

Trails, Rails, & Tales



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

July-August 2025

Volume 11 • Number 4

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY PHIL AYLWARD

Hope all is well. Don't forget the 2025 MCoR Convention is August 22nd & 23rd at the Holiday Inn & Suites, Overland Park, KS. Go to the web site and check it out. <https://www.mcor-nmra.org/Conventions/>

– Phil

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

BY CHARLIE MONCKTON

My condolences to Larry Gulick whose wife Diana Ridder Gulick passed away June 18, 2025.

For the June 3rd Chisholm Trail Division monthly meeting we held the first annual cookout at the Sedgwick County Park. We invited all train enthusiasts from the Wichita area, modelers and their guests to join us. We had 60 registered guests and due to seven inches or more of rain that day causing flash flooding in the area, we had between 35 and 40 in attendance. In addition to the Chisholm Trail members the Augusta Model Railroad Club and Wichita Area Model Railroaders were among the attendees. The guest speaker for the evening was Jim McKeel. Being a former volunteer and occasional Conductor/Engineer at Abilene and Smoky Valley Railroad and being a Former Conductor/Brakeman at Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad are just a few of his impressive credentials. He shared with us a few of his railroad related activities growing up in a small eastern Kansas community that lead to a lifelong interest in railroads. The highlight of the evening for many was when he shared his experiences riding the train from the west coast of Canada east across Canada. He posts daily pictures and reels of train activity on Facebook often featuring

TRAILS, RAILS, & TAILS

is published bi-monthly.

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

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Submissions for publication are strongly encouraged.

the Kansas and Oklahoma Railroad. As we finished our meal Dean Lippincott, his wife Renee, and Ken Gale provided after dinner music. Thanks to the many people who helped set up, cook, serve food and clean up. Because of your help the evening was a great success.

Thomas Schulz will be the presenter at the July 1st Chisholm Trail Division meeting. His presentation will be about 3 D Printing. Thomas has done work for several of our members; his work is always of excellent quality. He takes great pride in his work often developing parts of better quality than the original. I am confident we will learn many valuable things from his presentation.

—Charlie



(Above) Burgers, brats, and hot dogs were provided by the Division. The food line shows an abundance of deserts. Yum!

(Left) Terry and Doris Ross in the kitchen.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

BY JIM MARLETT

Last time around, I swore I wouldn't let the newsletter sneak up on me again, but it was an idle promise.

In this issue of TR&T is a quick report on the Hutchinson Train Show, which didn't have the expected display of the Division's modular group. Also, I got to operate on Harry Bauer's layout so there's a quick report on his railroad. There's also a bit about the Kansas City Narrow Gaugers annual meeting.

As a reminder that you should get as much done on your layout as soon as possible, I hurt my back and it has been quite the setback. That doesn't mean I've done nothing, but it sure has slowed progress for the last few weeks.

Before things went south, I installed the fascia and the remote Caboose Industries ground throws for the two modules still in the shop and I am working doing the same for the roundhouse and turntable module already in the basement.

The fascia on the roundhouse module goes around a curve and is a transition from a wide fascia and a narrow one. I learned long ago that hardboard (Masonite in the old days) will only curve so far, but I learned a neat trick that I may well have shared before. If you soak the hardboard with glass cleaner containing ammonia and bend it a little at a time, you can make it conform to a much tighter radius without breaking and it holds its curve once dry. I've used this a number of times and I am always amazed at the results. I wish I'd known this earlier – it could have saved a lot of patchwork.

Finally, I'd like to encourage you to attend the Mid-Continent Regional Convention in Kansas City this August. Info is included in this newsletter. You may notice that the registration form has changed slightly from the one published in the last issue. The information is the same; it is just easier to understand.

– Jim



Ground throws on the outside of the layout eliminate having grossly oversized throws on the layout itself and reduces the amount of "reaching in" to throw them. However, it does make it a little more confusing to figure out which throws go with which switches. To help with that, I made these platforms extra wide so I could label them on the platform. I figured operators will be looking down at these lower level sections. Otherwise, the labels would be on the fascia above the throws. The lower row of ground throws operate the switches in the rear.



Back in the basement, the fascia for the corner piece had an overnight soak in glass cleaner with ammonia. The plastic wrap kept it wet. I left the plastic wrap on and clamped it to the corner. It had another overnight stay, this time to slowly dry.

When it had dried, I unwrapped the fascia. The curve took a set, at least close enough for me.



Gluing it in place was next. I could have used screws, but didn't anticipate ever having to remove it. This time alignment was to the top rather than the bottom, where it had been aligned before just to make clamping easier.



I cut and applied the platforms for the ground throws and that brings us up to date. I don't mind telling you, that curved one was a challenge! It took a lot of fitting and sanding. I'm glad I have a belt sander.

IN MEMORIAM

We're saddened to learn of the passing of Larry Gulick's wife Diana on June 18, 2025. Larry was instrumental in rejuvenating the Chisholm Trail Division and Diana was a regular at the Division's family events until health issues prevented her from attending. I'm sure our thoughts are with Larry in this difficult time.



06/14/25



Mark
Your
Calendar

Mark
Your
Calendar

NMRA Mid Continent Region Convention

Having special focus on the KCS System, History, Contest Category ...
THE "SOUTHERN BELLE" passenger service to points South!

Hosted by

Turkey Creek Division

August 22nd & 23rd, 2025

To be held at

Holiday Inn & Suites

8787 Reeder Street

Overland Park, Kansas 66214

Registration Form

Name of Primary Registration: _____ NMRA #: _____

NMRA membership required to enter model contest.

Spouses's Name (if attending): _____ (keep name tag for banquet)

Name of other registrants: _____

(Spouse will receive a complimentary pass for admission to include the train show, Friday dessert bar, Saturday banquet with nametag.

Other Extra fare participation must be purchased for each person attending Friday/Saturday lunches.

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Are you registering as a Vendor? Yes _____ No _____ MCoR registration not required for Shawnee vendor hall, but desired!...

Select wanted "Extra Fare Events".

Registration Fee (NMRA membership number required for reduced registration fee.)

Includes Friday dessert bar and Saturday banquet ... spouses get in free.

NMRA member \$115.00 per person (includes Turkey Creek Train Show)

Non-member - \$135.00 per person (includes Turkey Creek Train Show)

Cost	# Persons	Total Cost
\$115.00		
\$135.00		

Extra Fare for basic Reservations:

Lunch Friday 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (box sandwich etc.)

Lunch Saturday 11:00 am to 1:00 pm (box sandwich, etc.)

\$14.00		
\$14.00		

Extra Fare Reservations for Vendors:

If you are a vendor, registered for Saturday tables at the Turkey Creek
Div show, Shawnee Civics Center, and you want to attend the banquet
and/or Friday dessert bar, extra fares are required, per person:

Friday Dessert Bar at 6:30 pm, per person, including spouse

Saturday Banquet (cash bar) choose 1 per person and spouse

\$18.00		
\$30.00		

TOTAL REGISTRATION:

Vendor Tables for Saturday Train Show Swap Meet are to be reserved and paid for through

separate Turkey Creek Registration forms.

(to be available soon)

Send Completed Registration Form to:

Larry Diehl
7008 Millridge Street
Shawnee, Kansas 66218
ldiehl066@gmail.com
for any additional information call (816)804-0152

Make Checks payable to: MCoR Convention 2025

MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS WITH HOTEL OR CLICK LINK BELOW

Holiday Inn & Suites
8787 Reeder Street
Overland Park, Kansas 66214
(913)888-8440
Rate: \$99.00 (includes breakfast)
Ask for MCoR/NMRA group rate
www.holidayinn.com/overland-parkw

AN EARLY BIRD CLINIC AT THE NMRA
REGIONAL CONVENTION

NOTICE

MCOR to KC IN '25

Holiday Inn
8787 Reeder Street
Overland Park, Kansas 66214
913-888-8440

MCOR to KC IN '25

Don't Miss
**Bill Humenczuk's
Presentation of**

"The KCS Beginnings"

"EARLY BIRD"

THURSDAY EVENING 7:00 PM
...AUGUST 21ST + FRIDAY AT 1:00 PM

KANSAS CITY, PITTSBURG &
GULF RR ... "THE PEEGEE"

EARLY BIRD

FRIDAY MORNING 11:00 AM

KC SUBURBAN BELT
LINE ... ART STILWELL & E.L. MARTIN

"GRAIN ELEVATORS"

MATTHIAS SPLITLOG'S RR
KANSAS CITY, FT. SMITH & SOUTHERN
ACQUIRED 1893



OPERATIONS GROUP VISITS HARRY BAUER'S LAYOUT

BY JIM MARLETT

The small operations group made up of Chisholm Trail Division members took its turn at Harry Bauer's layout recently. It has probably been mentioned before, but this group has been kept small because of space or other restrictions. This time it was because Harry's layout is still in the building process and is only capable of running one locomotive at a time for now. He says he has too many locomotives to try to convert to DCC so it will stay DC for the foreseeable future.

For those of us who have gotten used to DCC, operations with DC took a little more brain power, but it was certainly doable. This time around there were four of us – Bill Phillips, Gary Webb, Jim Marlett, and of course, Harry, who rode herd on the rest of us. We traded roles as an engineer, a brakeman, and a conductor who planned out the moves. We all agreed the session proved that you can have a barrel of fun on an unfinished layout with only one locomotive at a time using DC power.

– Jim



This is an overview of one end of Harry's layout. The upper tracks were not ready for use so we operated on the lower portion. At present, the engineer runs the trains from an MRC power pack in a stationary location. There probably are model railroaders that don't need the underside of their layout for storage, but I haven't met them yet. One of the things I really liked about Harry's layout was the abundance of run-around tracks.



The other end of the layout is still very much under construction, but there was enough done that cars could be set out at a satisfying number of industries. The tables are from the late Bob Hoover's layout. I'm really glad to see them being put to good use.

The main yard is in the middle of things. On the left is a car ferry, something you don't see on many Midwestern layouts. Rules on how to load and unload the ferry without "capsizing" it were in force.



Finished or not, Harry is well ahead of me as far as useful buildings go. One of the tenants of operations is to have buildings labeled so the conductor knows where the cars go. Harry has done a good job of this and on buildings that weren't labeled, a slip of paper near it did the trick.



Buildings destined for a name change, such as train show purchases or other used items, are clearly labeled with the new name. I suspect using the old name confuses folks when the name changes and making new waybills would be a real pain. Best to do that once!

A sign and a paper template identified Devin's Oil Depot. The wooden skewer with a C on it marks the beginning and end of a power district and corresponded to its letter on the control panel. The caboose track is on the left.



Mockups are a great way to test whether what you had in mind will work for your situation. Again, these were clearly marked for the operators to find for their pick up and drop off locations. I loved the Colorado Midland box car despite the Midland being long gone.



Harry has made use of paper templates for track work as well as laying out the buildings. Track templates can be found on line or you can make your own with a copy machine and real switches and pieces of sectional track.

Who past a certain age doesn't have a bunch of old pill bottles laying around? I know I do. After visiting Harry's layout I went home and bottled up a whole bunch of spikes.



Gary Webb and Harry seem to be having a weighty discussion about something. This view shows almost all of the layout, although there is more behind me and no doubt even more in Harry's mind.

LEMONS INTO LEMONADE

PHOTOS BY DEAN LIPPINCOTT AND JIM MARLETT

It is said that when life hands you lemons, make lemonade. Chisholm Trail's modular group was looking forward to putting on a good show at Hutchinson's Center of the Nation Model Railroad Expo when news arrived that Terry Ross had broken his leg and Charlie Monckton was out of town with family. A new plan had to be brought together at the last minute. Assistant Superintendent Dean Lippincott and the rest of the gang got busy and created a booth with a

Time Saver switching layout, our usual Chisholm Trail Division NMRA promotional booth, an on-going clinic for building a structure, a display of model railroad structures, and test tracks of various gauges and power sources for train show buyers to try their new purchases. Although everyone would have preferred to show off the modular railroad, the substitute turned out to be pretty popular as well. The pictures can tell the story as well as anything.



The whole booth was plenty roomy since the whole modular layout space was available. At the far end, Bob Neill is helping someone work the Time Saver. In the middle is an expanded version of the Division's usual display. On the right is the display of buildings and dioramas. The diagnostic and testing center is out of the picture on the right.

The original plan was to actually work on this kit during the show, but Dean said the locomotive testing and fixing kept him too busy.





Dean says a friend of his took this picture while he was actually at work on someone's locomotive.

Randy Stucky is a regular at the Chisholm Trail booth. Here he is spreading good will and answering questions for some train show visitors. The common scales for model railroading are on display at the table to his right and all belong to Randy.



Randy at the helm doing his job.



Bob Neill watched over the Time Saver switching puzzle on Sunday. The Time Saver is always a popular feature at public displays.

Kids seem to really like the Time Saver. The puzzle can be made less complicated for younger folks and more complicated for grownups. In this case, dad is watching from behind and making sure each of his sons got a hand at the throttle.



Though not part of the official Chisholm Trail booth, Phill Aylward brought two layouts which were set up by the show entrance. These quickly grab an audience and show what can be done in a 4x8 space.

KANSAS CITY NARROW GAUGERS ANNUAL MEETING

BY JIM MARLETT

From time to time, pockets of special interest groups show up in local areas. One of those is the Kansas City Narrow Gaugers. There is a surprising interest in narrow gauge there, enough to support an annual meeting that draws like-minded folks from around the country, me included. Typically it starts with a casual meal on Friday night at a local,

well known barbecue restaurant for those who wish to attend. Count me in for that! The actual meeting is a one day affair on Saturday with clinics, fellowship, and show-and-tell in the morning and early afternoon. This is followed by self-driving layout tours in the later afternoon. Here are a few highlights.

—Jim



Gary Davidson led off with a clinic on building the massive Graden's Mill in Durango, Colorado. He took a lot of ribbing about where "Durnago" might be. Typos can get you in trouble. Although this massive complex shows up in a lot of photos, they were typically only from the front and one side.

Ray Brown's clinic on tree making was a dandy. One of the things that caught my fancy was using a crochet hook to hold wire while spinning up evergreen trees. His aspens, which look terrific, are made by spinning up four wires with the top spread into a basket. The baskets/prongs are filled with Super Tree pieces done up in fall colors. He makes additional trunks and plants them among the trees.



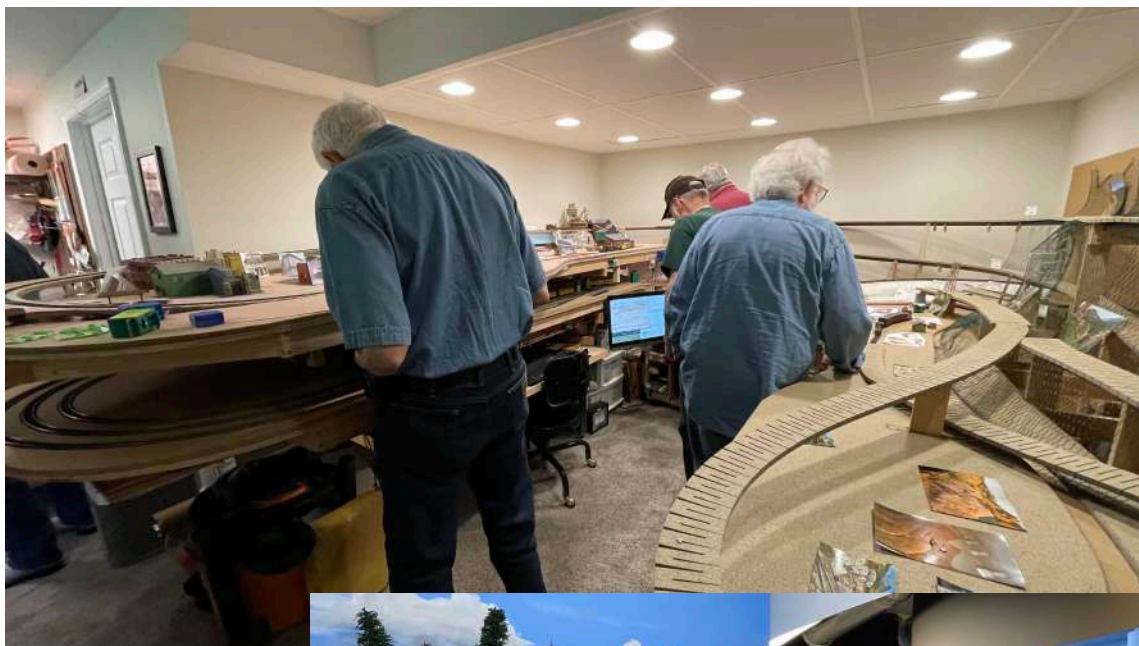


Martin Wade's clinic prepared us for our layout visit later that afternoon. Martin is into some novel things and isn't at all fearful of electronics. A very large section of his railroad lifts up on linear drives to provide access to staging tracks.

Well known modeler Miles Hale shows off a bridge in the show-and-tell part of the meeting.



Larry Alfred brought this delivery van for show-and-tell. He made the windshield wiper paths by masking off where they would have cleaned the windshields then sprayed with a matte finish.



On the layout tour, we got to see the amazing powered lift up section of Martin Wade's HOn3 layout. At the push of a button, everything you see on the left can be raised as one piece to provide access to the tracks below.

Host of The Pulse of DCC column in the NMRA Magazine Mark Juetten, MMR is having a look around Gary Davidson's ON3 pike.



Gary Davidson's Buffalo Boy tram house is modeled from the prototype still standing in Cunningham Gulch in Colorado. It sits on the edge of a canyon that goes all the way through one section of his railroad.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The June meeting of the Chisholm Trail Division was a cookout/covered dish dinner at Sedgwick County Park featuring some great and different entertainment. Unfortunately, folks on the east side of town were dealing with floods that night and had to miss it. Music was provided by Dean Lippincott on hammer dulcimer, his wife Renee on mountain dulcimer, and Ken Gale on banjo. What a talented group we have in the Division!



Then Jim McKeel entertained us with tails of rail travel in Mexico and Canada.



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. Hutchinson Public Library, 901 N Main St, Hutchinson, KS. <http://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org>

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

Third Thursday Model Railroaders's Lunch. Every third Thursday at a location and time to be announced. If you are not receiving notices and would like to be included, contact Terry Ross (316) 258-4029.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

JULY 2025

July 5&6 – Spring Creek Model Train Show. Thayer County Event Center, Dreshler, NE. Saturday 9AM-5PM, Sunday 10AM-4PM. <https://www.springcreekmodeltrains.com/show-schedule/>

July 14-19 – 90th NMRA National Convention, Station No VI. Sheraton Hotel, 21111 Haggerty Rd, Novi, MI. <https://nmra2025.com/>

AUGUST 2025

August 3 – Mid-America Train & Toy Show KCI Expo Center, 117 NW Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO. Sunday 9AM-2PM <https://kciexpo.com/organizer/midamerica-toy-and-train-show/>

August 9 – Joplin Model Train Show & Swap Meet. Joplin History & Mineral Museum, Schifferdecker Park, 504 S Schifferdecker Ave, Joplin, MO. Saturday 9AM-3PM. <http://www.tristatamodelrailroaders.com/>

August 22-23 – NMRA Mid-Continent Region Convention. Holiday Inn & Suites, 8787 Reeder Street, Overland Park, KS. <http://www.mcor-nmra.org/Conventions/>

August 23 – Turkey Creek Train Show and Swap Meet. Shawnee Civic Center, 13817 Johnson Dr #3802, Shawnee, KS. <https://tc-nmra.org/TrainShow.html>

SEPTEMBER 2025

September 3-6 – 45th National Narrow Gauge Convention. Gateway Convention Center, 1 Gateway Dr, Collinsville, IL. <https://www.45thnngc.com/>

September 19-20 – Ozark Model Railroad Association Train Show. Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, E-Plex East Hall, 3001 N Grant Ave, Springfield, MO. Friday 4PM-8PM, Saturday 9AM-3PM. <http://www.omraspringfield.org/train-shows.html>

NOVEMBER 2025

November 8 – Joplin Model Train Show & Swap Meet. Joplin History & Mineral Museum, Schifferdecker Park, 504 S Schifferdecker Ave, Joplin, MO. Saturday 9AM-3PM. <http://www.tristatemodelrailroaders.com/>

November 9 – Mid-America Train & Toy Show KCI Expo Center, 117 NW Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO. Sunday 9AM-2PM
<https://kciexpo.com/organizer/midamerica-toy-and-train-show/>

November 15-16 – OKC Train Show Bennett Event Center, Oklahoma State Fairgrounds, 3101 Gordon Cooper Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK. Saturday 9AM-5PM, Sunday 10AM-4PM.
<https://www.okctrainshow.com/>

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

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