President
Whitney D. Johnson
1117 E 16th St S
Newton, IA 50208-5076
(641) 792-0712
E-mail: whitjohnson@mchsi.com

Vice-President
Philip G. Bonzon MMR (Patricia (Pat))
7458 Kingsbury Blvd
University City, MO 63130-4054
(H) 314-727-0075
(C) 314-803-7158
E-mail: ppgonzonz@aol.com

Secretary
Barbara Lundquist
504 Pioneer Rd Papillion,
NE 68046-3778
(H) 402-597-9388
E-mail: blundquist1@cox.net

Treasurer
Robert Folkmann
1326 Burnett avenue
Ames, IA, 50010-5454
(H) 515-232-8689
E-mail: rfolkmann@mchsi.com

Membership Chairman
Steven P. August
1605 S Ebling St.
Bentonville, AR 72712-9551
(479) 796-7986
E-mail: steven@august.org

Membership Dispatcher
Steven P. August
1605 S Ebling St.
Bentonville, AR 72712-9551
(479) 796-7986
E-mail: steven@august.org

New Member Chairman
Richard Hester
1407 E Fair Acers Dr
McCook, NE 69001-4208
(308) 345-5528
E-mail: richardhes-ter017@gmail.com

Member Aid Co-chairman
John Pilott
2109 Ave M
Council Bluffs, IA 51501-0968
(712) 323-7153
E-mail: trains20@cox.net

Achievement Program Chair
Brad Morneau MMR
7705 W 154 Terr
Overland Park KS 66223-2280
(913) 897-0669
E-mail: bmorneau@kc.rr.com

Education Chairman
Don Wetmore
614 Osage Dr
Papillion, NE 68046-2433
(402) 740-9642
E-mail: StoeTerminal@cox.net

Merit Badge Coordinator
Bob Folkmann
1326 Burnett Ave.
Ames, IA 50010
(515) 232-8689
E-mail: rfolkmann@mchsi.com

Internet Webmaster
Ryan D. Moats MMR
15621 Drexel Circle
Omaha, NE 68135-2358
(H) 402-894-9423
E-mail: blackhawk@canonicalblue.org

2015 Convention Chairman
Brad Slone MMR
PO Box 313
Dixon, MO 65459-0313
(573) 308-7144
E-mail: bradslone@yahoo.com

Area Meet Chairman
Louis Seibel
1096 N Logan
Olathe, KS 66061
(H) 913-393-3459
(C) 913-927-6850
E-mail: L-Seibel@comcast.net

Clinic Chairman
Don Wetmore
614 Osage Dr
Papillion, NE 68046-2433
(402) 740-9642
E-mail: StoeTerminal@cox.net

Model Contest Chairman
Ryan D. Moats MMR
15621 Drexel Circle
Omaha, NE 68135-2358
(H) 402-894-9423
E-mail: blackhawk@canonicalblue.org

Kansas Central Division - 2906
David Heinsch
2346 C Rd
Elmdale, KS 0-9774
(620) 273-7037
E-mail: kdhr@frhd.net

Chisholm Trail Division
Philip R. Aylward
603 Chestnut St
Halstead, KS 67056-2302
(316) 830-3498
E-mail: ayward1@cox.net

Maple Leaf Area - 2908
Richard W. Liebich (Mary)
Box 285
121 Main St
Rippey, IA 50235-0285
(H) 515-436-7765
E-mail: mliebich@lastate.edu

South Central Missouri Area
Brad Slone MMR
PO Box 51
Dixon, MO 65459-0313
(573) 308-7144
E-mail: bradstone@yahoo.com

Ozark Mountain Area
James F. Dimatteo
190 Western Ave
Branson, MO 65616-8618
(417) 239-0436
E-mail: ldimatteo@aol.com

Northern Arkansas Area
Vacant

Little Rock Area
William G Hobbs
11 Shore Point Rd
North Little Rock, AR 72116-9031
(H) 501-758-9532
E-mail: dir-2913@mcor-nmra.org

Cowboy Line Division
James B Van Delden
902 Nebraska St.
Wayne, NE 68741-1428
(402) 833-5531
E-mail: genjvan@msn.com
E-mail: wntsi.royce@gmail.com

Oklahoma Heartland Division
Royce Brown
4105 Madison Avenue, Mooore, OK.
73160-7685
(H) 405-216-3107
E-mail: critchie@sbglobal.net

Northern Oklahoma Area
Dan L. Harris
PO Box 3604
Enid, OK 73702-3604
(580) 233-4452
E-mail: harris_dan@sbcsbglobal.net

Western Kansas Division
Robert A. Simmons
2710 Shamus St.
Garden City, KS 67846-3251
(H) 620 521-3591
E-mail: trainman55@hotmail.com

Platte Valley Division
Todd L. Peterson
384 K Road
Minden, NE. 68959-6011
(H) 308-832-2050
E-mail: todd@gtmc.net

Fallen Flags Division
Rev. Douglas Harding
Box 472, Keosauqua, IA. 52565-0472
(H) 319-293-3131
(C) 319-288-1126
E-mail: doug.harding@iowacentralrr.org

North Dakota West Central Div.
Renee G. Tacey
PO Box 485
Sutherland, NE 69165-0485
(308) 386-2489
E-mail: taxayas@gpccon.net

Great Midwest Division
John H. Averill
14910 92nd Ln
Indianola, IA 50125-7261
(H) 515-961-3018
E-mail: mdco01@hughes.net

Iowa Rails Area
Michael E. Worley
320 E 13th St
Washington, IA 52353-2643
(319) 653-3782
E-mail: mworley@iowatelecom.net

Southern Arkansas Area
Vacant
Front Cover
A wind turbine train has arrived in Garden City, and while the blades are dropped off at a special facility on the East side of town, where the blades are transferred to trucks, the turbine blade hubs (foreground) and the power head assemblies (background) are parked on a siding near the center of town. Photo by Robert Simmons

Back Page I
October 31st, 2013 - On the BNSF, the local out of Garden City, Kansas, powered by a couple of GP38’s, is switching cattle feed mill just west of town. The lead unit, BNSF 2212 began life in June of 1970 as an EMD GP38 built for ATSF wearing number 3522. Its companion, BNSF 2797 began life in March of 1975 as an EMD GP39-2, also built for ATSF, wearing number 3643. Photo by Robert Simmons

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NEXT QT ?
What will you send me
To put in this newsletter
caboosek@kc.rr.com
Photos must be 600 dpi
816-861-3449
Dead line for 3QT June 31, 2014
Don’t run just hurry.
ted
The Head End
by Whit Johnson
MCOR PRESIDENT

Greetings! Spring time is upon us and the change is a welcome one. With spring new growth is expected, this year we are hearing many exciting things involving the growth of Steam programs. The Union Pacific with the 4014 Big Boy project, the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad C&O 1309 project, the N&W 611 project, and recent excursions in IN and IL for the NKP 765. Railroading is alive and here to stay!

It is my pleasure to welcome a new director to the board of MCoR. Bill Hobbs of North Little Rock, AR has accepted the appointment to be the Area Director for Little Rock. Welcome Bill. Bill is a Sn3 modeler among his many Railroad interests. We look forward to seeing Bill sometime soon.

We are also actively searching for members interested in being Area Directors for some other Areas as well. If you would like to support the NMRA in your Area please let me know, it would be a pleasure to visit with you.

The Annual Convention is coming soon; in fact we are less than one month away from our gathering with the Southeast Region for the Joint Convention this year in Memphis.

The last report was that the hotel has had to extend the number of rooms for the convention as we sold out the first block. The discount rate is continued under the extension so please make your reservations soon. Information on the convention is being updated as we receive it on the MCoR website please watch for details there.

This convention will have a small change to the schedule we usually follow with the membership annual meeting being on Saturday morning. The board of directors will meet at 8:00 a.m. Saturday June 14, 2014, and the membership meeting will follow that at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. The rooms where this meeting will be located will be provided at the convention.

One last item this issue is we are one year from MCoR elections. It is time to begin the process of Nominations and Elections for the MCoR Officers. If you or someone you know is interested in serving as an officer for the Region please let me know and we can forward the information to the Nominations and Ballot team.

I hope to see many of you in Memphis this will be a great convention!

Keep the rails shining!

Whit Johnson

Conductor’s Call
BY TED TSCHIRHART Editor

Please send any changes
address
email
deaths
Send to your information to
Your director see page 2.

Editor Ted Tschirhart
4954 Marsh Avenue
Kansas City, MO 64129-2111
(816) 861-3449

HAVE 50 MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS
RIGHT IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.

Just because you can't make it to a national convention doesn't mean you have to miss out. Right now the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library has over 50 DVDs of clinics presented at national conventions from 2002 to 2010. Each is available for NMRA members to borrow for the cost of processing and postage.

So you can see clinics on everything from decoders to design tools to techniques, helixes to highways, and research to resin casting.

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

Visit www.nmra.org and go to the Kalmbach Memorial Library page for a complete listing. Or call the Library at 423-894-8144.

Then, get that popcorn ready. www.nmra.org
NMRA AP Group Rules and Regulations

The NMRA Achievement Program Yahoo Group is for those who are members of the NMRA and are working on their Achievement Program Certifications. Here you can get questions answered, find a mentor/coach, or get a kick in the pants to get you started. The group is about helping people.

We REQUIRE that you be an NMRA member and if you are signing up, please provide us your NMRA membership number. Not a member? Please join! [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). While you are there, read the rules and regulations for the Achievement Program.

http://www.nmra.org/education/achievement/

90% of the questions that are being answered on the forum are in the regs.

Naturally things turn to the dark side from time to time, so here are some guidelines.

BEFORE YOU HIT SEND, ASK YOURSELF…

- Did I ask for help?
- Did I help someone?

If your message can’t pass the test then you are probably talking about NMRA politics, whining, complaining or way off topic. Please be on your best behavior. This is a fun site and we would like to keep profanity and rudeness off the list. The moderator has an itchy trigger finger!

Topics that are allowed:

- AP Topics on any of the 11 possible AP Certificates
- MMR questions
- National/Regional/Divisional/International AP Chairman questions
- Questions about contest rules
- Questions about model research, assembly, et al.

Questions about merit judging

Topics that are NOT allowed:

- NMRA politics
- Recommendations for improving/modifying or changing AP guidelines (send those to the NMRA)
- Politics in general
- Religious topics
- Off topic gags and jokes
- Accusations or criticism of any member

This is a PRIVATE group for friends that are working on their NMRA and Moderators are not required to warn members of being put on moderate status or suspension or removal of membership. While we are not an NMRA sanctioned group, we do follow NMRA rules and will act to promote the organization.

If you are moderated/banned from the group and you think it was done unfairly, you are welcomed to contact the list owner Scott Perry at [scottgperry@comcast.net](mailto:scottgperry@comcast.net).

Please address questions to Scott Perry at [scottgperry@comcast.net](mailto:scottgperry@comcast.net). We’re glad to have you aboard!

Scott Perry
List Owner
Big Bend Railroad Club, Inc.  
8833 Big Bend Blvd.  
Webster Groves, MO 63119-3731  
www.bigbendrrclub.org  
Facebook  
secretary@bigbendrrclub.org  
(HO)  
Capital City Model Railroaders  
P.O. Box 243  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
(HO)  
Central AR Model RR Club  
P.O. Box 1825  
Conway, AR 72033-1825  
Daniel Gladstone 501-269-3030  
www.artrains.org  
(A)  
Claremore & Southern  
3049 Clover Creek Dr  
Claremore, OK 74017  
(HO)  
Columbia Model Railroaders  
410 Camelot Dr  
Collinsville, IL 62234  
(A)  
Eastern Jackson County Mainliners  
Model Railroad Club  
Outlet Mall, Odessa, Mo  
www.easternjacksoncountymainliners.com  
(A)  
Greater Kansas City Model Railroad Club  
Walter L. Ohrnell, President  
6060 NW Waukomis Dr. N.W.  
Kansas City, MO 64153  
wohrnell@kc.rr.com  
No web site at this time  
(no)  
Greater Omaha Society of Model Engineers  
Post Office Box 67  
Council Bluffs, IA 51502  
Brian Wiaters  
402-895-0296 or 402-491-3692  
SOME@TheHistoricalSociety.org  
(HO, G, O)  
Green Valley Baptist Model RR  
11993 County Rd 162  
Savannah, MO 64485  
Nancy Adams 816-262-0304  
nadaams@bi-vetmedica.com  
Kan RailJoiners  
2046 S Elizabeth #1306  
Wichita, KS 67213  
(N)  
Kansas City Garden Garden RR Society  
David Roberts  
24595 Hedge  
Paola, KS 66071  
Gscalefun@hotmail.com  
913-406-3400  
Kansas City Model "O"  
Jack Ferris, Secretary/Treasurer  
10334 Ash  
Overland Park, KS 66207  
fhs1955@gmail.com  
2 Rail O Scale Modular Layout - double track main line with 4 track staging yard plus On3 single track loop. Control is wireless DC.  
(HO)  
Kansas City Soc. of Model Engineers  
John Teeple, President  
9539 Perry Ln.  
Overland Park, KS 66212  
913-492-1412  
jeetep@cpl.com  
Kirkwood Railroad Association  
Rich Velten, Treasurer  
100 N. Sappington Rd  
Kirkwood, MO 63122  
rvelten@swbell.net  
www.kra-stl.org  
We meet every Thursday evening from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.  
(HO)  
Manhattan Area Rail Joiners  
1223 Pierre St  
Manhattan, KS 66502-4331  
Contact: Don Clagett  
dclagett@ksu.edu  
785-537-7624  
Mississippi Valley N Scaleers  
20 Apostle Ct  
Fenton, MO 63026  
http://mvns.railfan.net  
mvn@railfan.net  
(N)  
Missouri Northern Railroad Society Inc.  
PO Box 12591  
North Kansas City, MO 64116  
(HO)  
Modular HO Narrow Gauge Society  
914 Summer Leaf Ct  
Saint Peters, MO 63376  
(HO)  
Mo-Kan RailJoiners  
1069 N Logan  
Olathe, KS 66061  
913-393-3495  
l-seibel@comcast.net  
(all)  
Nebraska Railroad Museum  
1835 N Somers Avenue  
Fremont NE 68025  
1-1'  
Dave Fachman  
402-727-0615  
fvr@fremontrailroad.com  
WWW.fremont railroad.com  
(Nishna Valley Railroad Society  
1303 Eigth St  
Harlan, IA 51537  
(HO)  
Northeast Kansas Garden Railway Society (NEKAN-GRS)  
1308 SW Caldon  
Topeka, KS 66611-2412  
Northwest Kansas Model Railroad Club  
603 S Smokhyll, Oakley, KS 67748-2321  
Oklahoma N-Rail  
Bruce Alcock, President  
P.O. Box 96131  
Oklahoma City, OK 73143  
info@oknrail.org  
http://www.oknrail.org  
O Scale  
N Scale  
Layout at Crossroads Mall, I-35 and I-250 next to where Macy's used to be.  
Open Saturday 10am to 9pm and Sunday, noon to 6pm.  
Ozark Model Railroad Association  
424 W Commercial  
Springfield, MO 65803  
(all)  
Parsons Model Railroad Engineers  
Cherryvale Depot  
Cherryvale, KS 68335  
(HO)  
Southern Illinois Train Club  
PO Box 1633  
Marion, IL 62959-7833  
(HO, N, G)  
Southwest Independent  
Modular Railroaders  
3107 W Capitol  
Little Rock, AR 72209  
(HO)  
The Sugar Creek Model Railroad & Historical Society Inc.  
PO Box 5452  
Bella Vista, AR 72714  
(all N modules for shows)  
Tri-City Model Railroad Association  
607 S Shore Dr  
Hastings, NE 68901  
(HO, N)  
Union Station Kansas City Model Railroad Society  
Ted Tschirt  
816-816-3449  
30 West Pershing Road  
Kansas City, MO 64108  
9am 5pm  
tedtschi@kc.rr.com  
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John Averill 515-961-3018  
14910- 92nd Lane  
Indianola, IA 50125  
(HO Scale,  
WCMR1@cs.com  
Wichita Model Railroad Club  
P.O. Box 48082  
Wichita, KS 67201  

Please send new club info  
Or any changes to  
caboose@kc.rr.com
WESTERN HERITAGE DIVISION (OMAHA, NE / COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA) meets second Saturday (except June and December) at noon in the Sump Library at 2nd & Washington Streets in Papillion (across from Runza). Visit www.whdnmra.info for more info and a map. The new web site is found at http://www.whd.mcor-nmra.org

WESTERN KANSAS DIVISION (GARDEN CITY, KS) Meets every Tuesday evening from 6:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at 4091/2 N. Main St. (second floor above "Stage" department store, rear entrance from parking lot) 6 layouts on display (1-027, 2-HO, 3-N) Operating sessions available Info: Robert Simmons, Division Director 620-521-3591 cell or 620-272-0444 Home e-mail: trainman55@hotmail.com

KANSAS CENTRAL DIVISION Meetings are at 1:00 pm. For the full schedule check the MCoR website or email: boxcar75@wamego.net

KATE SHELLEY DIVISION meets the 4th Thursday of every month except Nov. which we meet the 3rd. Dec. we have no meetings. The Ames Public Library is being remodeled, so contact KSD officers per the NMRA website for latest meeting place. This arrangement is in effect until mid-summer 2016. Business meeting starts at 6 PM and at 7 PM we have a get together, anything railroad goes. The Library is at 515 Douglas Ave. Contact KSD thru the NMRA web site.

OK HEARTLAND DIVISION, NMRA meets in the even months in the Oklahoma City area. All who are interested in Model railroad are welcome. Info: www.okcnmra.org

OK HEARTLAND DIVISION, NMRA meets in the even months in the Oklahoma City area. All who are interested in Model railroad are welcome. Info: www.okcnmra.org

PLATTE VALLEY DIV. (HASTINGS, GRAND ISLAND, and KEARNEY, NE) Meets quarterly in members’ homes on a rotating basis or at sites of interest. New members are always welcome. Info: Todd L. Petersen, Div. Dir. 308-832-2200 or todd@gtmc.net

TURKEY CREEK DIVISION, NMRA, Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. meetings will be at the Shawnee Mission North High School at Johnson Drive and Metcalf in the Library.

Monthly News in a Glance

NRHS
May 16 – Wichita Chapter, Great Plains Transportation Museum, 700 E Douglas, 7:00 Informal dinner gathering, Riverside Café, 739 W 13th, 5:30 Information: 316-263-0944

Friday, May 23 – Kansas City Chapter, Union Station, Arthur Stillwell Room, 7:00. Information: Deek Deitrick, adeitrick@swbell.net

MODEL RAILROAD CLUBS

Thursday, May 15 – Kansas City Narrow Gaugers, members’ layouts, 7:00. Information: Dean Windsor, On3@worldnet.att.net

Monday, May 19 – Topeka Model Railroaders, Topeka/Shawnee Co. Public Library, 1515 SW 10th, 7:00. Information: Tony Fox, tfox57@gmail.com

Every Sunday Weekend N’gineers 16624 W 126th St Olathe at 1:00 Information: Ken Clark, haphart@swbell.net, or Mark Huff, 816-455-9779

THE SWITCH LIST May 2014

*new since last issue

The Switch 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 information please

Email: l-seibel@comcast.net, or Mail Information: Louis Seibel, 1069 N Logan, Olathe, KS 66061. To subscribe, or unsubscribe, to The Switch List send an

DIVISION MEETINGS

COWBOY LINE DIVISION (NORFOLK, NE) meets 3rd Thursday each month, 7:00 P.M. at Hy Vee East upstairs meeting room. Corner of 1st Street and Norfolk, Ave. Info: James B Van Deken, Div. Dir. 402 833-5512 or drs_rr@yahoo.com for more information.

Eastern Iowa Division: Winter Meeting will be Saturday, February 22, 2014 from 9:30AM to 4:00PM. The meeting location will be the Hawkeye Model Railroad Club, 860 Quarry Rd. Coralville, Iowa 52241. There will be a business meeting in the morning starting at 10:00 followed by NMRA judging for our second photo contest. Lunch will be on your own for the day. In the afternoon the Hawkeye Model Railroad Club will be hosting an operating session. For more information please contact EID Superintendent, Tony Bowen MMR at: railroadteacher@gmail.com for other division activities check our website monthly at: https://sites.google.com/site/easterniowadivision/, or the division’s Facebook Page at: Eastern Iowa Division

GATEWAY DIVISION (ST. LOUIS, MO) meets 3rd Monday each month, 7:00 P.M. Odd numbered months: Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road at Woods Mill Rd (Hwy 141), Ballwin, MO; Even numbered months: VFW Hall, O’Fallon, IL http://www.gatewaynmra.org/division.htm

INDIAN NATIONS DIVISION Unless otherwise specified, all Indian Nations NMRA meets are held at the new Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., just east of Memorial Rd. in Tulsa, OK. The library opens at 9:00 am and the meetings start at 9:30 am. Web page: www.tulsanmra.org Superintendent - Dave Salamon (918)272-5512 or

KANSAS CENTRAL DIVISION Meetings are at 1:00 pm. For the full schedule check the MCoR website or email: boxcar75@wamego.net

Check the Division Timetable at http://www.tc-nmra.org/TC-Calendar.html for current information. Info: Louis Seibel, 913-393-3495 or 913-927-6850 L-seibel@comcast.net
THE SWITCH LIST
First QUARTER 2014 By Louis Seibel

Every Monday – Garden City Model Trains, 408 N. Main, back entrance, 6:30. Information: Robert Simmons, trainman55@hotmail.com

Every Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday – Kansas City Society of Model Engineers, Great Mall of the Plains, Store 190, 20070 W. 151st St., Olathe, 1:35 exit 215. Information: Steven Boeck stevejayneboeck@yahoo.com or W. L. Ohrnell, whohnell@sbcglobal.com

Every Sunday – Kansas City Model Railroad Club, 6060 N.W. Waukomis Dr, Kansas City, MO, 7:00. Information: J. D. Spicher, jdsipich@aol.com, or W. L. Ohrnell, woohnell@sbcglobal.com

Every Saturday – Boothill Model Railroad Information: Robert Simmons, trainman55@hotmail.com

GARDEN RAILROADS

Saturday, May 17 – Wichita Area Garden Railway Society, members’ layouts. Information: Claudia Rollstin, claudia@gardenwaygizmos.com

Sunday, May 25 – Northeast Kansas, members’ layouts. Information: J. Merritt, imerritt@jccc.net

Thursday, May 29 – Tulsa Garden Railroad Club, Freewill Baptist Church, 1190 N. Mingo Rd, Tulsa, 7:00. Information: info@tulsarailroadclub.org

HISTORICAL CLUBS

Wednesday, May 14 – Heart of the Heartlands, Webb Center, Carona, 7:00

Every Tuesday – Just a group who meets at 9:00 for breakfast and to watch trains, Spangles, K-15 & Pawnee

SHOWS and CONVENTIONS


Saturday, July 26 – Turkey Creek Division Model Train Show, Shawnee Mission High School, 7401 Johnson Dr., Overland Park, 8:00-3:00. Advance tickets $4.00 + tax, at-the-door $6.00. Checks payable to: Turkey Creek Show, Robert Spurgat, 3305 Westward Dr., St. Joe, MO 64505. Information: Louis Seibel, lseibel@comcast.net

Train Shows

May 30, 31 June 1, 6, 7, & 8, Day Out With Thomas, Midland Railway, 1515 High St, Baldwin City, KS 66006. Departure times every 45 minutes beginning at 9:45. Tickets are $18.00 each. Information: www.midlandrailway.org or 913-721-1211

June 6-8 – Day Out With Thomas

August 29-September 1 – Railfest, Midland Railway, 1515 High St, Baldwin City, KS 66006, steam 9:00, 11:00, 1:00, Adult $15.00, child $10.00, Diesel to Ottawa, 2:30, Adult $16.00, child $8.00. Information: www.midlandrailway.org

August 30-31 – Little Balkan’s Day, Pittsburg, 9:00, 11:00. Load at Elm & Monroe

September 28 – Artist Alley, Chanute, KS 10:00, 1:00, 3:00. Load at depot

DIVISIONS

Tuesday, May 27 Turkey Creek, Shawnee Mission High School Cafeteria, Johnson Dr. & Metcalf, 7:00. Information: Louis Seibel, lseibel@comcast.net

Every Monday Western Kansas, 409½ N Main, Garden City, 6:30-9:00 Information: Robert Simmons, trainman55@hotmail.com

Every Wednesday & Sunday – North East Kansas Model Railroaders, 12” scale, 1440 N. 6th St Atchison, Sat. 10:00-4:00, Sun. noon-4:00. Information: Otto Wick 913-367-7536, or Steve Schaefer, 913-367-6202

Every Saturday Mid Kansas Model Railroaders 1130 E. Kansas, McPherson Information: John Snell, jsnell@cox.net

Every Saturday & Sunday – North East Kansas Model Railroaders, 12” scale, 1440 N. 6th St Atchison, Sat. 10:00-4:00, Sun. noon-4:00. Information: Otto Wick 913-367-7536, or Steve Schaefer, 913-367-6202

Information: J.D. Spicher, jdsipich@aol.com, or W. L. Ohrnell, woohnell@sbcglobal.net

Every Saturday Boothill Model Railroad Information: Robert Simmons, trainman55@hotmail.com

TRAIN RIDES

May 30-June 1 – Day Out With Thomas, Midland Railway, 1515 High St, Baldwin City, KS 66006. Departure times every 45 minutes beginning at 9:45. Tickets are $18.00 each. Information: www.midlandrailway.org or 913-721-1211

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Train Shows

May 30, 31 June 1, 6, 7, & 8, Day Out With Thomas, Midland Railway, Baldwin City, Kansas (Details pending) For more information check website www.midlandrailway.org
June 14-15, 2014 Memphis 2014 Rails Across the River: The Memphis Railroad and Trolley Museum and the Bluff City Division of the NMRA are proud to host the 2014 Joint Convention of the Southeastern Region and Mid Continent Region of the NMRA. The convention will be held at the Harding Academy, 1100 Cherry Rd, Memphis, TN 38117. For more information, registration and hotel information please visit the website www.ser-nmra.org.

August 29, 30, 31 and September 1, Railfest, Midland Railway, Baldwin City, Kansas Steam train departs 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM; Diesel to Ottawa at 2:30 PM Fares, Steam Adult $15, Children $10; Diesel Adult $16; Children $8 For more information check website www.midlandrailway.org.

August 29-31 and September 1, 2014, Southwest Missouri Railroad Annual Meeting and Train Show sponsored by the Southwest Missouri Railroad and the Missouri River Valley Railroad at the old Missouri River Valley Roundhouse, Carthage, Missouri

The Switch List is a service of Mid-Continent Region, NMRA.
Layout Design & Operations Weekend, 2014

Part 1

By Robert Simmons, Director, Western Kansas Division

On the weekend of March 21st through the 23rd, 2014 I was fortunate to participate in the excellent Indian Nations Division presentation of their Layout Design & Operations Weekend. This is an annual event, and if you ever get the chance to experience it for yourself, go for it! During the weekend, there are three operating sessions, Friday evening, Saturday evening, and Sunday morning, so a participant gets to operate on three different model railroads, each one with a unique flavor. I will start this series with my Friday evening adventure on the “Claremore & Southern”.

The Claremore & Southern is owned by George Maulsby and is located in Claremore, OK. The C & S is housed in a 36' by 60' former barn that was modified specifically to house the layout. (Picture 1) According to the operators handbook, “The C & S is based on the Cherokee Subdivision of the Frisco Railroad, currently operating between Monett, MO. And Oklahoma City, OK. ”This is a massive club layout which requires a crew of 18 to operate smoothly, using Rail Command for control and car cards for car forwarding. (Pictures 2 and 3) “The layout is an island design which is “sincere”, that is West is always to the operator's left, and East is to the right. There are no duck unders and the railroad does not double back on itself. The C & S mainline is 243-feet long and there are 40 industrial sidings for spotting cars.”

My assigned duty was to assist in operating one of the smaller yards, (Picture 7) and it took both of us to complete the assignments in the time required. The operating session went quite well, as everyone finished-up their assignments by quitting time, and we all had a good time doing it. (Picture 1) The size of the C & S is apparent from the track plan.
(Picture 2) The lonely Dispatcher sits in a separate room from the layout and controls the action with the aid of a computer and phone system.

(Picture 3) A screen shot of the Dispatcher's control display.

(Picture 4) The C & S is an interesting mix of bustling yards and wide open scenery. Here is a pair of C & S NW2's running lite to their assignment.
The heart of the operations, Osage Yard is of course the largest. Switching here dictates the pace of the rest of the layout.

One of the “Old Heads” helps out a conductor with his switching assignment.

This is the secondary yard that I was assigned to operate. Even though it is small in size, there was plenty of action to keep both of us busy, with cars arriving and departing all the time.
(Picture 8) Even with eighteen people actively running the layout, sometimes operating can be a lonely experience. Here a conductor is communicating with the Dispatcher by the landline phone system installed throughout the layout.

(Picture 9) Sometime on large layouts, because of the sheer amount of work involved, they can trade-off fine details for large scenes, not so on the C & S. This is just one example of the excellent details that can be found all over the layout.

(Picture 10) Even in the more “rural” areas, the scenery is excellent and details abound.
Layout Design & Operations Weekend, 2014
Part 2
By Robert Simmons, Director
Western Kansas Division

I consider myself fortunate to have participated in the excellent Indian Nations Division presentation of their Layout Design & Operations Weekend during the weekend of March 21st through the 23rd, 2014.

Last issue, I recounted my adventures on the first of three operating sessions that took place on Friday evening. We'll pick-up on Saturday morning, with an entire day of seminars that covered a wide variety of interesting topics.

Presenters included Steve Gillett on Passenger Operations, Joe Fugate on Making Them Run Reliably, followed by Tony Thompson on Reefer Operations. We took a lunch break, then came back for a full afternoon schedule, with Steve Davis on Layout Designed For Operations, then Joe Fugate was back with an eye-opening talk on The State Of The Hobby 2014, and ending with Tony Thompson's presentation on More Prototypical Waybills. Each one of the speakers made excellent points during their presentations, and I learned a great deal.

After dinner, we all headed to our assignments, and I was to find out that my current session was to be almost across the street from last night's session. If you choose to attend an event such as this, I highly recommend taking a navigation system with you, as I would have been completely lost without my Garmin in an unfamiliar city.

My assignment for Saturday night was the Kansas City Terminal, owned by a very pleasant fellow named Jim Senese. The basics: The KCT is HO scale, takes a crew of eight, uses Easy DCC for control, switch lists for car forwarding, and features sound in half of the loco fleet. “The KCT represents 4-1/2 miles of railroads in the West and East Bottoms of Kansas City. Industries' names and locations are prototypically accurate. Car forwarding is done by handwritten switch lists, as it was in 1980. The railroad is 660-square feet, and consumes a couple of rooms on the second floor of the family house.”

Quoting from the Official Timetable, “It's 3:00PM on Saturday, October 25, 1980 – the last
weekend before the Frisco was absorbed into the Burlington Northern. The eight model railroaders who come to operate the KCT are divided into four, two-person crews. One crew will be hired by the Santa Fe, one by the Frisco, one by the Kansas City Southern, and one by the Missouri Pacific.”

One of the fun aspects of operating for Jim, is you have no idea which railroad you will work for, as all the job badges, switch lists, and job descriptions are sealed in four unmarked envelops, and each crew chooses one. I was lucky that night, as I model the Missouri Pacific, and my conductor chose last, but we got the MoPac. Also included in the envelope was a description of the corporate culture of the railroad we work for, and we're asked to adopt that persona during the session.

I wish to personally thank all the layout Clubs and owners such as Jim, who opened their homes and layouts to us. A good time was had by all, and I look forward to next year! All photos are by the author. motive power.

(Picture 8) Just as in real life, when several railroads are all trying to switch near the same location, sometimes one crew has to wait for another to finish their moves first (this is where the “corporate culture” comes into play).

(Picture 9) Jim Sense (dark blue shirt) confers with one of the crews before the session began.

(Picture 10) Rarely do I get shots of myself, as I'm behind the camera, but my conductor, (a very nice man from Dallas) set his switch list down (in front of me), and took the shot. Note the MoPac Engineer badge under my hands, all crew received their badges in the sealed envelope.

(Picture 2) Jim did an excellent job of hiding corners, and also kitbashing. Here he combined several Walthers kits and added silos of his own to make an impressive milling facility. Below the layout you can see a light, Jim plugs a small light into each power strip to quickly trace power failures.
(Picture 3) The Kansas City Southern yard is backed with an impressive view from Jim's second story window.

(Picture 4) Just beyond the KCS yard is a large industry named “Sinese's Biscuits”.

(Photo 5) Jim did a beautiful job of bringing the background alive with a combination of relief buildings and digital photographs.
(Photo 6) A look back down the aisle gives a sense of the size of the layout. A peninsula is to the right, and the layout continues around the left wall.

(Picture 7) Each yard or facility had a card mounted to the fascia showing all tracks and the layout of the facility for reference.

(Picture 8) Just as in real life, when several railroads are all trying to switch near the same location, sometimes one crew has to wait for another to finish their moves first (this is where the “corporate culture” comes into play).
Jim Sense (dark blue shirt) confers with one of the crews before the session began.

Rarely do I get shots of myself, as I'm behind the camera, but my conductor, (a very nice man from Dallas) set his switch list down (in front of me), and took the shot. Note the MoPac Engineer badge under my hands, all crew received their badges in the sealed envelope.
NEW ADDITION to Tour Schedule

ATLANTIC TRACK and TURNOUT
Formerly known as Conley Frog and Switch, Atlantic Track and Turnout has long been a staple supplier of railroad track materials in the Memphis area. Atlantic fabricates new and reconditioned turnouts, and supplies ties, tie plates, joint bars, relay rail and a wide variety of spikes, bolts, derails and assorted track tools. The tour is scheduled for Friday afternoon, June 13. The bus will depart Harding at 1:00 PM sharp and arrive at Atlantic for a 2:00 PM tour. HARD HAT AND SAFETY GLASSES ARE REQUIRED. Please have your own as they will not be supplied by Atlantic, and you will not be allowed on the tour without them.

INTERMODAL TOURS
Memphis has long been noted as the “Distribution Capital” of the world, or at least the United States. Certainly, Memphis has one of the most sophisticated and progressive systems for classifying and moving freight across the country and the world. Centralized in the US, with rail distribution centers at the crossroads of several major rail networks, Memphis has four enormous Intermodal Facilities connected to the Union Pacific, Norfolk Southern, Canadian National and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe. Two of these facilities, the CN and BNSF, will be available to conventioners as extra fare tours on Saturday, with busses departing from Harding at 8 AM sharp for the CN yard, and at 1 PM sharp for the BNSF tour. The CN Harrison Hump Yard is the newest hump yard built in the US. It opened in 2009 and incorporates the latest technology used with completely different retarders compared to most current hump yards. The Intermodal Ramp, also on the tour was opened in 2007. The BNSF Intermodal Facility is the largest wide span crane operation in the US. It is also the most technologically advanced intermodal yard in the country. They handle 6 trains and 2 truck lanes under each crane. The Tennessee Hump Yard is an old Frisco hump yard built in the early 50’s, and still operated today. If the bustle of activity moving large containers from truck to rail and back excites you, be sure to register for one or both of these tours. Cameras are permitted.

FEDEX HUB TOUR
FedEx is one of, if not the premier companies in the world for moving small, medium and large packages quickly and efficiently across the country and throughout the world. FedEx has THE largest fleet of cargo aircraft in the world, and Memphis is the hub of this activity. To see the best example of organized chaos you will ever experience, two nighttime tours are being offered; Thursday night and Friday night. Busses will depart from Harding at (10 PM). This is a grand tour, as those who attended the 2006 convention and the FedEx excursion will testify. Cameras are NOT permitted. Please leave purses, hand bags, brief cases, back packs and body packs on the bus, or better, back at the hotel. There is approximately 2 miles of walking, much of it up and down stairs and across catwalks, so this tour may be challenging to some people. Please keep that in mind when registering.

MATA TROLLEY SHOP and MEMPHIS RAILROAD AND TROLLEY MUSEUM
Memphis has a long and rich history of public rail transportation, dating back to the late 1800’s. As early as the mid-1910, Memphis had trolley transportation stretching out to the “suburbs” of the “east”, now realized as the Medical District. Within the last twenty years, Memphis has aggressively pursued public transportation based on trolley rail equipment, typical of the early years. Extending from the MATA trolley maintenance facility north of downtown (the highlight of this tour), south to Central Station and the Memphis Rail & Trolley Museum, and east to the Medical District, you will have an opportunity to see what takes place in repair and maintenance of trolley rail equipment, and as a bonus, visit the interesting and recently created Memphis Rail & Trolley Museum in Central Station. The tour is scheduled for Friday afternoon. The bus will leave Harding at 1 PM sharp
Layout Design & Operations Weekend, 2014
Part 3
By Robert Simmons, Director
Western Kansas Division

This is the final report on the Indian Nations Division presentation of their Layout Design & Operations Weekend during the weekend of March 21st through the 23rd, 2014.

On Sunday morning we had one final opportunity to operate before the long trip home. My assignment on Sunday was the Green Country Model Railroad Association, owned by the Green Country Model Railroaders Association in West Tulsa.

The basics: The GCMRA is HO scale, takes a crew of six or more, uses Digitrax DCC for control, and car cards for car forwarding. Quoting from the Official Timetable, “The Green Country Model Railroad is a 18' x 36' free-lance layout. It consists of two levels with a mainline run in excess of 600-feet, 30-foot double ended staging, a two-track helix, two classification yards, several stations that host local switching, and a large engine terminal. Scenery is complete on the upper level and partial on the lower level. A full operating crew includes two yard masters, and a number of road crews.

An added benefit of attending an event such as this, is you get to steal ideas and use them on your layout. I am building a new modular layout, and was having difficulty in designing the internal yard modules. After seeing the Green Country yard design, I realized a modified version would be just the thing for my yard modules. You can also pick-up ideas about scenery, detailing, kit bashing, operating sessions, experience the performance differences between the different DCC systems, and a lot more.

Picture 1) The first item to catch my eye was this interesting yard arrangement on a peninsula. It's tight and compact, and enters the layout at the other end with a wye.
Picture 2) Car cards are used for car forwarding, and each yard and industry had well-placed holders for throttles, cards, and uncoupling sticks.

Picture 3) Remarkable calm is displayed by the citizens as Godzilla takes a stroll through the town.
Beyond layout ideas, it's always beneficial to experience how other people run their railroad. I have operated for years on my home layout, but I use switch lists rather than car cards, but operating with them gives you the real hands-on experience that lets you know the pluses and minuses of each system.

I wish to personally thank all the layout Clubs and owners who opened their homes and layouts to us. Having hosted open houses and operating sessions, I understand a lot of hard work goes into doing an event like this, not just cleaning track. Besides the layout owners and clubs, there was an incredible amount of work that went into the organizing of an event of this caliber. I didn't hear a negative word all weekend, I met a lot of nice people, a good time was had by all, and I look forward to next year!

(Picture 4) One corner of the layout featured excellent scenery as well as the junction of the standard gauge and narrow gauge lines, where the Shays meet the diesels.
(Photo 5) The open top lumber mill was chocked with eye-catching details. And you can just see the trucks of the Shay in the background.

(Photo 6) The two track helix was capped with a well-detailed logging camp, served by the narrow gauge line, complete with switch back.
(Photo 7) The open top lumber mill was chocked with eye-catching details. And you can just see the trucks of the Shay in the background.

(Photo-8) The two track helix was capped with a well-detailed logging camp, served by the narrow gauge line, complete with switch back.
Passenger operations were staged out of Kerryville Union Station.

The author calls into action the “five fingered sky crane” as the very light weight empty log cars derailed on a switch at the mountain switch back.
March 27th, 2014 Derailment clean-up in Garden City, Kansas. TILX 191146 is one of several ethanol tank cars that derailed at the ethanol plant on the East side of town. R J Corman Derailment Services, LLC was called in to clean up the mess. The crew has loaded the hapless car onto a flat car and secured it with chains. On the right, a crewman checks the trucks which have been secured to the other end of the flat car. Photo by Robert Simmons

December 19th, 2013, Switching action in Garden City, Kansas. On the BNSF, the Garden City local is pushing a short string of box cars across Main Street in Downtown Garden City. The train is moving away from the camera, pushing the cars towards the facing-point switch into the cardboard box plant on the East side of town. Photo by Robert Simmons
December 12th, 2013 - Action on the BNSF RIP track in Garden City, Kansas.
On a very cold and windy day in December, the BNSF RIP crew works on replacing wheel sets on CEFX 70849, a covered grain hopper. The boom crane on the work truck is lifting the wheel set, so one or both wheel sets can be changed out for new.  Photo by Robert Simmons

June 6th, 2013 The Garden City Western is interchanging tank cars at the BNSF yard in Garden City, Kansas. The PREX 803 is owned by Pioneer Rail Equipment, and is painted for, and leased to the Garden City Western. According to the PRE roster, the 803 is one of six GP8’s that are ex-Illinois Central rebuilds of GP7’s. Photo by Robert Simmons
Turkey Creek Division
Annual Train Show
July 26, 2014
Shawnee Mission
North High School

7401 Johnson Drive
Overland Park, Kansas 66202
Show Times 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Layout Tours 3:30 pm to 8:30pm

Clinics start at 9:00am – Clinics covering many aspect 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 one $50.00 gift vouchers, 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.

Swap Tables and Railroad Groups – expect to find more than 90 tables from area dealers, local hobbyists and other railroad groups.

Food and Beverages – will be available

Turkey Creek Division Annual Train Show 2014
Vendor and Registration Form

____________________________________________________________________________________________

Vendor and Advance Registration Form

Name: __________________________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: _______ Zip: _______________ Telephone: ________________

E-Mail address: __________________________________________________________________________

Eight Ft Space $20.00 No. of Spaces: _______ Total amount: $___________

Advance Registration for the Train Show of $4.00___ per person (does include Sales Tax)

Total Enclosed: $___________Check # _________ Electrical: Yes___ No___

Set up from 2 to 8 on July 25 must be out by 5 on the 26

Make checks payable to “Turkey Creek Division”

Mail to: Turkey Creek Show, C/O Robert Spurgat, 3305 Westwood Drive, St. Joseph, Mo, 64505

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

1069 N Logan Olathe KS 66061
Notable National Convention Layout Tours

We’re less than 90 days from the National Convention in Cleveland. The convention committee has been busy making sure everything is ready for a great week. All tours are filling up fast and you do not want to miss out. If you have been waiting to register, now is the time. Here are some of the great layout tours we have available. Don’t miss out on these tours to our area’s best layouts. Many have been featured over the last year in Model Railroader, Railroad Model Craftsman, N Scale and NMRA Magazine.

A few words from the President

The Millennials

We hear a lot about the demise of model railroading and/or the end of the NMRA in the chat rooms. Pundits have been predicting the end of our world for many years. Heck, in the 1950s, the rise of plastic kits was seen as dooming craftsman kits and the entire hobby. Editorials were written on the subject. Somehow, we survived and indeed, our golden age in terms of numbers, was not achieved until the 1970-80s.

Today, we face a more serious challenge - the aging of the hobby. I believe the average age of an NMRA member is 63. For Life Members, 67. This is touted as proof of our demise. I even used to joke about that, plotting the age progression on a chart (it is not linear, meaning it does not increase 1 year for 1 year) to establish the End of Model Railroading on January 15, 2037. A fictitious date.

Well, some hobbies have disappeared. In the 1940's, tethered gasoline powered miniature race cars were so popular, pre-RMC "Model Craftsman" magazine dedicated a section to them. Gone. But not really. Morphed into RC cars and boats.

Studies show all hobbies are aging. It is more a function of changing times and technologies. The Millennials have been studied as the first true digital generation and supposedly, our future. Well, guess what? We have a stiff climb ahead. Millennials as a group do not embrace delayed gratification activities. Golf is aging. Too many rules, too hard to master. The PGA is worried.

Other studies show that Millennials do not join groups so Rotary, Elks and Chambers of Commerce are also aging.

The image we have of the self-absorbed, non-social, always texting Millenial is overly-broad but has a grain of truth. For this generation never knew analog or the very technology we take for granted. Raised in a digital age, they embrace an era of rapid change, instant gratification and independent sources of information. To them, "cloud" has a whole different meaning and the Internet holds all truths.

I am not belittling this generation, far from it. They are our grandkids and help me master my new iPad Air and Kindle. Nicer folks you will never meet.

But into building analog kits or scratchbuilding? The delayed gratification of a layout? Joining the NMRA to attend meetings? A tough challenge.

My answer is not to give up but also not to work fruitlessly against the tide. Each generation rebels against the excesses of the previous. I am hopeful the post-Millenials will actually reach out to do what their parents abhorred. Until then, I see a more fruitful albeit temporary hope in reaching out to Boomers with the time and money to adopt a hobby. While they will not extend our ultimate age limit, they may buy us time for that post-Millennial generation to find our hobby and maybe find us as well.
Akron HO Tour L313

This half-day tour stops at three HO layouts. Come see Frank Smith’s 30x45 layout, the Bacher North Railroad. His Lenz controllers keep his freelanced railroad of 1950-1970 running smoothly. David Hazlett oversees the D H Rail, a shortline built for operation. This 25x30 freelanced shortline, while having minimal scenery, is high on operating activity featuring a car card forwarding system. Operating sessions use a crew of 10+ to keep the traffic in the yards moving and to service layout’s many industries. Tom Schlueter created the South Ohio Beltline, which depicts Ohio in the 1930’s on this beautifully scenicked layout.

Southwest Tour L211

Ron Morgan’s Union Pacific features a huge ethanol plant, two decks, and a 4-track helix. The Cuyahoga Valley Club’s four layouts are in an 1876 NYC station right beside the Norfolk Southern Chicago mainline and was featured in the Nov. 2013 NMRA Magazine. Paul Novak’s Gold Creek is built for operations with block controls and homemade throttles. Steve Riddlebaugh’s new layout, Sandy River, in On30 has all handlaid track and turnouts.

Medina Tour L411

NMRA Magazine is set in West Virginia in the 1940’s. If you like the color green and lots of craftsman kits and dioramas, you’ll enjoy your visit. Brian Harko has created familiar scenes from this area on his freelanced two-rail O-scale main and On30 branch. DanStetin’s Danbury, Elton, and Lilton is a mountain coal hauling road featuring 19 bridges!

Youngstown Tour L413

The YMRA Tour showcases five well-scenicked layouts, featuring coal hauling and related industries. Greg Oyster’s 22x24’ N-scale, a modern day coal hauling division of CSX, has long mainline runs of 75-plus cars set in the West Virginia Mountains. Greg’s layout was featured in the Mar/Apr issue of N-scale Magazine. Larry Pogo’s 13’x22’ N-scale NS Mahoning Division services the B&E iron works with various furnaces. Larry’s layout was featured in the Jan/Feb issue of N-scale Magazine. George Sankey’s HO Ohio Midland and Western is 75% scenicked and depicts the scenery in Western Pennsylvania and Virginia. The tour culminates as guests of the Youngstown Model Railroad Association. This club features two large layouts in their own building. Upstairs is a large two-rail O-scale

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The following NMRA Officers and Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2015:

1. President
2. Vice President, Administration
3. Vice President, Special Projects
4. Eastern District Director
5. Pacific District Director, and
6. At-Large North America Director

All incumbents are eligible to be candidates for this election.

Please check Article III, paragraph 12, of the NMRA Executive Handbook (EHB) located at http://www.nmra.org/national/organization/nmra_organisation.html for the extent of the districts affected. Qualifications for candidates are listed in the EHB. All submissions of candidate’s names for consideration by the Nominations Committee for all offices except Pacific District Director shall be submitted to Tony Koester, Chairman of the Nominations Committee, nkpfan@ptd.net, no later than June 15, 2014.

All submissions of candidate’s names for consideration by the Pacific District Director Nominations Committee shall be submitted to Sam Mangion, Chairman of the Pacific District Director Nominations Committee, mangion2@bigpond.com, no later than June 15, 2014.

Candidates may wish to run for these positions by petition and not be subjected to the decisions of the appropriate nominations committees. Requirements for submitting by petition are contained in the EHB. All submissions by petition shall be received by the Secretary NMRA no later than July 31, 2014.
Koester appointed National Nominating Committee Chairman

NMRA President Charlie Getz has appointed longtime NMRA member and former At-Large World Wide Director Tony Koester as the National Nominating Committee Chairman, replacing Temporary Nominating Committee Chairman Stephen Priest. Priest had taken on the temporary position after Clark Kooning stepped down at the February Board meeting.

Education Department Update

By Bruce De Young, Department Manager

I devoted my last two columns in the NMRA eBulletin to the Department’s EduTRAIN® Program. In this column I would like to put the spotlight on another Education Department Program - the NMRA’s Boy Scout Merit Badge Program. The Coordinator for our BSA Merit Badge Program is NMRA’s Secretary, John Stevens.

As you probably know, the Merit Badge program is an educational initiative of the Boy Scouts of America, and education is also a prime mission of the NMRA. So, if our two worlds have an overlap, it makes sense that we would get involved. That overlap occurs with the Railroading Merit Badge.

A look at the table of contents of the Railroading Merit Badge Booklet shows such topics as the history of railroading, modern railroads, signals, railroad safety, railfanning, careers in railroading, and model railroading. I would think most NMRA members have more than a passing knowledge of those topics and could easily serve as a Merit Badge Counselor for this badge. (They even include a “Timesaver” layout - what fun it would be to see some Scouts spend some time at the controls of that!)  

The NMRA’s initiative in this area is to encourage Regions and Divisions to get a number of members qualified to serve as Merit Badge Counselors (since minors are involved, the BSA has a number of steps a person must take to become a Counselor); and then to encourage Scouts to earn this Merit Badge by reaching out to local BSA Troops, offering our help. Who knows, this might be the first step in getting more young people to join the hobby at some point in their lives.

Many NMRA Regions and Divisions have already appointed BSA Merit Badge Coordinators, so if you are interested in getting involved, that is a good place to start. If your Division or Region is not currently involved, I would encourage you to roll up your sleeves and get a program up and running.

For more information, you can obtain a copy of the BSA Railroading Merit Badge booklet at your local BSA District Council Headquarters or online at: http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/literature-media/merit-badge-pamphlets/railroading.html

Within our organization, you can contact John Stevens through the NMRA website’s email contact page: http://www.nmra.org/national/email.html

Additionally, the Southeastern Region’s website has quite a bit of valuable information on the NMRA’s Boy Scout Merit Badge Program which can be accessed at this address: http://www.ser-nmra.org/programs
As an aside, a number of members of the Garden State Division, including me, are in the process of initiating the program in our Division. I will let you know how it turns out.

Region and National Conventions

May 2-4: Thousand Lakes Region, Sioux City, IA
May 2-4: Niagara Frontier Region, Niagara-On-The-Lake, ON
May 15-18: Midwest Region, Schaumburg, IL
June 4-8: Lone Star Region, Round Rock, TX
June 13-15: Mid-Continent & Southeastern Regions, Memphis, TN
June 18-21: Pacific Northwest Region, Tacoma, WA
June 19-22: Rocky Mountain Region, Salt Lake City, UT
July 13-19: NMRA National Convention, Cleveland, OH

Master Model Railroaders

530: Lou Adler, MCoR
531: Dennis Clark, AR
532: Peter MacDonald, AR
533: Andrew Merriam, PCR
534: Robert Reid, MER
535: Sowerby Smith, AR

In Upcoming Issues of NMRA Magazine

Scratchbuilding SD39u and Slug Sets
Scrap Box Structures
Scratchbuilding a Wigwam Sawdust Burner
Remembering the Buck Pass Railroad

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www.built-ritemodels.com jbdimatteo@aol.com

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Pike Registry

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<td>Steve Newland Yardmaster</td>
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