

Trails, Rails, & Tales



September-October 2023

Volume 9 • Number 5

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

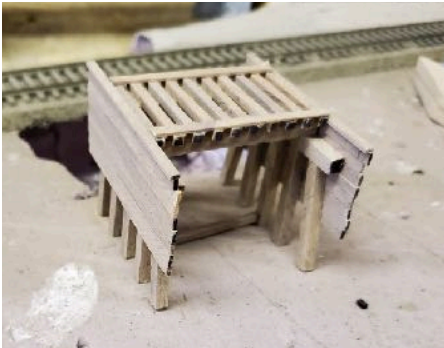
BY PHIL AYLWARD

I did get to Kansas City for the MCoR Conversion, Kansas City Flyer 2023 hosted by Turkey Creek Division. I had good time. I signed up for the make and take clinic by “bridge supervisors” Larry Alfred, MMR and Miles Hale, MMR. We made a short trestle and I have a place for it on the layout. (See photo.)

I entered 6 photos in the photo contest and won 1st, 2rd, and 3rd in black & white model and 3rd in color model.

I enjoyed three more clinics – “Trees” and “Water” by Ray Brown, and “Foam Core Buildings” by Jim Hogden.

– Phil



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

BY CHARLIE MONCKTON

I want to thank Lynn Smith, Pioneer Bluffs Board of Directors, and Ken Grochowsky for their invitation to bring the Modular Group and to all of us to attend the Day of the Cowboy at Pioneer Bluffs. You can tell from Terry Ross's report we all had a great time. In fact, because it was so much fun we are already looking forward to setting up and running trains at Strong City October 7. If you have not put it on your calendar please do it today. We will be in the BNSF depot that also serves as Strong City city hall. Not only will there be trains running on our module, but full scale trains passing by only feet

TRAILS, RAILS, & TAILS

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

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Logo Design by Alan Aagaard

away. They are so close that if you are not careful they will blow your hat off as they pass.

Be sure to follow us on our web page. You can find the site at <http://www.nmrachisholmtraildivision.org/>.

Check the site often as it is being continually updated.

We are also on Face Book at Chisholm Trail Division - NMRA.

– Charlie

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

BY JIM MARLETT

It seems like just yesterday that the last Trails, Rails, and Tales was published. I shouldn't be surprised. Summers always seem to pass quickly and after living through 77 of them, you'd think I would be better prepared.

The three main articles in this issue are the Mid-Continent Region Convention, the adventures of the Chisholm Trail modular group at Day of the Cowboy, and Phil Aylward's open house at Halstead's Old Settlers Days. There seems to be a unifying theme – sharing the hobby of model railroading with others.

Down in my basement, the engine facilities for the San Juan Southern narrow gauge are coming along slowly. "Big Larry" Fremont, the railroad's president, needs to whip the crew into shape or it will never get done!

Big Larry and the crew were debating whether or not to make it longer than the architects called for and they decided to go for it. The foundation and stem wall are "poured" and the bricklayers are finishing up the outer wall. Next will come the carpenters since my model shows later years where Big Larry decided to expand four of the six stalls even farther back. But you can just follow along with the pictures.

– Jim

I cut pieces from two stall addition kits to add to the length of the roundhouse. I cut them to the length I wanted to lengthen it and saved the scrap, which I used later.



Above: A K-27 locomotive just barely fits lengthwise. A K-28, K-36, or K37 won't. It isn't clearly seen in this picture, but the same is true of height. Below: I cut some back wall pieces to make extensions for longer side walls.



Right: Because the inside walls and outside walls are different, I knew the windows wouldn't line up with each other when repurposed. Fortunately, I had a plan. Also note that I added some bricks to the upper top portion of the wall so the space above the roof wouldn't show the plane vertical gluing surface that was exposed when not using parts as intended.



Left: Over time, some of the windows of the prototype Durango roundhouse were bricked up and the kit contained parts for doing this. I used some of them to brick up the windows on the extension. Since no one could see both sides of the wall at the same time, no one should notice that they don't line up. I used wood filler as mortar.

Right: Since I moved the back walls farther back and actually lowered them for a better roof fit, I had to cut some off the bottom to keep from lowering the back stem wall and to get the brick patterns to line up.





Left: Once I had everything like I wanted it, I glued the back walls to the side walls using the template provided in the kit to get the proper angle.



Right: A test fit shows how much longer I made the roundhouse. The pencil lines show where the original walls would have been.

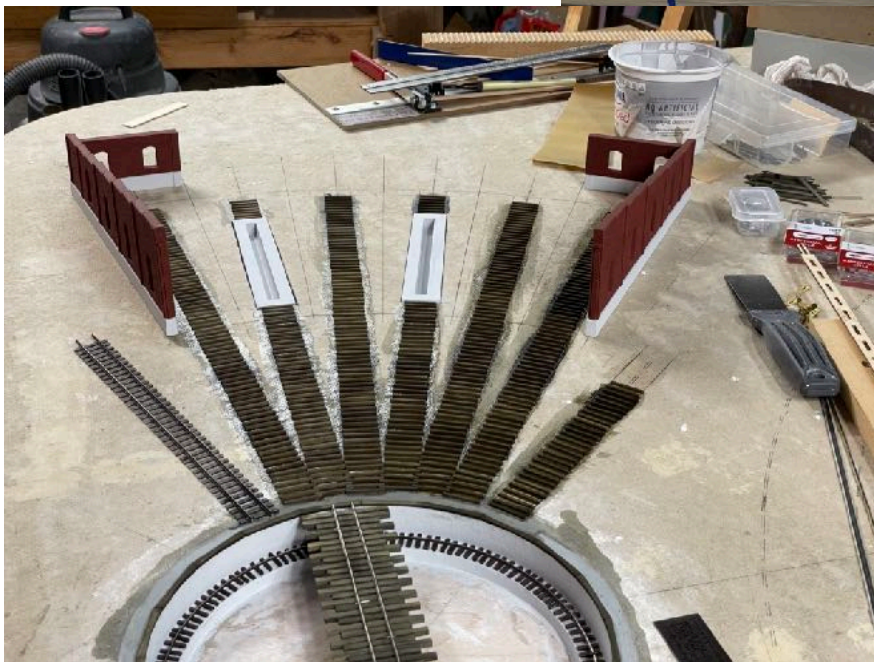


Left: Lengthening the wedge-shaped stalls meant that the back walls would have to be longer as well. I did this by gluing the scraps left over from making the extensions to the ends of the back walls. Notice that every sixth row of bricks is turned sideways. I had to match this pattern on every piece I glued together.



Left: I covered the un-patterned areas with surplus thin brick pieces that in the un-modified kit represented pilasters where back walls joined together.

Right: When the walls were essentially finished, I scratch built "concrete" stem walls from basswood. I used the template again to get the angle correct. This is just before it went to the paint shop. The blue tape is to make sure I could have a paint-free gluing surface when I was finished.



Left: I temporarily stacked the brick walls on the stem walls and placed them where the roundhouse will go. Now it's ready for the paint shop to get mortar, windows, and various details in place and do a bit of weathering. The rest of the roundhouse will be wood construction and will be pretty much all scratch built.

NMRA MID-CONTINENT REGION CONVENTION

PHOTOS FROM THE CONTEST ROOM

BY PHIL AYLWARD



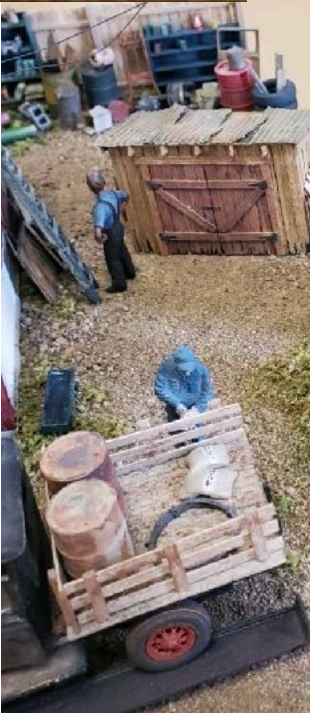
NMRA NATIONAL CONTEST JUDGING FORM Entry No. 3

NMRA Form #502, Rev. 5, 4/1/16. If all previous forms obsolete. Please print.
Entry Name: _____

1. CONSTRUCTION (Measured items) - 100% (May qualify for All-Scott built)	2. PAINTS (Measured items) - 100%
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MODULAR GROUP UPDATE – DAY OF THE COWBOY

BY TERRY ROSS

On Saturday July 22, The Chisolm Trail NMRA Modular Layout was on display at the "Pioneer Bluffs Day of the Cowboy Celebration" in Matfield Green. Pioneer Bluffs is an old, once-working ranch located about a mile north of Matfield Green in the lush grass of the Kansas Flint Hills. They were hosting "The Day of the Cowboy" and the arrival of the Railroads in Matfield Green. There were Country Singers, a Cowboy Poet, and a Western Story Teller, playing to an audience outside of the large hay barn in a shaded green grass gathering area. We had our Modular Layout set up and operating inside of the hay barn. There was also a picnic area where people enjoyed the evening BBQ Brisket dinner and then the highlight of the evening came out as Homemade Ice Cream and Brownies with all the trimmings. (That was the first thing that distracted any of us from running our trains). It was a big success as people filed by to look at our display.

We set up the layout on Friday and ran trains all day Saturday. We had 10 members (two new members) running their trains of choice. We had of course Union Pacific SD 45TM's pulling freight. There were several different versions of the Santa Fe Chief ABBA's with Super Chief streamliners in tow. Another couple of very impressive passenger trains running were the Santa Fe "Blue Goose" steam engine complete with smoke bellowing from the front stack, and I think we had a brief peek at the Rock Island Rocket. Very impressive passenger trains, that brought out a lot of memories and conversation by the Pioneer Bluffs staff and visitors. We also witnessed some Santa Fe Blue and Yellow War

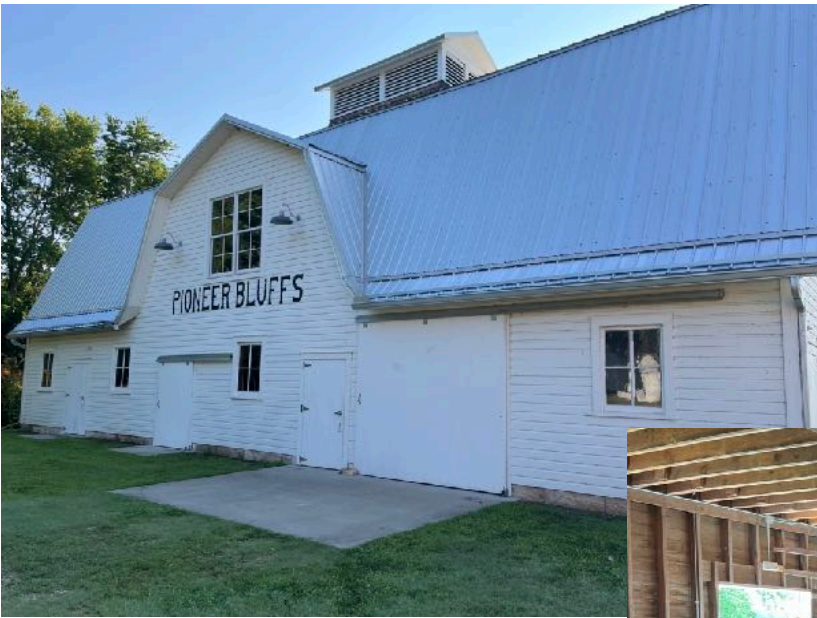
Bonnet freights and an occasional Rock Island pass by as well. I believe there also was an Ark Valley freight that set the high-speed record on our track speedometer. I don't recall the record speed, but ask Dean as I'm sure he will remember.

As I mentioned earlier, we felt it was a great weekend for the NMRA Modular. We met a lot of people from around the area that really enjoyed seeing our trains. Almost everyone who stopped to talk had a story of an old passenger train they rode, or a freight train that would pass by their house late at night. They loved hearing the whistles, bells and roar of the engines. Of course, we had kids running trains a lot, and I'm pretty sure some parents thinking they were going to have to buy a train set on the way home. Several of us felt it was really fun to set up the layout and run the trains for an audience that were not already modelers or train buffs, just people that loved the trains and talking about their memories. I almost forgot to mention that we were also just about a quarter of a mile from the BNSF Main, and you could hear train traffic going by all day long.

I'll close this up with a cute story of Charles's 7-year-old granddaughter. She was running one of Charles's trains at the time, and a reporter from the Emporia Gazette was interviewing her. The reporter must have said she knew a lot about trains for a 7-year-old and Lily's answer was "Me and My Grandpa have been doing this a long time." Great job Grandpa!

A fun time was had by all. It's a great time to be a member of the Chisholm Trail Division of the NMRA!

–Terry



Left & Below: Despite the lack of air conditioning, the barn at Pioneer Bluffs provided a surprisingly pleasant space for the modular layout.



Left: Santa Fe's "Blue Goose" rounds the curve in this canyon scene.



Right: The Super Chief in war bonnet livery charges out of a tunnel under the Chisholm Trail Division's banner.



Left: The UP is making up a coal train while the Santa Fe “Blue Goose” is emerging from the tunnel. The banner let folks know who we are.



Right: Charlie Monckton is using the five finger crane to get some cars on the tracks.

OPEN HOUSE AT THE AVI DEPOT IN HALSTEAD

BY JIM MARLETT



Phil Aylward is in a unique position. He owns the former AVI depot in Halstead and he collects small model railroads. So when Halstead has its Old Settlers Days, he is able to open the Depot and show lots of folks the wonderful world of model railroading.

Phil has been doing this for several years now, but I've never had the chance to go see the display or operate trains despite Phil's invitation to all Chisholm Trail Division members to come help out. This year I decided I was at least going to go see what was happening.

—Jim





This HO layout was right inside the door.



A youthful engineer piloting his train with DCC.



A tank train passes the roundhouse on this layout.



A reefer express makes the rounds in this fall scene.



Phil had layouts for every age.



Three rail O scale is what most of us started with.



A two rail O scale switching diorama.



O scale sure allows for detail. This photo is of the O scale switching diorama.



A display to promote the hobby.



An N scale layout.



Randy Stucky was operating this HO scale layout.



This HO layout showed off some very nice scenery and structures.

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.mcor-nmra.org/Divisions/Chisholm_Trail_Division/

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, 4323 W. Maple, Wichita, KS

SCHEDULED EVENTS

OCTOBER 2023

October 28-29 – The Wichita Toy Train Club Annual Train Show. Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd., Wichita, KS. Saturday 9AM-5PM, Sunday 10AM-3PM
<http://www.wichitatomytrainmuseum.org/club-shows-1.html>

NOVEMBER 2023

November 4-5 – Oklahoma City Train Show. The Pavilion at Oklahoma State Fairgrounds, 3212 Wichita Walk, Oklahoma City, OK. Saturday 9AM-5PM, Sunday 10AM-4PM
<https://www.okctrainshow.com/?fbclid=IwAR3QwKQsE0j3gnfSa-RIUPwq8LjdTs-Ct3ikXRpjnD3ISd3sSuZhwU32d68>

FEBRUARY 2024

February 3-4 – The Best Train Show in Wichita, KS. Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd., Wichita, KS. Saturday 9AM-5PM, Sunday 11AM-4PM
<https://www.nmrachisholmtraildivision.org/best-train-show.html>

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

Jim Marlett
jmarlett@cox.net