



September 2021



Mid-Continent Region

National Model Railroad Association

The Monthly publication of the



Western Kansas Division



On The Cover: A little bit of "Movie Magic", the Bell & Howell "TAC Camera", an inexpensive way to acquire videos from a locomotive or rolling stock depending on the scale. This is what I use when doing videos on the Western Kansas Rails layout. In This Issue: **Editor's Musings**.....Page 1

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The

Editor's Musings

Procrastination: pro crastination /prə krastə $n\bar{a}SH(a)n/$ *noun:* procrastination the action of delaying or postponing something.

I am guilty as charged. Although I have made some upgrades to the Western Kansas Rails (WKR) layout, there is one scene, the concrete plant, which I have not even started yet. I have selected the prototype to model, visited, taken pictures, but still no action. This is a relatively large scene on module 11 that needs to be filled but I have been putting it off. I am making the commitment to at least get started on it in September with the results being posted in next month's issue. This is a complex of several structures, so I won't have it completed, but it will be underway.

We all have done this, so **I challenge you** to tackle your next project (at least get started) in September, and please send me a picture (<u>trainman55@hotmail.com</u>) of the finished project or some progress that we can all share with each other. You could build a structure, super-detail a car, add scenery details, add lights, etc.

Things are Starting to Look More Midwest



Expansion -

Over the past week we have finally been allowed to start expanding into our new space. As some know that have come by, things have been moved. It is a bit of a process but things are really starting to



find their new home in the new expanded space. New checkout area construction started and we look forward to having a space where people can congregate and talk trains again.

We still have quite a bit of work to do, but we are open though the entire process and getting orders shipped out to you within one day has remained as the highest priority. We look forward to meeting all the people that choose to make us their destination to buy trains as well as fulfilling all of the online orders with the same speed and care that you have come to expect from us.





The Western Kansas Division, NMRA now has a MeWe page, just click on the link below: https://mewe.com/p/westernkansasdivisionnmra/notifications



You can view all the action of the Western Kansas Division on the **Robert Simmons YouTube** page. You will find videos of real trains, model trains, and operation action on the WKR N-scale layout, just click on the link below: <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9EPv8cQ04rRGAYts-734jw?view_as=subscriber</u>

Here are the most recent videos:

Intermodal Traffic on The WKR Layout: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehCjlz1FbxM</u>

Operations On The WKR Layout – Train 3 Serving Agridyne: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUdRR7hyCBc</u>

Operations On The WKR N-scale Layout 01: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_SHWjmRCQM

Operations On The WKR Layout – Session 02: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToSyzm_Txco</u>

Operations On The WKR Layout – Session 03: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3vgyLvVFOo</u>

Rcal Dcal



Clarence Matthews Photo



Clarence Matthews Photo

The big story this August was the travels of Union Pacific's 4014, a 4-8-8-4 "Big Boy" steam locomotive which made a stop in Kansas City where our friend Clarence Matthews grabbed a few shots. Thanks for sharing Clarence!



Clarence Matthews Photo

Here is a link to a recent **Big Boy cab ride**... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU-SAotxuFg

Rcal Dcal



On August 8th I happened to come across a loaded autoracks train in the Dodge City yard...

Also on the 8th, a KCS unit was being used for switching along with a BNSF unit. These photos seem a bit washed out as it was a very smoky from the West coast fires.



Rcal Dcal



(Above) On August 2nd Ferromex 4051 was parked in the Dodge City yard.



(Below) Also on the 2nd of August the Cargill 6499 was also in the DC yard

Real Deal



Jerry Bruce Photo On August 9th, Jerry Bruce sent a couple of photos, the one above shows the Kyle Railroad in action.



Jerry Bruce Photo

(Right) I stopped by the ADM grain elevator in Dodge City to find a EMD prime mover sitting on ties next to the elevator





What can you find on the **Mid-Continent Region Website**? A listing of future events around the Region, Copies of most of the Division newsletters, and any relevant announcements. Keep up to date by clicking on this link:

http://mcor-nmra.org/



Join Today!

At \$10 per year, you get:

- 6 copies of the Newsletter
- o access to the Members Only section of the website
- access to Tips-N-Techniques
- o member discount in the NRail Store
- and you support N scale railroading.

Sign up now, online: <u>https://nrail.org/</u>





The **Rio Grande Modeling & Historical Society** (RGM&HS) found in 2001 is an Colorado non-profit corporation whose membership consists of diverse group of historians, collectors, railfans, photographers, modelers and railroad employees who have banded together to share one common interest, the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad, and its predecessors. The fellowship created by this common interest and the opportunity for

networking with members and others are the society's greatest assets. Activities to promote this fellowship are geared to serve the wide variety of interests of its members on almost every facet of the D&RGW as it served as the "Action Road"

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.

Click on the link:

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





To get your free edition, click on the link: <u>https://www.tracksidemodelrailroading.com/magazine/current-free-edition/</u>

Still Time To Register...



Click on the link to go to the website: <u>http://www.2021tulsaunion.com/</u>

-			
	Dale Baker	Tulsa Port of Catoosa RR	НО
	Steve Campbell	Cherokee Sub Frisco	но
	Sammy Carlile	Santa Fe Hereford Subdivision	но
	Steve Davis	KCS 3rd Subdivison	но
	Kenneth Ehlers	Pandora & San Miguel Rwy	Sn3
\bigotimes	Tom Fausser	South Brooklyn Terminal	но
	Steve Gillett	Spaendahl Yamanee & Densum	N
	GCMRC	Green County Model RR Club	но
	Lane Littlefield	Tennessee Central Railway	N
	Jon Pansius	Tulsa Junction Railway	но
	Dave Salamon	Deep River Southern	N
	Jim Sinclair	Southern Pacific	но
	Randy Smith	Rio Grande Southern	Sn3
	David Steensland	Silverton & Lake City	HOn3
	>> Clint the 'morehunde' in	on to onon a nada with nichwar and datails about it - 1	

(Left) This is the list of some of the best model railroad layouts in the Country, and you can arrange visits, tours, and operating sessions, but you first have to register....

2021 TULSA UNION CONVENTION October 6-10, 2021

Notice-Cancellation Policy Announcement

As we approach the 2021 Tulsa Union Convention, expenses will be incurred for registration materials and food/beverage for the Awards/Desert event. Since these expenses will be nonrefundable once incurred, we must similarly establish the following policy regarding the cancellation of registration fees.

You may cancel your registration on or before September 7th and receive a full refund. Starting September 8th, those cancelling their registration will receive a refund of 50% of their registration fees. There will be **no refund** of registration fees for those cancelling their registration on or after September 22nd.

We regret the establishment of this cancellation policy but believe it necessary to protect the sponsoring regions. Thank you for your understanding.



You can download & fill out a paper form, and mail it in with a check, via this link. If you want to mail this form with a check, send us an email to request the mailing address. Register today: http://www.2021tulsaunion.com/

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A Complete Source for your 1:160th Scale Model Railroading Products

We want to buy your stuff!

N Scale Supply is looking to buy collections, large and small, or just extra stuff you may have

Do you have a box of old rolling stock you no longer use? How about those structure kits you bought ten years ago? Admit it to yourself, you will never get around to building that kit your bought back in '85.

N Scale Supply is always looking to buy anything from a small lot to a complete Collection. We need inventory to put on our website under the <u>PREOWNED</u> page.

Getting out of the hobby? Changing scales? Just running low on cash?

One thing to note, if you are looking to get absolute top-dollar for your items you will need to sell them direct to the final consumer. This means you need to take the photos, write the descriptions, launch the auctions on ebay, complete the sale, package, and ship the item. If you don't want to do all of that work then talk to us. When N Scale Supply buys a collection, or any other buyer for that matter, we cannot pay you top-dollar. We have to cover our expenses to sell and make a little profit. But I think you will find we pay out a generous amount. If you want a no-hassle way to get rid of that dust-repository quickly drop us an email at sales@nscalesupply.com.

Understand that we will not buy a collection sight-unseen, we can only give you an approximate value over email. We will need to get the collection in hand to give an accurate estimate. Also, if you take store credit rather than cash we will more than likely be more generous with our estimate. Remember, your old junk is a valuable find-of-the-year for someone else!

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 forwardingin 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!

> 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.

When I drop a bolt (or a coupler spring, grabiron, etc.) Fell through an invisible portal. Gone forever Right next to me ing ilpacin



Interested in operating your layout, visit the Facebook page of the Operations Special Interest Group (OPSIG): <u>https://www.facebook.com/OperationsSIG</u>

Or their website: https://www.opsig.org/



We exist to preserve the history and chronicle the operation of the Burlington Northern Railroad and its successors, as well as the MRL.

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

Members receive our quarterly publication, <u>The BN Expediter</u>, an all-color magazine containing all sorts of information and stories about the railroads we cover.

Click on the link: https://fobnr.org/



Region Election Results

From Whit Johnson:

Here are the results of the 2021 election. This was done using Google Forms, collection of responses is now off the form.

The results are <u>236</u> votes received.

Duplicate email addresses voting were removed so that each email address had one vote, the latest Time Stamp was maintained. It appeared that the reminder was just another vote for many. Attached you will find the results along with all of the names of Write-in Candidates that made it through the validation process.

Thank you,

Whit Johnson

Vote Count	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	
President			
1	Allen Pollack	0.54%	
<mark>184</mark>	Brad Slone, MMR	98.92%	
1	Tony Bowen, MMR	0.54%	
Vice-President			
1	Bruce Alcock	0.55%	
<mark>182</mark>	Robert Simmons	<mark>99.45%</mark>	
Secretary			
1	Robert Perkins	0.54%	
<mark>181</mark>	Ryan Moats, MMR	<u>98.37%</u>	
1	Todd Summers	0.54%	
1	Tony Bowen, MMR	0.54%	
Treasurer			
<mark>180</mark>	Robert Folkmann	98.90%	
1	Whit Johnson	0.55%	





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.

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

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



Click on the link to start reading: <u>https://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/</u>





We always strive for honesty. That's why we'd like to share a few insights into some unexpected market changes we've experienced over the past several months.

Since March, international transportation costs for containers have tripled due to extremely limited vessel space. At the same time, transit times have increased from 5-weeks to 10-weeks and sometimes longer. We've also been experiencing product and component price increases after we have received customer preorders and placed purchase orders for several models. This is mainly due to raw material shortages. We've absorbed these costs and have no plans to increase prices for existing preorders.

We're continuing to experience larger than usual price changes for our monthly announcements. When this is coupled with higher inbound shipping and component costs, the percentage increase is into the double digits. To make the math easy, let's say our total unit cost has increased by 10% over the past six months (it's actually more). This means the selling price for a Rivet Counter Gunderson 5188 Covered Hopper should increase by \$4.50 to \$49.49. We know this is not welcome news so we're sharing the cost by only increasing our selling price by \$3.

This will impact our selling price for locomotives as well. A 10% price increase for a Rivet Counter DCC & Sound locomotive currently selling for \$274.99 would add \$27.50. We will share a portion of the increase which will likely result in a \$15 price change.

Some companies would pass along the full amount and often more. In keeping with one of our guiding principles, we always strive to provide the best value possible while continually investing in all-new models, services, and more.

No one enjoys price increases including us. Unfortunately, we expect higher than usual price changes for the next several months due to continued market challenges. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We truly appreciate your understanding, support, and business.

https://www.scaletrains.com/



Check out the NMRA Website: 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.

WKR Update



The month of August saw a return to operations on the Western Kansas Rails (WKR) layout. Part of that was a restructure of the operations of turning the trains.

Keeping the operations simple was the goal so interested spectators and fellow operators could learn the basics of operations without getting lost in the weeds. With a small layout, we only use two trains, Train 1, and Train 2. To make it more interesting, we decided to simply change the direction of each train but kept the running order the same.

Now we decided to also reverse the order of running to be more realistic, so Train 1 which was Eastbound, now becomes train 3 Westbound with the running order reversed. This creates more interest as trailing point switches now become facing point switches with run-around movements, and at times loads are dropped off while empties are still there, a nice improvement,

To share the operations with the world, we utilize the **Western Kansas Division's YouTube** page to document as much as possible while keeping the videos short.

Click on the link: <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9EPv8cQ04rRGAYts-734jw?view_as=subscriber</u>

(Above) Part of the "movie magic" is provided by the bell & Howell "TAC Camera", a small (about 1-inch cubed) camera that has a built-in rechargeable battery and provided memory card. It will not fit into a N-scale locomotive, but we modified an old flatcar to give that vantage point.



(Right) We used an old, Atlas flat car for the base, then raided the scraps box to build a cradle, move the camera near the rear of the car, and raise it up to engine cab height.

We tried using the camera on the front of the car, but the focal length would blur the video if coupled to a car in front. After several tries, we found about ¾ back on the car was just about right. The TAC camera is very inexpensive and so has drawbacks. You can not see what you are recording, so sometimes you need to do it over. The camera downloads and charges through your computer, and you need a video editing program to edit the separate files together. All things considered, it's a nice, inexpensive way to get cab views of your layout.

WKR Update



Another part of the video production is a tripod. This unit has an adapter mounted to hold a cell phone but can also hold a video camera.

The big "movie" news this month was discovered with the video editing software. In the past, we only did cab or ground views using the TAC camera, or regular video with the cell phone of video camera as they use different video files.

As an experiment, we recently tried combining to the video formats into one video, and it worked. Now our videos can contain multiple views of the same operation. This takes more time as you need to do a movement with the TAC camera car on the front, then back up, remove the camera car, and shoot it again from a different perspective. This opens up a lot of potential.



(Above) A screen shot from the software we use, *Cyberlink Media Suite*. This helps us download the video files from the camera, and allows complete editing features including the "time line" editing mode shown. Once your editing is completed, the software "produces" the separate segments into a seamless video which can them be saved or uploaded to internet sites.

WKR Update



(Above) Having decided to pull some old Con-Cor autoracks out of storage and return them to service, it was determined to increase the weight by one full ounce.



(Left) To bring them up to WKR specs, the plastic Micro-Trains wheels were replaced with new, metal wheel sets from ESM, which were painted "rust" color.

(Below) The completed car ready for service. The modifications allow the car to roll more freely and the additional weight makes them much more stable.





That awkward moment when your Wife finds your real model train collection...



I, David Zucker, along with my wife Debby, started our hobby store business in 2000. It has been a lifelong dream to own my own model railroad hobby store. We have grown from a 5' x 10' enclosed trailer to a store (which I never thought we could fill) and web-site. We look forward to serving modelers long into the future. We still love doing the week-end "train shows" as we travel throughout the country and get to meet many of our customers in person.



Show Schedule

Temple Model Train Show - Frank W. Mayborn Civic & Convention Center - Temple, TX – Sept. 18,19

Wichita Toy Train Club Annual Train Show – Cessna Activity Center - Wichita, KS – Sept. 25-26

The Great Berea Train Show - Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds - Berea, OH – Oct. 2,3

Beatrice Area Railroad Enthusiasts - Beatrice City Auditorium - Beatrice, NE - Oct 23,24

Mid-Continent Prototype Modelers Meet - Benton Lions Community Center - Benton, KS - Nov. 6,7





A Streamliner to Tulsa The Horny Toad Division Scratch Building Heavyweight Passenger Cars Modeling a TCS Machine



The Santa Fe Railway Historical and Modeling Society

The Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society is an independent nonprofit 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:

- Publishes its quarterly magazine, <u>The Warbonnet</u>
- Distributes its quarterly newsletter, *<u>Running Extra</u>*
- Offers a comprehensive <u>book publication program</u>
- Preserves and reprints historic documents
- Organizes an annual <u>Convention</u> devoted to the history and modeling of the Santa Fe
 - Runs Santa Fe model and photo contests
- Maintains <u>on-line resources and archives</u> devoted to preserving the history of the Santa Fe in media and model alike
- Works with members and the general public to preserve Santa Fe documents.

Visit their website today: https://sfrhms.org/



The Mid-Continent Region offers you the opportunity to display your work, events, and videos to the rest of the Region through our Facebook page.

Anyone can find this group.

2 General

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Region's web site:

Be sure to check out the Mid-Continent

This page is only as good as you make it. The more we use it, the more it will grow. You can show-off your layout, modeling, videos, or other efforts. Any Division within the Region can post election results, meeting schedules and results, videos, train shows and more.

Take a couple of pictures and post them today, just click on the link: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1851848998468077

MODEL TRAIN CONVENTION & EXPO

FUNDRAISER —



SATURDAY 9-6 | SUN 10-3 McPherson Community Building | 122 E Marlin St

\$7 TICKETS / PERSON \$5 STUDENT / SENIOR / FIRST RESPONDER



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

PROCEEDS BENEFIT:

September 2021

25th & 26thWichita Toy Train Club Train ShowSat & Sunhttp://www.wichitatoytrainmuseum.org/club-shows-1.html

October 2021

6th – 10th **Tulsa Union Convention** (NMRA) Embassy Suites Hotel <u>http://www.2021tulsaunion.com/</u>

9thGreater Tulsa Area Train ShowSathttp://www.ttos-soonerdiv.org/division-events.html

November 2021

- 13th & 14th Train Expo Colorado (TECO) Train Show
- Sat & Sun <u>http://tecoshow.org/</u>
- 20th & 21st Boot Hill Model Railroad Club Annual Train Show
- Sat & Sun Western State Bank Expo Center

December 2021

4th & 5thOKC Train ShowSat & Sunhttps://www.oklahomarailwaymuseum.org/events/okc-train-show/

January 2022

8th & 9thMcPherson Train ShowSat & SunMcPherson Community Building
https://www.mcphersoncountymakerspace.org/trains

McPherson, KS.

Colorado Springs, CO.

Oklahoma City, OK.

Dodge City, KS.

Wichita, KS.

Tulsa. OK.

Bixby, OK.

Date Book





On The Back Cover: A parting look at UP 4014 on its Midwest tour passing beneath the Gateway Arch, part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Missouri. Be sure and check out the Union Pacific historical Society web site: <u>http://uphs.org/</u>



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 <u>Trainman55@hotmail.com</u> or P.O. Box 157 – Dodge City, KS. 67801 or call (620) 521-3591 Please send all inquiries, ideas, or submissions to: <u>trainman55@hotmail.com</u>