. **Clinic:**
Dead Rail – Radio Controlled Battery Powered Model Trains with **Pete Steinmetz**.

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www.cowcatcherdivision.org

March's meeting will be held from 10am to 12pm 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).



Shamrock Express -Hocking Valley Scenic Railway in Nelsonville, Ohio

Look for the upcoming email with the link for the zoom conference from Mike Mackey.

Pete Steinmetz, Division Director of the Pacific Southwest Region, San Diego Division to present March's Program:

"Dead Rail - Radio Controlled Battery Powered Model Trains"

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NMRA Lone Star Region
Cowcatcher
Division 1
Whistle

Vol. 4 No. 10 October 2020

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Director's Report

With the arrival of March, we can expect some windy days, green beverages and wishes that the luck of the Irish be with us all! Hopefully, you have at least gotten scheduled for the first vaccine to get us past this pandemic, if not been totally immunized. With the numbers starting to decline drastically and the fact that businesses are starting to return to full capacity, we can only hope that we are on the back side of this social and economic disaster. That said, I'm keeping a close eye on things so we can return to in person meetings as soon as possible. I know that everyone wants that to happen as soon as possible. So many of you have been so patient regarding the flat car clinic and I cannot express enough how much it is appreciated.

If you missed our February meeting you missed a doozy! The attendance was one of our most attended meetings ever, virtual or in person. If memory serves correctly we had 49 join the festivities. Thanks to Bruce Petrarca, MMR, for a superb clinic on DCC and the importance of installing boosters correctly. The meeting has been added to our division YouTube Channel if you'd like to watch it again.

This month, Pete Steinmetz from San Diego, is going to be educating us on the new trend of Dead Rail. If you'd like to get a jump on things, visit www.deadrailsociety.com or www.deadrailinstalls.com for an introduction. Don't miss this one, it promises to be chocked full of valuable information.

During our February meeting we were joined by Gordy Robinson, World Director at Large of the NMRA Board of Directors. Gordy shared some rather interesting information regarding our division. According to membership analysis and information from national, the Cowcatcher division is in the top 25% of all divisions worldwide. Additionally, while the worldwide organization has suffered greatly from a decline in membership, especially in the last year (over 12%), our division has held steady and had a less than 7% decline in the last 4 years overall. I guess rumors of the demise of our hobby have been greatly exaggerated, at least in North Texas anyway.

Congratulations to Joe Leising and David Crumpton for their accomplishments in the Achievement program. Joe received his Volunteer certificate and will be submitting his paperwork for Civil and Electrical this month. David earned his Golden Spike and is submitting his paperwork for Scenery, Civil and Electrical certificates this month. Great job guys!!

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Finally, the Texas Western Model Railroad club, one of the division's 100% clubs, lost two members since our last meeting. Joe Batson, MMR #475 and John Callesen will be missed by many. Condolences to Mrs. Batson and Mrs. Callesen.

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

Keep training!

Mike Mackey

Mike Mackey, MMR
Director, Cowcatcher Division

Treasurer's Report

February

On Feb 1st, Cowcatcher Division had a checking balance of \$4757.75 in the account.

March

The Cowcatcher Division starts the month of March with \$4741.81 in our checking account.

Dick Brannan

Cowcatcher Division Treasurer

March's Program

Dead Rail – Radio Controlled Battery Powered Model Trains

Make plans to join us for our monthly Zoom meeting at 10:00am on Saturday, March 13th. Our program will be presented by Pete Steinmetz, Division Director of the Pacific Southwest Region, San Diego Division.

Pete has been an avid modeler since childhood. He modeled HO scale for many years, worked with N scale for a short while, and ultimately transitioned to On30. While in On30 he discovered the joy of operating trains with Battery Power and Radio Control. Pete is the owner of Dead Rail Installs and is one of the founding members of the Dead Rail Society. In addition to Dead Rail, Pete has done considerable research in Weathering Techniques using mixed media. He has been especially interested in techniques used by military modelers.

Are you tired of having to clean track for smooth running trains? Would you like to build a layout without having to wire the track? Are you interested in controlling your trains with Battery Power? As the interest in Dead Rail grows and matures, there are more opportunities to help people make the transition to Dead Rail. Pete will discuss the various available Dead Rail Systems and their various advantages, as well as safe batteries and their charging systems.

Watch for the email with the link to our March 13th Zoom meeting. See you there.

Respectfully,

Joe "LocoJo" Leising

Program Manager

Cowcatcher Division

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In Case you missed it on NMRAX, Gert “Speed” Muller of LSR division 3 & LSR Treasurer maintains a link library of the presentations on his website. It can be found here:

<http://www.txnamib.com/nmrax-links>

You’ll know you have arrived in the right place when you see this:

TxNamib

- ▼ Home
 - 00_Rrr-duino
 - 01_Outjo
 - 02_Otjiwarongo
 - 03_Omaruru
 - 04_Helix
 - 05_Kranzberg
 - 07_Swakopmund
 - 08_Walvisbaai
 - 09_Karibib
 - 10_Okahandja
 - 11_Windhoek
 - 12_Otavi
 - 13_Grootfontein
 - 14_Tsumeb
- Awesome links!
- ▼ Awesome pictures!
 - Autoracking...
 - Cool wires (seen...)

NMRAX Clinic links, 2020, 2021

2020.04.24 (24 hours)

Ralph Renzetti: [From Workbench to Mainline](#)
Kaylee Zhang: [Using Cellular Speakers for DCC Sound](#)
Clark Kooning, MMR®: [Model Railroading 101](#)
Joey Guinto: [Weathering for Beginners](#)
Ron Marsh: [My Home layout. A virtual layout tour](#)
Kevin Marks: [Track building tips with Fast Tracks Tools](#)
Neil Erickson: [Oahu Railway Wahiawa Branch & Dead Rail](#)
Duncan Cabassi: [UPBNSF Sub Downunder N Scale](#)
Gerry Hopkins, MMR®: [Selection of Australian Layouts](#)
Craig Mackie: ["Cassino" HO Scale](#)
Martyn Jenkins: [Raspberry Pi and Engine Driver](#)
Mike DeSensi: [Ohio Valley Lines MR Club, T-Trak Subdivision](#)
Randy Hammil: [New Britain Station](#)
Rob Clark: [Is Model Railroading Art?](#)
Peter Bowen: [Weathering Locos and Cars in 5 minutes](#)
Perry Lamb: [Utah, Colorado & Western Developing a History](#)
Thomas Gasior, MMR®: [Split Rock Mining Company, HO Layout](#)
Chris Adams: [Modeling the Valley Local](#)

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March 2021

9th - Denton Area Model Railroad Club meeting.

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

<https://www.facebook.com/damrrc/>

13th - NMRA Lone Star Region Cowcatcher Division Zoom meeting.

10:00am – 12:00pm

www.cowcatcherdivision.org

20th - NMRA Lone Star Region 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://cmrrc.webs.com/>

April 2021

1st - TWMRC Business Meeting
7 pm - 9 pm @ 6808 Forest Hill Dr, Forest Hill, TX

76140, Masks are required
www.twmrc.org,

7 pm - 9 pm @ 6808 Forest Hill Dr, Forest Hill, TX
76140, Masks are required,
Thursday

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



Red River RPM June 26, 2021

The first ever Railroad Modelers Prototype event will be held at

Forrest Hill Civic Center
6901 Wichita Street, Forrest Hill, TX.

Plans are being finalized. Please visit

<https://www.redriverrpm.org>

for more information.

Make plans for October 6-10, 2021 for the Tulsa Union Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma

<http://www.2021tulsaunion.com>



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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@cablone.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.