



The

Main Line

August 2021



National Model Railroad Association

Mid-Continent Region

The Monthly publication of the



Western Kansas Division



On The Cover: After a long delay, operations return to the Western Kansas Rails N-scale layout. In this view, the crew of Train 2 is working the Fantastic Plastics complex.

In This Issue:

Western Kansas Division Videos.....Page 3

The Real Deal.....Page 4

Newest Master Model Railroaders.....Page 10

Tulsa Union Convention 2021 Info.....Page 13

Spring Creek Biannual Show Photos...Page 18

WKR Update.....Page 26

Date Book.....Page 34

Editor's Musings

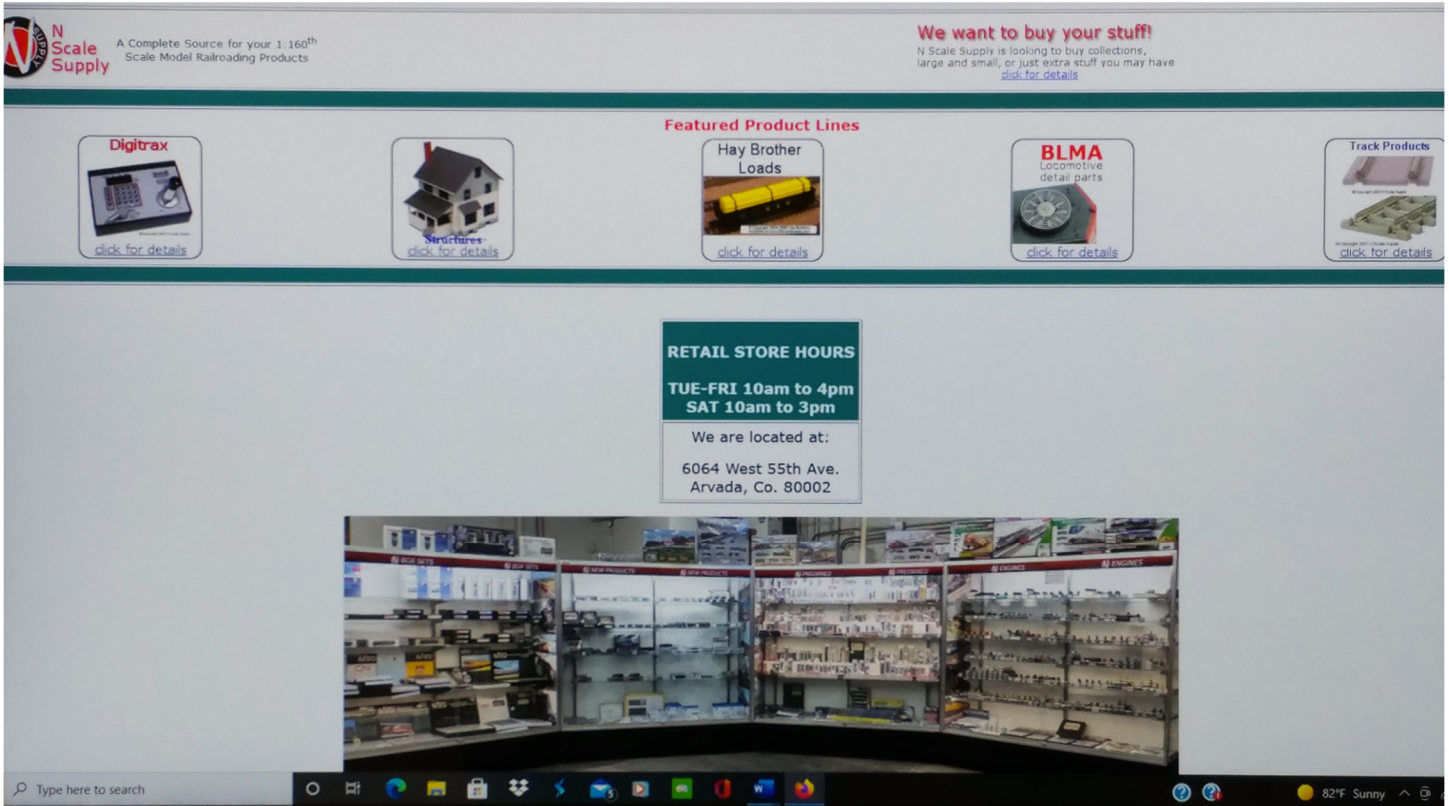
As we head into August and the hottest part of Summer, we're reminded what a great idea it is to spend more time in the basement or building where it's cool/cooler. Maybe it's time to start assembling the kit you bought months ago, do some weathering, track upgrades, or anything so that some progress is made. It's also a great time to write an article for the Caboose Kibitzer and get it sent into Ray for publication. We all have tip and tricks we can share, and the article can be as long or short as you desire.

If you have not already made your reservations to the Tulsa Union Convention 2021, you should do so quickly as it is clear the members of the Lone Star Region are doing so and bringing many fine models to be judged. There are many great layouts to visit as well as impressive operating sessions to sign-up for besides the many other features. I can say with some authority that the members in Tulsa know how to put on a great event.



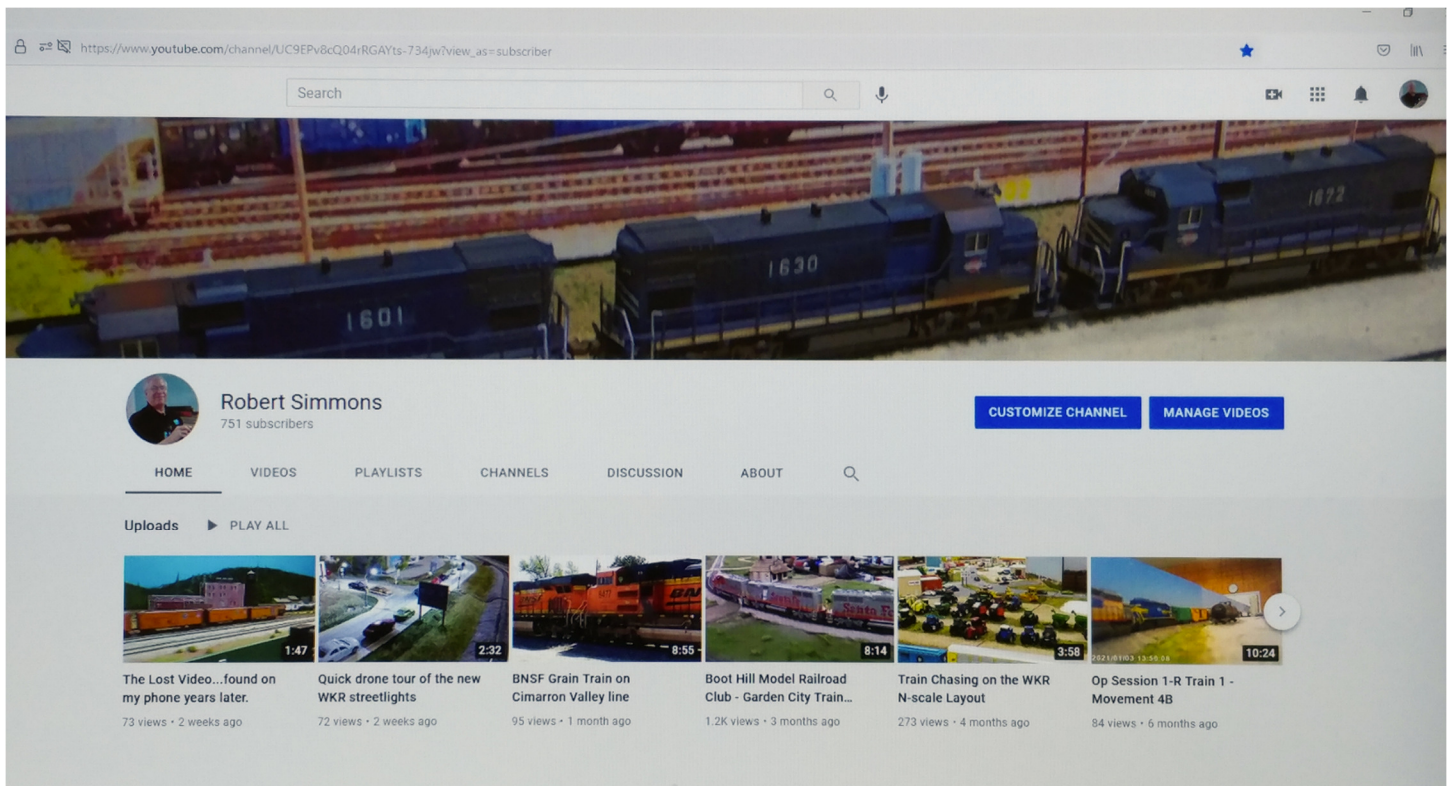
For your N-scale needs, click on the link for great selection and service...

<https://www.nscalesupply.com/nscalesupply.html>



**JUST BECAUSE IT'S A
BAD IDEA**

**DOESN'T MEAN IT
WON'T BE A GOOD
TIME**



While you're surfing the internet, hang 10 and slide over to the **Western Kansas Division YouTube** page under Robert Simmons. You can view lots of videos of model railroading and real trains, like this new video:

Recent Division Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8wEB2QVKfM&pp=sAQA>

Operations Return on the WKR

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G46b0joAC0I&pp=sAQA>

Operations on the WKR – Train 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAkfBy2PnaM&pp=sAQA>

Heavy Traffic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n3U7HFFfnBY&pp=sAQA>

Operations on the WKR Layout – Train 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNkyuqg31-8&pp=sAQA>

Operations on the WKR Layout – Train 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehCjIz1FbxM&pp=sAQA>

Intermodal Traffic on the WKR Layout

Real Deal



Todd Skaggs Photo

This month, we start off with a great series of pictures from Todd Skaggs of Dodge City, KS. Todd takes frequent trips to Colorado for vacation and recently sent this e-mail: "It has been a while since I have taken some pics. Here are a few from today (7/15/21) - between Larkspur and Monument on the Joint Line."



Todd Skaggs Photo

Real Deal



Todd Skaggs Photo

Todd Skaggs Photo



Real Deal



Todd Skaggs Photo

Todd Skaggs Photo



Real Deal Too



On July 21st, I happened by the Wright Co-Op and found them loading a 100-car grain train. (Above) Looking from the East, a string of hoppers already loaded or will soon be. Some years ago, the Right Co-Op Assoc. lengthened their storage tracks to accommodate the required 100-car length as demanded by BNSF.



(Above) Still looking from the East a smaller string of cars being loaded.



Real Deal Too



(Above) Working the loading process are RCAX 101 and 1702. The Right Co-Op Association elevators are located just east of Dodge City in Wright, Kansas.



(Above) The RCAX 101 began life in November 1958 as Norfolk & Western 519, a EMD GP9. After the merger into Norfolk Southern the 519 was rebuilt into an EMD TC-10 featuring a 1050 HP Caterpillar prime mover. Now wearing the colors of the Right Co-Op Association, it is paired with the 1702 and is operated by remote control from the elevator loading platform.

Real Deal Too

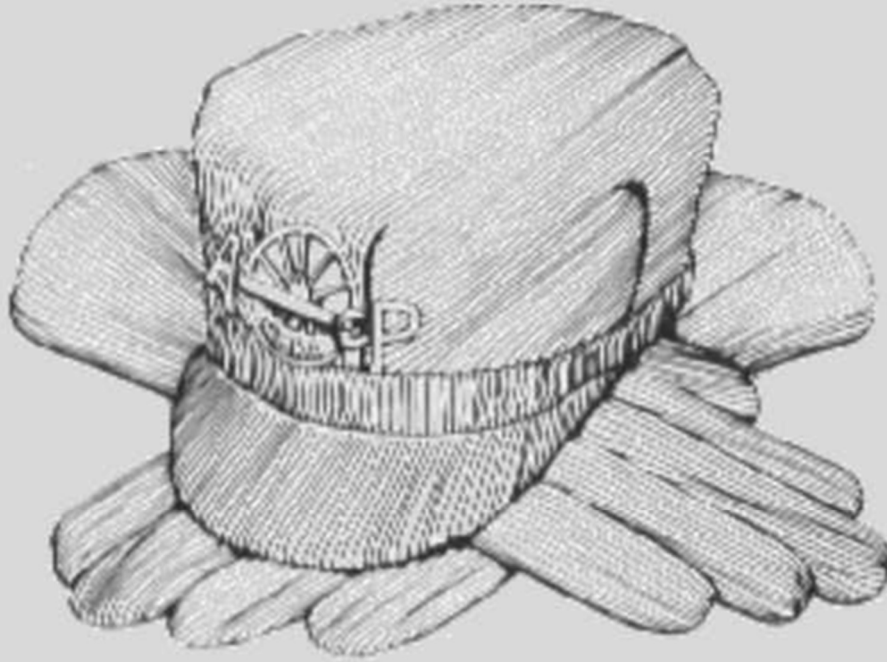
(Below) The RCAX 1702 was constructed by the Northern Pacific as a EMD GP9B in July of 1957 with the number 326. It also served the Burlington Northern as 602, and then the BNSF as 1702.



(below) the pair are hard-at-work loading cars with the recently harvested grain.



Newest Master Model Railroader® recipients



680. Gordon Robinson (BR)

681. Gary Loiselle (MWR)

682. Chuck Diljak (NER)

683. Frank C. Baker (PSR)

684. David Nicholson (BR)

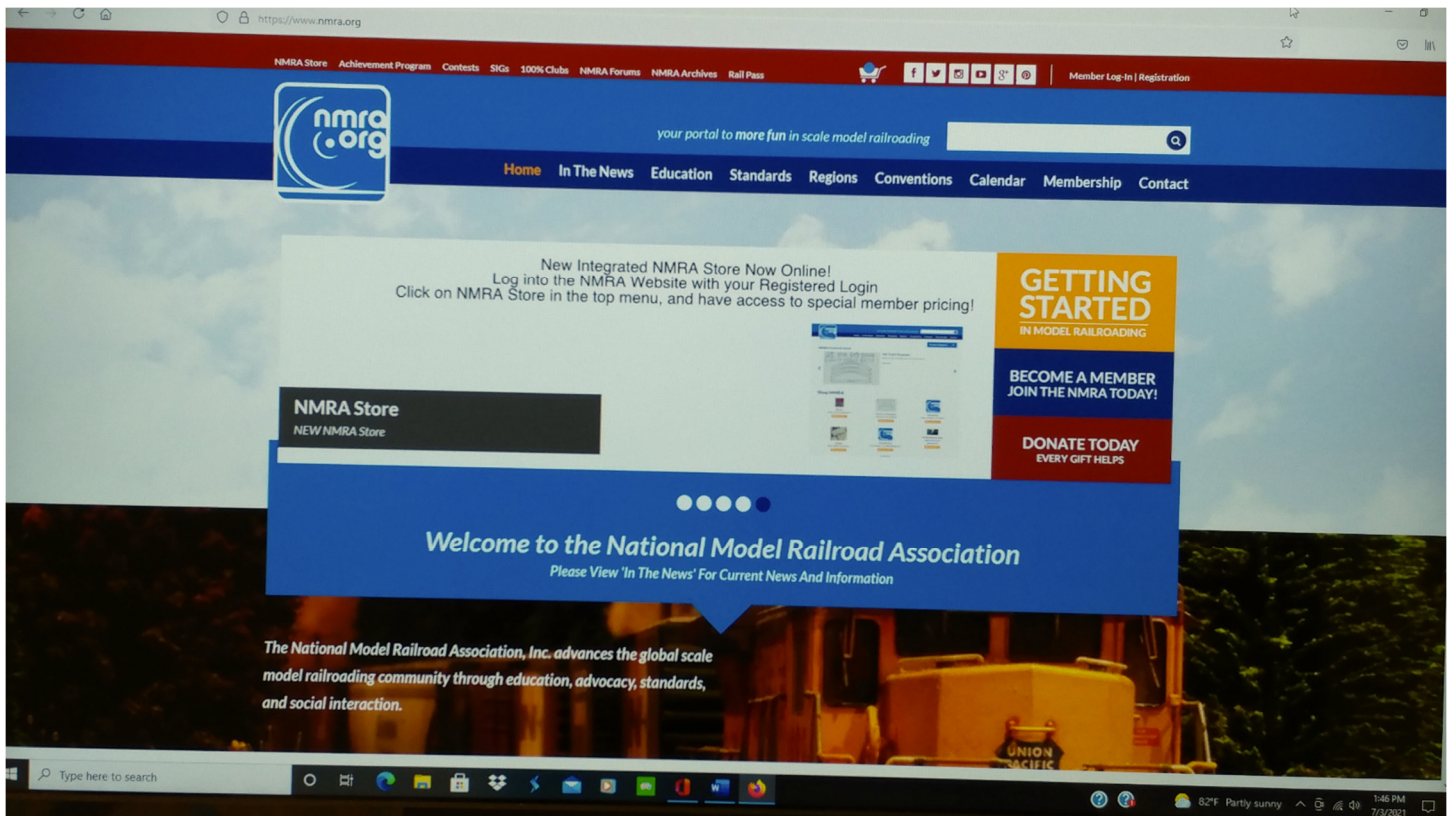
685. Alex Belida (MER)

686. Max Magliaro (PNR)

"Master Model Railroader" and "MMR" are registered trademarks of the NMRA.

A list of all MMRs can be found at nmra.org/master-model-railroaders

A black and white cartoon by Lynn. A man and a woman are in a toy store. The man is holding a train set, and the woman is pointing at a sign that says "DANGER FORD CROSSING". A sign above the counter says "SALE" and another says "GREAT STUFF". A sign on the wall says "TRUE MODELLER".



You can find all the latest information on NMRA activities, conventions, events, and discounts by clicking on:

<https://www.nmra.org/>

Trial Membership

Would you like to test drive the NMRA? Try **Railpass...**

Now's your chance! With a Rail Pass membership, you'll have access to one of the world's largest railroad libraries, get reduced rates on special layout or collection insurance, receive 9 issues of NMRA Magazine, and much more.

Click on the link above, select Railpass, print out and fill in the form, then MAIL it to:

NMRA Rail Pass Membership
National Model Railroad Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy TN 37384-1328

* Rail Pass offer is good in the U.S. only and is for new members and those who have not been NMRA members for two years or more. Individuals can join at Rail Pass rates only once. Rail Pass members can attend conventions and participate in contests but cannot hold office or vote in NMRA events. Membership will renew at the regular membership rate..

Or, if you can't wait, enroll online at the NMRA Store.



The mission of the **Rio Grande Modeling & Historical Society** is to preserve and disseminate historical information about the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad for the benefit of our members and to others by locating, gathering, preserving, interpreting tangible items relating to the D&RGW and distributing information, documents, publications thus promoting fellowship and education among persons with interests in the railroad.

You can join today...just click on the link:




<https://www.rgmhs.org/index.html>

Time To Register...

2021 TULSA UNION CONVENTION

[Home](#)[Clinics](#)[Layouts](#)[Contests](#)[Non-rail](#)[Timetable](#)[Register](#)[Hotel](#)[Contact](#)[Updates](#)

October 6th to 10th, 2021 in Tulsa, Oklahoma



Welcome to the 2021 Tulsa Union Convention website

The place to find details, news and updates about this year's joint regional convention

Come to Tulsa and pick from over 20 clinics and 16 model railroad layouts to see during the event. Enjoy featured Clinicians from two Regions and tour a variety of quality layouts, in the model railroading City of Tulsa.

Check out the list of Clinics planned. Look thru pictures of Layouts on tour. Sign-up for an Operating Session. Bring a model to the Contest Room.



Visit the Registration page today to sign up and pay, all online. The Hotel page has location details and a link to book your room, online. Plus review other event details and updates on the pages of this website.

Take advantage of the Early Registration discount before August 1st

This Convention is a collaboration of the Indian Nations Division, Mid-Continent and Lone Star Regions, of the National Model Railroad Association. A first-time venture by both regions, coming together in Tulsa this October.

Come to Tulsa in October for the 2021 Convention !

Ken Ehlers, Co-Chairman, Indian Nations Division & Mid-Continent Region
Marc LaChey, Co-Chairman, Lone Star Region



Recent updates on the Non-Rail page

There will be a variety of Clinics during this Convention. Topics ranging from modeling techniques to prototype history, discussions on scale operating practices to real industry processes. Take a look at the list below of the various Clinics currently planned for this year's Convention.



Fuzzy Anstine – Getting those shelf engines back into service

The clinic will go over many of the things you can do to get those old brass engines off the shelf and back on the layout. Will cover maintaining fine tuning, oiling, DCC installs along with many of the common problems and fixes of early brass engines.

Al Boos III, MMR – Skidders and Yarders

What the difference between a skidder and yarder? Come to this clinic and find out. Logging operations used many different types of equipment in getting the logs from the woods to the mill. The different types of skidders and yarders operations will be covered.

Ken Ehlers, MMR – Prototype Track Planning

This clinic will look at how Ken designed his Sn3 Pandora & San Miguel Railway to follow the Rio Grandee Southern and will look at the many modifications and compromises that were necessary in order to fit his layout into a specific space. The clinic will focus on designing a track plan that balances prototype scenic realism with a desire to achieve realistic operations.

Steve Davis – Layout Design for Operations: KCS 3rd as a case study

Whether you are considering building a new model RR from scratch, expanding one you already have, converting a layout to operations, or are just interested in the planning process, you'll find something of interest as Steve Davis, whose HO scale KCS 3rd sub was featured in the October 2019 issue of Railroad Model Craftsman magazine, reviews the considerations that went in to that layout design as well as how other layout design styles can be adapted for operations.

The Convention runs from Wednesday to Sunday, October 6th-10th, 2021

...originally scheduled in June 2021, it was rescheduled to October due to Covid.

Before August 1st, 2021 the early Registration fee is only \$60.00 for Attendees

On and after August 1, 2021 the normal Registration fee is \$75 for Attendees

The Non-Rail Attendee fee is only \$30.00 a person (no early discount)

Two convention Polo shirt options are available, with or without a pocket.

Color is Navy, they are 65/35 Polyester/Cotton, 3 button classic fit, from S&S Activewear.

To participate in one or more formal Operating Sessions, visit to the [Layouts](#) page and review the details, and make a list of your choices before you start to register.

Great Layouts To Visit...

The Convention will feature many home layouts open for touring. Most will also offer "operating sessions" you can register to attend.

The Tulsa area model railroaders have become known for having a hotbed of operating model railroads. Annually, Tulsa layout owners host weekend long, round robin, operating events.

We hope to provide some of this experience during the Convention. There will be opportunities for both experienced and novice Engineers.

Layouts tours will be available to all registered convention attendees, where operating session 'slots' are limited and assigned in advance, based on your registration date and choices.

If you want to operate at one or more sessions, you will make choices during your registration. This includes picking layouts, plus picking days and times you will be available (in town) to attend a session.

How to attend one or more Operating Sessions...

- Review the various layouts (on the right) and their details
- Make a list of up to four (4) layouts by railroad name, in the order you would like to operate on them (3 + 1 alternate)
...you can select fewer layouts if you want to operate less times
- Review your travel plans and review the Operating Session days and times, found on the [TimeTable](#) page
- Make a list of the days and times you will be in Tulsa and able to commit to attend a 3 hour session, *plus the drive time*
- When you register, select **both** the layouts, plus days and times you will be available to commit to attend sessions.

	Dale Baker	Tulsa Port of Catoosa RR	HO
	Steve Campbell	Cherokee Sub Frisco	HO
	Sammy Carlile	Santa Fe Hereford Subdivision	HO
	Steve Davis	KCS 3rd Subdivison	HO
	Kenneth Ehlers	Pandora & San Miguel Rwy	Sn3
	Tom Fausser	South Brooklyn Terminal	HO
	Steve Gillett	Spaendahl Yamanee & Densum	N
	GCMRC	Green County Model RR Club	HO
--	Lane Littlefield	Tennessee Central Railway	N
	Jon Pansius	Tulsa Junction Railway	HO
--	Allan Roecker	Kansas Central Div – Coffeyville Sub	HO
	Dave Salamon	Deep River Southern	N
--	Sam Simons	Connell Northern	N
	Jim Sinclair	Southern Pacific	HO
	Randy Smith	Rio Grande Southern	Sn3
	David Steensland	Silverton & Lake City	HOon3

Go to: <http://www.2021tulsaunion.com/> and get registered today!

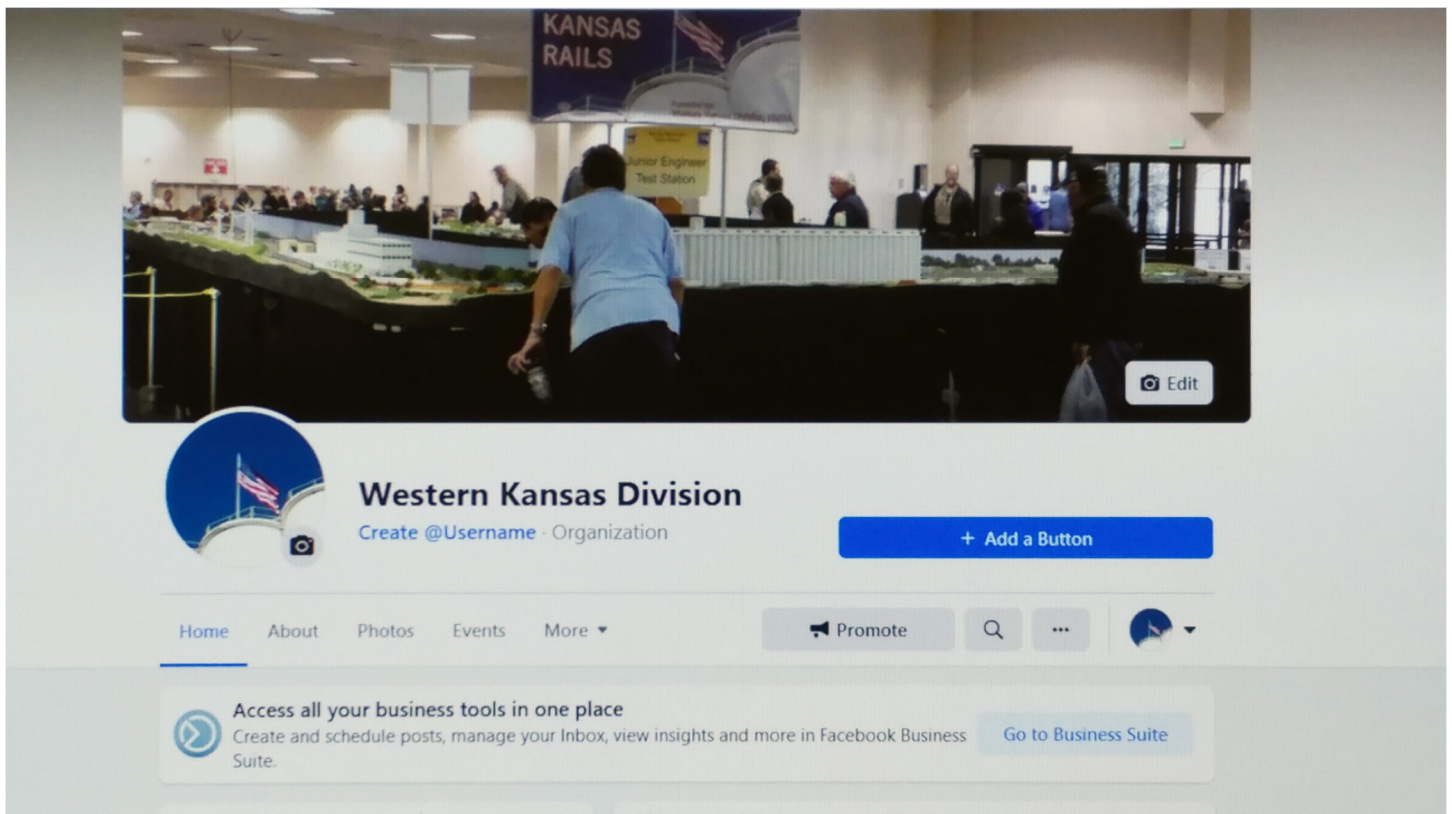


Midwest Model Railroad Custom Weathered Rolling Stock First 3 in HO Scale

Introducing the first few cars of the new Midwest Model Railroad custom weathered rolling stock! These cars are done by an employee and are one of a kind! These cars can add a sense of realism to your layout with realistic rust and dirt representing the prototypes after years of operation on the rails. Watch out for more coming soon!

Check out their entire inventory, just click on the link:

<https://midwestmodelrr.com/>



You can follow the antics of the **Western Kansas Division** on their **Facebook** page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Western-Kansas-Division-592835177514577>



The principal purpose of the Operations Special Interest Group (OPSIG) is to discuss, develop and disseminate ways of operating model railroads to realistically emulate practices of the prototype. This includes sharing information on various methods of generating, moving, and controlling traffic to heighten the feeling that our models are an active and integral part of the national rail transportation network, serving shippers and consignees throughout the nation. We also discuss and communicate information about the methods and procedures used by the real railroads and ways of most practically and realistically adapting them to the model world. So, if you like to operate the railroad you've created, this is a place to learn more and find others with similar interests.

Interested in operating your layout, visit the **Facebook** page of the **Operations Special Interest Group (OPSIG)**:

<https://www.facebook.com/OperationsSIG>

Or their **website**:

<https://www.opsig.org/>

I'm only buying one more train.



False Information

Checked by independent fact-checkers



Congratulations Douglas Harding !

Master Model Railroader 676.

Doug is a member of the
Great Midwestern Division and
the Mid-Continent Region,
NMRA



Views from the Biennial Train Show July 24 2021



Views from the
Biennial Train Show
July 24 2021





Views from the Biennial Train Show July 24 2021

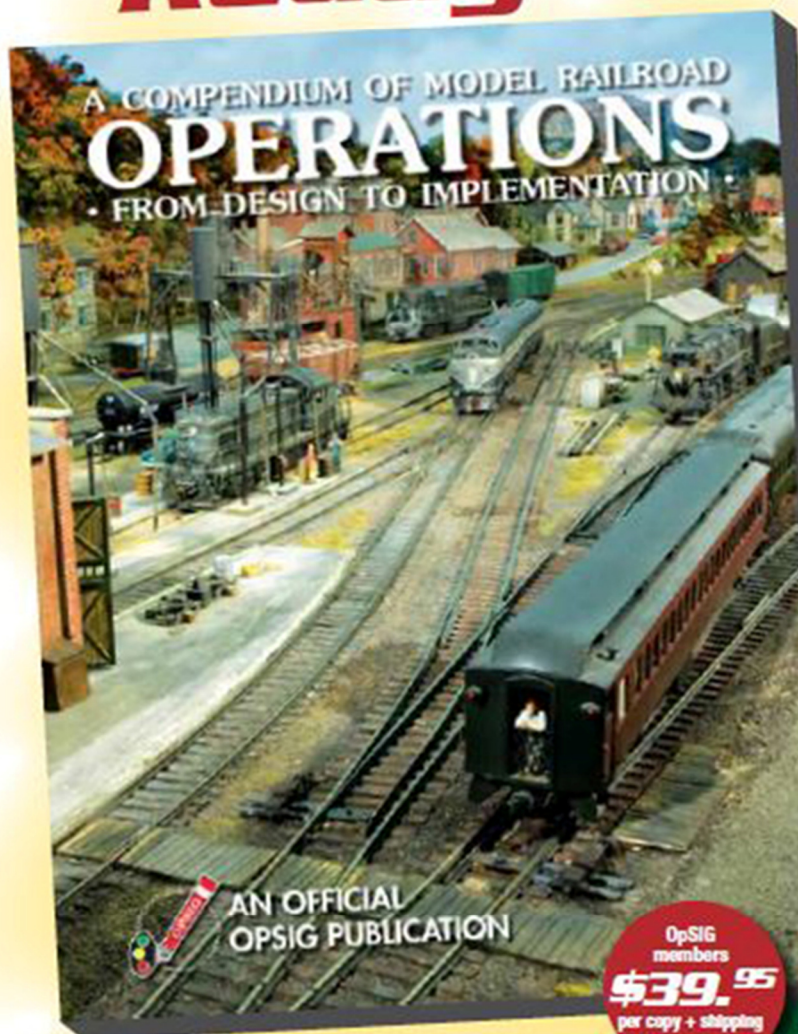


Images provided by
Spring Creek Model
Trains



Dispatcher to OpSIG Publication No. 2, you're ...

Ready to Roll!



All model railroaders, whether expert or beginner, will find a wealth of useful information in the OpSIG's second publication, **A Compendium of Model Railroad Operations - From Design to Implementation**. A complete guide to all things operations, our latest offering covers every aspect of prototype operations and how to apply them to your model railroad—from design and staffing to yards and paperwork, from communications and signals to dispatching and car forwarding—in 310 full-color pages. Written by ten of your fellow modelers and professionals, **The Compendium** contains more than 350 photos, 120 illustrations, and countless tips, pointers, suggestions, and prototype information to help guide you on your journey. A must for any modeler interested in prototype operations, add it to your library today!

OpSIG
members
\$39.95
per copy + shipping

Non-
members
\$49.95
per copy + shipping

Shipping: US (\$8)
Canada/Mexico (\$21)
Overseas (\$28)

For shipping rates on multiple books,
as well as better international shipping,
please contact Steve Benezra.

To Order: Please mail a check or money order, payable to OpSIG, with number of copies and your mailing address, phone number, and e-mail to:

Steve Benezra
2737 Thistle Trail
Hillsborough, NC 27278-9302
Opsig.editor@gmail.com

For Paypal orders, please add \$1 to the cost of the book and send to OPERSIG@yahoo.com. Provide your mailing address and telephone number in the subject box.

The OpSIG is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. For information on how to join the OpSIG, please visit www.opsig.org.

Me: Buys \$3000 worth of
Model Trains
Also me: \$25.....that's too
expensive



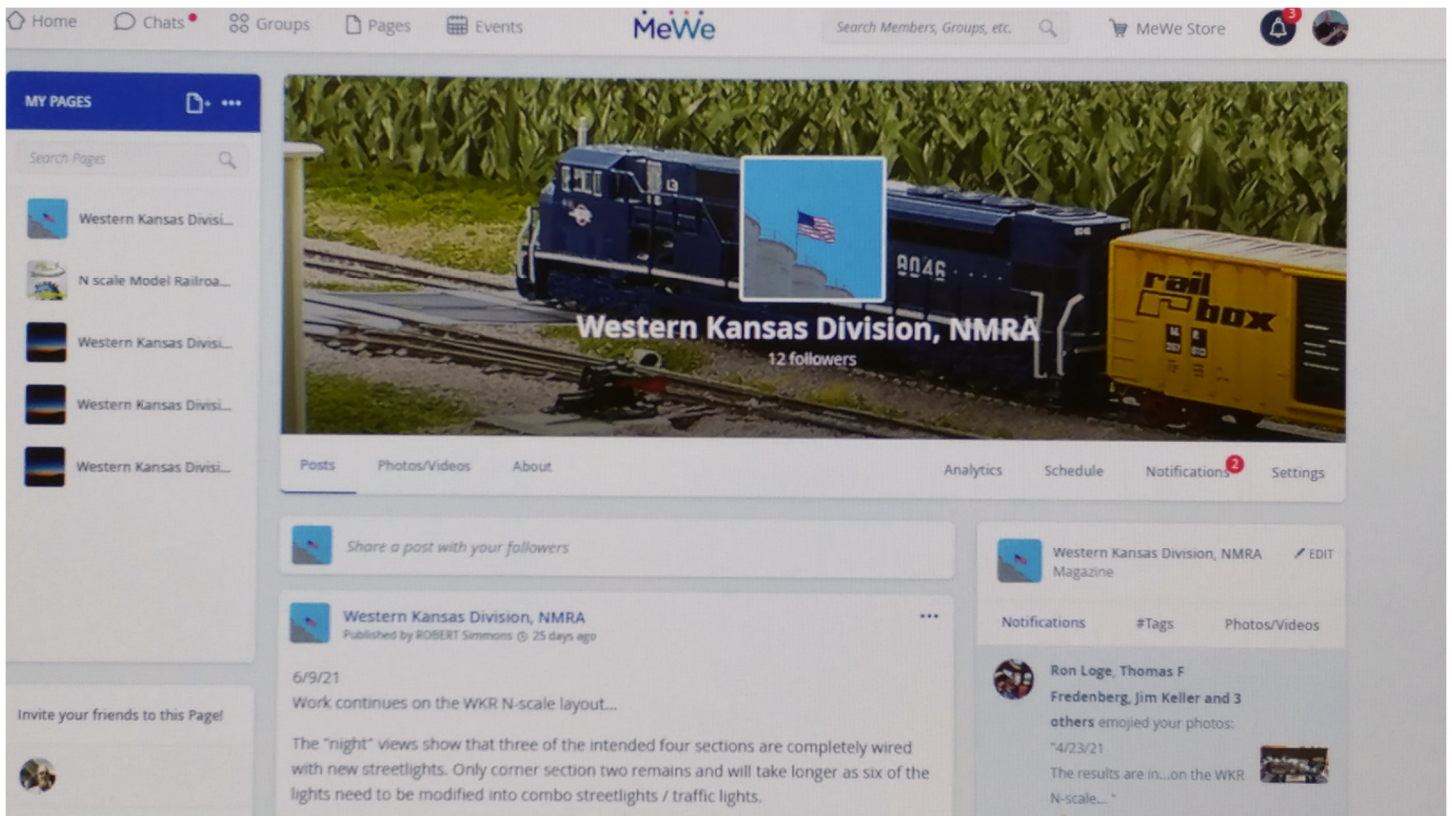


Our mission is to preserve and promote the heritage of the Missouri Pacific Railroad and its affiliates. This includes the Texas & Pacific, Chicago & Eastern Illinois, Kansas Oklahoma & Gulf, Alton & Southern and many other roads that were part of the MP family.

Please consider becoming a member and help us keep this history alive.

The MPHS Website: <http://www.mopac.org/>

The MPHS **Facebook** Page: <https://www.facebook.com/MoPacHistorical>



Follow the Western Kansas Division on their MeWe Page... <https://mewe.com/i/robertsimmons37>



If you like or model the Union Pacific, consider the **Union Pacific Historical Society**
<http://uphs.org/>

Trackside Model Railroading™

July 2021
Premium Edition

Volume 9, Number 7

Modeling Germany on the SDEV
Restarting Operations Post-Covid

Ops Photos of the Port
Townsend Southern

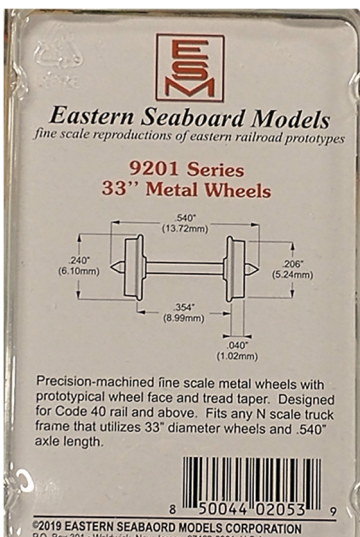


Sign-up for Trackside Model Railroading here: <https://www.tracksidemodelrailroading.com/magazine/customer-login/>

WKR Update



In July, the Western Kansas Rails N-scale layout ordered and received the Farmrail hopper set from Micro Trains featuring five cars in different colors. Before they hit the rails for revenue service, they need to be upgraded to WKR standards.



The WKR is in the process of upgrading all cars to metal wheel sets. It has been difficult to get some brands, so we tried the **ESM** brand and have experienced excellent results.

With the change to metal wheels with low profile flanges, the rolling resistance is greatly reduced, so it is possible to increase car weight, in fact we increase the weight to nearly double of the NMRA standard with the results the cars and trains behave much more like the real items. We use a variety of weights to accomplish this and the fishing weights (right) work well in tight spaces.

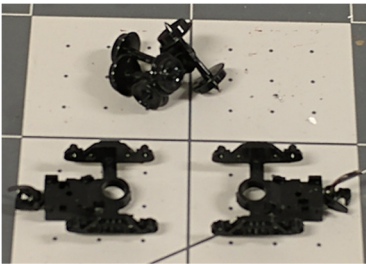


(Left) The first step is to remove the Micro Trains trucks

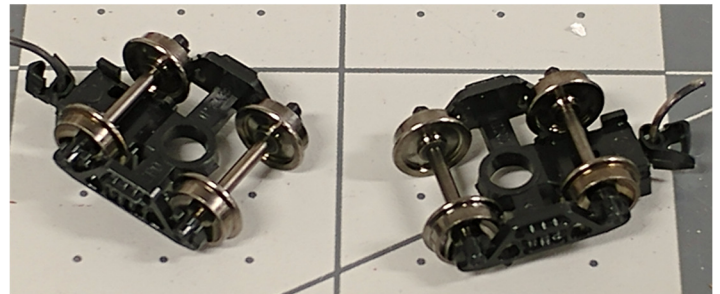
WKR Update



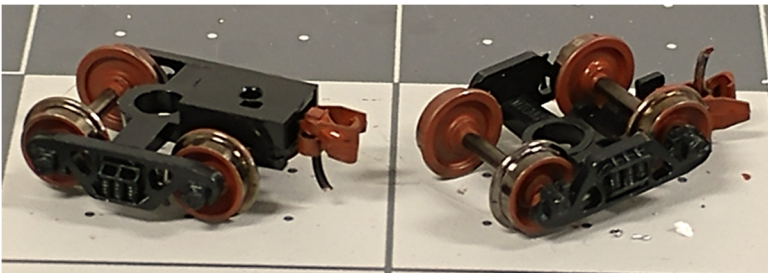
(Above) The Mechanical Department of the WKR was delighted to discover the Micro Trains cars opened by removing the bottom and included two substantial weights.



(Left) After removing the trucks, the wheel sets were also removed.

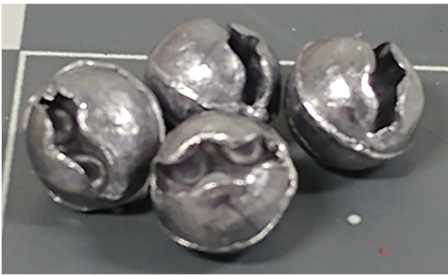


(Right) The trucks now have new, ESM metal wheel sets installed.



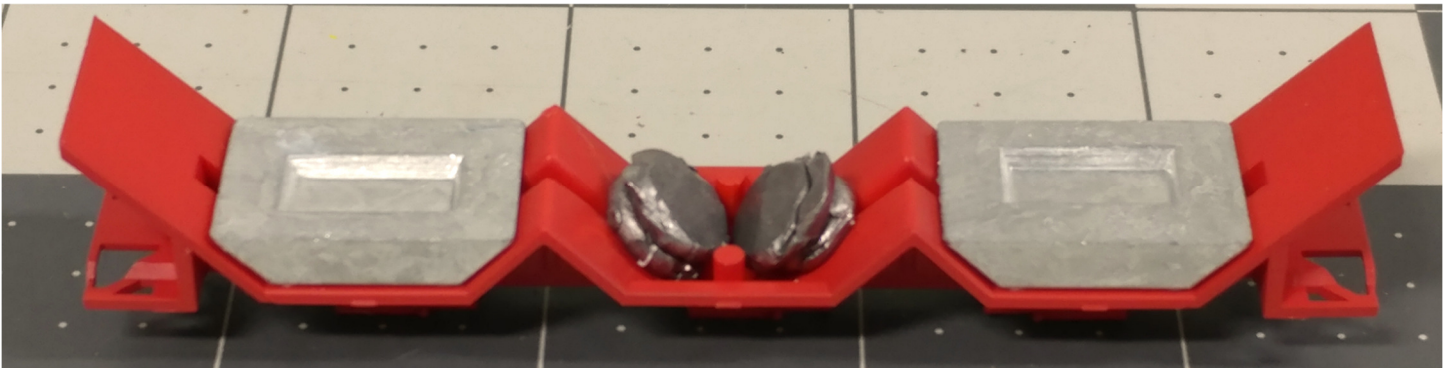
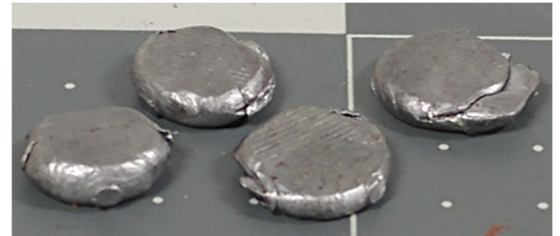
(Left) Another WKR standard is all wheel sets, and some truck side frames are painted "rust" color, in this case, the front and back faces of the wheels plus the couplers.

WKR Update



(Left) Using a scale, we determined we needed an additional ¼-ounce of weight, which required four of the fishing weights, and since we wanted them in the center space of the floor and as low as possible their shape needed to change.

(Right) Using a standard hammer, it is very easy to flatten them into more manageable shapes.

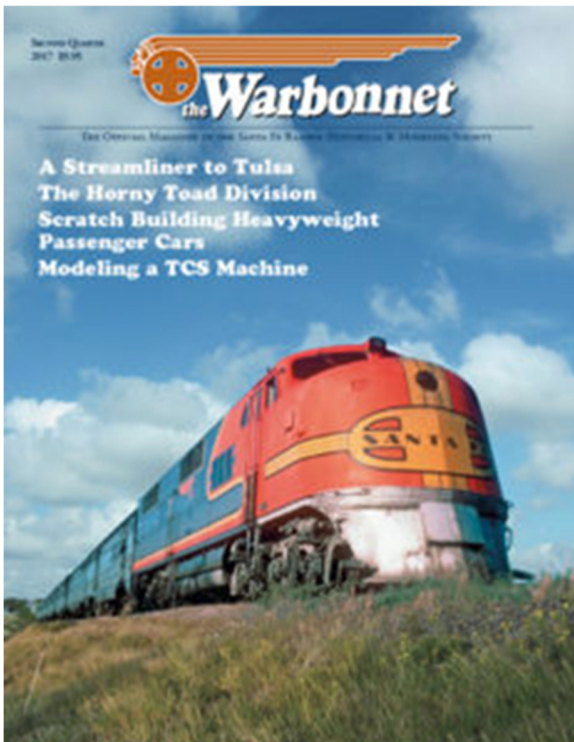


(Above) Using Super Glue, the two original weights were cemented in place (every car had one weight come loose). The additional weights were also glued into the center cavity.



(Above & Right) Reassembled and on the test track, it's hard to beat the look of rust color wheels and silver treads. Rust color couplers are also a nice touch. In this configuration, these will be considered new cars just put into service. In other situations, the side frames are also rusted to simulate an older car, some with mild rust and others completely rusted depending on the amount of "weathering" the car received. With the new wheels and additional weight, these cars perform as good as they look.





The Santa Fe Railway Historical and Modeling Society

Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society is an independent non-profit corporation devoted to preserving, studying, and sharing information about the former Santa Fe Railway; from its rich history and fascinating operations, to its distinctive equipment and facilities.

Visit their website here:

<https://sfrhms.org/>



Get the most out of your N-scale modeling by joining N-Rail: <https://nrail.org/>



If it has anything to do with the Mid-Continent Region, you'll find it on the MCoR website: <http://mcor-nmra.org/>

HAVING FUN WITH TRAINS

MRH

MODEL RAILROAD HOBBYIST

▶ Start reading now

Read the current issue online

Get the current issue

Click for more ways to read the current issue

Click to visit our premium web video channel

Running Extra!

Subscribe to new mag

Model Railroad Hobbyist Store

Click to visit our online store

Password: *

LOG IN

REGISTER (FREE)

RESET PASSWORD

Log in using OpenID

MRH for July

Bob Rivard weathers some Tangent boxcars

June/July Running Extra:

\$2.99

SUBSCRIBE and save 80%!

Subscribe and save BIG

Access back issues page

All FREE!

Navigation

- ▶ Get current issue
- ▶ Free Edition (register)
- ▶ Running Extra
- ▶ Recent posts
- ▶ Recent posts by type
- ▶ Blogs
- ▶ Discussion forums
- ▶ Community
- ▶ Contact us

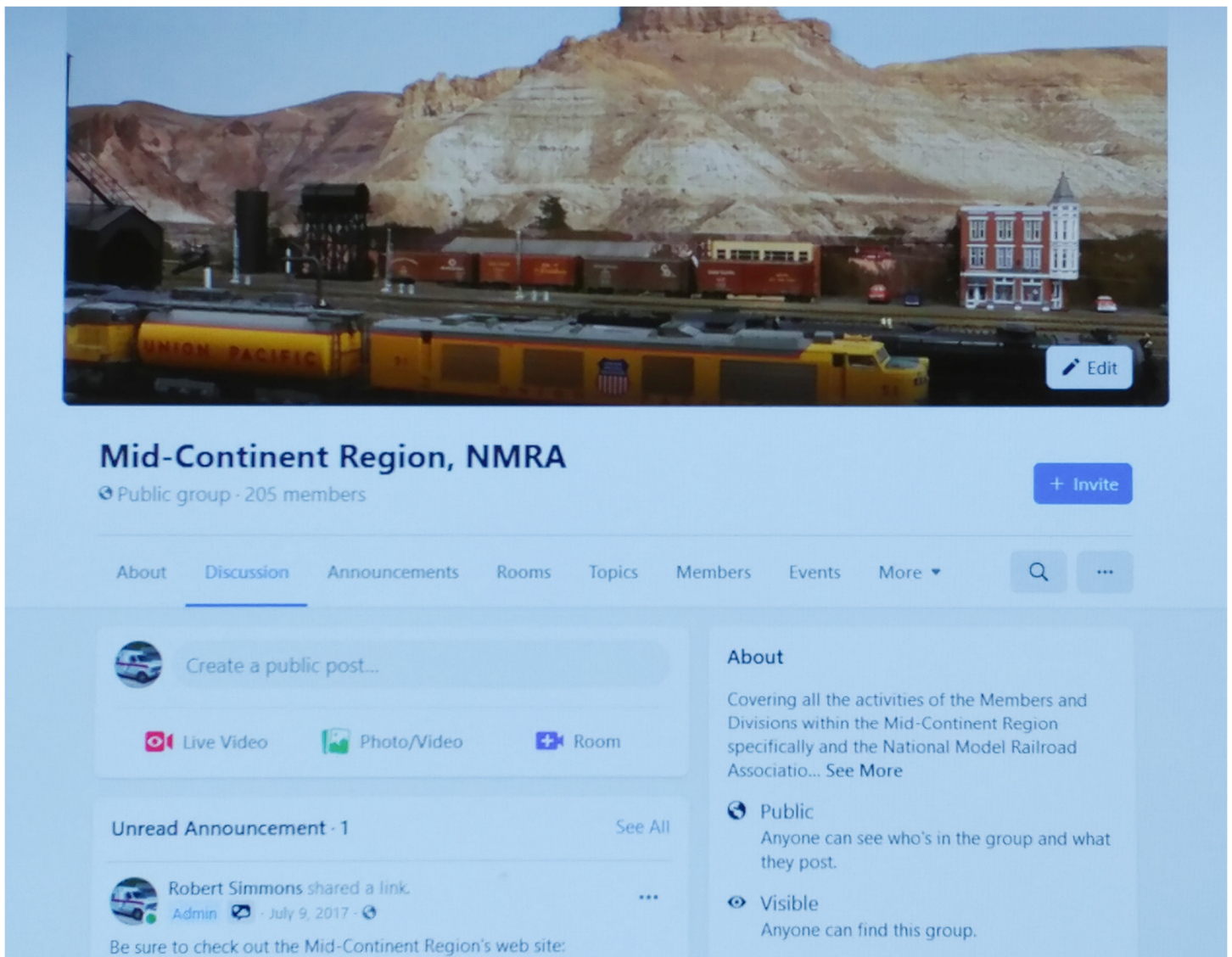
Recent blog posts

- Virginia Creeper moving forward slowly
- Cicada Quartet

Click on the link to get your reading started: <https://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/>



Here is the link for the Friends of the Burlington Northern Railroad, the historical society focused on the Burlington Northern, BNSF, and Montana Rail Link: <https://fobnr.org/>



If it is happening anywhere within the Mid-Continent Region, you can find it on the Region's [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1851848998468077) page...

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1851848998468077>

MODEL TRAIN CONVENTION & EXPO

— FUNDRAISER —

JANUARY 8-9

SATURDAY 9-6 | SUN 10-3

McPherson Community Building | 122 E Marlin St

\$7 TICKETS / PERSON

\$5 STUDENT / SENIOR / FIRST RESPONDER

DOOR PRIZES EVERY HOUR

PRIZE FOR
BEST IN SHOW
FOR EXHIBIT AND VENDOR



PROCEEDS BENEFIT:

McPherson County MakerSpace, Fire Prevention Fund
and McPherson Area Boy Scouts

Date Book

August 2021

1 st – 8 th Sun – Sun	Lionel Operating Train Society (LOTS) National Convention https://lots-trains.org/annual-convention/	Lawrence, KS.
6 th – 8 th Fri - Sun	North Platte Rail Days Model Train Show https://visithnorthplatte.com/directory-posts/north-platte-rail-days/	North Platte, NE.
8 th Sunday	Mid-America Train & Toy Show http://www.midamericatrainandtoyshow.com/	Kansas City, MO.

September 2021

25 th & 26 th Sat & Sun	Wichita Toy Train Club Train Show http://www.wichitatoytrainmuseum.org/club-shows-1.html	Wichita, KS.
--	---	--------------

October 2021

6 th – 10 th	Tulsa Union Convention (NMRA) Embassy Suites Hotel http://www.2021tulsaunion.com/	Tulsa, OK.
------------------------------------	--	------------

November 2021

13 th & 14 th Sat & Sun	Train Expo Colorado (TECO) Train Show http://tecoshow.org/	Colorado Springs, CO.
--	---	-----------------------

December 2021

4 th & 5 th Sat & Sun	OKC Train Show https://www.oklahomarailwaymuseum.org/events/okc-train-show/	Oklahoma City, OK.
--	--	--------------------

January 2022

8 th & 9 th Sat & Sun	McPherson Train Show McPherson Community Building	McPherson, KS.
--	---	----------------



On The Back Cover:

A drone shot of the Spring Creek Biannual Train Show in Deshler, NE.

The *Main Line*

Publisher & Editor: Robert A. Simmons

The newsletter of the Western Kansas Division is published monthly for no charge by Robert A. Simmons, Division Superintendent / Director

Copyright 2021, by Robert A. Simmons, all rights reserved

If you have a change of e-mail address, or no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please contact Robert Simmons

Trainman55@hotmail.com or P.O. Box 157 – Dodge City, KS. 67801 or call (620) 521-3591

Please send all inquiries, ideas, or submissions to: trainman55@hotmail.com