

Trails, Rails, & Tales



NMRA

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

From the Director's Desk

by Rick Coble

Well things here in the Chisholm Trail division are certainly not getting stale for activities this summer. Awesome to be in a region with all the model railroading activities. Lately I've have had a hard time finding any extra time to get much done with my own projects. Our division has an HO modular group and it's been extremely busy lately doing setups at places that are outside the box of just train shows and has really had a great impact on the population. It seems that this hobby has become something that interests most everyone in some aspect or another. We are geared up now to get an N-scale T-track modular group going forward and hopefully it will ease the work load for the displays. The HO modular group in the division has drawn more new members than anything for decades.

This summer's cookouts and activities this year have certainly provided great friendships and memories for years to come.

-Rick

From the Superintendent's Desk

by Charlie Monckton

It is an exciting time for model railroaders and rail fans with lots of activities and shows to keep us busy. I want to thank Larry Toerber for his presentation at the May 5th Chisholm Trail NMRA meeting. Sharing his life-long journey working for the railroads and his experiences while working with Federal Regulatory Railroad Compliance.

We all had a great time at the second annual Chisholm Trail Division potluck. Thank you Terry Ross and Rick Coble for cooking the brats, hamburgers and the pulled pork. Lloyd Hurst, thank you for sharing some of your experiences working on the railroad for almost 40 years.

Trails, Rails, & Tails

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are strongly encouraged.

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While I am thanking people, I want to make sure and thank Randy Stucky for once again making it possible for the modular group to set up at Pine Village in Moundridge Kansas. Rita Stucky, thank you for the lunch and goodies you provided for us while we were at Pine Village.

I personally want to thank Susan and James Shinkle for their help at the Hutchinson train show with the mini modules. Once again, they did an outstanding job making sure every child in attendance had the opportunity to make a module and take it home.

- Charlie

From the Editor's Desk

by Jim Marlett

It's summer and all that goes with it. I hope you find time to work on your own model railroad projects amid the distractions. Among my own distractions was cataract surgery, which affected me in ways I could never have predicted. I now own four different strengths of reading glasses and I might just go for a fifth. I'm also in the 1-20%, depending on the source, that developed cystoid macular edema following eye surgery. It is most likely temporary, but it is annoying.

This month there are a number of things to report on and Chisholm Trail members were invited to partake in them all. There was the June cookout, an interesting July meeting with a real railroader presenting the program, a train show in Hutchinson, the modular group setting up multiple times, and the third Thursday lunch involved a visit to the Midway USA Live Steamers, which most of us (maybe none of us) had ever heard of. On top of that, Larry Gulick is looking for a home for his On30 model railroad. I've

included a quick overview of it. There was so much going on that another article I had planned has to wait for another issue.

Down in my basement, the HOn3 San Juan Southern is inching ever closer to track work completion. Switches are built and rail is being spiked down in the yard at Blakely, the main town on the visible part of the layout. I'm using Roscoe's Itty Bitty Spikes for this, which come in bags of 1,000. Tiny bags, I might add. I ran out of them just in time to work on this newsletter, but more are on the way. I only have one-and-a-half yard tracks to go, so I'm feeling very close to the end. However, I still have the staging yards to go and a few spurs I thought up recently. The staging yards will be flex track. I'm not completely crazy. I enjoy hand laying track, but it does take a long time and at my age, time means something. At least the off the layout imaginary towns don't have to be built.

- Jim



Blakely Yard as it stands today. Sure is cramped hand laying track on that lower level!

Larry Gulick is Giving Away His On30 Layout.

Larry Gulick is downsizing to a bedroom sized switching layout and is looking for a home for his basement layout. He is offering his layout and all of his D&RGW lettered locomotives and rolling stock for free! He says the structures named for people will go to the people they were named for, but the rest go with the layout. Included will be an NCE DCC system with radio control and two wireless throttles. All of this is being given away. I'm sure those of us who have seen the layout would rather see it go to a good home than the trash can. Even if that lucky someone can't fit it into the space they have available, its many components could be used for a new layout. The only caveat is that the new owner must remove it from Larry's basement. Contact Larry for more details or if you can't reach him, contact me at jmarlett@cox.net and I will forward your message to Larry.





These are a few of the pictures I have of Larry's layout to give you an idea or refresher of what is being offered. Anyone with a slight interest in On30 should give this layout some consideration.

Third Thursday Lunch Group Visits Midway USA Live Steamers

It isn't terribly uncommon for the third Thursday lunch group to visit a model railroad or some other railway thing, but at the last such get-together, they outdid themselves. The Midway USA Live Steamers is a well kept secret around Sedgwick County and they like it that way. Not being well known is their answer to keeping theft and vandalism out of the picture. That's why I won't be telling you where it is.

Their "layout" is a 7.5" gauge ride-on line winding through a fairly substantial plot of dense woods. That gauge works out to about 1:8 scale or 1.5" to the foot for standard gauge and 1:4.8 scale or 2.5" to the foot for 3' narrow gauge. Although the railroad had live steam in both narrow and

standard gauge, standard gauge diesels were what we rode behind. One of the diesels (sorry, I can't tell you what kind) was battery powered and had a Sound Tracks Tsunami sound decoder. The output was run through an amplifier and on to a much larger speaker than we could ever hope to get into our little models. All I can say is the sound was great! I can't imagine why Chance Manufacturing can't do the same thing with their battery powered CP Huntington park locomotives.

It was a great day, despite a few raindrops. Thanks to Terry Ross and Charlie Monckton for putting it together. I'll stop writing and let the pictures do the talking.

- Jim





Not only were we treated to a fantastic outdoor railroad, but inside were a three-rail O-gauge layout designed to amuse the grandkids and an N-scale layout.

Modular Group Report

By Terry Ross



We have been "High Ballin on High Green" since the last Modular Report. We setup at the Dove Estates Senior Facility in Goddard on May 16th and 17th, then on June 6th and 7th we were at Pine Village Senior Center in Moundridge, and on June 13th and 14th we were at The Center of the Nation Train Show in Hutchinson. We really enjoy show casing the hobby of Model Railroading to everyone. We have found the Senior Facilities are a great place as they appreciate seeing the trains and the layout scenery so much. Everyone has a train memory, or a train story from their past. Both Dove Estates and Pine Village have advertised us in their local flyers and they welcomed anyone from the surrounding area.

Dove Estates really rolled out the red carpet for us. They had flyers and posters printed inviting all of Goddard to come out and see the trains. The Director of Dove Estates and myself did an on-air live interview with KAKE TV's Good Morning KAKEland morning show. Then on Saturday and Sunday they had a Lion's club Barrel Train for the Kids to ride in the parking lot. Inside with us was a children's coloring area, and a Wooden Train layout for them to play on. Then they offered free

hotdogs, chips, and water for everyone. I thought the Modular Group could eat a lot of Randy's candy at the NMRA table at shows, but you should see them chow down on free hotdogs. It was a huge success! Not the Hot Dog eating, I am talking about the entire Modular Weekend. We had a great turn-out for the Trains. Lots of families / kids from Goddard, plus a large group of residents from Dove Estates that made us feel really good about bringing the layout to them. We were able to set-up a full 20' x 40' layout with our "U" section in the middle. We had a couple of guest members come out to run, so we had lots of trains running all the time.

We all met lots of people. I met a 90-year young lady from my hometown of Ellinwood. We talked off and on for three days. She had some great stories about my hometown. Rick met a lady that knew his mother-in-law and they exchanged stories for the entire weekend. On Friday, set-up day, a gentleman asked what we were building. As soon as I looked up at him, I realized he was the contractor that built my house in the mid-eighties. Lots of great conversations, train memories and stories, and lots of "feel good" moments the entire weekend. We

had seniors from Dove Estates that came down to see the trains several times a day, every day. We had one of our best weekends ever and I want to thank the people of Dove Estates for their warm welcome and great hospitality the entire three days.

Two weekends later we set up at Pine Village in Moundridge. What an awesome facility they have. In their spacious community room, we were able to set up an 8' by 48' long rectangle. The layout looked really good with these long straight tracks. We had a smaller turnout here, but we were competing with the local "Kettle Festival," which drew a lot of people downtown on Saturday. On Sunday we had some families drop by after Sunday services. To start off the weekend, before we unloaded, we found out that the first Friday of the month is Biscuit and Gravy Breakfast. So for a small donation we all had a great breakfast. On set-up day "The Wrecking Crew" destroyed lunch provided by Rita and Randy Stuckey. Rita provided delicious bierocks, potato salad, fresh fruit, and homemade cookies. Randy provided bite sized candy bars. Thanks from all of us go out to Rita and Randy.

Then for the finale, we set up a 20' W x 36' L layout with the "U" at The Center of the Nation Train Show in Hutchinson. Everyone ran trains until we were tired of running. At all of these events we have had several missing members due to trips, family gathering, vacations, or other commitments. That gave the attending members plenty of time to run. We saw a lot of Western

Kansas friends at this show that we hadn't seen in a while. There were lots of bargains from the vendors showing up on the layout or just displayed as a "look what I found" discussion. I would be remiss if I didn't mention something about food, so the highlight was "Moon Burgers" at Skeat's, which was just around the corner from our building. I also have to mention that they are the only place I have ever been that featured "jalapeño ketchup." So if you go there be sure to ask for the hot ketchup. We had a nice steady flow of railroaders looking at the layout, lots of kids and plenty of questions. Speaking of lots of kids, Charles set up tables for his mini modules, James and Susan Shinkle worked the tables on Saturday and Charles worked them on Sunday. Seventy-some kids made a module. That's introducing kids to model railroading.

We had a few guests over the weekend to run trains, not counting family that always seem to show up when we need help getting things taken down and loaded up to get home. Thanks to all of you for your great help, we really appreciate all of you.

As always, we would like to invite everyone to come out, bring a friend, your favorite train or rolling stock to run, and most of all just join us in the "Fun of Model Railroading". See you at the next show!

Hope to see you soon!

-Terry

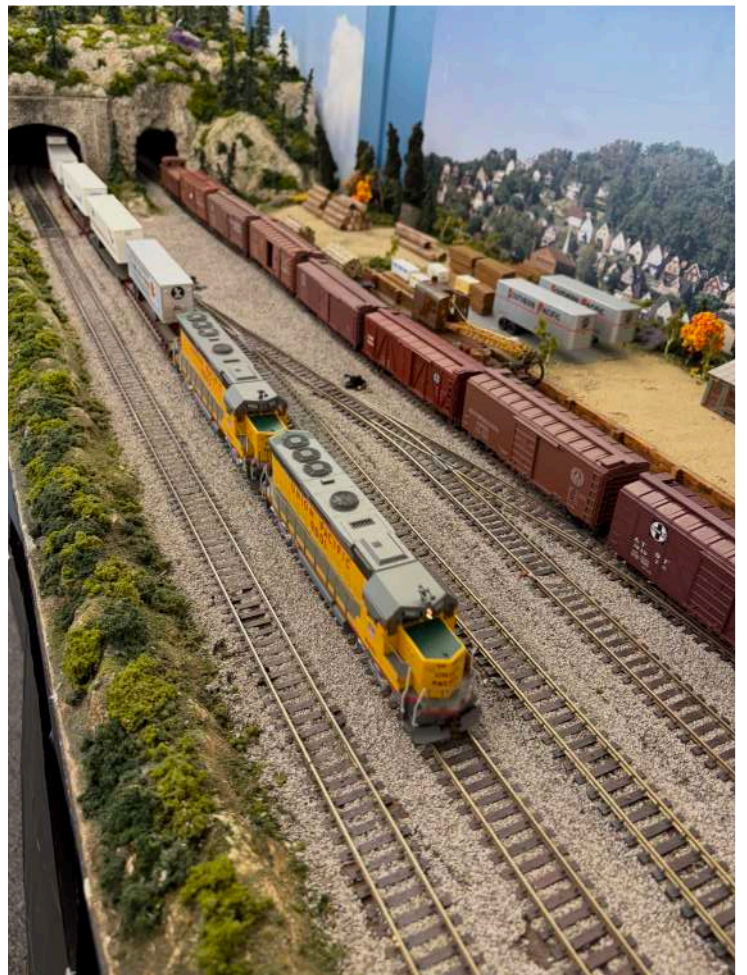
Dove Estates Photos



Dove Estates Photos (continued)



Pine Village Photos



Center of the Nation Train Show Photos



In Case You Missed It



The June meeting was our summer pot luck cookout where Lloyd Hurst (black shirt) regaled us with memories of his time with the Missouri Pacific Railroad. (Photo by Charlie Monckton)

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/

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/

Kansas Central Model Railroaders Business Meeting. (Not the same as Kansas Central Division of NMRA) Every second Saturday from 11:00AM-Noon. Hutchinson Public Library, 901 N Main St, Hutchinson, KS. <http://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org>

Wichita Area Model Railroaders Luncheon. The second Thursday of every month at 11:30AM. Spear's Restaurant and Pie Shop, 4323 W Maple, Wichita, KS. For more information contact Lionel Smith (316) 775-8890

Third Thursday Model Railroaders's Lunch. The third Thursday of every month 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 2026

July 10-11 – Heartland Toy Train Association Summer Train Show. Payne County Expo Center, 4518 Expo Cir E, Stillwater, OK. Friday 5PM-7PM, Saturday 9AM-3PM. <https://heartlandtoytrain.org/>

July 18 – Heartland Toy Train Association Summer Train Show. Joplin History & Mineral Museum, Schifferdecker Park, 504 S Schifferdecker Ave, Joplin, MO. Saturday 9AM-3PM. <http://www.tristatamodelrailroaders.com/NewSite/>

July 23-25 – Mid-Continent Region Convention. Collinsville Convention Center, Collinsville, IL (St Louis area). <https://www.mcor-nmra.org/Conventions/> This will be

in conjunction with the St. Louis Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet. <https://www.stlrpm.com/>

July 27-August 2 – NMRA National Convention. Chattanooga Convention Center, 1 Carter St, Chattanooga, TN. <https://www.nmra2026.org/>

August 2026

August 6-9 – North Platte Rail Days. Golden Spike Tower, North Platte, NE. **Train Show August 7-9.** Train show at D&N Event Center, 501 E Walker Road, North Platte, NE. Friday & Saturday 9AM-5PM, Sunday 9AM-3PM <https://goldenspiketower.com/northplatteraildays/>

August 29th – Turkey Creek Train Show & Swap Meet. Shawnee Civic Center, 13817 Johnson Drive #3802, Shawnee, KS. Saturday 8:30AM-3PM. <https://tc-nmra.org/2026-annual-train-show-swap-meet/>

August 30th – Mid-American Train & Toy Show. KCI Expo Center, 11730 NW Ambassador Drive, Kansas City, MO. Sunday 9AM-2PM. <http://www.midamericatrainandtoyshow.com/>

September 2026

September 2-5 – National Narrow Gauge Convention. Double Tree – Bloomington, 7800 Normandale Blvd, Bloomington, MN (Minneapolis/St. Paul area). <https://2026nngc.com/>

September 19-20 – Spring Creek Model Trains– HO Scale Free-MO Weekend. Thayer County Event Center, 1302 4th St, Deshler, NE. Saturday 10AM-5PM, Sunday 10AM-3PM. <https://www.springcreekmodeltrains.com/show-schedule/>

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

Jim Marlett

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