

Trails, Rails, & Tales



July-August, 2019
Volume 5 • Number 4

The Official Newsletter of the *Chisholm Trail Division* of the **NMRA**

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK BY PHIL AYLWARD

Well, we got thru the convention. A big Thank You to all that helped. I got a lot of good comments from the attendees. The train show part of the convention went well. Dealers were happy. All liked the Free-MO set up – looking good. A big hand for the ones who brought home the plaques. Maybe we can do it all over again in 10 years?

Thanks again to all that helped.

–Phil

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK BY ROB NEISES

Well, time for all of us to take a breath. Thanks to the hard work of the volunteers and the members of the Executive Committee, we pulled off a regional convention that will be a benchmark for future conventions. And it was because of us pulling together that it was accomplished! Thank you that helped, either as a volunteer, you presented a clinic, a vendor, or by attending the show.

I will spend the remainder of my term working on training a new Superintendent to lead the Chisholm Trail Division in 2020 and beyond. So thank you all for the last two and a half years ago, and here's to a successful next 6 months.

Have a safe and sane Independence Day holiday, and I hope to see you all at the July meeting, on the 9th.

–Rob

TRAILS, RAILS, & TAILS
is published bi-monthly.
It is sent to members of the
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strongly encouraged.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

BY JIM MARLETT

The 2019 MCoR Convention is history. I would like to thank Rob and the committee for a job well done. I know there was plenty of adversity along the way, yet it turned out great and I had a really good time. Congratulations to everyone involved!

This month's Trails, Rails, & Tales has a lot of space dedicated to the convention. Besides photos that I snapped, Pam MacPhail sent me some as well. I'm sure others shot some photos as well and I will try to run some in the next newsletter, too. I hope the pictures remind you of a wonderful time you had.

Dean Lippincott sent me an article about the history of the Mid-Continent Region from the 50th Anniversary Issue of the NMRA Bulletin. That was in August of 1985. Although I probably should wait until the Region's 70th anniversary next year, I figure the 69th is good enough, so I have quoted a few tidbits from that article.

I also wanted to slip in an article about an issue that seems to have plagued certain areas of town, namely, a flooded the basement. This is on my mind right now because it happened to me and most of the folks in my neighborhood. Perhaps some of you are dealing with it as well. If not, if you have a basement, there is a good chance you might someday. After all, weather isn't the only thing that can soak a layout room.

As always, if you have any ideas for articles or want to send me a few pictures, I will welcome them with open arms. Just send them to the email address that brought you this newsletter, but if you hit reply, please remove the newsletter itself. My email inbox does have limits!

–Jim

I needed a little filler, so here is a some benchwork progress on my own layout.



TRAINS ON THE PLAINS – 2019 MCoR NMRA CONVENTION CLINICS



TRAINS ON THE PLAINS – 2019 MCoR NMRA CONVENTION CONTEST ROOM



TRAINS ON THE PLAINS – 2019 MCoR NMRA CONVENTION CONTEST ROOM (CONTINUED)



TRAINS ON THE PLAINS – 2019 MCoR NMRA CONVENTION EXCURSION



TRAINS ON THE PLAINS – 2019 MCoR NMRA CONVENTION AWARDS TO CHISHOLM TRAIL DIVISION MEMBERS



TRAINS ON THE PLAINS – 2019 MCoR NMRA CONVENTION OPERATING SESSION & LAYOUT TOURS



A QUICK HISTORY OF THE MID-CONTINENT REGION QUOTED FROM JAMES D. HAMMER

Dean Lippincott found a jewel of an article in the August 1985 *NMRA Bulletin*. This was the 50th Anniversary Issue and in it were histories of each of the regions. The president of the Mid-Continent Region at that time, James D. Hammer of St. Louis, MO, wrote the history of our region and since we just hosted the MCoR Convention, I thought some of his points would be interesting.

As for the beginning, Mr. Hammer wrote, “Formation of the Mid-Continent Region of the NMRA was first conceived by a group of modelers who attended the national convention in Denver in 1949. Subsequent meetings of these interested modelers in Tulsa, Okla., and Hutchinson, Kan., resulted in the necessary petition to the NMRA and, by 1950, the region was officially born.”

I was amused by how the region got its name. “The region name came about at the planning meeting in Tulsa when a glance from a hotel window revealed a large oil refinery along the river with the name ‘Mid-Continent.’ Sensing its appropriateness, the group adopted this name for the new region.”

I was surprised to learn of the strong connection between Hutchinson, KS and the founding of the region. “The first president of the region was Lester R. Schucker of Hutchinson, Kansas. He also started publication of the *MCoR Bulletin*, soon renamed the *Caboose Kibitzer*...”

And how about this claim to fame. “The MCoR enjoys the distinction of having published the first four-color photograph in the history of NMRA printing. The spring 1970 issue of the *Caboose Kibitzer* featured a four-color cover picture of ‘Bud’ McCrary’s nationally famed layout in Kansas City. This feat was all the more remarkable because it was done by region members on their own equipment rather than being printed in a professional print shop.”

I’m certainly grateful that Mr. Hammer produced this history for us. If you want to see the whole article, just dig around in that pile of old NMRA publications that you’ve saved since becoming a member or find an old codger like me. I’ve been saving them since I joined in back in 1971!

–Jim Marlett

WATER IN THE BASEMENT

BY JIM MARLETT

This year has reminded me of the unthinkable – floods in the layout room. In our neighborhood, the water table rose above the floors of our basements. Seams and cracks are inevitable in concrete and they can seep water. Basements are just not good boats. But basements can flood from many causes like a leaky pipe or a sump pump failure. Even condensation from HVAC ducts can drip where it can do the most damage. I once had a clogged air conditioner condensation line make a heck of a mess. I think my friend Chris Nickel pretty much nailed it when she wrote, “If you live in Wichita, at some time or another you will have water in your basement. That is not negotiable.” Although there are techniques designed to prevent some kinds of leaks, that is not what this article is about. My philosophy is to try to reduce the damage when it happens. While I don’t think much can be done when flood water pours in the windows and the basement becomes a swimming pool, there are things that can help preserve your model railroading efforts when the floor gets wet.

I’ve given this years of thought because my current train room has seen its share of water. A stairwell to the outside has often let water in during storms. A pinhole in a water tank caused my worst flood and damaged a number of pieces I had saved from my old railroad, to say nothing of my stash of National Geographic magazines from the ‘30s, ‘40s and ‘50s. I managed to save a lot of the damaged things, but I learned a valuable lesson – if it isn’t waterproof, don’t let it touch the floor.

I have decided that I won’t let wooden benchwork touch the floor. I have two techniques for doing this. One is to support it from the wall. You saw the steel brackets I used in TR&T Vol. 5, No. 1. The layout room walls have always remained dry where these are, so it works. My other technique is

to put leveling screws in the bottoms of wooden legs. The leveling screws are 3/8” carriage bolts that screw into tee nuts at the bottoms of the legs. Note the lock nuts that secure them. Depending on location, these hold the wooden legs anywhere between 1/2” and not quite 2” off the floor. No, my layout room floor is not level.



As you can see in the picture below, my high and dry benchwork served as a refuge for things from other parts of the basement.



Regarding stored materials, the most obvious line of defense is the plastic tub. If it doesn’t have cracks in it, the contents stay dry even if the bottom of the tub is resting in a puddle. However, cracks in plastic can and do happen.

My favorite method of storage is to put things on cheap furniture dollies. At one time the sole source of these was Harbor Freight, but I've seen



them at various other stores lately. Furniture dollies not only get things off the floor, but allow your prized possessions to be moved easily when you want them out of your way. I even have a cabinet mounted on furniture dollies.



Then there is floor covering. The only carpeted room in the entire basement was my office. My experience with that soggy mess tells me that my layout room will never be carpeted, at least in the conventional sense. Neither will my office unless it is easily removable carpet squares. However, I'm not sure which way I will eventually go with this. I would leave the layout room floor as painted concrete except others have told me that they can't stand on hard surfaces for long periods of time so would not want to operate on my layout as it is. This has me in a quandary. I want whatever surface I decide on to be easily removable when the inevitable flood occurs and I want my rolling storage to continue to roll easily. At this point, I'm thinking I'll put foam mats in locations where standing rather than walking is likely. Since my main yard will be low enough to be worked from a rolling chair, that only leaves four areas that will need a cushioned floor. I think that can be done without too much trouble.



-Jim

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

INCLUDES NON-NMRA EVENTS

RECURRING EVENTS

Chisholm Trail Division of NMRA Monthly Meeting Every first Tuesday of the month. Gather at 6:45PM. Meeting from 7:00-9:00. Olivet Baptist Church, 3440 W. 13th St., Wichita, KS (13th & High) [http://ctd-mcor-nmra.html](http://ctd-mcor-nmra.tripod.com/ctd-mcor-nmra.html)

Kansas Central Division of NMRA Every second Saturday of even numbered months at 1:00PM. Locations vary. Contact information is here: http://www.mcor-nmra.org/Divisions/Kansas_Central_Division/

Wichita Area Model Railroaders Luncheon. Every second Thursday at 11:30AM. Spears Restaurant and Pie Shop, 4323W. Maple, Wichita, KS

Kansas Central Model Railroaders Business Meeting. Every second Saturday from 11:00AM-Noon. 16 East 3rd Ave, Hutchinson, KS <http://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org>

JULY 2019

July 7-11 – NMRA National Convention. Salt Lake City, UT <http://www.nmra2019slc.org/>

July 24-27 – Santa Fe Railroad Historical and Modeling Society. Pueblo Convention Center, Pueblo, CO <https://sfrhms.org/conventions/>

July 27 – Turkey Creek Division Train Show & Swap Meet. Shawnee Mission North High School, 7401 Johnson Dr., Overland Park, KS. Show 8:00-3:00. Layout Tours 3:30-8:30. <http://www.tc-nmra.org/TrainShow.html>

July 30-August 3 – Toy Train Operator Society National Convention. (Must be a member) Drury Plaza Broadview Hotel Convention Center, 400 W. Douglas, Wichita, KS <https://www.ttos-sooner.org/2019-national-convention/>

AUGUST 2019

August 2 – Toy Train Operating Society Train Show. Drury Plaza Broadview Hotel Convention Center, 400 W. Douglas, Wichita, KS

August 25 – Mid America Train & Toy Show. KCI Expo Center, Kansas City, MO <http://www.midamericatrainandtoyshow.com/>

August 27-31 – 35th National Garden Railway Convention. Portland, OR <https://2019ngrc.wildapricot.org/>

SEPTEMBER 2019

September 4-7 – National Narrow Gauge Convention. Sacramento, CA <https://www.nngc2019.org/>

September 28&29 – 25th Annual Wichita Model Train Show. Presented by the Wichita Toy Train Museum at the Cessna Activity Center, Wichita, KS <http://www.wichitatomymuseum.org/>

OCTOBER 2019

October 5 – Trainfest 2019 Train and Toy Show. Oakwood Mall, 4125 West Owen K. Garriot (Hwy 412) Enid, OK. 9:00-3:00.

October 12 – Greater Tulsa Area Train Show. Bixby Community Center, Bixby, OK <https://www.ttos-sooner.org/next-show/>

Please send me any other events or meetings that you think should be included on this calendar.

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