

Trails, Rails, & Tales



March-April 2023
Volume 9 • Number 2

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY PHIL AYLWARD

A big thank you to all that helped at the train show. Here are some of the statistical breakdowns.

Total attendance for both days was 1,147. There were 46 vendors. Besides many returning layouts, we had four new layouts this year including the T-NUTS out of Kansas City and the Chisholm Trail Division's new HO modular layout. The survey asking how people heard about the event showed "Attended Previously" was the most frequent answer by far followed by "Internet" and "Show Flier."

Thank You.

–Phil

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

BY CHARLIE MONCKTON

I would like to begin by thanking Phil for the successful train show and everyone that helped make it a success. An extra thanks to the clinic presenters; you all did a great job. I heard lots of good things about the clinics. Congratulations to Dennis Howe of Wichita, whose diorama was selected as best of show. His diorama was very detailed and well done. Although the number of entries was down this year, the quality of all the entries was fantastic. Several people have commented that Dennis has set the bar high for next year and have said they are beginning now on their projects to challenge him next year. I always come home with lots of ideas and things I want to try on my layout. Mark your calendars now for the 2024 train show February 3 and 4. We have a new website where you can follow the train show and the Chisholm Trail Division of the NMRA the address is: <http://www.nmrachisholmtraildivision.org/>

– Charlie

TRAILS, RAILS, & TAILS

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NMRA

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strongly encouraged.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

BY JIM MARLETT

The 2023 Wichita Train Show and Swap Meet, also known as the “Best Train Show in Wichita,” is in the books. But there was also the Model Train Convention and Expo in McPherson, where the Chisholm Trail Modular Group debuted the new modular layout. So this will be the train show issue of Trails, Rails, & Tails.

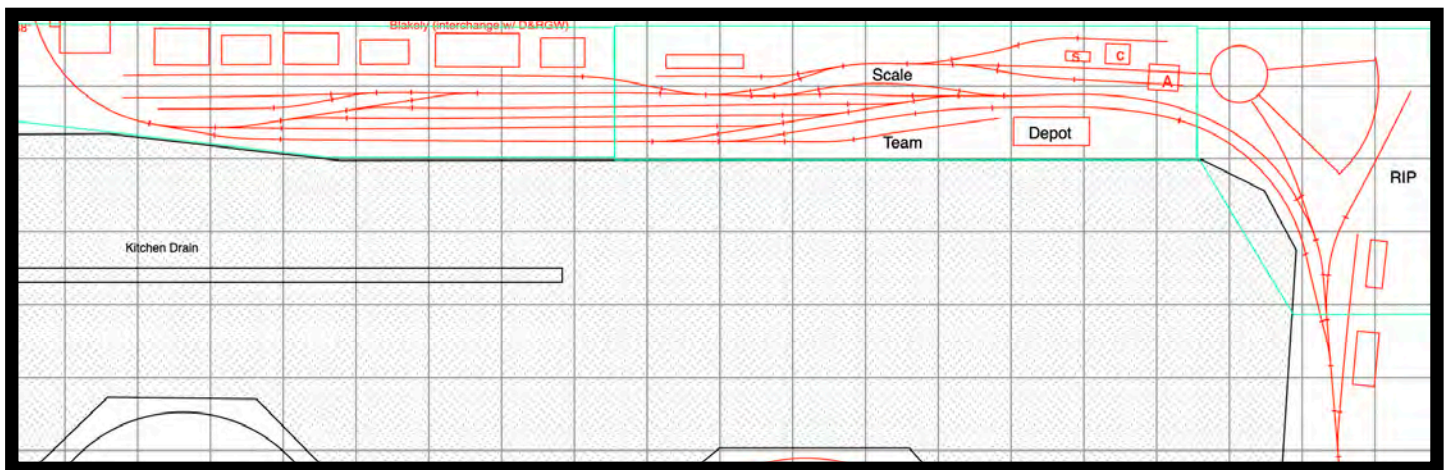
I thought I'd put in a plug for NMRA's Special Interest Groups (SIGs). I've enjoyed the process of planning my railroad and look forward to operating it, so I decided to join the SIGs related to those functions – the Layout Design SIG (LDSIG) and the Operations SIG (OpsSIG). Both of them have websites that are full of useful information. Much of the content is members only, but there is also info available to anyone. A particularly useful thing for those still planning their layout or thinking about their next layout is the LDSIG's Layout Design Primer and, yes, it is on line available to all: https://ldsig.net/o/ldsig/wiki/index_title_Category_Primer.html

Not much has happened in my own basement. I did finally come up with a plan for my final town of Blakely, Colorado. There are still a few tweaks I'd like to make, but that can come with the actual

construction. Most of the last two months of model railroading came in the form track planning, preparing to give a clinic, dealing with a broken dishwasher and being sick. Those last ones didn't have much to do with model railroading except to impede it.

All that being said, it really is time to start building the layout again. I need to buy some 3/4" plywood though, and that has me stymied. I had always planned to use table-top construction on this last phase and those tables would be topped with Baltic birch plywood. It's the finest, straightest, most stable, self supporting plywood you can buy. It has been absolutely trouble free where I've used it before. Unfortunately, most of it is manufactured in Russia and that makes it hard to get right now. It is still available at one local supplier (special ordered, of course), but the price for a 4x8" sheet is now up to a penny shy of \$170. I need at least two sheets to finish my railroad and probably three. My wife has suggested that I could use a less perfect plywood. She's probably right, but I'm waffling in indecision again. We'll see what choice I made in the next issue of Trails, Rails, and Tales.

– Jim



The fruit of several month's labor – the track plan for the town of Blakely on the San Juan Southern.

THE BEST TRAIN SHOW IN WICHITA

BY RANDY STUCKY

The “Best Train Show in Wichita” was on February 4&5. There were several large layouts along with lots of items you may have been looking for for a while.

The model contest had fewer entries than past shows. There were only 23 entries this year. Several categories did not have any entries.

Congrats to the following winners:

Diesel Locomotives: Tim Peters – 1st Place
Tim Peters – 2nd Place

Freight Cars: Tim Peters – 1st Place
Randy Stucky – 2nd Place
Randy Stucky – 3rd Place

Caboose: Tim Peters – 1st Place
Tim Peters – 2nd Place

Non-revenue Cars: Dean Lippincott – 1st Place
Dean Lippincott – 2nd Place
Dean Lippincott – 3rd Place

Tongue in Cheek: Randy Stucky – 1st Place
Randy Stucky – 2nd Place

Structures: Jim Hogben – 1st Place
Dean Lippincott – 2nd Place
Jim Hogben – 3rd Place

Dioramas: Dennis Howe – 1st Place
Kenneth Ault – 2nd Place

Youth: Joann Ault – 1st Place
Jacob Peterson – 2nd Place

My Favorite Train Randy Stucky – 1st Place
Randy Stucky – 2nd Place
Randy Stucky – 3rd Place

Special congratulations go to Dennis Howe. Dennis won the Best of Show award for his diorama.

Thanks to Jim Marlett for helping with the contest.

I heard several people say, “I should have entered something.”

The next year’s show will be February 3&4, 2024. Start working on your model, pictures, etc., for next year’s show. And encourage your youth to enter next year’s show as well.

–Randy



Best in Show was this diorama by Dennis Howe. It also won first in Dioramas.



Details were everywhere on Dennis Howe's diorama. Remember when regular gas was 18¢ a gallon?



Whether it was a street scene or trackside, details on Dennis Howe's diorama were everywhere. I don't think anybody walked by without taking a whole lot of closer looks.



Kenneth Ault's second place diorama was smaller, but just as crammed with details.



First Place Diesel Locomotives – Tim Peters.



Second Place Diesel Locomotives – Tim Peters.



First Place Freight Car – Tim Peters



Second Place Freight Car – Randy Stucky



Third Place Freight Car – Randy Stucky



First Place Caboose – Tim Peters



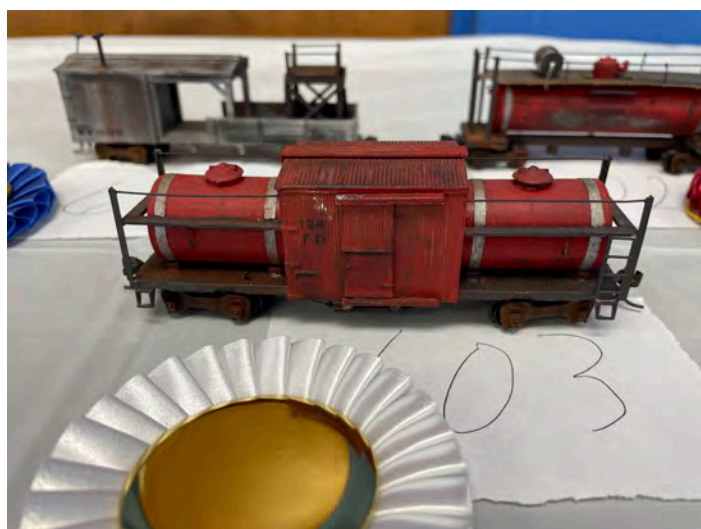
Second Place Caboose – Tim Peters



First Place Non-revenue Car – Dean Lippincott



Second Place Non-revenue Car – Dean Lippincott



Third Place Non-revenue Car – Dean Lippincott



*First Place Tongue in Cheek – Randy Stucky.
(It's a Tie Car Train)*



*Second Place Tongue in Cheek – Randy Stucky.
(It's a Tie Car)*



First Place Structures – Jim Hogben.



Second Place Structures – Dean Lippincott.



Third Place Structures – Jim Hogben.



First, Second & Third Place Favorite Train – Randy Stucky.



First Place Youth – Joann Ault.



Second Place Youth – Jacob Peterson.

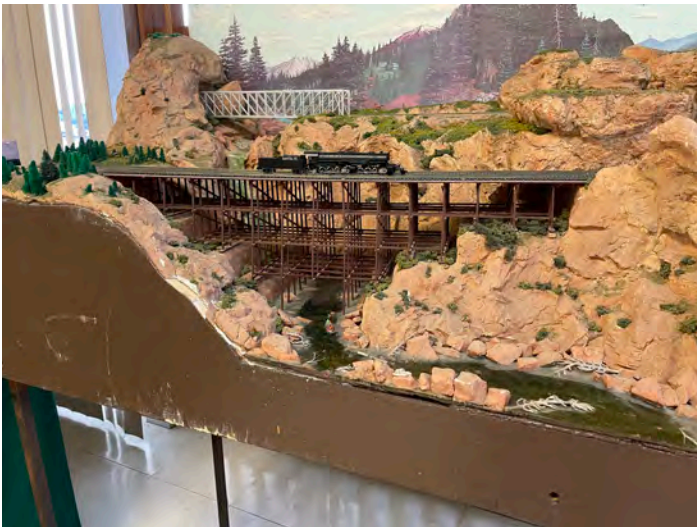
FROM AROUND THE WICHITA TRAIN SHOW AND SWAP MEET



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CHISHOLM TRAIL MODULAR LAYOUT DEBUT AT MCPHERSON MODEL TRAIN CONVENTION AND EXPO

After a whole lot of work in a very short period of time, the Chisholm Trail Division's Modular Layout Group debuted the results of their efforts at the McPherson Model Train Convention and Expo on January 14 and 15. It is one of the most

exciting things to happen in the Division. Problems were minor and a good time was certainly had by all. I'm sure everyone who saw the layout is eagerly anticipating what it will grow into. They're definitely off to a great start!



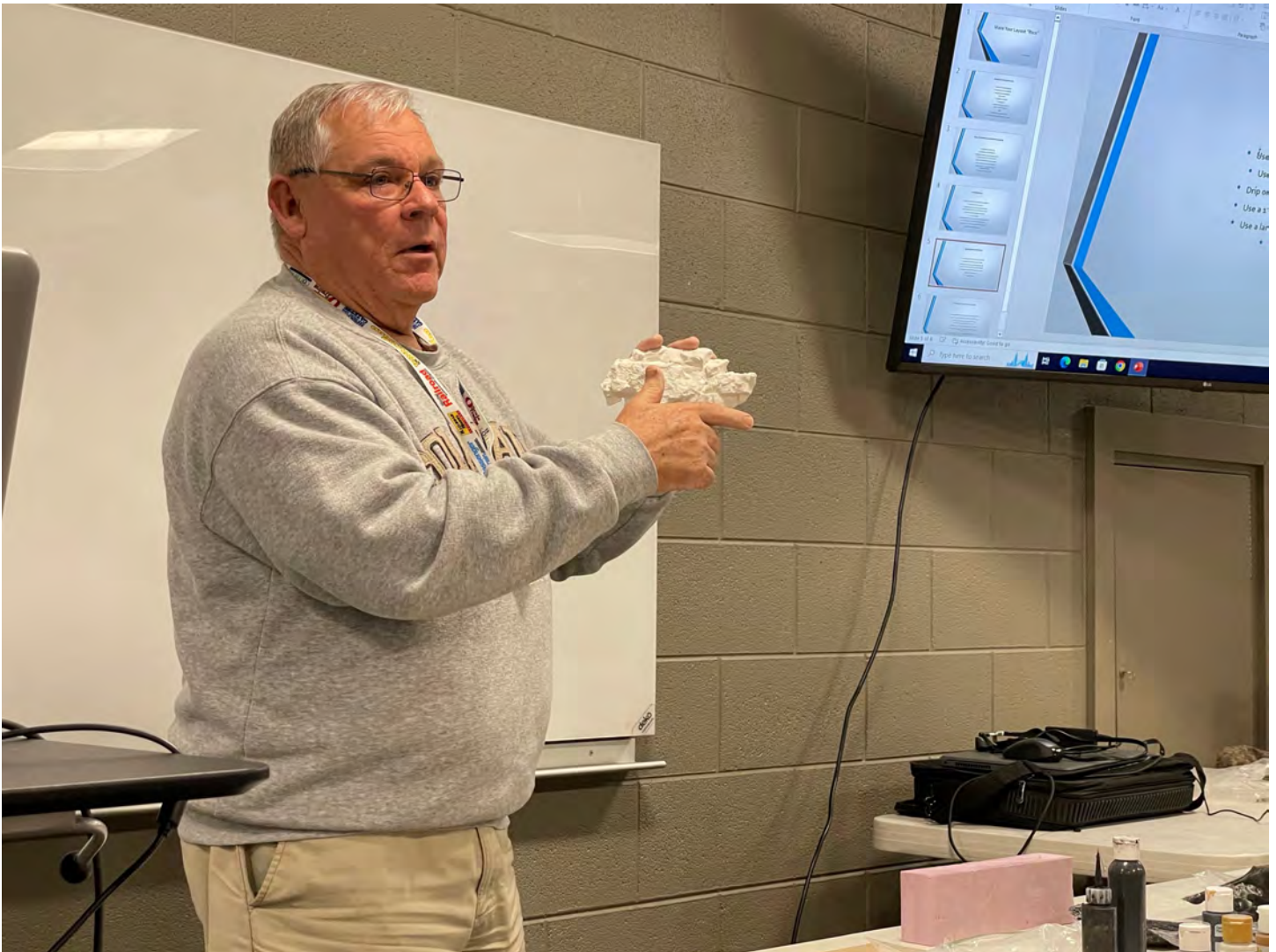
Photo by Dean Lippincott

CHISHOLM TRAIL MODULAR LAYOUT DEBUT AT MCPERSON MODEL TRAIN CONVENTION AND EXPO



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

At the February Division meeting, Terry Ross gave an excellent clinic on casting and coloring rocks.



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://www.nmrachisholmtraildivision.org/
home.html](http://www.nmrachisholmtraildivision.org/home.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/](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](http://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org)

Wichita Area Model Railroaders Luncheon.

The second Thursday of every month at
11:30AM. Spears Restaurant and Pie Shop,
4323 W. Maple, Wichita, KS

SCHEDULED EVENTS

MARCH 2023

March 4-5 – Lawrence Model Railroad Club

21st Annual Train Show & Swap Meet.
Crown Toyota, 3400 S. Iowa St, Lawrence,
KS. Saturday, 9AM-5PM, Sunday 9AM-3PM
[http://lawrencemodelrailroadclub.org/
TrainShow.html](http://lawrencemodelrailroadclub.org/TrainShow.html)

March 11-12 – Garden City Model Train

Show. Presented by Boot Hill Model
Railroad Club. Finney County Fairgrounds

Exhibition Building, 409 Lake Ave, Garden
City, KS. Saturday, 10AM-5PM, Sunday
11AM-4PM

APRIL 2023

April 15 – Arkansas City Train Show.

Sponsored by Wichita Toy Train Museum/
Club. Agri-Business Building, 712 W.
Washington, Arkansas City, KS. 9AM-4PM
[http://www.wichitatoytrainmuseum.org/club-
shows-1.html](http://www.wichitatoytrainmuseum.org/club-shows-1.html)

JUNE 2023

June 3-4 – Center of the Nation Model

Railroad Expo. Kansas State Fairgrounds,
Pride of Kansas Building, KS. Saturday,
9AM-5PM, Sunday 10AM-3PM [http://
www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org/
train-show.html](http://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org/train-show.html)

AUGUST 2023

August 20-26 – NMRA International

Convention “Texas Express.” Gaylord Texan
Resort & Convention Center, Grapevine, TX
(Dallas/Fort Worth). [https://www.
2023texasexpress.com/](https://www.2023texasexpress.com/)

August 30-September 2 – National Narrow

Gauge Convention. Crown Plaza Denver
Airport, 15500 E 40th Ave, Denver, CO.
<https://www.43nngcdenver.com/>

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

Jim Marlett