

Caboose Kibitzer

1ST QUARTER 2011

VOLUME 61, ISSUE 1



- ALL ROADS LEAD TO NORFOLK
- B&CC ROLLING STOCK PART 2
- SCRATCHBUILDING DETAILS
- MCoR BOD MEETING REPORT

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PART 211

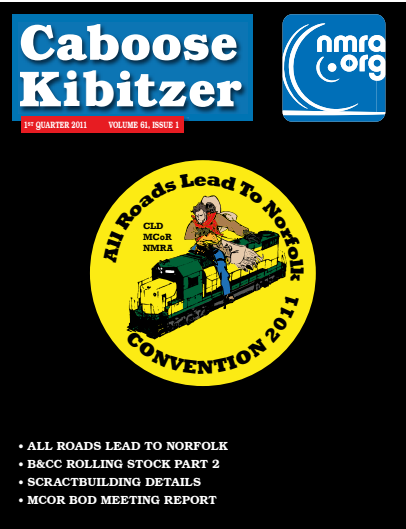
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On the Cover:

This year's Regional Convention is in Norfolk, Nebraska. Read all about the exciting activities that await you. This is one convention you won't want to miss! — *artwork by Stephen M. Priest, MMR*

THE HEAD END

BY PAUL RICHARDSON, MMR
MCOR PRESIDENT

Spring has arrived and our attentions may be diverted to outside activities, but don't forget to allow some "quality" time working on your railroad. It won't be long until we head to Nebraska for the annual MCoR Convention. The convention team has been working very hard to present an experience you do not want to miss. Although the date for early registration has passed, there is still time to make plans and send your reservation for the convention.

You should have already received your ballot for the upcoming region election. Please take a few minutes and read the biographies of the candidates and cast your vote. Once I heard someone say, "Decisions are made by those who show up," or in this case who vote. The candidates you select will lead the region for the next two years, so it is im-

portant that you express your decisions via the ballot. If you have not received a ballot, please contact Marty Vaughn before April 30. That is the day the ballots must be received by Marty. We have a great slate of candidates and your vote is important.

It has been an honor to serve as the region president for the past two years. I appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at the convention in Norfolk, Nebraska, starting June 16 and ending the 19th. Pack your models and bring them to the contest room. Who knows, you may bring home a merit award or perhaps a plaque to decorate your wall.

Until next time, keep the wheels out of the dirt,
Paul



Stephen Lane Hottel Photograph

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CONDUCTOR'S CALL

BY CINTHIA PRIEST, EDITOR

This is my last issue of *CABOOSE KIBITZER* as editor. I want to thank everyone who sent in articles and sent kind words of appreciation during my tenure.

I want to reiterate that the CK is a great little magazine with many eager contributors, so taking over the reigns will be a relatively painless endeavor for the next volunteer. The NMRA is made up of so many great volunteers from National all the way down to each Division. Now it's *your* turn to step up to the plate. Contact our Region president, Paul Richardson, MMR, right away and let him know that you want to offer your talent and skills as editor. It truly is a rewarding endeavor. And be sure to support the new editor with your great articles.

Cinthia

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ALL ROADS LEAD TO NORFOLK

BY DENNIS BRANDT DIVISION DIRECTOR & LOCAL CONVENTION CHAIR

The Cowboy Line Division members are putting the final touches on this year's convention (June 16-19) that promises to offer a number of things different from the usual convention. We have incorporated a lot of new ideas and hope you will take advantage of this year's convention opportunity. I am going to talk only about a few of them, just enough to wet your whistle, but you will have to be here to participate and enjoy the experience.

It will start with the Thursday evening welcome party, which promises to be just that — a real down home welcome to Norfolk, Nebraska. (I just thought I would mention the state. We didn't want you to get the wrong Norfolk and miss all your friends and a great time.) We are not only planning the usual snacks and beverages, but we will have some wine tasting followed by a couple of entertaining clinics that I hope you will enjoy and than an old fashion ice cream (custard) social. You won't be left out if you get your reservations in now. Rooms for up to four people are only \$55 and include a delicious hot breakfast. Remember, the wife is free but the dog costs an extra \$10 a night.

The 2011 MCoR Convention will officially kick off at 8AM at the Lifelong Learning Center on the Northeast Community College campus. We will begin with a general session, with some local people welcoming you to town, special door prizes, and general information. Our keynote speaker is the Vice-President of the Nebraska Central Railroad, who will have some very interesting comments on railroading in these economic times. You won't want to miss him. Don't worry, we will open the doors at 7AM, so you can get those models checked in for the contest before we get started.

I had a call recently to see if we still had room on the Proto Tour to Nucor steel plant, Louis Dreyfus Ethanol Plant and NE Central RR. I told him we still had room, but the seats were filling up quickly. We are limited to 30 tour attendees because of the limits set by the railroad on the Transfer Caboose. Currently we are over ¾ sold out, which means I have fewer than 10 spots left. The tour of Nucor will be in small personal groups of three to four per group. You will view the

melting process, adding of the alloys, and casting of the billets. Nucor will provide all the safety glasses, ear plugs, and coats, but you cannot wear open-toed shoes or sandals and will not be permitted to take pictures. Please realize you will have to walk, climb stairs, and so forth because this is a two-hour tour. Following the Nucor tour, you will tour the Louis Dreyfus Ethanol Plant and then take a leisurely ride on the Transfer Caboose through Norfolk to the Nebraska Central Railroad yards and offices.

The wine tasting tour will include a delightful lunch hosted by Karl and Brenda at Reeder's Originals, where you will have plenty of time to browse the art gallery after lunch. Following lunch, we will stop at the Johnny Carson exhibit at the Elkhorn Valley Museum. We know you will not be able to keep from laughing while watching the old skits and hilarious moments from past shows, but try to keep from rolling on the floor. A short ten-mile drive out in the country will bring us to the oldest winery in Nebraska. Our hosts, the Swansons, will

lead us through the wine-making process and then you will have time to leisurely walk through the vineyards and sit down and enjoy some of Nebraska's best wines with some of Wisconsin's best cheeses from the Carr Valley Cheese Factory. You will have the opportunity to purchase a bottle or two custom-labeled for the convention.

We have received offers to do clinics from some of the top modelers in the area, but we are looking for *yours*. Consider sharing some of your skills with your fellow modelers. We still have some openings and will work with you on the times. Contact me and let's get your clinic on the program. Check out the professional airbrush clinic being offered on Friday and again on Saturday morning. These clinics are being presented by Karl Reeder, a professional airbrush artist and will be held in his studio. Each clinic is limited to eight participants and will last approximately 2½ hours. You must provide your own airbrush, either a new one or a clean one ready to go. Bring a weathering project with you. We will provide practice

cars to paint on.

Not to be forgotten, we have a wonderful women's program that should delight the ladies. Barb and Karen will lead you though making a number of creative cards, which you can take home with you. Dianne Mullins is going to do the clinic that was well received at the 2010 National Convention on Healing Touch and Paul Richardson's wife will teach you some beginning and intermediate basics of knitting. These programs and others will be available Friday and Saturday morning.

Don't forget to bring your favorite entry for the contest. We will feature all the regular categories. In addition, Nucor is sponsoring and judging a scrap car contest. There are literally hundreds of scrap loads in gondolas, old coal hoppers, and various other cars heading to Norfolk from all over the country. Watch for your favorite and model it for the special contest. Let your immigration run wild — don't forget the graffiti.

Many of the members, including myself, are feverishly working to make progress on our layouts and have them presentable to you. Maps will be available for you to navigate to the different layouts. We are planning to have at least ten layouts open for your viewing enjoyment. These will included several HO layouts featuring the Union Pacific, Burlington Northern, and several freelance layouts. A logging module and an On3 D&RGW layout and an N scale featuring the city of Madison and surrounding area.

You will not want to miss the banquet on Saturday night. The First Choice Caterers are well known for the delicious food they serve at college events. We will be offering two entries on the buffet with all the extras, if you have special needs, please let me know and I will see what I can do. Our guest speaker, Dr. Rudy Daniels, has written four books including *Trains Across the Continent* — the only comprehensive, historical account of



Mid-Continent Regional Convention

Hosted by the

Cowboy Line Division

June 16-19, 2011

Official Convention Hotel:

Rodeway Inn
2206 Market Lane
Norfolk, NE 68701



Official Convention Site:

Northeast Community College
Lifelong Learning Center
801 E Benjamin Ave.
Norfolk, NE 68701

- **Thursday Evening Welcome Reception:** Arrive early and you can pick up your registration packet at the Rodeway Inn. Enjoy Norfolk hospitality with refreshments, snacks, clinics and an old fashion ice cream (custard) social.
- **Friday registration** opens at the Lifelong Learning Center on the Northeast Community College campus at 8:00 am, Friday.
- **Silent Auction** on Friday for convention attendees
- **Prototype Tour** on Friday afternoon of NUCOR Steel Mill, Louis Dreyfus Ethanol Plant, and NE Central RR yards and facilities going to or from on a transfer caboose.
- **Wine Tasting, Art & Museum Tour** on Friday afternoon starting with lunch at Reeder's, a stop at the Johnny Carson exhibit at the Elkhorn Valley museum and tour and wine tasting at the Cuthills Winery.
- **Clinics:** there will be a full slate of clinics Thursday evening and all day Friday and Saturday morning. For more information or to sign up to give a clinic contact Dennis Brandt (402-992-2415) or email: dennisbrandt44@gmail.com or info.convention.2011@gmail.com.
- **Special Air Brushing Workshop:** Local professional artist Karl Reeder will be conducting a 2 ½ hour hands on air brushing clinic at this studio. The clinic will be offered Friday and Saturday morning. You need to bring your own air brush clean and ready to go along with a project to weather. Practice cars will be furnished. For more information contact Dennis Brandt. (very limited)
- **Women's program** will include three or more crafts and Women related clinics including card making, knitting, and others. If you would like to share a craft please contact Dennis Brandt.
- **Contest:** Be sure and bring models for the contest all NMRA categories including photos will be available. **Special Nucor Scrap Car Contest** for anyone wanting to enter a scrap car loaded with your special load of scrap. This Contest will be judged by Nucor employees.
- **Saturday Night Banquet:** a delicious buffet served by the First Choice Caterers at the NECC College. Keynote speaker is Dr. Rudy Daniels, Railroad author and railroad historian.
- **Layout Tours:** Many of the local modelers will have their layouts open Friday evening for your touring pleasure. Maps will be available at the Convention.
- **Model Train Show:** over 100 tables will be available for area vendors, rail organizations, and other interested individuals. Local Boy Scout Troup will provide refreshments.
- **Accommodations:** The Rodeway Inn will have a special rate of \$55.00 plus tax for registered convention goers. They will provide a delicious hot breakfast to get your going in the morning. To get this special rate make your reservation before May 20, 2011 and mention 2011 Mid-Continent Regional Convention. Contact them at: (402) 371-9779 or www.roadwayinn.com

U.S. and Canadian railroads. His message will demonstrate how railroads were absolutely essential to the United States' winning World War II. You won't want to miss it, plus a surprise but you will have to be here to enjoy it.

We are receiving registrations every week, but we still have room for yours. With a \$40 registration fee, \$25 banquet ticket, and a \$55 room with a hot delicious breakfast, this will be one of the best values and reasons for attending a Regional Convention especially right here in the Midwest.

Checkout the NRMA.org website and find the Mid-Continent page where you can download your copy of the registration information with all the details spelled out. But if you still have a question, you can email me at dennisbrandt44@gmail.com. We are in the process of publishing one or two special issues of the *Railhead* to be mailed to each registrant prior to the convention. These will spell out things to do while traveling to and from Norfolk and highlight any changes or additions to the program.

All roads lead to the 2011 Mid-Continent Convention this summer.

Mid-Continent Regional Convention 2011
hosted by: Cowboy Line Division

Registration Form

(Please send this registration form with your payment
\$40.00 registration until March 31, 2011)

Activity	Cost	Number	Total
Advance NMRA member Registration (Before March 31, 2011)	40.00		
Advance Non-NMRA member Registration (Before March 31, 2011)	50.00		
Spouse Registration	10.00		
NMRA member Registration (After April 1, 2011)	60.00		
Advance Non-NMRA member Registration (After April 1, 2011)	70.00		
Proto Tour (limited to 30) Includes: tour of NUCOR steel plant, Ethanol Plant; ride on Transfer Caboose to NE Central RR yards and office. Also includes snacks and refreshments	35.00		
Wine Tasting Tour (Limit 15) Includes: Lunch, Johnny Carson exhibit at the Elkhorn Valley Museum, Cuthills winery wine tour and wine and cheese tasting	35.00		
Air Brush Painting Workshop (Friday 9:00-11:30) (limit 8)	35.00		
Air Brush Painting Workshop (Saturday 9:00-11:30) (limit 8)	35.00		
Special Build a DPM structure and take home (Sat 10:00-12:00) Fran and Miles Hale (limited to 20, includes kit)	5.00		
Banquet Dinner (Saturday night)	25.00		
Train Show Vendor Tables (30” x 6’)	20.00		
Electricity <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
2011 Polo Convention Shirt circle your size (S M L XL XXL)	30.00		
2011 Convention Patch	5.00		
2011 Convention Pin - 1 included with registration	3.00		
	Total Enclosed:		\$

Checks or Money Orders only (no credit cards)

Name: _____ NMRA #. _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Spouse: _____

Make checks/money order payable to:
MCoR Convention 2011
Mail to: James van Delden, registrar
902 Nebraska Street
Wayne, NE 68787

MCOR BOD MEETING

JANUARY 22, 2011

Louis Seibel

Turkey Creek Division Director

Paul Richardson MMR

MCoR President

There were 3 proxies presented.

First order of business was the appointment of Brad Morneau to fill the remaining term of Bob Winttle who has resigned as secretary of MCoR John Shaw moved, Bob Folkmann seconded. PASSED

Last Train Ride was announced for Dennis Smith.

The minutes from the June 2010 meeting was published by Whit Johnson. A motion to accept the minutes from the June 2010 meeting was made by Whit Johnson and seconded by John O’Neil. PASSED

The treasurer’s report was presented by John Shaw for both 2010 and 2011. John also discussed the distribution of dues back out to the divisions. He explained that a division must have a paymaster (treasurer) to receive these funds.

Whit Johnson presented a preliminary budget to the board. This is the first budget assembled for MCoR. Whit explained what this “beginning” budget will cover. (refer to hand-out) Also discussed examples of expenses covered, such as AP support i.e. mileage, hotel for AP rep to go out to support outlying areas/divisions etc. Another item would include Adobe Professional to create PDF files for BOD meetings. Robert Amsler suggested to board discuss the budget and suggested it become policy. Accept this budget as a preliminary budget to be discussed in detail at the June meeting. Part of the budget discussion is the proposal to eliminate the CABOOSE KIBITZER and go to an e-mail version to all members. The question them becomes what is the possible savings in doing this.

Access by all members was then discussed including access to the website version of the CABOOSE KIBITZER.

John Avril made a motion to accept the current budget as preliminary, Phil Bonzon seconded the motion. Discussion followed. And the board will review the budget and

Whitney D. Johnson

MCoR Vice President

John Shaw

MCoR Treasurer, Webmaster

Robert Folkmann

Kate Shelley Division Director

Brad Morneau

Turkey Creek Division Director

John Griffith

Western Heritage Division Director

Phil Bonzon MMR

Gateway Division Director

Steve Malcolm

Eastern Iowa Division Director

Barry Quensel

Oklahoma Heartland Division Director

Dennis Brandt

Cowboy Line Division Director

Larry Alfred MMR

Past MCoR President / Convention Department

John Averill

Great Midwestern Division

Peter Jaynes MMR

Eastern Iowa Division Member

John O’Neill

Platte Valley Division

Robert Amsler

MCoR Region Attorney

Phil Aylward

Chisholm Trail Area

Shelly Levy

2010 Turkey Creek Superintendent

that a annual budget will be presented at the January meeting. PASSED

The next item concerned the printing of the CABOOSE KIBITZER versus an electronic version. To accomplish this we will need to establish a transition period. There was a lot of concern regarding current paid subscriptions and whether to re-fund and when to actually stop printing. Outstanding subscriptions are a big concern. Robert Amsler suggested we do research on the financial impact of transitioning to the electronic version. Other cost include a PC for the editor of the electronic CABOOSE KIBITZER including software (Adobe Pro, MS Office, etc.) These costs would probably be incurred every three years, cost could be as much as \$2,500. Current costs are approx. \$6,000 to print, another \$1,000 to mail. Move made by John Averill to have the officers and Robert Amsler research the move from printed to electronic CABOOSE KIBITZER to be presented at the June motions, Louis seconded the motion. PASSED

Sales Manager’s Report: Whit reported we sold three patches for 2010. Cars sold: Whit is taking possession of the remaining cars today, Jan. 22nd, 2011. There are approx. 100 cars left. We did make the break even point. The Eastern Iowa Div. wants to share in the proceeds from the 2010 convention. Paul asked if any Div. has shared in the proceeds of a convention, we do not believe there has been. Previous car projects were handled by the region with members representing multiple divisions. The 2010 convention car project was managed primarily by the Eastern Iowa division in this case. Another point made was that if we do this, we need to continue this moving forward. John Averill made the motion to keep the current car policy, it was seconded by Phil Bonzon. John Shaw and Steve Malcolm abstained from the vote. PASSED

MCoR SECTION OF KALMBACH LIBRARY Discussion was centered items not on the list like art-work, DVDs and magazines. Barry Quensel offered two books published by railroads in the 1950’s for donation to the Kalmbach Library. Robert Amsler indicated that all books etc. must be about railroads operating in our regions territory. Robert asked what happens to our part of the Kalmbach library when the library moves to Sacramento. Also, does ownership of the library continue

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to exist with the NMRA. Paul and Whit will contact NMRA headquarters for clarification on the library's final status in California. Whit asked everyone to go over the “want” list to see if there's anything we can supply.

CONVENTION MEETING AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT Larry Alfred talked about upcoming meets. John Shaw spoke about the Cedar Rapids meet. Robert suggested we “ship” from Missouri for ongoing sales as this is where we are listed as a non-profit company. Attendance was over 100 with over 1,000 attending the train-show.

Dennis Brandt talked about the upcoming Norfolk convention.

2012 could be in St Louis, we will find out more in June. 2013 is open. For 2014 a proposal was made to combine MCoR with the SER (South East) region on a convention in Memphis. It would be hosted by the Memphis Railroad and Trolley Museum and the Memphis Area transit Authority. We watched a video for this. Timeframe: 1st or 2nd week in June. Costs and liabilities were discussed. Larry didn't have exact information, but did indicate that they weren't looking to hold MCoR and SER responsible (???) John Shaw mad a motion to make a commitment pending a more detailed proposal given later on, John Averill seconded the motion. **PASSED**

PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Editor: Cinthia Priest not present. Whit stated last CABOOSE KIBITZER for 2010 is complete and off to publisher. Cinthia will be completing one more issue and is then resigning afterward. Paul indicated Ted will be willing to take over. Louis asked if Steve Priest will remain involved with CABOOSE KIBITZER. Whit will be the contact to Johnson Press who prints the CABOOSE KIBITZER. Whit commented that the Johnson press has done a good job.

Advertising Manager: Louis Seibel proceeded with the advertising report with a hand-out. Showing prices for advertising. He also handed out a “Regional Club Roster Signup Sheet” John Shaw stated that this last hand-out was redundant because it already exists on the website and associated data-base.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM: Marty went over the stats. We are currently at 992 for MCoR certificates issued. MCoR is probably at the top of the list. Louis brought up the

fact that this is the 50th anniversary of the Achievement Program in the NMRA.

ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT: Marty Vaughn has a list submitted to Paul

MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Paul stated this can be done at each member's leisure

WEBMASTER REPORT: John Shaw described the web report.

HEART OF AMERICA FUND REPORT: Paul Richardson stated there was no activity or timely reports in the past and is now getting regular reports. Larry stated an objection to the word “permanent” in the report as we (MCoR) still have the right to pull out if we choose. This needs to be verified.

OLD BUSINESS

Region Awards- Paul Richardson spoke on this. The following award winners will choose the next winners

KENNY JOHN MEMORIAL AWARD
MCoR President

KENNY CLINE MEMORIAL AWARD
Paul Richardson / Miles Hale / James Anderson

LARRY LONG MEMORIAL AWARD
Allen Merta / Earl Mullins / John Averill

MCoR LRP/Regulations Robert Amsler

stated this will be handled in committee.

Special Project Committee Report Whit stated were planning on 300 cars for the 2011 Car Committee

CABOOSE KIBITZER Costs: Robert Amsler talked about getting board approval to notify National to stop collecting the subscription cost. Louis suggested making the 2010 issues available publicly, he was then asked to table it until the overall CABOOSE KIBITZER determination can be made. John Shaw also hasn't received a copy of the CABOOSE KIBITZER to post online.

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Folkmann discussed the Boy Scout jamboree that the MCoR initially funded (see 2010 – June meeting) Bob stated they are now ready to return the seed money to MCoR. The meet will occur in Boone, Iowa, on April 30. Setup will occur on Friday, April 29. Whit will be sending out e-mail asking for volunteers.

Robert suggested maybe we should establish a committee to review our logo.

Phil Bonzon talked about the Gateway railop meets they are doing.

ADJOURNMENT: John Averill moved we adjourn, John Shaw seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 13:53. Respectfully Submitted, Whitney D. Johnson, MCoR Vice President



BUILDING THE ROLLING STOCK OF THE BLACKHAWK & CENTRAL CITY, PART II BY RYAN MOATS

This article continues the series of “how to” articles on building the rolling stock of the Blackhawk & Central City (my base-ment road). As a reminder, this small road (about 70 square feet using HO scale) is a late 1860s/early 1870s narrow gauge short line in the Colorado Rockies inspired by the north Clear Creek Branch of the Colorado Central and the Gilpin Tramway. The last article left off with the finished car base that is adapted into the different types of cars on the B&CC (Photo 1).



Photo 1: Car Base

In this article (and subsequent parts) steps are presented in the order they are performed (not the correct order for optimum results). I'll point out omissions and corrections as we go.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

At this point, the car base needs a couple of extra details — specifically, the chain roller bracket and lower brake stave bracket both need to be added to the car. These are parts of the Grandt Westinghouse brake system discussed in part I. The easiest way to add them is to turn the car over and glue the brackets in place with CA (see Photo 2).

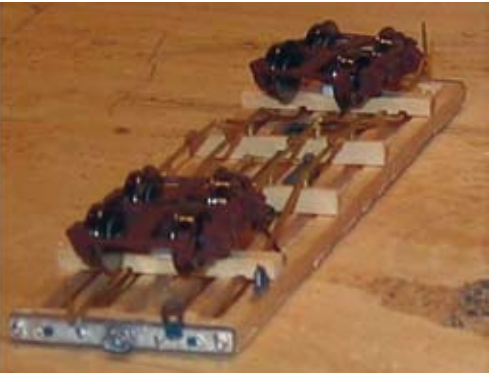


Photo 2: Car with Chain Roller Bracket and Lower Stave Bracket

In addition, the truck beams would include rod supports holding them in place. This is modeled by adding two Grandt NBWs to the end of each truck beam with CA (see Photo 3).

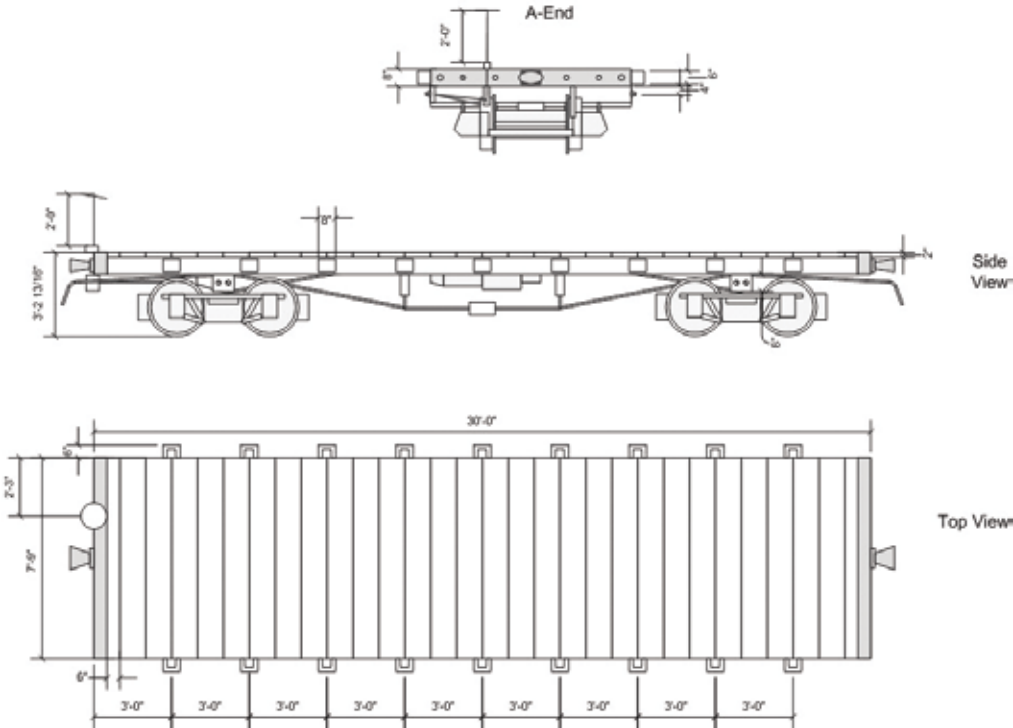


Photo 3: Truck Beam with Grandt Line NBWs

FLAT CAR PLANS

B&CC flat cars are simple nine-pocket flat cars with a stirrup and hand brake. The plan for these cars is shown in Figure 1.

ADDING THE POCKETS AND FINISHING THE BRAKES

For stake pockets, I used the ones distributed by Precision Scale. These are glued to the side of the car with CA. I'm not too worried if I lose pockets during the assembly and finishing process, because flat cars did lose pockets during their operational life.

To finish the brakes on a flat car, it is necessary to first cut a brake staff to length from 0.015-inch piano wire. The flat car ratchet/pawl assembly (from the Westinghouse brake kit) is slipped over this wire. The bottom of the wire is glued to the lower brake stave with CA, and the ratchet/pawl is glued into position on the top of the end sill with more CA. The brake wheel center hole is cleared with a No. 70 bit in a pin vise and glued to the top of the brake stave with

CA. Lastly, the brake chain is made from 40-link to the inch chain available from A-line. Photo 4 shows the top and bottom of the flat car at this point.

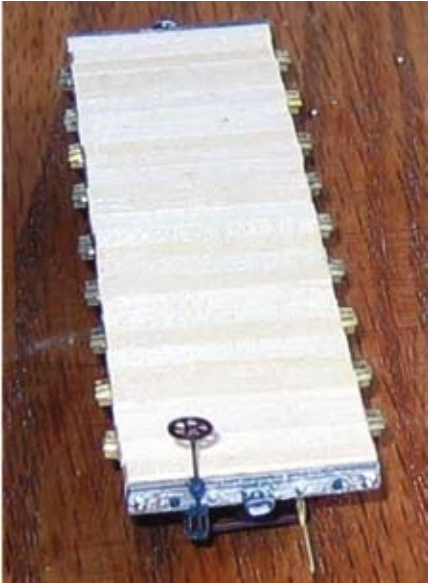


Photo 4: Top View of Flat Car

PAINTING THE CAR

I airbrushed the top and sides of the flat car with Polly Scale Light Freight Car Red, thinned according to bottle directions. I wasn't worried about keeping the paint coat even because the cars would fade in the high UV environment prevalent in the mountains of Colorado (See Photo 5).



Photo 5: Painted Flat Car Top

For the underside of the car, I used Polly Scale Grimy Black, again thinned according to bottle directions. When painting the ends of the truck beams, don't be afraid of over-spray — it can be your friend as it will help weather the otherwise pristine car sides.



Photo 6: Underside of a Flat Car

LETTERING THE CAR

For car lettering, I used custom decals from Rail Graphics, applied according to their directions. Flat cars are series 100 cars in the B&CC, so this particular car is number 101 (Photo 7).

To add these decals one should (if using a flat paint) first cover the car with a coat

of gloss coat, then apply the decals, use Solvaset (or some similar product), and then cover the car with a coat of dull coat. Unfortunately, I forgot the first step (as will be seen in later parts).



Photo 7: B&CC 101 Gets its Number

ALMOST FINAL FINISHING

A close look at photo 8 reveals that the trucks are still clean and the ABS truck spacers are still white (and we all know that you are not going to find anything white on the underside of a railroad car). So, the trucks were removed and air brushed with Polly Scale Weathered Black, thinned according to bottle directions — a 1.5 mm miniature Allen wrench makes a wonderful pivot point for stacking multiple trucks and painting them all at one). The spacers were hand painted with the same color. In the meantime, the rest of the car received an airbrushed coat of Polly Scale's Dust, thinned according to bottle instructions (Photo 8).

A JUDGED CAR IS NEVER DONE (NEITHER IS A CAR THAT HASN'T BEEN OPERATED)

Using several of the B&CC cars to test track layout (as I have been re-building it), I've come to appreciate the fact that the original truck bolster design requires a spring to help the trucks maintain contact with the rails. For this, I've chosen to use Precision Scale A-381 springs around the truck bolster screw and inside the plastic sleeve (see Photo 9 for where these are mounted).



Photo 8: A "Not Quite" Finished Flat Car



Photo 9: Truck with Precision Scale spring added

After I entered my flat cars into the 2010 MCoR regional contest, it was pointed out to me that I had totally forgotten to add stirrups on either side of all of my freight cars. To rectify this, I airbrushed stirrups from Tichy (catalog No. 3039) with Grimy Black, trimmed them down to size and attached them to the underside of the car with CA in holes drilled with a No. 72 bit in a pin vise (Photos 10, 11 and 12).



Photo 10: Car 101 on one of the NY Mill Sidings



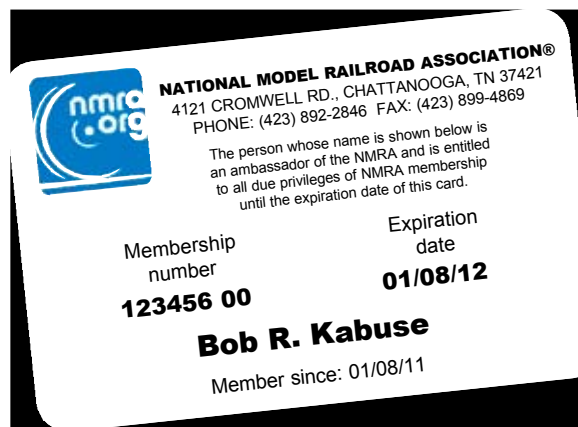
Photo 11: Car 102 on the Track to the Chamberlain Works



Photo 12: Car 103 in Unfinished Lower Blackhawk Yard

ANOTHER INTERMISSION

Next time, we'll go back to the base car and build two gondola variations: a medium-side gondola and an excursion gondola for carrying passengers — and yes, it counts as a passenger car when judged.



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www.thewigwag.org

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www.whdnmra.info

KANSAS CENTRAL DIVISION

www.mcor-nmra.org/Divisions/Kansas Central

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www.gatewaynmra.org

OKLAHOMA HEARTLAND DIVISION

www.okcnmra.org

NMRA Future National Conventions

(Note: Convention dates are from Sunday to Saturday. Last date of National Train Show is one day later)

Sacramento, California July 3 – July 9, 2011
Grand Rapids, Michigan July 29 – August 4, 2012
Atlanta, Georgia July 14 – July 20, 2013

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SCRATCHBUILDING DETAILS IN HO SCALE

BY RYAN MOATS

Two shortcomings I've run into when scratchbuilding are how to handle details such as roofs, stairs, hinges, and foundations, and how the illustrations or drawings in most hobby catalogs (or even online) don't really provide an accurate picture of what is received. This article is intended to address both of those issues.

ROOFS

My layout is a HOn3 mining/logging road, based on my travels to Colorado. For these buildings, I've used three types of roofs: metal corrugated, slate shingle, and circular wooden roofs.

For metal corrugated roofs, I've developed a fondness for the metal corrugated roofing from Northeastern Scale Lumber (Catalog Number HOCORRMRFB). (See Photo 1.) Oth-



Photo 1

er sources have pre-cut and pre-weathered metal roofing material, but I prefer cutting these sheets of roofing material (it comes five to a package) to whatever size fits the roof being constructed. The tool used depends on the direction and granularity of the cut. When marking large cuts along the grain of the corrugation, I prefer to use tin snips. For large cuts across the grain, I prefer kitchen shears to minimize crushing of the corrugations. Finally, for angled cuts or small detail cuts I prefer to use a hobby knife with a very sharp blade.

When assembling a roof of sections, I prefer a drop of CA glue on a cut section and then press another cut section onto the glue, rubbing with a paper towel to remove any excess. Continue in this way until the panel is long enough to cover the roof. Attach the panel to the rafters with super glue. I prefer to line up the corrugations, especially when assembling roofs with odd-shaped cutouts.

After some research and thought, I've settled on AIM's "Real Rust" product (Catalog Number 902) for weathering metal roofs. This product is a suspension of rust pigment in an alcohol base. My preferred technique is to lightly brush the pigment onto the peak of the roof and then let gravity determine

the pooling of the pigment where rust actually forms. Photo 2 shows an example of a roof built with this technique.



Photo 2

Another nice quality of this roofing material is one can recycle the material from previously built roofs that have been either discarded or replaced to give a buildings realistic "recycled" roof look.

For shingle roofs, I prefer Northeastern Scale Lumber's Pre-Assembled slate shingles (Catalog Number HOSHG3). (See Photo 3.) These paper shingles (one or two sheets



Photo 3

to a package depending on the which version of the product ordered) not only have definitive thickness and texture, but are spot glued — when cut, the shingles flake off in the same way that real roofing shingles do when cut. The one shortcoming of this product is that, while the sheets include edging material for the peak of a roof, it only seems to be enough edging material to cover the peak of a simple roof. I'm chronically running short of edging/flashing material. Lastly, these sheets can be attached either to roofing substrate or (for small enough roofs) used directly without support. The



Photo 4

small freight station shown in Photo 4 has the roofing material placed directly on the gables and side walls.

My line's central water tower needed a circular roof. After looking at photographs and drawings of the prototype showing each roof panel slightly overlapping the adjacent panel, I decided to try building a wood roof that recreated this effect. My first attempt used stock 1-inch material and was a straightforward failure — overlap at the center of the roof developed too quickly to compensate properly. I then tried 1/64-inch aircraft plywood cut into six-degree sections (so that each section could have a one degree overlap with the previous section). See Photo 5 for samples of how this looks when two sections are joined. As I assembled the roof, I



Photo 5

realized that even with the overlap, each section of wood turns out to be slightly curved out of a flat plane. Therefore, my suggestion is to print a guide for the supporting structure that includes radii every five degrees to help guide attaching each section. Because of the curvature issue, I decided to use CA to limit the open time of each joint. Finally, my prototype includes copper sheeting for the peak of the roof. While the photograph was not clear on the type of material used, it was obvious that there weren't corrugations and copper made sense to me. The resulting roof is shown in Photo 6.

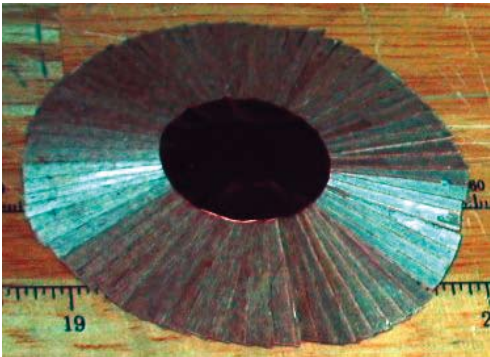


Photo 6

STAIRS

The coal station and one of the coal mine structures on my layout includes stairs (as opposed to ladders). After much research and experimentation, I've settled on using the stair stringer and tread kit (Photo 7) and cast resin assembly jig (Photo 8) sold by



Photo 7



Photo 8

Rusty Stumps. The jig can support two-foot, six inch; three-foot; or four-foot scale stairs, and each stringer and tread package has enough material to construct three 32-foot long stairs with two-foot, six-inch treads. The jig is designed to hold 1/64-inch stringers and will chip if dropped repeatedly.

Stair assembly uses either wood or white glue, depending on how much open time is desired (super glue or other cyanoacrylates will damage the jig). While I've used both types of glue, my preference is for wood glue. I then set the jig aside during the longer open times and work on other modeling projects. Cut the stringers to the proper length, weather both the stringers and treads, and assemble using the jig (Photo 9). During assembly, be sure to let the ends

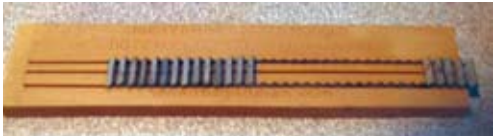


Photo 9

of the stringers extend beyond the jig. Then, after the assembly dries, these stringers beyond the jig provide leverage points for removing the completed stair. Finally, attach the finished stair using your preferred adhesive (Photo 10).



Photo 10



Photo 11

HINGES

Most HO scale hinges available in catalogs are decorative, but not operational. As a result, I have developed the following technique to achieve hinges that work at the tradeoff of being a little larger than HO scale (approximate scale hinge size is 3x12 inches). The Photo 11 shows the steps in this process. Start with a doll house H hinge (I use Housework's catalog No. 1131). Cut off the flanges with a rotary tool and cut off disk (what results is item No. 2). Then, cut the hinge in half with the rotary tool and discard the pin (the result is four pieces in two sets of what is shown as item No. 3). Two of the pieces have a closed end and two are open. Use a pair of diagonal cutters to trim a track nail to the correct length and a drop of super glue in the sealed end hinge to make a working hinge (Item No. 4). Each dollhouse hinge results in two working HO hinges.

BRICK FOUNDATIONS

The model prototype of my layout's central passenger station includes a cast cinder block foundation. Since the layout also includes a smelter building (which I wanted to construct out of brick), I have experimented with building a clay brick foundation to see the results and to see if it is possible to hand lay walls of the smelter.

My experiment began Housework's doll house scale clay bricks (Photo 12). I then

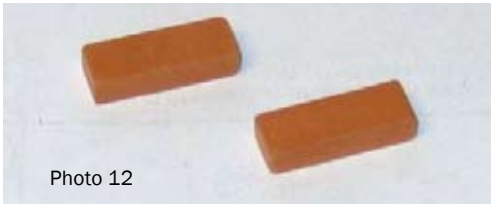


Photo 12

cut a single brick down to nominal 6x6x12-inch size bricks (Photo 13) using a pair of diagonal cutters (using a properly sized chisel might have been better as using the diagonal resulted in a loss of about 20 percent of the HO scale bricks to shattering). The first conclusion I reached was that while these are a good size for a foundation, they would be too large for constructing building walls and trying to go smaller would increase the loss rate to too high a level. My choice for



Photo 13

mortar was to use a suspension of gray sand from Activa (the actual shade name is Moonshadow) in white glue. I started with a mixture of about 1/8 tsp. of sand to about 1 mL of paste and quickly realized that the suspension settles quickly and needs to be

remixed to ensure transfer of sand to the wall gaps. The resulting foundation (Photo 14) certainly qualifies as rustic. I believe

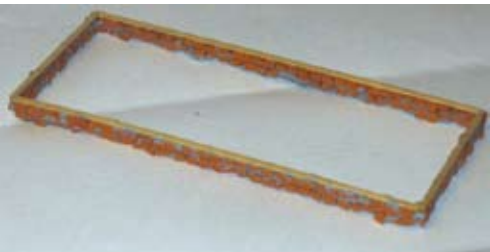
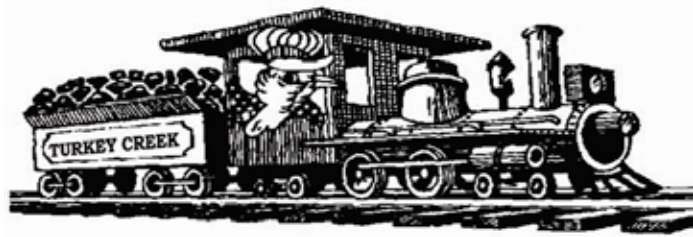


Photo 14

these techniques could also be adapted for building clay tablet foundations (although I have yet to try it).

CONCLUSION

Hopefully this article will pique your interest in trying scratchbuilding of structures (it really is much easier than it looks) by providing some ideas and products to start you off. Feel free to experiment and remember that failures can always be used as recycled materials for new structures (when did a railroad throw anything away?).



Turkey Creek Division Meet

August 6, 2011

Lenexa Community Center

13420 Oak, Lenexa, KS (Pflumm & Santa Fe Drive)

Show Times 8:00 to 3:00

Layout Tours 3:30 to 9:00

Clinics Start at 9:00 – a full slate of clinics covering many aspects of the hobby.

Model & Photo Contests – by NMRA judging and popular vote. Each model you entered into the contest will give you a chance in the Special Drawing to receive a \$50.00 gift voucher, up to a maximum of 5 chances.

Special Youth Award for the best overall youth model entry.

Door Prizes – From lots of different manufacturers and local hobby shops

Display Layout and Layout Tours – In addition to the display layout at the meet, several local modelers will be opening their homes to layout tours in the afternoon and evening. Layout tour maps will be available at the show to paid registrants.

Swap Tables and Railroad Groups – Expect to find more than 90 tables from area dealers, local hobbyists and other railroad groups. Two registrations with each vendor table rental. Additional registrations: \$4.50 each. Table rental: \$16.50 each if paid for by January 31, 2011, after that date \$22.00 each. (All rates include Sales Tax)

Vendor set up Friday August 5th 5pm to 9pm

For information on tables and special requests contact Robert Jefferis at jeffbobj@everestkc.net or 913-631-4441

Food and Refreshments – Scout Troop 92 will have food and refreshments available during the show.

Turkey Creek 2011 Division Meet Registration Form

Advance Registration: \$4.50 by July 10, 2011 - Additional door prizes will be set aside for advance registrants

Full Registration at the door: \$7.00 (\$6.00 NMRA member)

Children under 12 free with paid registration (All rates include sales tax)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Table Rental \$16.50 per table by January 31, 2011 No. of Tables: _____ Total amount \$ _____

Table Rental \$22.00 per table after January 31, 2011 No. of Tables _____ Total amount \$ _____

Total Encl. \$ _____ Check # _____

More Registrations: _____

Make checks payable to "Turkey Creek Division"

Mail to: Turkey Creek Show, C/O Larry Diehl, 11229 Nall, Suite 140, Leawood, Kansas 66211

For more information contact: Louis Seibel, L-seibel@comcast.net, 913-927-6850 or 913-393-3495

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THE SWITCHING LIST

FOURTH QUARTER 2009 BY GARY HEMMINGWAY

The Switching List contains all known Mid-Continent Region, NMRA, train shows and Division meetings. It also lists all known club shows and swap meets in the Mid-Continent Region (IA, IL, MO, AR, NE, KS, and OK). To list your event, send it to: garyonho@cox.net, or Gary Hemmingway, 3201 SW Stone Ave., Topeka, KS 66614. To subscribe, or unsubscribe, to The Switching List send an email to the above link. Look for us on the MCoR web site: www.mcor-nmra.org.

DIVISION MEETINGS

KANSAS CENTRAL DIVISION Meetings 1pm. Full schedule: MCoR website or email: garyonho@cox.net.

GATEWAY DIV. (ST. LOUIS, MO) meets 3rd Monday each month, 7pm. Odd numbered months: Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Rd at Woods Mill Rd (Hwy 141), Ballwin, MO; Even numbered months: VFW Hall, O’Fallon, IL <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/division.htm>.

TURKEY CREEK DIV. (KANSAS CITY, MO & KS) monthly meetings 4th Tuesday, 7pm. Johnson County Offices, NE Branch, 6000 Lamar, Shawnee Mission, KS (DMV Building on SW corner of Lamar and Martway).

WESTERN HERITAGE DIVISION (OMAHA, NE/COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA) meets second Saturday (except June and December) at noon. Sump Memorial Library, corner of Washington and 2nd St. in Papillion (across from Runza). Visit www.whdnmra.org for more info and a map.

EASTERN IOWA DIVISION The EID Fall meeting will be Sept. 18 Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, 424 First Avenue NE in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Parking is free on Saturdays, so do not feed the parking meters! We will have a short meeting, silent auction, Bring & Brag / Show & Tell. An interesting program on modeling. Start at 9am.

KATE SHELLEY DIVISION now meets the 4th Thursday at the Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Ave., Ames, Iowa. 7-8:45pm, in the upstairs meeting rooms. All welcome.

INDIAN NATIONS DIVISION meets at the

New Hardesty Library at 8316 E. 93rd St. (Just east of Memorial) in Tulsa, OK. 9:30–12:30pm. Various presentations from clinics, to slide shows. Member layout tour after the meetings. Info: Dave Salamon at drs_rr@yahoo.com.

PLATTE VALLEY DIV. (HASTINGS, GRAND ISLAND, KEARNEY, NE) meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. in members homes on a rotating basis. Info: John O’Neill, MMR, Div. Dir., 308-384-5011 or jponeill@computerconcepts.com.

WESTERN KANSAS DIVISION (GARDEN CITY, KS) Meets every Tues. evening 6:30–9pm at 4091/2 N. Main St. (second floor above “Stage” department store) 7 layouts on display (2-HO, 5-N) Operating sessions available Info: Robert Simmons, Division Director (620) 521-3591 or ras@odsgc.net.

COWBOY LINE DIVISION (NORFOLK, NE) meets 3rd Thursday each month, 7pm at HyVee East upstairs meeting room. Corner of 1st Street and Norfolk, Ave. Info: Dennis Brandt, Div. Dir: 402-9925-2415 or email dennisbrandt44@gmail.com for more info.

OK HEARTLAND DIVISION meets in the even months in the Oklahoma City area. All who are interested in model railroading are welcome. Info: www.okcnmra.org.

TRAIN SHOWS & MEETS

MAY 7–8—TOPEKA MODEL RAILROADERS ROLLING HILLS ASSISTED LIVING, 1013 Cottonwood Ct. (between Gage and Fairlawn on 10th St.). Sat: 10–5, Sun: 11–4 pm, free.

MAY 21–22—CHEROKEE STRIP LAND RUSH MUSEUM TRAIN SHOW, Agri-Business Bldg., 712 W. Washington, Arkansas City, KS, Sat: 10–5, Info: 620-442-6750.

MAY 28–29—CHERRY VALLEY MODEL RAILROAD CLUB KATY DAYS SHOW AND SWAP MEET, Forest Park (Corner of Broadway & Heacock) Arvon Phillips Recreation Center, Parsons, KS, Sat: 9–5, Sun: 10–2, Free Admission! Events include modular layouts, swap meet, railroad history zone and the Parsons Invitational Pie Society selling homemade pies. Our show is held in conjunction with the annual Katy Days Festival



ABOVE: Blue Island, Illinois, played host to myriad Rock Island freight cars representing various eras. The last year that the Rock showed a profit was 1964; the starving railroad endured to 1980 when this image was captured.

held on the same weekend. This festival is centered around the railroad history of Parsons, KS. For more information about the festival, visit: www.katydays.com, For more information about the train show, visit: www.cvmrc.com, Email: greatamericantrains@hotmail.com or john@cvmrc.com.

JUN 16–19—MID-CONTINENT REGION’S ANNUAL REGIONAL CONVENTION, Hosted by the Cowboy Line Division, Official Convention Site: Northeast Community College Lifelong Learning Center, 801 E Benjamin Ave. Norfolk, NE 68701 Official Convention Hotel: Rodeway Inn 2206 Market Lane Norfolk, NE 68701 (402) 371-9779 or www.roadwayinn.com. For more information and registration forms contact: Dennis Brandt, Div. Dir. 402-992-2415 or dennisbrandt44@gmail.com.

JUN 18 & OCT 15—CENTRAL ARKANSAS MODEL RR CLUB OPEN HOUSE, Hours: 9–3 Location: MCGEE CENTER 3800 College Ave. (West Conway), located between College Avenue and Prince Street in West Conway. Free! Operating layouts in all scales. kids operate (Thomas - HO and O scale) Info: Daniel Gladstone, Tel: 501-269-3030 Email: ca_mrc@yahoo.com URL: www.artrains.org

JUN 21–27—27TH ANNUAL NATIONAL GARDEN RAILWAY CONVENTION, Overland Park International Trade Center, 115th & Metcalf, Overland Park, KS, hosted by Kan-

sas City Garden Railway Society, Info: Dave Roberts, gscaleisfun@hotmail.com

AUG 6—TURKEY CREEK DIVISION, MCoR, NMRA, MEET, Lenexa Comm. Center, 13420 Oak (Pflumm & Santa Fe Dr.), Lenexa, KS, 8–3, Layout Tours 3:30–9, Clinics Start 9am, Model & Photo Contests, Door Prizes, Display Layout, Swap Tables and Railroad Groups, Two registrations with each vendor table rental additional registration \$4.50. Table rental \$22 ea. vendor set up Friday Aug. 5th 5–9pm. For info on tables and special requests: Robert Jefferis jeffbjobj@everestkc.net or 913-634-4441. Scout Troop 92 will have food and refreshments available. Additional door prizes will be set aside for advance registrants. Advance Registration: \$4.50 by July 10, 2011, full registration: \$7 (\$6 NMRA member) at door, children under 12 free with paid registration (All rates include Sales Tax). For more information contact: Louis Seibel l-seibel@comcast.net, 913-927-6850, 913-393-3495 (Home). Make checks payable to ‘Turkey Creek Division’ and mail to Turkey Creek Show, c/o Larry Diehl, 11229 Nall, Suite 140, Leawood, KS 66211

AUG 20—TOPEKA MODEL RAILROADERS AT GREAT OVERLAND STATION, 701 N. Kansas Ave, (North Topeka) Topeka, KS, 9:30-4:30

SEPT 17—FRISCO CONVENTION, Frisco Building, Springfield, MO, Info: Ron Williams rjwilliams1@mcchsi.com

OCT 22–23—TWO DEPOT MODEL TRAIN SHOW, Kingman Armory, Kingman, KS; Displays also at Santa Fe & Missouri Pacific depots; Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the SF depot. Info: sfdepot@sbcglobal.net or call 620-532-2142 weekday mornings.

NOV 26–27—GREAT TRAIN EXPO, Belle-Claire Fairgrounds Park, Belleville, IL

NOV 26—JOPLIN MUSEUM COMPLEX TRAIN SHOW AND SWAP MEET, Schiffer-decker Park, 7th and Schifferdecker Streets, Joplin, MO; 9–3, Several operating model railroad layouts, over 65 tables of items for sale or trade. \$3 adult, children 12 and under free w/pd adult. All proceeds at the door benefit the Joplin Museum Complex. Info: Rick Gardner 417-673-4888 or rickgardner@sofnet.com. Tables \$15 each. On the web at www.tristatemodelrailroaders.com

REGION CLUB ROSTER

This roster was created for the benefit of members of the Mid-Continent Region. It identifies those clubs that are presently active in MCoR. Any group that wishes to be included in the listing should send the Editor the club’s name, contact address and scale interest. Listings in this section are free of charge.

Big Bend Railroad Club 8833 Big Bend Blvd Webster Groves, MO 63119 (O)	GScalefun@hotmail.com 913-406-3400	1308 SW Caldon Topeka, KS 66611-2412
Capital City Model Railroaders PO Box 243 Jefferson City, MO 65102 (HO)	Kansas City Module “O” Jack Ferris 10334 Ash Overland Park, KS 66207 fhs1955@gmail.com (O)	Northwest Kansas Model Railroad Club 603 S Smokyhill Oakley, KS 67748-2321
Central AR Model RR Club P.O. Box 1825 Conway, AR 72033-1825 Daniel Gladstone 501-269-3030 www.artrains.org (all)	Kansas City Soc. of Model Engineers John Teeple, President 9539 Perry Ln. Overland Park, KS 66212 913-492-4142 jsteep@aol.com	Oklahoma N-Rail Crossroads Mall I-35 & I-240 Oklahoma City, OK www.oknrail.org (N)
Claremore & Southern 3049 Clover Creek Dr Claremore, OK 74017 (HO)	Kansas City Narrow Gauge Group (KCNG) 14633 S Chalet Dr, Olathe, KS 66062 LarryAlfred.captalfred@gmail.com (Narrow Gauge - All Scales)	Ozark Model Railroad Association 424 W Commercial Springfield, MO 65803 (all)
Columbia Model Railroaders 410 Camelot Dr Collinsville, IL 62234 (HO)	Manhattan Area Rail Joiners 1223 Pierre St Manhattan, KS 66502-4331 Contact: Don Clagett dclagett@ksu.edu 785-587-9075	Parsons Model Railroad Engineers Cherryvale Depot Cherryvale, KS 68335 (HO)
Eastern Jackson County Mainliners Model Railroad Club Outlet Mall, Odessa, Mo www.easternjacksoncountymainlines.com	Mississippi Valley N Scales 20 Apostle Ct Fenton, MO 63026 http://mvns.railfan.net mvns@railfan.net (N)	Southern Illinois Train Club PO Box 1633 Mrion, IL 62959-7833 (HO, N, G)
Greater Omaha Society of Model Engineers Post Office Box 67 Council Bluffs, IA 51502 402-895-0296 or 402-491-3692 GOSOME@TheHistoricalSociety.org	Missouri Northern Railroad Society Inc. PO Box 12591 North Kansas City, MO 64116 (HO)	Southwest Independent Modular Railroaders 3107 W Capitol Little Rock, AR 72209 (HO)
Green Valley Baptist Model RR 11993 County Rd 162 Savannah, MO 64485 Nancy Adams 816-262-0304 nadaams@bi-vetmedica.com	The Sugar Creek Model Railroad & Historical Society Inc. PO Box 5452 Bella Vista, AR 72714 (all N modules for shows)	
Kansas Area N-Trak 2046 S Elizabeth #1306 Wichita, KS 67213 (N)	Modular HO Narrow Gauge Society 914 Summer Leaf Ct Saint Peters, MO 63376 (HO)	Tri-City Model Railroad Association 607 S Shore Dr Hastings, NE 68901 (HO, N)
Kansas Central Model Railroad Club Charles Moll 3106 Tulane Place Hutchinson KS 67502 c.moll@sbcglobal.net H) 620-663-8167 (HO)	Mo-Kan RailJoiners 1069 N Logan Olathe, KS 66061 913-393-3495 l-seibel@comcast.net (all)	Warren County Modular Railroaders HO Scale, Transition era. RI & CB&Q Iowa’s only 100% NMRA club John Averill 515-961-3018 14910- 92nd Lane Indianola, IA 50125 WCMR1@cs.com
Kansas City Garden RR Society David Roberts 24595 Hedge Paola, KS 66071	Nishna Valley Railroad Society 1303 Eighth St Harlan, IA 51537 (HO)	Wichita Model Railroad Club PO Box 48082 Wichita, KS 67201
	Northeast Kansas Garden Railway Society (NEKAN-GRS)	

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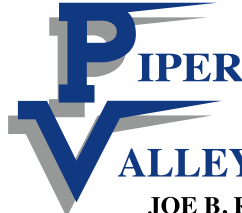
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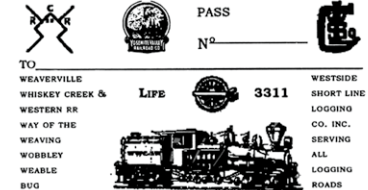

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