

# Trails, Rails, & Tales



July-August 2024  
Volume 10 • Number 4

The Official Newsletter of the Chisholm Trail Division of the **NMRA**

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY PHIL AYLWARD

I attended the Mid-Continent Region NMRA Convention in Grande Island, NE. I went to most of the clinics and entered the photo contest. I won 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in Color Model and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in Black & White Model. The keynote speaker was Steven Priest who gave a very interesting talk on his progress through the hobby. At the Director's meeting, I received some papers that I will hand out at the next Chisholm Trail Division meeting.

I recently learned that John Kraft's wife Julie is in the hospital with a serious medical issue. She is out of ICU now, but I'm sure they would appreciate being remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

– Phil

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

BY CHARLIE MONCKTON

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. Recently I was invited by my children to join them and my grandchildren on a tour of the salt mine in Hutchinson. As always it was a great day trip. I am always amazed by what a great job they have done with the museum and the fact I am over six hundred feet below the surface as I tour the mine. Of course, my favorite part of the tour was the train ride. As you get to travel this summer do not do what I did and go back home without any pictures. Please take lots of pictures and forward them to Jim Marlett to share in

### TRAILS, RAILS, & TAILS

is published bi-monthly.

It is sent to members of the  
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NMRA

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strongly encouraged.

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Trails, Rails, & Tales. Thanks to everyone who stopped by the Chisholm Trail Division Modular Layout at the Hutchinson show. It was great to visit with you. Once again, we had lots of children make mini dioramas and take them home with a smile on their face. Hopefully we sparked a lifelong interest in model railroading.

The next Chisholm trail Division meeting is July 2<sup>nd</sup> at Olivet Baptist Church, 3440 W 13<sup>th</sup> St. N. the meeting starts at 7 pm. Dean Lippincott will be presenting a clinic on constructing Hydrocal plaster buildings. Hope you can join us for the presentation.

– Charlie

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

BY JIM MARLETT

The dog days of summer are almost upon us. It seems like everyone is very busy, though. Just not always with model railroading. For me, this is an interlude between travels and illness (I hope). I don't have any more trips planned until the National Narrow Gauge Convention in September and I'll try to stay healthy. I plan to can use this time to get some real work done on my own model railroad and I have actually started down that path.

It's back to working on the ol' San Juan Southern's roundhouse. Those of you who are members of the Chisholm Trail Division's

Facebook group have already seen some of the progress, but a lot has transpired in a fairly short time. Rather than presenting it in this column, I thought I would show it in its own full blown article in a future issue of the newsletter, but with a little teaser here.

But enough about me. In this issue of TR&T, Phil Aylward reports on the layout tours at the Mid-Continent Regional Convention and Terry Ross updates us on the modular layout. It has really grown and the scenery is making quite a difference.

– Jim



*You may recall that the final sections of my railroad were built, tacked together, and the track plan drawn on them in my shop where I had plenty of room to work. I got one of my sons to help me carry the roundhouse section down to the basement train room where it now blocks the aisle, but I can still work on it without stooping under the upper level. I'm thankful for four foot aisles. This is where it sits while I finish it up. When I think it's ready, I'll mount it in the corner (back left) where it belongs and start on the next section.*



# MID-CONTINENT CONVENTION LAYOUT TOURS

PHOTOS BY PHIL AYLWARD

Layout tours are among the best parts of any model railroad convention. They give us ideas and inspiration that, if we're smart, will influence our own railroads or modules. Phil Aylward visited all the layouts available at the Mid-Continent convention and took many photos.

There isn't room here for all of them, but here are a few. Of course, the best way for you to get the complete picture and to really get into the spirit is to attend a convention and see for yourself. They're quite simply a lot of fun.



*(Left and below) Lloyd Larson's layout represents the Pennsylvania Railroad set in the Allegheny Mountains. With 370 feet of mainline track in a 24'x60' room, it features great lighting for night operation and, of course, a number of well known Pennsylvania landmarks, such as Horseshoe Curve.*



*Lloyd's roundhouse scene is pretty impressive. Notice the yard is extended by the use of a mirror concealed in morning mist.*





*(Left) John O'Neal's layout represents a Santa Fe branch. It measures 20'x21' that runs along one wall with a peninsula in the center of the room. Small locomotives and small cars in short trains expand the feel. One wonders who Patrick is?*



*(Right) Leon Djernes says he built his railroad to stimulate his grandkids' imagination and to allow them to immerse themselves into this model world. This rural fall scene ought to do that. The whole railroad is 17'x25' with a 350' mainline.*



*(Left) The fans are in their seats as the demolition derby is about to start and next to the stadium a train ride (Z gauge on an HO scale layout) is giving young and old alike rides around the grounds.*





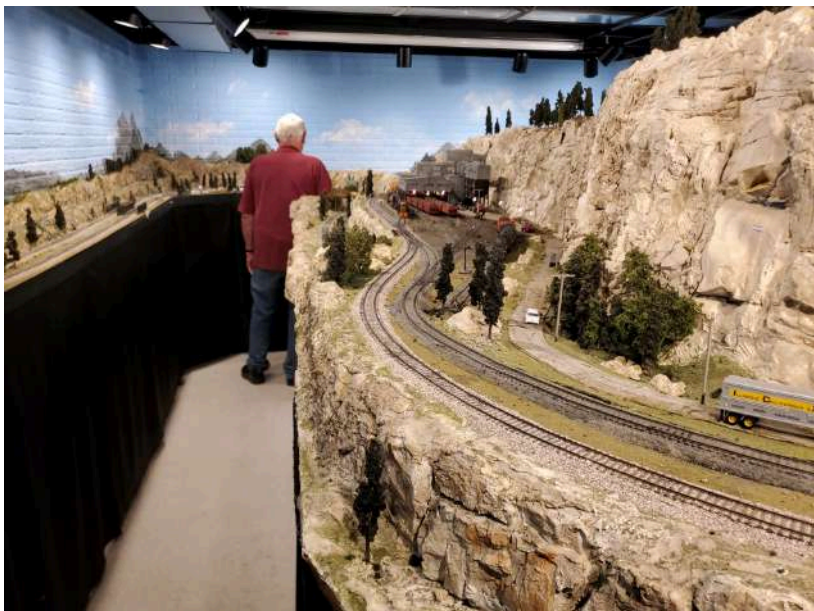
*(Left) The Tri-City Model Railroad Association layout is located in the Grande Island depot. It represents two railroads, the Union Pacific, with 655' of double track mainline, and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, with 455' of single track mainline. This is one of four helixes that move trains between levels.*

*(Right) Not quite enough room for a roundhouse? Just make a bulge into the aisleway. This is the middle level of the Tri-City layout with a staging level below this*



*(Left) Tim Jacobi's TD&J railroad is built in the loft of an old carriage house. Although most of it is as American as apple pie, there is one German city named "Jakoburgh." The layout is 15'x25' with 300' of mainline.*





*(Left) Earl and Dianne Mullins's D&EM Railroad is a big one, traveling through four rooms running along the walls and on peninsulas with 394' of mainline and 480' of non-mainline track.*

*(Right) A chain gang is doing a little work in this scene from the D&EM.*



*(Left) An urban scene on the D&EM. The tunnel takes the mainline into the next room.*





*(Left) Rick Sickler's CB&Q Raccoon River Division is enormous by home railroad standards. Filling a 27'x45' room with 840' of single track mainline on three levels, the lowest being two storage/staging yards. The picture shows one of two classification yards*

*(Right) The Raccoon River Division is DC powered, so lots of control panels are needed. A dispatcher in another room keeps traffic under control. The TV screens in the upper part of the picture monitor the four helixes that not only take trains from one level to the next, but bring the tracks up over the entrance door. Chisholm Trail Division member John Kraft in the blue shirt is looking at us from the crowd on the right side of the photo.*





# MODULAR NEWS

## BY TERRY ROSS

After the Arkansas City show, we packed up and got ready for the "Center of the Nation" show in Hutchinson. This is always a great show, so we were excited to set up and start running trains. The show is in one of the buildings at the State Fair grounds so there is always plenty of room and easy access to the show floor. Since there is plenty of room, we brought as big a layout as we could to the show. We were able to set up a U-Shaped layout that was 20' wide by 36' long. We used 20 - 4' modules, 2 - 6' transition modules, and 8 curved modules. That works out to be a 140'



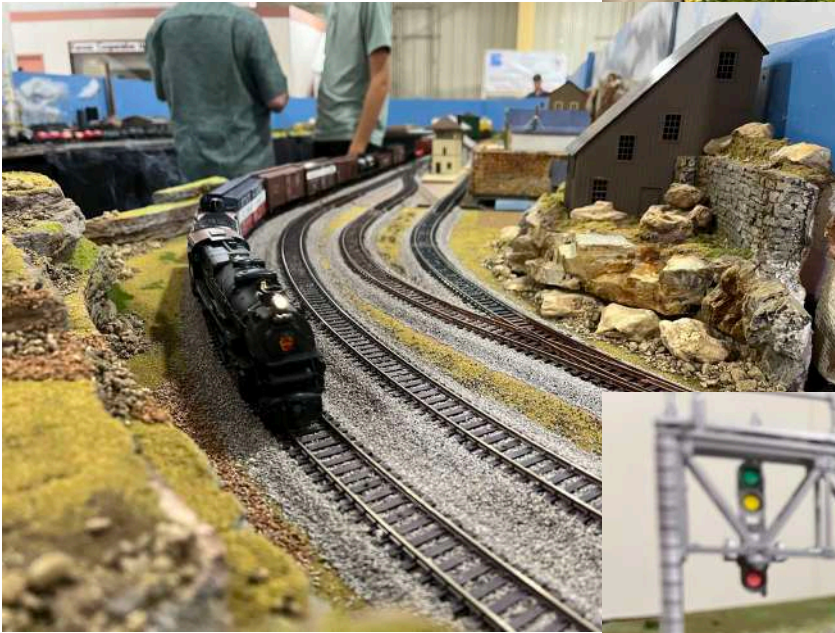
track run on Track 1, and another 140' track run on Track 2. Trains running at prototypical speeds take almost 3 minutes to complete a loop. We were still missing 4 modules as 2 of our members were not able to attend this show. If we add them in we are 20' x 44'.

The layout is not only growing in overall size, but we have basic scenery on all but about three modules, and the owners of those modules are working on scenes for our next show. We actually had a "landscape/scenic day" at my house. We had 9 Modular Members gather and work on basic scenery on some of our club modules. We decided to model these modules in a "Flint Hills" look. (It was amazing how 9 people see the Flint Hills in 9 different ways). Most of these modules are inside of the "U" part of the U-Shaped footprint. We had a great time plastering, painting, and spreading ground cover. We all learned a few new techniques, and all shared the techniques they use to do this type of modeling. It was a really good experience, and we plan to do some more in the



future. If you would like to join in the fun, just let us know as you are always welcome. We still have some work to do on them, but they looked good at the show, and we eliminated a lot of bare wood scenes.

At the show, we were really busy all-day Saturday and had a steady flow of viewers on Sunday. We met a lot of people from the





western part of the state that are modelers and don't have a lot of train shows to enjoy other modelers. As always, we had a good group of kids and grandkids that loved to watch and dream. It really is fun to put a train throttle in their hands and watch the excitement level rise. They all love the lights, sounds, and the steam from the stacks as the trains run by. (I'm not just talking about the kids here, but the modelers as well regardless of age.) We seem to have been building a fan group of modelers that have seen us at several shows. We hear a lot of people say, "We always like seeing your layout," or "It's bigger this time than last

time," or "This scene is new," etc. So, if you haven't been out to see us lately, come on out and see how we have grown. Who knows, you may become a "fan." See you at our next show!!

Our next planned show is the Wichita Toy Train Club Show in October. We have a couple of other venues that we are working on, so we will keep you posted at the monthly meeting and the luncheons we all enjoy so much.

If you ever have any questions or suggestions please contact one of us.

– Terry





## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

May's Division Program – Bob Neil conducted a “make and take” clinic on paper buildings.



*Shirley Ann and Jim Hogben studying the instructions and the print-outs before tackling their projects.*



*This is a model railroader's version of cutting up. There were several models to choose from, so there was something for almost everyone.*

### May's Third Thursday Lunch



*Adding another table. Though not strictly an NMRA function, nearly all attendees are Division members. We ate outdoors at Connie's Mexico Cafe and watched as quite a few trains ran by.*

### June's WAMRR's Luncheon



*Wichita Area Model Railroaders gather at Spear's on second Thursdays of the month, which is free pie day. June's topic was the development of the road switcher during and after WWII.*



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## INCLUDES NON-NMRA EVENTS

### **RECURRING EVENTS**

**Chisholm Trail Division of NMRA Monthly Meeting.** Every first Tuesday of the month. Gather at 6:45PM. Olivet Baptist Church, 3440 W 13th St, Wichita, KS (13th & High) [http://www.mcor-nmra.org/Divisions/Chisholm\\_Trail\\_Division/](http://www.mcor-nmra.org/Divisions/Chisholm_Trail_Division/)

**Kansas Central Division of NMRA.** Every second Saturday of even numbered months at 1:00PM. Locations vary. Contact information is here: [http://www.mcor-nmra.org/Divisions/Kansas\\_Central\\_Division/](http://www.mcor-nmra.org/Divisions/Kansas_Central_Division/)

**Kansas Central Model Railroaders Business Meeting.** (Not the same as Kansas Central Division of NMRA) Every second Saturday from 11:00AM-Noon. 16 East 3rd Ave, Hutchinson, KS <http://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org>

**Wichita Area Model Railroaders Luncheon.** Every second Thursday at 11:30AM. Spear's Restaurant and Pie Shop, 4323 W Maple, Wichita, KS

**Third Thursday Model Railroaders's Lunch.** Every third Thursday at a location and time to be announced. If you are not receiving notices and would like to be included, contact Terry Ross (316) 258-4029.

### **SCHEDULED EVENTS**

#### **JULY 2024**

**July 13 – Heartland Toy Train Operating Society Summer Train Show.** Payne County Fairgrounds Expo Center, 4518 Expo Cir E, Stillwater, OK. <https://www.ttos-soonerdiv.org/>

**July 27 – Kansas Model Train Show.** Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, 200 McDonald Drive, Lawrence, KS. Saturday 10AM-3PM. Sponsored by the Lionel Operating Train Society. <https://lots-trains.org/annual-convention/>

#### **AUGUST 2024**

**August 4-11 – National Model Railroad Association Convention.** Weston Long Beach, 333 East Ocean Blvd, Long Beach, CA. <https://surfliner2024.org/>

#### **SEPTEMBER 2024**

**September 11-14 – National Narrow Gauge Convention.** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. <https://www.44nngc.com/>

**September 20-21 – Ozark Model Railroad Association Train Show.** Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, Central Buildings Event Center, 3001 N Grant Ave, Springfield, MO. Friday 4PM-8PM, Saturday 9AM-3PM. Sponsored by the Lionel Operating Train Society. <http://www.omraspringfield.org/train-shows.html>

#### **OCTOBER 2024**

**October 5-6 – Western Kansas Train Show.** County Fair Grounds, 1344 Fairground Fd., Hays, KS. Saturday 9AM-5PM, Sunday 11AM-4PM [https://www.lasr.net/travel/city.php?&TravelTo=KS0802010&VE=Y&Event\\_ID=KS0802010e031](https://www.lasr.net/travel/city.php?&TravelTo=KS0802010&VE=Y&Event_ID=KS0802010e031)

**October 26-27 – The Wichita Toy Train Club Annual Train Show.** Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd., Wichita, KS. Saturday 9AM-5PM, Sunday 10AM-3PM <http://www.wichitatomytrainmuseum.org/club-shows-1.html>



**Please send me information about  
any events or meetings you think  
should be included on this  
calendar.**

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