



The

Main Line



November 2021

National Model Railroad Association

Mid-Continent Region

The Monthly publication of the



Western Kansas Division



On The Cover:

I had challenged readers to get started on a project on their or their Club's layout. Work continues on the WKR N-scale layout with the scenery crew working on the only unfinished scene, the concrete plant. Details are inside...

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A Word From The President



We are coming off the regional joint convention with The Lone Star Region and I think by anyone's measure it could be considered a very successful event. We were able to operate on some awesome layouts and listen to some great clinics, but I think most importantly we have strengthened relationships and made a lot of new friends in the Lone Star State. I would like to, once again, thank everyone who helped to make this event so enjoyable.

One other area in which I would consider a success is that we have two new directors. I would like everyone to extend a welcome to **Pam MacPhail** who will be the director of the Ozark Mountain Area and **Kent Hurley** who will be the director of the Maple Leaf Area.

(Left) Convention attendees at Kenneth Ehler's Sn3 layout, another view below.





We are located at: 6060A West 55th Ave. Arvada, Co. 80002

NOTE WE HAVE RECENTLY MOVED

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Editor's Musings

I have heard a lot of talk lately about the expense of this hobby, and with national inflation taking a bite out of everyone's buying power, hobby spending will be the first thing to eliminate. The cost of locomotives and rolling stock is certainly higher, but remember, we demanded DCC, sound, and a higher level of details. This having been said, there are ways to reduce your hobby expense.

Back in 1995 while building my first home layout, I realized that my wonderful track plan would require over forty track switches which were about \$16.00 each. I learned how to scratch-build my own switches for about \$4.00 each in materials, and as of now, I have completed well over 100-switches. There are many people who hand lay their trackwork.

After working as a Salesman for a General Contractor building homes, I took a fancy to scratch-building my own structures, instead of purchasing expensive building kits. One of the crowd-pleasing aspects of the WKR layout is very few of the structures are kits or based on kits that all the other layouts at a show have some version of.

Almost every area of this hobby can be mastered using basic components for a reduced cost, plus greater satisfaction in the accomplishment. To paraphrase an old saying, "When the going gets tough, the tough get scratch-building!"

Robert

Dear NMRA members,

We want to make you aware of Limited-Edition, HO scale freight cars that **Cincinnati Division 7** still has available for sale/purchase. We currently have two runs still in inventory:

* Virginian & Ohio 36' Wooden Boxcar Kits. Four different cars, liveries and road numbers are available



* Chesapeake & Ohio 40' USRA Single-sheathed Boxcar Kits. Four car numbers are offered, two rebuilt in 1931 (1153 and 1191) and two rebuilt in 1948 (1501 and 1505).

The following link provides details about the cars as well as pricing, shipping, and ordering information.

<https://www.cincy-div7.org/projects.html>

Paul Maciulewicz

NMRA; MCR; Cincinnati Division 7
Car Projects Chairman



The Union Pacific Historical Society

Founded in 1984, UPHS is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the Union Pacific Railroad. As of the beginning of 2016, the Society has about 1,900 members. Historians, railfans, employees, and modelers have found the UPHS to be a matchless source of accurate and in-depth material concerning historical operations, traffic, motive power, rolling stock and facilities of the Union Pacific and predecessor companies. Railroad employees, managers, and retirees are welcome



Publication: The UPHS publishes *The Streamliner*, a professionally produced and beautifully illustrated quarterly journal featuring the finest work of historians and other experts on all aspects of Union Pacific Railroad operations, traffic, management, equipment, and facilities.

Company Store: The on-line UPHS Company Store sells our books about Union Pacific as well as UP-subject-matter books published by others, back issues of *The Streamliner*, audio CDs of UP steam trains in the 1950s, DVDs of UP steam locomotive drawings, HO-scale models of UP rolling stock, and convention and membership pins. Annual memberships also may be purchased in the Company Store. While the Store is open to all, members of UPHS receive discounts on selected products.

<http://uphs.org/> Is the website for the **Union Pacific Historical Society**.

The UPHS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Union-Pacific-Historical-Society-131902420186325>

Gateway 2022

Gateway Rail Productions LLC



Sun, August 07, 2022 @ 08:00 AM — Sat, August 13, 2022 @ 06:00 PM (CDT)



Register today for the 2022 NMRA National Convention in St. Louis, Mo.

Go to the Convention website for complete details: https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event_id=13724

Registration: **Open**

Event Dates

AUG SUNDAY **07** to **AUG** SATURDAY **13**
8:00 AM to 6:00 PM (CDT)

[Save to my calendar](#)

Registration Closes

AUGUST 07, 2022 @ 6:00 PM

Location



Address

Marriott Grand, St Louis
800 Washington Ave, St Louis, MO
Saint Louis, MO USA



Follow the antics of the Western Kansas Division, NMRA on their **MeWe** page:
<https://mewe.com/p/westernkansasdivisionnmra>



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Welcome to the National Model Railroad Association

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* 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](#).

Modeling Opportunities



Just recently I was looking for trains to photograph and came upon this scene at a Dodge City cattle feed mill. The mill is constructing four new above ground holding tanks and in this view, the newest is being constructed and the oldest is betrayed by the amount of rust.



This would add significant interest to any tank farm scene. Details to include would be:

- 1 Chain link fence
- 2 Containment berm around the tanks
- 3 Electrical conduits
- 4 Ladder
- 5 Construction debris around the base
- 6 Crane
- 7 Spiral staircase and safety rails

On the tank on the left, there is an electrical conduit which also shows on the completed tanks, and I can only speculate it is a control for blowers as there are vents in the roof.

Modeling Opportunities



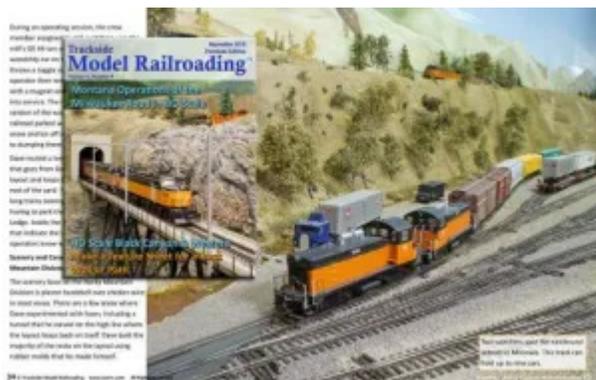
A couple of closer views...



Modeling Opportunities



On the flip side, here is a closer view of some older tanks along with some interesting weathering. It appears for these tanks; everything is painter white except the roofs which are a dark grey or black.



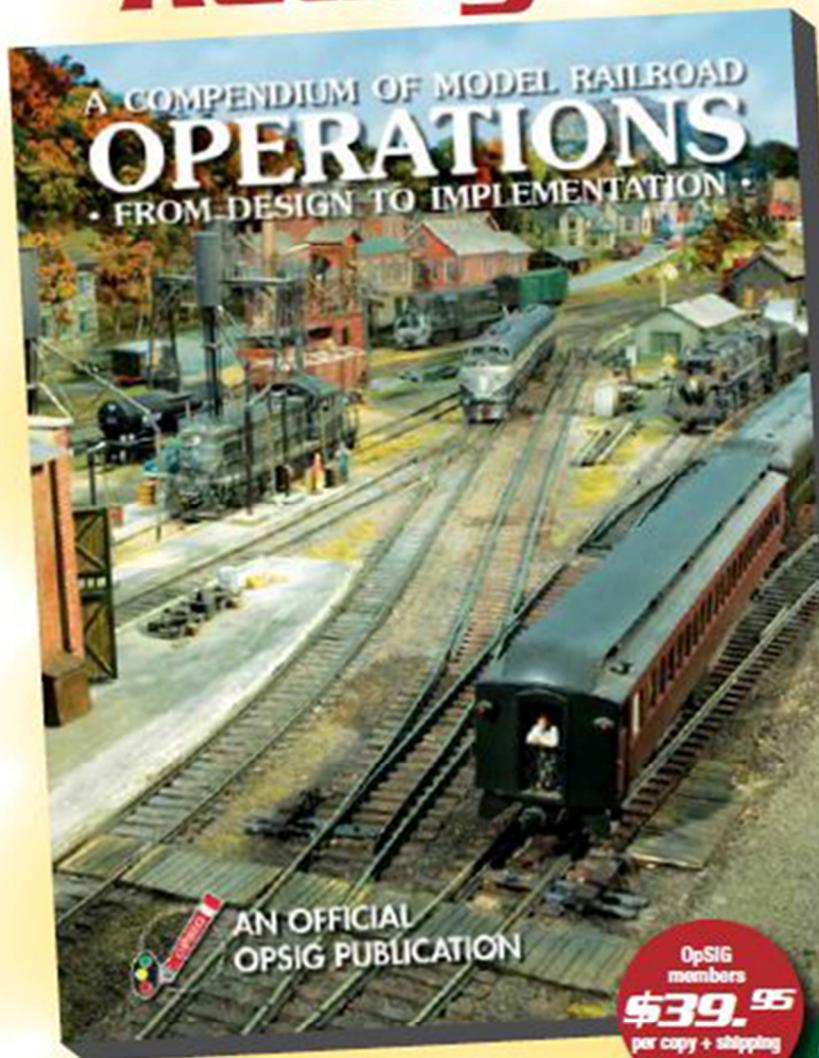
Trackside Model Railroading E-zine

Trackside Model Railroading is a publisher for model train enthusiasts who want to enjoy layout tours in depth. The digital magazine is advertisement-free and covers two layouts each month. We feature layouts of all the fine scales with lots of full-page photos, articles about the railroads, and short videos. Our DVD and Blu-ray movies feature much more video of the layouts and often include interviews, operations, and creative backstories and railroad history.

<https://www.tracksidemodelrailroading.com/>

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!

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



Now that we're married you can stop buying trains.

You're beginning to sound like my ex wife



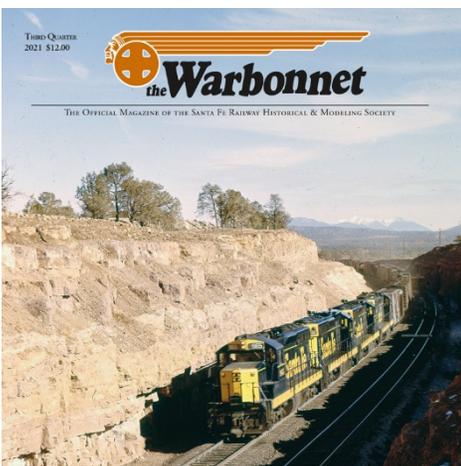
What? You told me you'd never been Married before

I haven't been.



The Santa Fe Railway Historical and Modeling Society

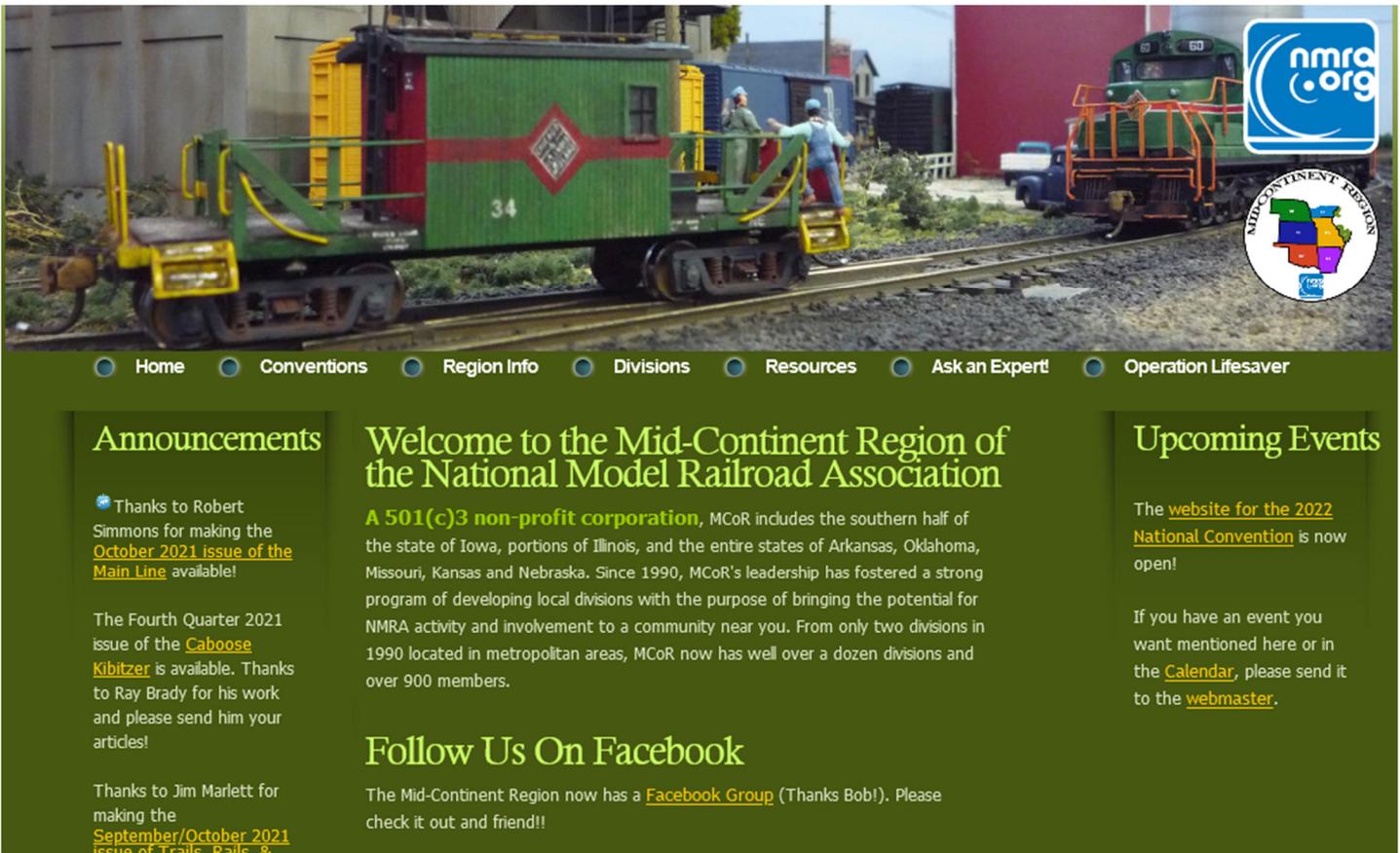
The Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society is an independent non-profit corporation devoted to preserving, studying, and sharing information about the former Santa Fe Railway; from its rich history and fascinating operations, to its distinctive equipment and facilities.



The Society and its predecessors have been publishing information about the Santa Fe since 1969. The Society offers exceptional publications on the history and modeling of the Santa Fe. From its flagship quarterly magazine, *The Warbonnet*, to its comprehensive books on history, motive power, rolling stock and modeling, the Society is the definitive and authoritative source on all things Santa Fe.

Find out more about the Santa Fe Railway Historical and Modeling Society on their website: <https://sfrhms.org/>

Or visit their **Facebook** page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SFRHMS>



The mid-Continent Region of the NMRA has a website where you can find contact information concerning your local Division, the Region, a listing of all the Region MMR's, conventions, and more.

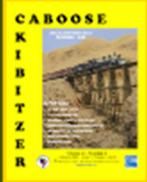
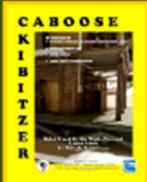
Now you can go to the website and pull-up previous issues of the Region newsletter, the Caboose Kibitzer, just click on the thumbnail and get your free PDF copy

Click on this link to go to the website:
<http://www.mcor-nmra.org/>

Current issues of the Caboose Kibitzer

[Show Back Issues of the CK](#)

(Many thanks to Jim Korman for the "thumbs" idea)

			
2021 Q1 - Vol 71.1	2021 Q2 - Vol 71.2	2021 Q3 - Vol 71.3	2021 Q4 - Vol 71.4
			
2020 Q1 - Vol 70.1	2020 Q2 - Vol 70.2	2020 Q3 - Vol 70.3	2020 Q4 - Vol 70.4

Spring Creek Model Trains

You can follow us on Facebook by joining our page. We use Facebook and our newsletter to let you know when we have new announcements on the web site and any changes in our show schedule.

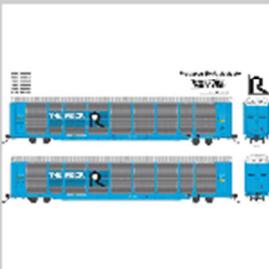
New Exclusive Product...



Fox Valley Models / Intermountain N Scale Bi-Level Auto Rack Rock Island

We partnered with [Fox Valley Models / Intermountain](#) on a N scale bi-level auto rack in the Rock Island blue paint scheme. We did six different numbers. For more information and to order the exclusive car follow this link.

[Spring Creek Model Trains – N Scale Rock Island Auto Rack](#)



Sold Out – Intermountain HO Scale Bi-Level Auto Rack Rock Island

We partnered with [Intermountain](#) on a HO scale bi-level auto rack in the Rock Island blue paint scheme. We did six different numbers. For more information and to order the exclusive car follow this link.

[Spring Creek Model Trains – HO Scale Rock Island Auto Rack](#)



We partnered with [Railfan Models](#) on the Boeing 777 covered well car, and are offering the car fully assembled. These cars are being done in a very limited number. For more information and to order the exclusive car follow this link.

[Spring Creek Model Trains – Boeing 777 Car](#)

On The Road...

The Next Show We Are Attending

Dave and Jeff will be attending the **Mid-Continent Prototype Modelers Meet** in Benton Kansas at the [Benton Lions Community Center](#). The show is Saturday November 6th from 9:00am to 5:00pm, and Sunday November 7th from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

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Just click on the link: <https://www.trains.com/>

What is NRail?



In 1974, Jim FitzGerald started publishing a newsletter with the intent of establishing communications with the N scale community about new ideas and about N scale. That newsletter became the NTRAK Newsletter and in 1994, NTRAK became a formal organization with incorporation. In 2000, T-TRAK was born and introduced through The NTRAK Newsletter which continued to be a communications channel for the N scale community.

Today, N scale is the second most popular scale in the North America and the Newsletter continues to be a communications channel for N scale. The purpose of NRail is to promote N scale in all forms, all standards in many different environments at many different displays.

Membership in NRail supports N Scale and provides the communications channel on which N Scalers have come to rely.

Become a member - join us now!

Membership in NRail includes:

- a year of the Newsletter (6 issues)
- support of the National T-TRAK Layout
- support of NTRAK layouts at major train shows
- access to the Members Only section of NRail.org
- discount on merchandise in the [NRail store](#)

Real Deal



Kelly Bruce photo

Kelly Bruce sent an e-mail with pictures of his motorcycle ride on the weekend (10/03) past Philipsburg, KS.

Kelly Bruce photo



Kelly Bruce photo

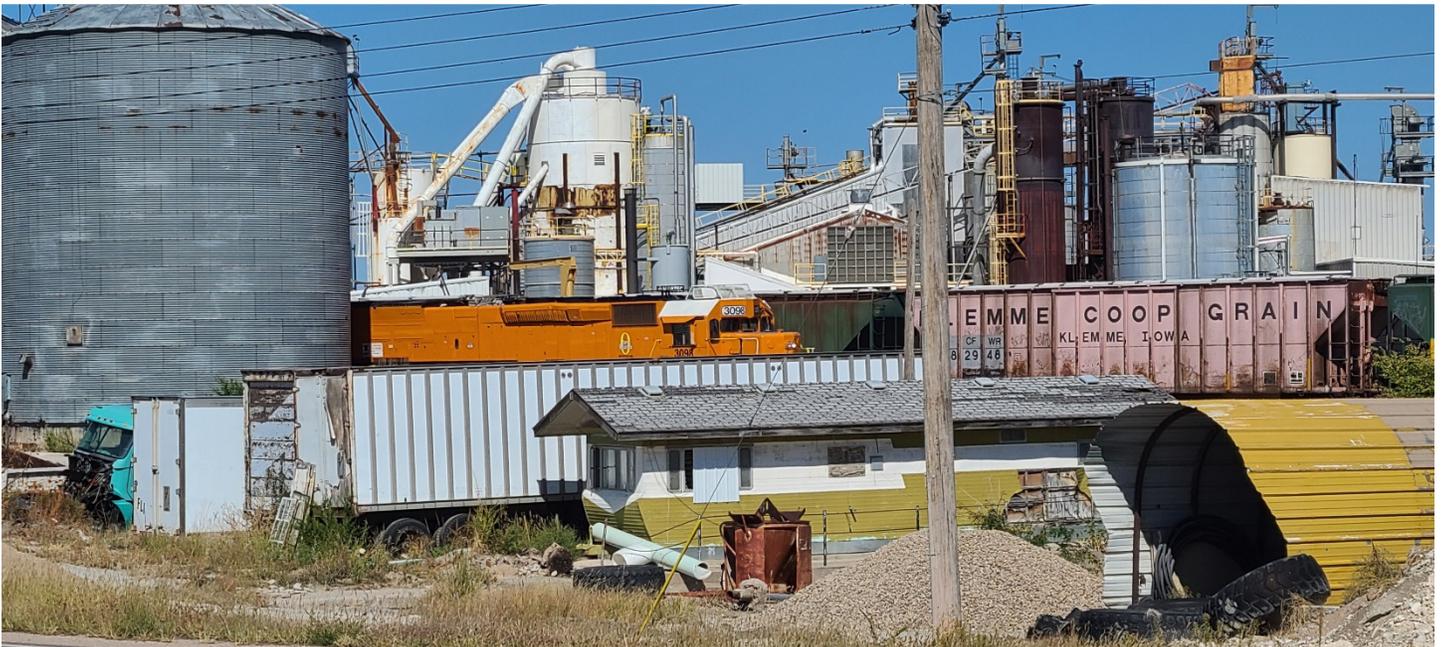


Real Deal

Kelly Bruce photo



Kelly Bruce photo



Thank You Kelly for the fine photos...

Real Deal



On 10/26 I found a grain train occupying the overpass on Underpass Road in Dodge City.



The next day, 10,27, I was able to get a shot of the old turntable in the Dodge City yard.



Real Deal



(Above) The Dodge City current yard goats, 2861 and 2799. GP39-2, 2861 started life in November of 1977 as ATSF 3675. The younger brother, BNSF 2799 was born in February 1975 as GP39-2 wearing ATSF 3630 but later became a GP39-2u as ATSF 3430,

(Below) BNSF 532 is getting ready to start its day as one of the crew is checking under the hood before start-up. The 532 was constructed in October of 1990 as ATSF 532 a GE B40-8W



WHEN YOUR WIFE IS GLUED TO THE HALLMARK CHANNEL...



YOU HAVE MORE TIME FOR TRAINS THIS SEASON!



Check out the action of the Western Kansas Division on the Robert Simmons **YouTube** page:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9EPv8cQ04rRGAYts-734jw?view_as=subscriber

Here are the links to some of the latest videos:



Operations On The WKR
Layout - Session 06

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMDCt8sGUZg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkU53G7fbE>



Operations On The WKR
Layout - Session 07



Operations On The WKR
Layout - Session 08

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m07TZ4EyEEA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KWcn3zLAJo>



Operations On The WKR
Layout - Session 09



Operations On The WKR
Layout - Session 10

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4H7WV68C6GU>



(Below) MPHS members riding on an excursion train during the MPHS convention recently in St. Louis, MO.



Annual Convention

Our 2021 convention is in the books. All attendees had a great time.
The 2022 convention will be held in Palestine, TX on October 6-9.

Company Store

(Updated 10-11-2021)

New Items:

MPHS 2022 Calendar

"The Eagle" Magazine - Fall 2021

Rapido SW1200 - HO

MPHS PC&F Flour Car Conversion Kits - HO

Tangent 86 ft. Auto Parts Cars - HO

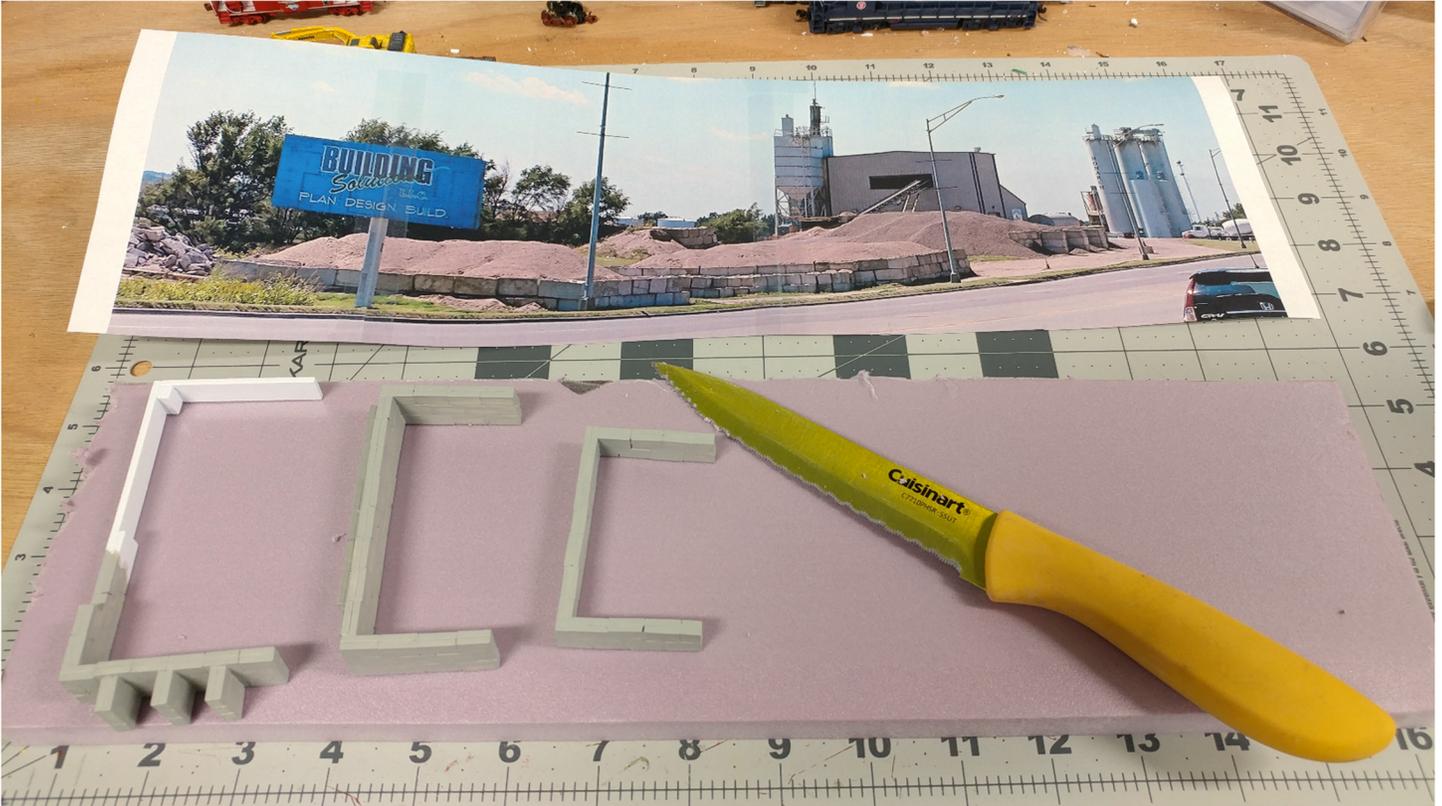
InterMountain 1958 cf Covered Hoppers - HO

"The Eagle" Magazine Back Issue DVD - 1974 thru 1989

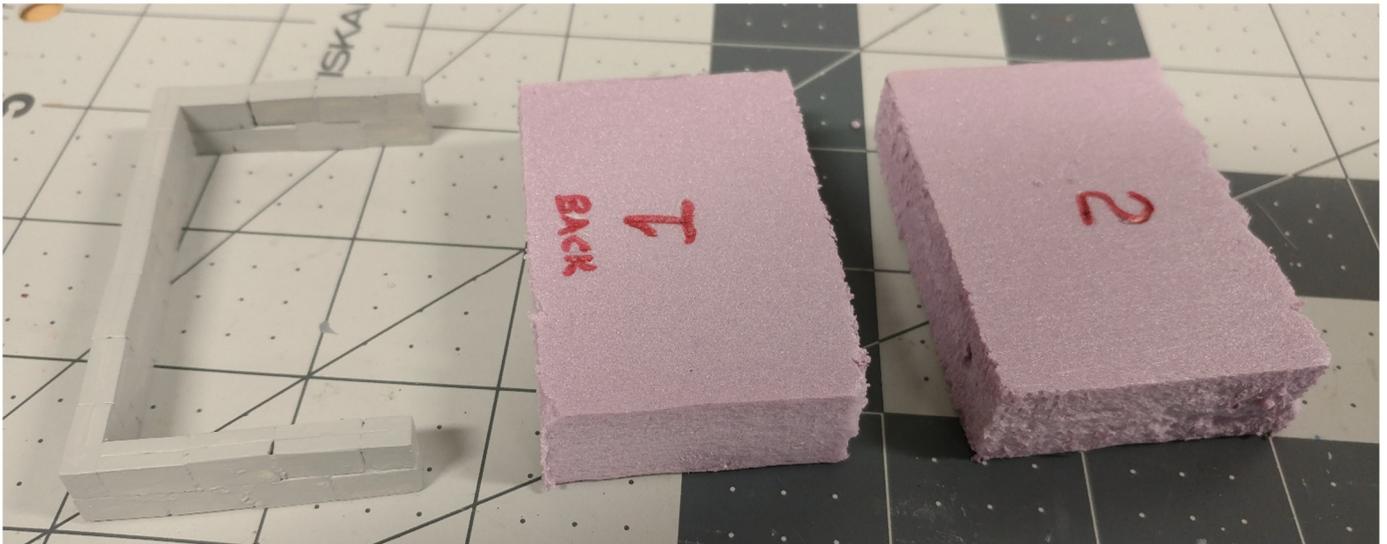
Use this link to check out all of our new items: [New at the Store.](#)

Click on the link: <http://www.mopac.org/>

WKR Update



Last month, the scenery crew completed construction of the concrete block retaining walls for the three aggregate pits (Above). The next step is to use extruded foam board to simulate the aggregate mounds as close to the photo as possible. We used a serrated knife to remove a small section from the large sheet of extruded foam.



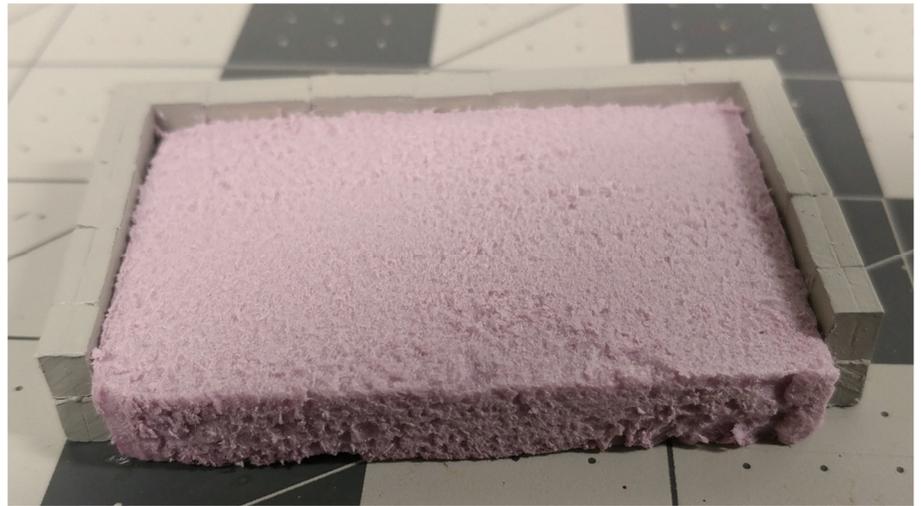
(Above) The first piece of foam was cut to shape to fit the first pit, but it will require a second layer to get the height for the aggregate mound.

WKR Update



(Left) Stacking the two pieces shows that two full pieces are too tall and would require excessive shaping to create the desired effect.

(Right) Slicing the first piece in half, in height, solved the issue of height.

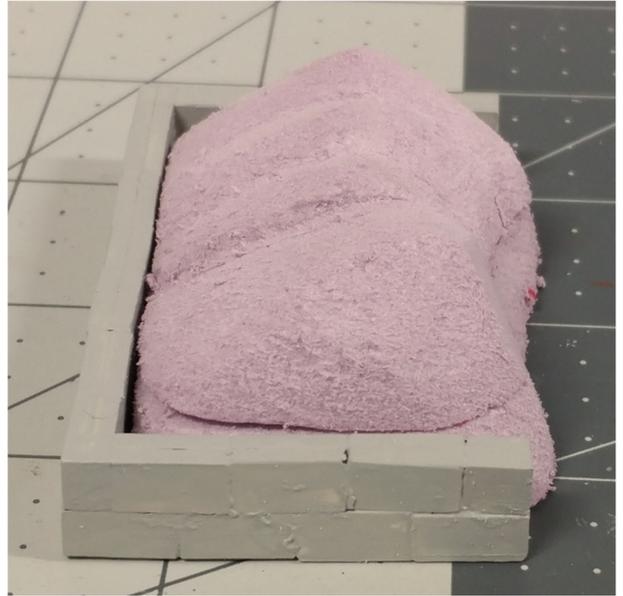
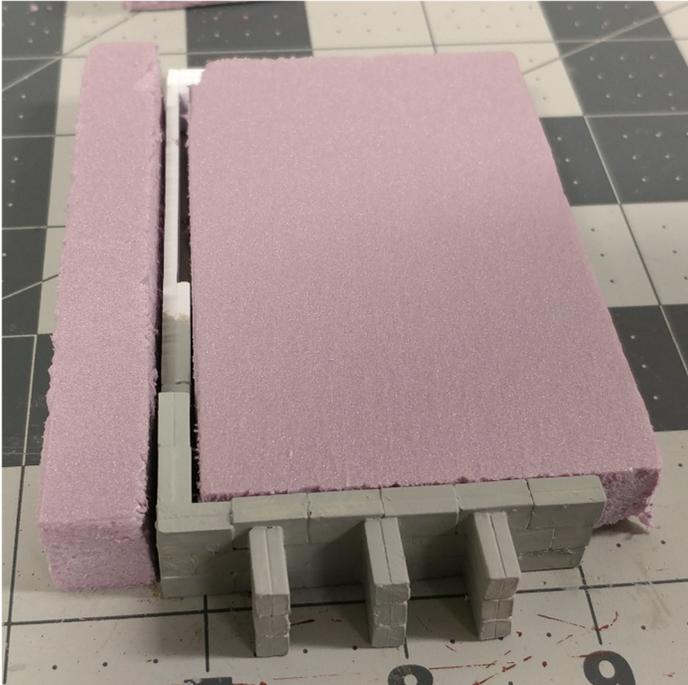


(Below) The Crew's secret for shaping foam board is a wood rasp to get the basic shape, followed up by sanding with a detail sander with 60 to 100-grit sandpaper to get the finished shape.

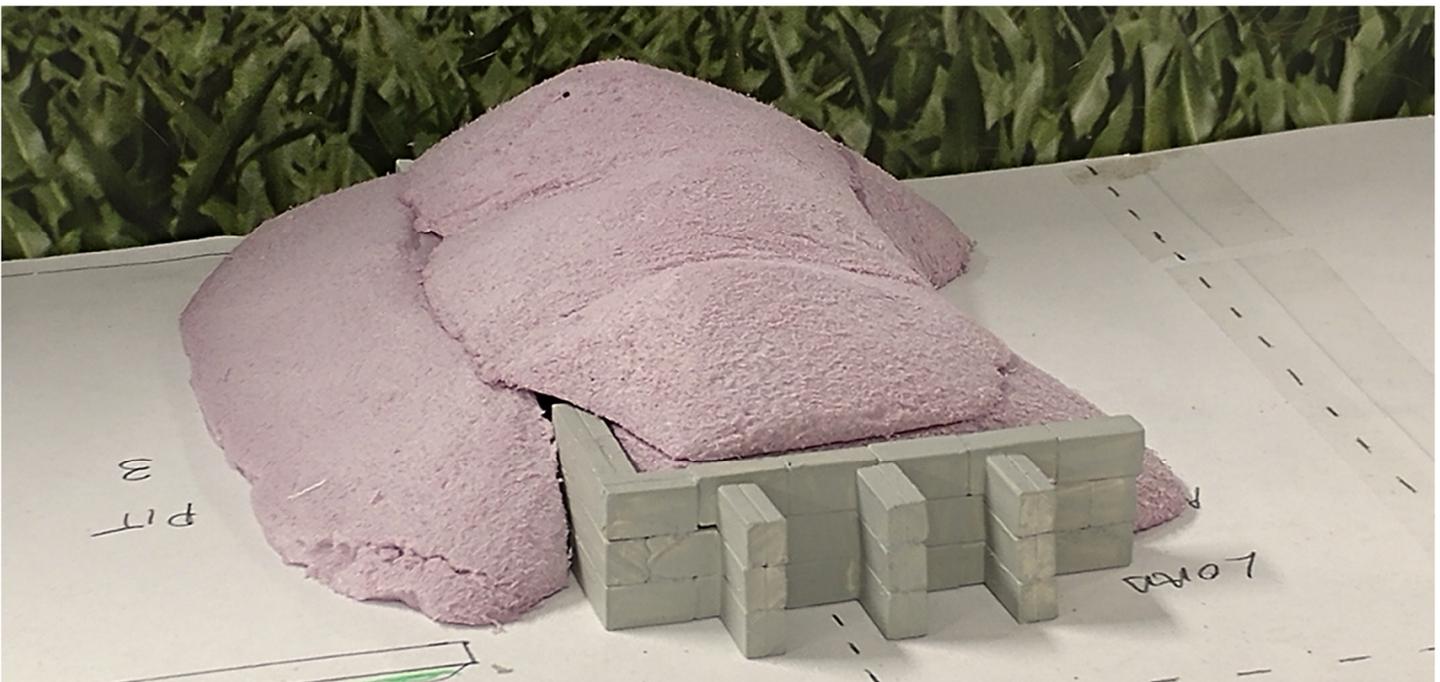


WKR Update

(Right) The completed form for pit 1



(Left) Although the form for pit 2 was simply larger than pit 1, with pit 3 where the aggregate spills over the back wall, the form required three pieces.



(Above) The completed form pieces for pit 3.

WKR Update



(Above) The three completed, shaped forms for the aggregate pits. Using a scale front-end loader, it became apparent that the pits needed to be spaced out more than the original plan allow for.

The next steps include acquiring the proper scale aggregate, so we visited the web site for **Arizona Rock & Mineral**, And then ordered several bags, in different sizes of the same colors including powders, and the shipment is in transit.

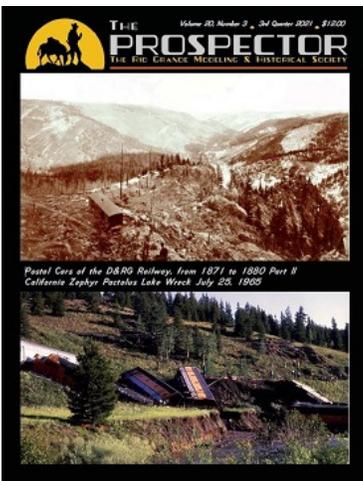
So, the process will begin by painting and weathering the retaining walls to closely match the photographs, then they will be glued in place on the module. The foam pieces will get a final shape tweaking and then will also be glued in place in each pit.

Once the aggregate shipment arrives, we will “paint” the foam shapes with glue mix, followed by a light coat of the proper aggregate. Once that first coating dries, a second coat will deliver the final shape. Then we will add the final scene elements such as dirt, grass, and weeds.



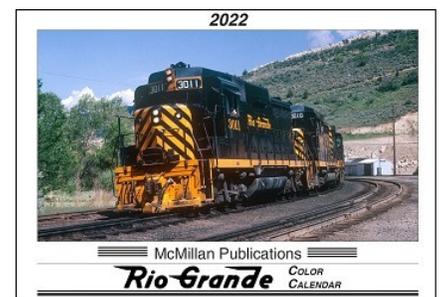
The Rio Grande Modeling & Historical Society, An independent, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

The mission of the Rio Grande Modeling & Historical Society is to preserve and disseminate historical information about the collective Rio Grande railroads for the benefit of our members and to others by creating and promoting fellowship and education among persons interested in the D&RGW. Locating, gathering, preserving, interpreting, and distributing information, documents, publications, and other tangible items relating to the D&RGW.



The RGM&HS publishes **The Prospector**, is our professionally produced and beautifully illustrated quarterly magazine featuring the finest work of historians and other experts on all aspects of Rio Grande Railroad.

The RGM&HS company store now has the 2022 Rio Grande Calendar by McMillan Publications in stock. The calendar features 13 large views of Rio Grande standard gauge trains; one scene to a month: January 2022 through January 2023. The calendar opens to an eye-catching 14 x 19-1/2 inches. The calendar grid features number blocks suitable for notetaking.



Click on the link: <https://www.rgmhs.org/index.html>



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NOVEMBER 2021: Grant Eastman's Southern Alberta Rail is a modern freelanced N scale layout featuring the dramatic crossing of Crowsnest Pass in Alberta and British Columbia, and we head trackside for all the action as heavy trains battle the mountain grades. Patrick Lawson scratchbuilds an HO model of a Canadian Pacific enclosed water tank, while Joshua Bernhard builds a fleet of 1870s boxcars from a single craftsman kit. Brian Moore explores the operation of two Southern Pacific switchers on ho HO scale Coast Line Route, while J.R. Boye scratchbuilds a model of the depot at Millbrae, Calif., in N. Enjoy modeling tips and techniques, product news and reviews, and more in the November issue of Railroad Model Craftsman!



RMC EXTRA BOARD

The N Scale Southern Alberta Rail

This modern freelanced N scale layout features the dramatic crossing of Crowsnest Pass in Alberta and British Columbia.

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THE DUPO TRAIN SHOW
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About

Covering all the activities of the Members and Divisions within the Mid-Continent Region specifically and the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) in general

- Public
Anyone can see who's in the group and what they post.
- Visible
Anyone can find this group.
- General

Check the **Mid-Continent Region's Facebook** page daily for the latest information on activities, train shows, modeling tips, videos, and a lot more...

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



Atlas N Scale 64' Trinity Reefer

Atlas fine-scale detail comes to a new line of reefers! Featuring BMLA 36' Metal Wheels, these models truly look stunning. Get yours now!

Midwest Model Railroad

In 2011 Midwest Model Railroad started with the idea of making this hobby more accessible to everyone. Since day one we have striven to keep our operating costs to a bare minimum and pass on those savings to you, the hobby's best customers. As of 2021 we are succeeding in offering some of the best prices anywhere in the hobby.

Some great side effects of this goal have been the creation of real-time inventory on our website and a turnaround time of just one day between purchase and shipping. In 2021 we have moved to a new 9,000sqft location in Independence Missouri that serves as both our retail location and our shipping facility. This fall, we expanded even more into the warehouse next door, bringing our total to 15,000sqft of model railroad product, slot cars, board games, and more. Our central location near Kansas City, MO means orders can get to any corner of the United States, usually arriving within just a few days.

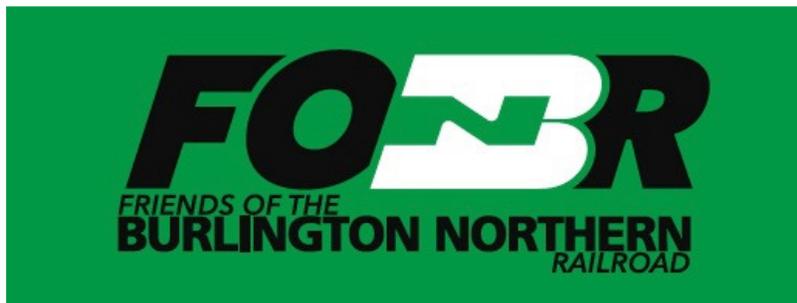
Alice, Braden, Brandyn, Darius, Don, Gary, Jon, Richard, Steve(1), and Steve(2)

Now with 15,000 sqft!

Now with 15,000 sqft, Midwest is one of, if not, the largest model train stores in the country.



Visit the new-look website today: <https://midwestmodelrr.com>



We exist to preserve the history and chronicle the operation of the Burlington Northern Railroad and its successors, as well as the MRL. On the website you will find all sorts of interesting, informative, and useful information about the BN, BNSF and MRL such as locomotive and freight car lists, employee timetables, yard maps and much, much more.

The information on the site is all free. The cost of maintaining it comes out of the annual dues paid by members of our society plus other donations.

If you find this site useful, consider joining. Members receive our quarterly publication, [The BN Expediter](https://fobnr.org/), an all-color magazine containing all sorts of information and stories about the railroads we cover.

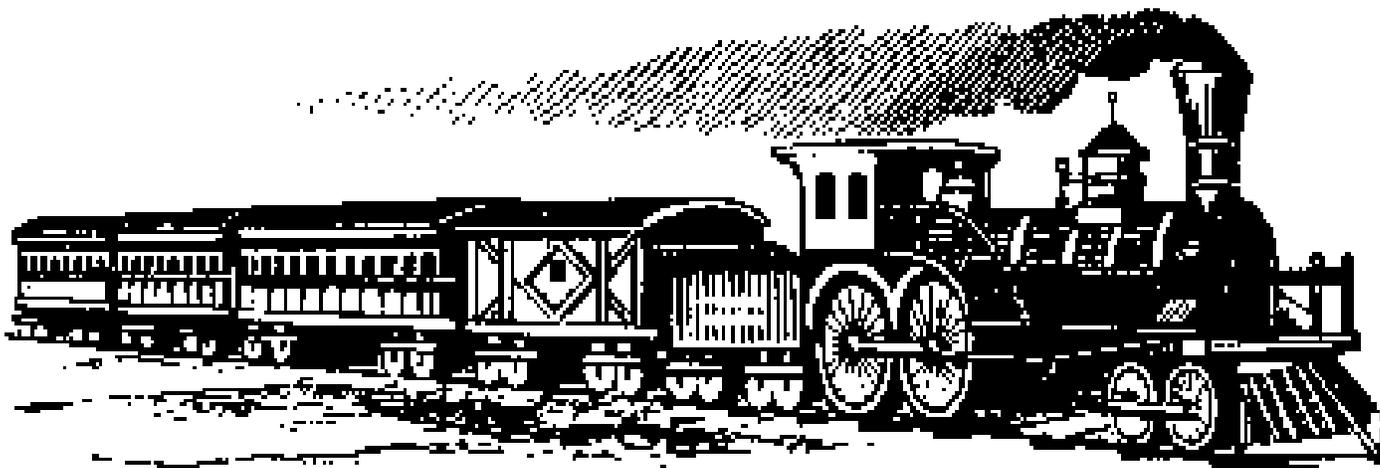
Click the link: <https://fobnr.org/>



DODGE CITY TRAIN SHOW

2021

BOOT HILL MODEL RAILROAD CLUB



Saturday, November 20th 10 am to 6 pm

Sunday, November 21st 11 am to 4 pm

WESTERN STATE BANK EXPO CENTER

11333 U.S. Highway 283

Dodge City, KS

Operating Layouts, Train Vendors

Admission: Adults \$6

Children 10 and under free with paid adult

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

November 2021

13 th & 14 th Sat & Sun	Train Expo Colorado (TECO) Train Show http://tecoshow.org/	Colorado Springs, CO.
20 th & 21 st Sat & Sun	Boot Hill Model Railroad Club Annual Train Show Western State Bank Expo Center	Dodge City, KS.
27 th & 28 th Sat & Sun	Rocky Mountain train Show https://www.railserve.com/jump/train_shows.cgi?ID=37	Loveland, CO
28 th Sun	Mid-America Train & Toy Show https://www.railserve.com/jump/train_shows.cgi?ID=210	Kansas City, MO.

December 2021

4 th & 5 th Sat & Sun	OKC Train Show https://www.oklahomarailwaymuseum.org/events/okc-train-show/	Oklahoma City, OK.
10 th – 12 th Fri – Sun	Boulder Model Railroad Club Train Show https://www.railserve.com/jump/train_shows.cgi?ID=213	Longmont, CO.

January 2022

8 th & 9 th Sat & Sun	McPherson Train Show McPherson Community Building https://www.mcphersoncountymakerspace.org/trains	McPherson, KS.
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February 2022

12 th & 13 th Sat & Sun	Lawrence Model Railroad Club Annual Train Show / Swap Meet Lawrence, KS https://www.railserve.com/jump/train_shows.cgi?ID=17	
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On The Back Cover:

Another view of the Missouri Pacific Historical Society's excursion train ride, pulled across the Mississippi River courtesy of the Terminal Railroad Association. This was just one part of the Convention held October 7th through the 10th of October 2021.

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

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

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