

Trails, Rails, & Tales



January-February 2020

Volume 5 • Number 6

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY PHIL AYLWARD

I hope you had a happy Christmas and hope for a good 2020.

Let us not forget the Wichita Train Show & Swap Meet will be Feb. 1st & 2nd, 2020. We do need you help at the show. Please get with the superintendent for time slots.

–Phil

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

BY ROB NEISES

Merry Christmas to all members and the family members of the Chisholm Trail Division. This will be my last column as I end my term as superintendent of the Chisholm Trail Division. I want to thank you all for all your help, cooperation, and enjoyment I've had over the last 3 years. I wish the new officers good luck and will continue to support them and the division in any way I can. I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I will see you all January 7th for the announcement of election results. The new officers will take office in the February meeting.

Again, I want to thank you all. Without your help we wouldn't have been able to do a lot of things we did, including the convention this past summer and the February train show. On that note I do want to remind you the first weekend of February is the best train show in Wichita, The Wichita Train Show and Swap Meet at Cessna activity center. Hope to see you all there. Have a great holiday. Thank you.

–Rob

TRAILS, RAILS, & TAILS

is published bi-monthly.

It is sent to members of the Chisholm Trail Division of NMRA

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

BY JIM MARLETT

I hope everyone had a joyful holiday and if it is your practice to give and receive gifts, I hope you got more train stuff than anyone should ever be allowed to have. I know many of us got our start in model railroading in this season. For me it was an O gauge Christmas gift that I darned near wore the wheels off of. I also remember gazing longingly at the three rail pike that Sears set up every year wondering if I would ever have anything that elaborate. Sometimes I think I'm still wondering.

My story is like many other's story – high school, girls, college, cars, and the business of growing up displaced my boyhood dreams. But only temporarily. When the U.S. Army felt it was its duty to station me in Colorado Springs, I noticed that the roads through the mountains were old railroad grades and the sleeping beast was awakened.

Christmas again played a big role. It was 1970 and my wife gave me a Mantua/Tyco "Big Six" switch engine for the little switching layout I built in our apartment. I had a great time adding detail and weathering it. I still have it after 49 years and I cherish it.

Something else happened since the last Trails, Rails, & Tales came out – Big Boy came through Kansas! Some Chisholm Trail Division members decided they would catch it as it made its run through the northern part of the State, but it was on a weekday and I had commitments. I just gave up on seeing it. Then my wife, once again in her role as enabler, decided she wanted to see it, and would I be interested in going to Coffeyville over the weekend? Oh, man!!! Would I ever. We had a great time and got some memorable pictures as I'm sure everyone who saw it did. So, I thought, why not share a few members' pictures in this edition of Trails, Rails, & Tales. I also thought I would make the pictures larger than I typically do and as a result, this newsletter is a little on the heavy side. I hope you don't mind, and I hope you enjoy it.

Finally, there was a little progress on my own railroad. I decided to build the wye for turning helpers at the top of Elva Pass. Since it is a little hard to reach and since I was hoping to build the switches in place, I decided it would be easier to spike the rails on the Homasote roadbed at the workbench, then glue the entire assembly to the plywood sub-roadbed that is already in place. All the other trackage at Elva will be made to fit the wye. Hope it works!

Please share your own progress in TR&T by sending me a few pictures and a description.

–Jim



BIG BOY VISITS KANSAS

The Union Pacific's famous articulated steam locomotive 4014 is the only operating "Big Boy" on the planet. As almost everyone knows, depending on how you measure it, the Big Boys were the largest steam locomotives ever built. The 4014 passed through our state as part of a nationwide tour commemorating the 150th anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad. A number of members and friends of NMRA's Chisholm Trail Division were able to document at least part of this amazing journey. Here are some of their photos.



To say that Big Boy is impressive would be a serious understatement. Here 4014 steams out of Neodesha, belching smoke with the whistle blowing and cylinder cocks open. Photo by Jim Marlett



Neodesha certainly gave Big Boy a hero's welcome! I suspect this is the biggest crowd the town had seen in quite a while. Photo by Jim Marlett



The crowds watched while 4014 received minor service at Durand (near Yates Center) on its way to Kansas City. Photo by Len Wigton



The stop in Abilene showed how folks greeted this massive steam engine – cell phones, tablets, and cameras held high as if saluting the reigning “king of steam.” Photo by Larry Gulick



In Abilene, as elsewhere, the valve gear and complicated apparatus adorning the flanks of 4014 seemed to fascinate the gathered crowd. It was nearly impossible to get a clear shot of both sets of drivers. Photo by Dan Hagenbuch.



(Left) Dan Hagenbuch posed at the nose of Big Boy during its stop in Abilene. Submitted by Dan Hagenbuch.



(Right) Crowds gathered everywhere the Big Boy stopped. This is Abilene again. Photo by Dan Hagenbuch.



Chisholm Trail members that chased the train Abilene included Terry Ross, Dr. Dennis Buth and his friend Sam Yeager, Gary Webb, Dan Hagenbuch, Larry Gulick, and Phil Aylward. They are not pictured because they were all too polite to stand in the way! Photo by Terry Ross.



Larry Gulick caught the commemorative train on a bridge leaving Abilene. That's one way to filter out the crowds! Photo by Larry Gulick



Big Boy and fans on the eastern edge of Salina. Way in the rear you can just make out the string of hoppers added to the train in Topeka. Photo by Larry Gulick



Big Boy rolled through Kanopolis at about 40 mph. Photo by Ray Brady.



The train stopped at Wolf Siding about 20 miles west of Kanopolis where it went in the hole for an oncoming eastbound. Photo by Ray Brady.



After the meet, Big Boy steamed off for Hays, then on to Colorado, and back home to Cheyenne. Photo by Ray Brady.

AL GULICK SALVAGE

BY LARRY GULICK

Here are the modeling photos of my latest project to fill in an empty corner of the layout. It is named after my dad who was a bit of a hoarder before we knew what to call it.



MID-CONTINENT PROTOTYPE MODELERS EVENT

PHOTOS BY RON WERAK

Ron Werak attended the annual event in Benton on November 2-3, 2019 and sent us some pictures.



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. Olivet Baptist Church, 3440 W. 13th St., Wichita, KS (13th & High) <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/

Kansas Central Model Railroaders Business Meeting. (Not the same as Kansas Central Division of NMRA) Every second Saturday from 11:00AM-Noon. 16 East 3rd Ave, Hutchinson, KS <http://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org>

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

FEBRUARY 2020

February 1-2 – The Wichita Train Show & Swap Meet. Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd., Wichita, KS. Saturday from 9AM-5PM. Sunday from 11AM-4PM. Sponsored in part by Chisholm Trail Division NMRA. <https://besttrainshow.com/>

February 15 – Winter Train Show. Payne County Expo Center, 4518 Expo Cr. E., Stillwater, OK. 9AM-3PM. <https://www.ttos-sooner.org/event/winter-train-show/>

APRIL 2020

April 4 – Greater Tulsa Area Train Show. Bixby Community Center, 211 N Cabaniss Ave, Bixby, OK. <https://www.ttos-sooner.org/event/greater-tulsa-area-train-show/>

MAY 2020

May 2-3 – Herington Railroad Days. 810 South Broadway, Herington, KS

JULY 2020

July 12-18 – NMRA National Convention. The Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark, 1 S. Broadway, St. Louis, MO. <http://www.gateway2020.org/>

July 31-August 1 – Railroad Prototype Modeler's Meet. Gateway Convention Center, One Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234. (Across the river from St. Louis, MO) <http://www.icgdecals.com/stlrpm/>

SEPTEMBER 2020

September 2-5 – 40th National Narrow Gauge Convention. Embassy Suites by Hilton, 2 Convention Center Plaza, Saint Charles (St. Louis), MO 63303. <https://40nngc.com/>

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

Jim Marlett

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The Wichita Train Show & Swap Meet

<https://besttrainshow.com/>

The Best Train Show in Wichita, KS

Sponsored in part by

Chisholm Trail Division, NMRA

Saturday, February 1, 2020 – 9am-5pm

Sunday, February 2, 2020 – 11am-4pm

Cessna Activity Center
2744 George Washington Blvd
Wichita, KS

Operating Layouts ~ Model Contests
Clinics ~ Over 100 Dealer Tables

Hourly Door Prizes

Admission \$8 for Both Days

Kids 10 & under free with paid adult

\$1 off with non-perishable food item

Scouts in uniform get in free!

Dealers: 8-foot tables (call for pricing)

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