

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

As the year keeps slipping away and the seasons are changing this seems to be a really busy time for everyone. Same thing is true with the Chisholm Trail Division with all the activities of meetings, lunches, module group setups and displays.

The regional train shows and swap meets are truly the signs of spring blossoming. With all the things that are happening it seems like all the activities in our division are such an amazing opportunity for us to work together and develop some great friendships. We're trying to do more and new things to help set the pace for the rest of the year and are having a great time at it. It's really great to be in the MCOR region and the Chisholm Trail division with some of the best people I've had the pleasure to meet. A big thanks to all the people doing the work and helping.

-Rick

From the Superintendent's Desk

by Charlie Monckton

I hope everyone is enjoying the spring weather and getting a lot of train running time. Everyone is invited to our annual Pot Luck cookout June 2, 2026. This year we will be at Olivet Baptist Church, 3440 W. 13th St. Wichita, Ks. We will be cooking hamburgers and brats on the grill. Spouses and friends and family of any age are welcome. Bring a side or dessert. Please RSVP to monckton_66061@Yahoo.com or 913-579-8960, with the number who will be attending so we can have enough hamburgers and brats for everyone. Anyone interested in trains and model railroading is invited to attend. There will be a guest speaker following dinner.

- Charlie

Trails, Rails, & Tales

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It is sent to members of the Chisholm Trail Division of NMRA

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From the Editor's Desk

by Jim Marlett

Spring has truly sprung and our distractions with things like yard work and grandkid activities have hit their max. I hope you've had some time for model railroading. I know it has impacted me, but I've actually gotten some fairly significant things done. More on that later.

This somewhat slimmer than usual issue of Trails, Rails & Tales shows some of that spring distraction on my part. But thanks to Randy Stucky and Terry Ross, there is some content. Randy's article shows that you can still be an active model railroader when you have moved into a retirement community and Terry updates us on the modular group's activities.

Back in my basement, work on the good ol' HO_{n3} San Juan Southern keeps chugging along. As you may recall, in the last issue I reported on having driven the final spike on the mainline, but noted that I was far from finished with the railroad. For one thing, I needed a yard in my main town of Blakely, CO. But before I tackled that, I needed to do some sloppy plaster work that would be harder to reach once the yard was in place and I didn't want to drip plaster on those yard tracks. Coloring the rock face and other less messy scenic work could wait. The result is a geologic feature I call "Blakely's Bulge." Its true function is to hide the water shutoff to the house and still allow access to the valve and plumbing. If you have been following our Facebook page, you saw the construction of the "Bulge," but I'll repeat a photo of it here.

Just last week, I got the roadbed for the yard built and installed. Its connection to the rest of the railroad required an oddly shaped piece using "new" Homasote on plywood and a more regular shaped six foot long piece of old Homasote on plywood. I was reminded once again of the difference between new and old Homasote. The old stuff is much smoother and has a considerably more regular thickness. The new stuff has a bumpier surface and tends to be thinner on the ends of the sheets. No matter. A generous helping of wood filler fixed any problems I found. As of today, the yard table is in, leveled, smoothed and painted. I realized I needed a little extension for the two front tracks, so I glued on a scrap left from trimming a back corner to get the big piece to fit. I only gained a few inches, but it meant one more freight car on two tracks. Every little bit helps.

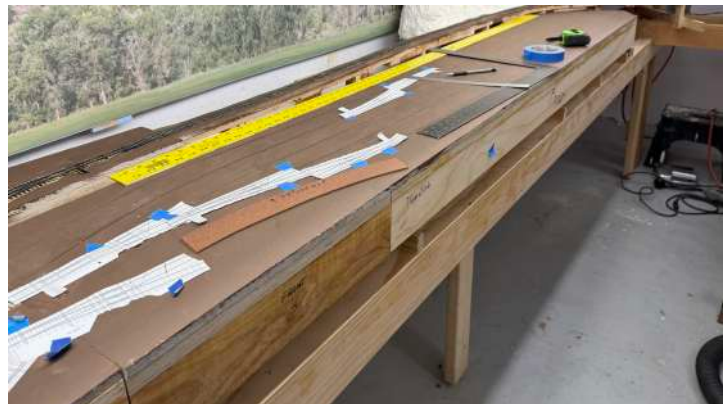
I've started drawing track center lines on it now. I'm not sure I like what is coming out of my pencil. I guess I'll be thinking about it while I'm putting this newsletter together.

All of this reminds me once again that you could report on whatever you are working on. All it takes is a few pictures (digital preferred, cell phone is fine) and a few words about what is being shown. Randy did that in this issue and Len Wigton has done it in a previous issue. Or you could just invite me over and I can do the hard part.

- Jim



Casting the rock face on Blakely's Bulge. Most of the molds are ones I have made.



Today's state of chaos. The ever so helpful switch templates are printed from the Fast Tracks website.

Division Receives Check from Train Show



Phil Aylward is presenting Superintendent Charlie Monckton with the Division's share of the Wichita Train Show and Swap Meet proceeds. This year the amount was slightly over \$1,300. The vast majority of the Division's annual operating budget is underwritten by the train show. Without it, we would no doubt be required to charge dues or would simply be unable to do some of the things we do now.

The Dridge and Flint Hills Railroad Company

By Randy Stucky

The Dridge (short for Moundridge) and Flint Hills Railroad Company was formed in 2025.

A member of the group lived in Peru for several years. While there, he got hold of some N-scale cars, track, rolling stock, bridges, buildings, etc. He brought them home in three foot lockers! After keeping them at his home in Pine Village for a while, he donated them to the Moundridge Historical Society Museum.

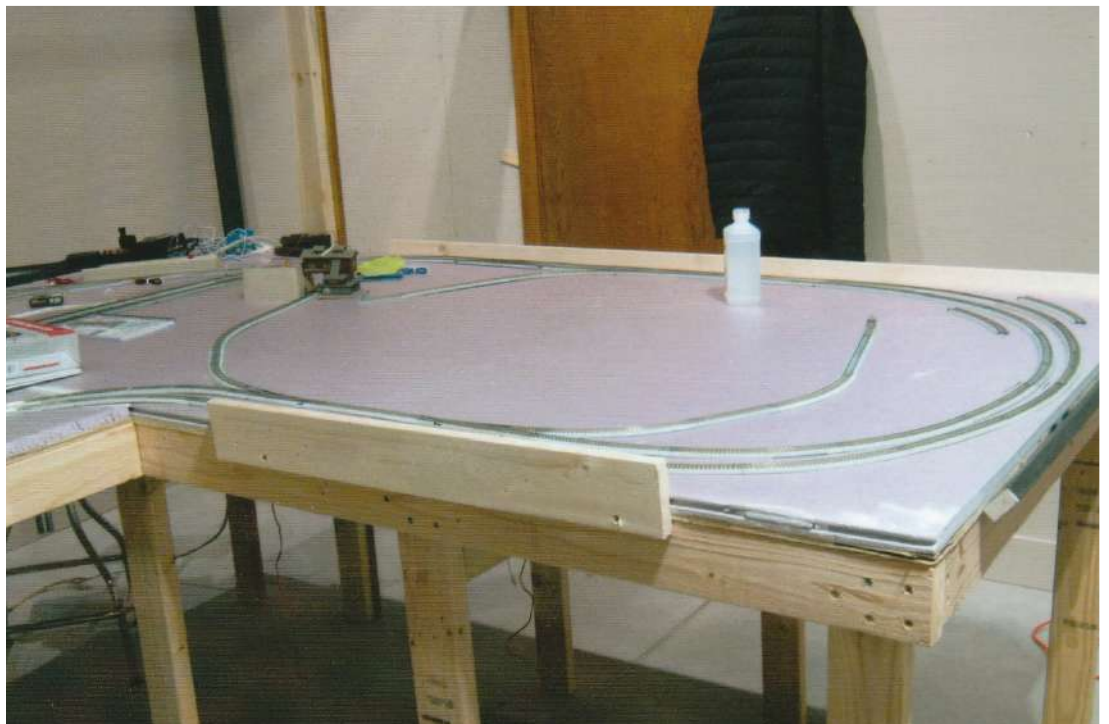
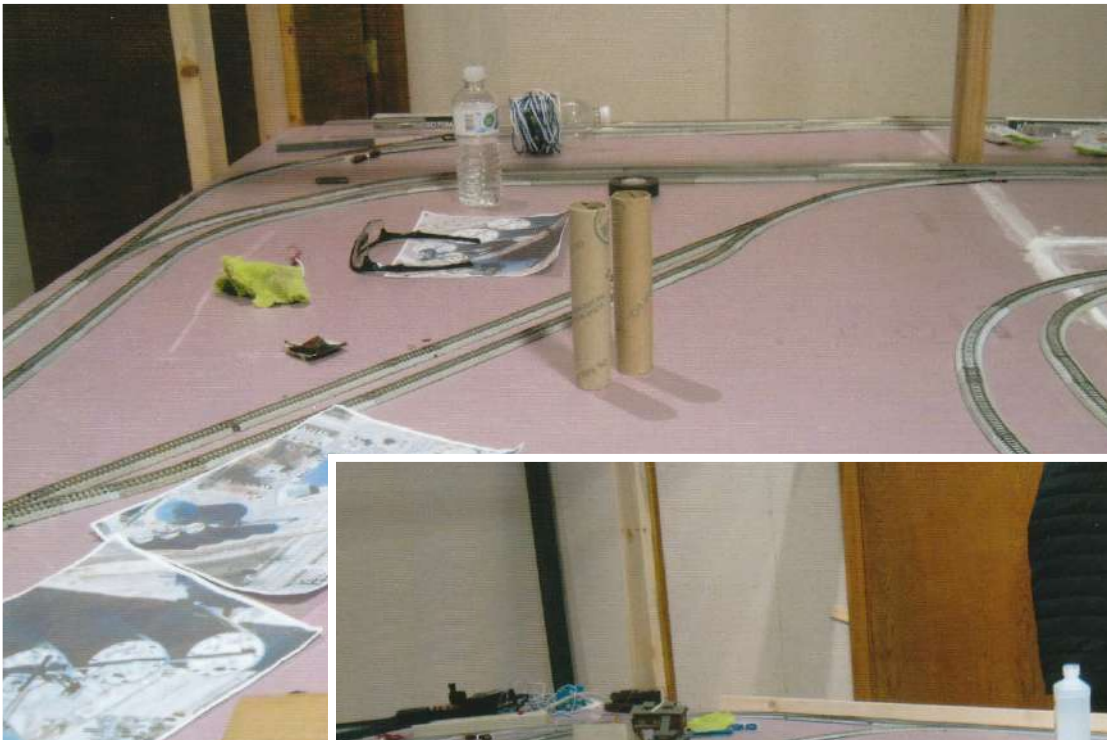
Several model railroaders from the area got together, discussed, and planned the layout. It is

an N-scale DCC layout. It is still under construction, but is at the stage where some electrical work is in.

Work on the layout is done for a few hours on Tuesdays. A target date for having the layout finished hasn't been set as yet.

A couple of photos of the layout under construction are shown below.

-Randy



Modular Group Report

By Terry Ross



We have begun our busy schedule this spring as we have set up at the Arkansas City Show and this last weekend, we were set up at the Bel Aire Community Center. We have added another set-up to our calendar since the last TR&T. We are setting up at the Dove Estates Senior Facility in Goddard on May 16th and 17th, then in June we will be at the Pine Village in Moundridge and The Hutchinson Train Show. We are all looking forward to showcasing 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 flyer and they welcome anyone from the surrounding area.

The Arkansas City show was very successful as we tried something new. Since it is a Saturday only show, we decided to take a smaller version of the layout. Fewer modules, less scenery, etc. meant less work and time setting up and taking things down. The layout was 12' x 32' in size and we did not set up our U-shaped center piece. There were 6 of us that brought our modules and

then several other members joined us to run trains. The show was a lot of fun as we all had plenty of time to run trains, do some shopping, and visit with friends we only see a couple times a year. As a group, we made a number of "good buy's" and "couldn't pass this up" deals, but we could still get everything back in the trailer to go home. Special thanks to the railroaders at The Wichita Toy Train Club for hosting the show and inviting us to participate.

Our weekend at Bel Aire was different this year. We were not able to set up on the opening spring weekend so we missed the large audience we usually get at this event. Through Adam, we were able to secure last weekend as a replacement. The Rec. Center was a perfect place for us to set-up everything and work on things we wanted to get done. Several members worked on track and scenery while others were running trains. It was very prototypical, because some MOW activity stopped the trains and completed their work, then the trains continued. To quote one of our retired engineers, "Its not Maintenance of Way, it's Maintenance in the Way." In addition, we were able to run a successful operations session sending

nine trains out of the yard in a four hour period. We were able to run four crews of two people each and keep everyone busy. We ran "locals" and had one crew switching the "Monckton Yard." We had everyone plus two guests involved in the ops session and a good time was had by all. The successful part was that everyone got all of their own cars back when we were done mixing things up.

Maintenance of Way wasn't the only distraction or thing in the way this weekend. When we started the operations session, the first local train out of the yard called the Dispatcher and said, "We can't spot these cars in yard, because Thomas is in the way." The Dispatcher checked this out and sure enough, right in the middle of "The Monckton Yard" was Thomas and about three cars. We simply asked the yard master to move him out of the way. Long story short we moved him about three times, and finally Charles gave up and took him off the tracks. Then about 2:00 Sunday three-yr-old Laramie, Charles great granddaughter, came in and she wanted to see Thomas. Fortunately he was back on the track by then. Aren't Grampa's the best? She followed Thomas and his three cars around the layout for the next hour and a half, and the rest of us "Railroaders" moved our cars out of the way for Thomas. Laramie was all smiles; her

Dad, who had to carry her around the layout for an hour and a half, not so much.

We had about eight guests over the weekend to run trains, not counting family that always seems 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

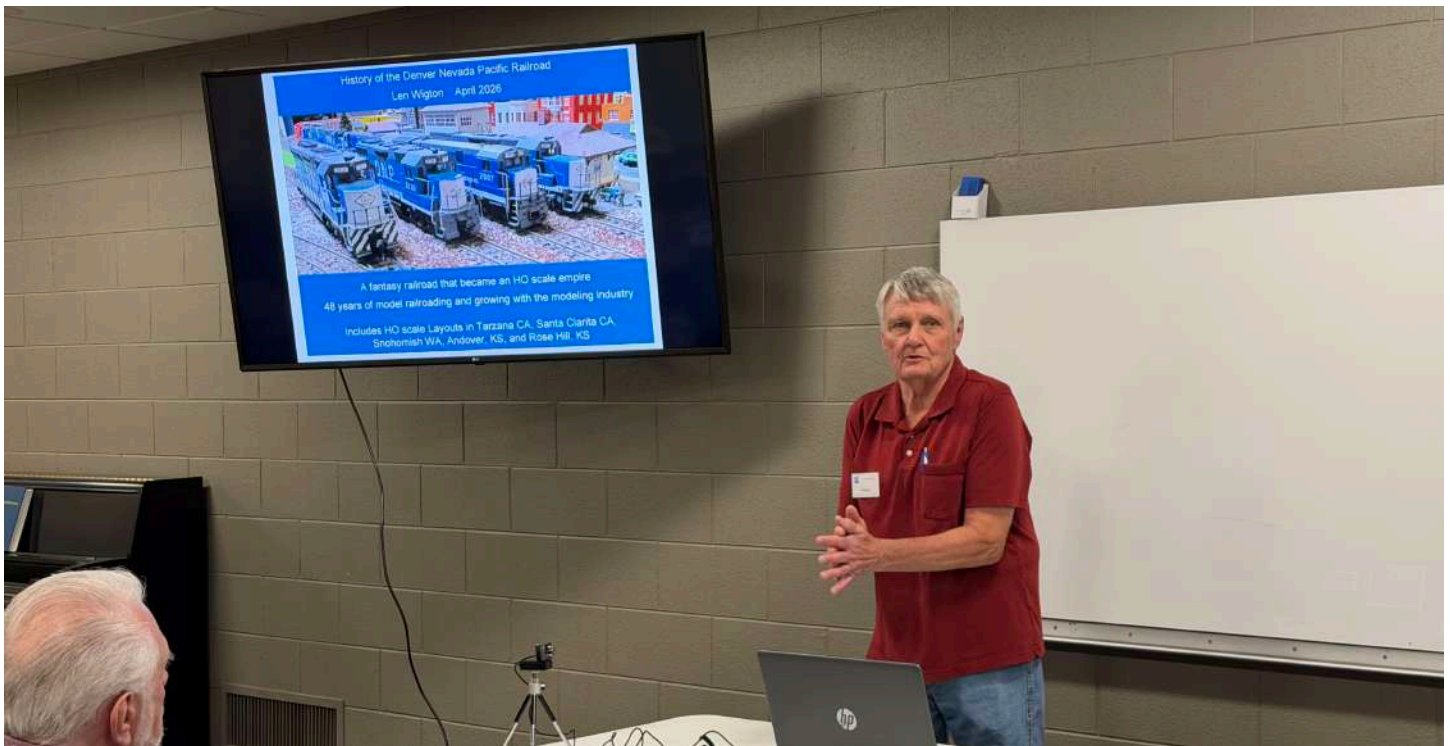




In Case You Missed It



At the March meeting, Dean Lippincott was presented with two Merit Awards for structures. These were judged at February's Wichita Train Show and Swap Meet.



At the April meeting, Len Wigton presented his freelance Denver Nevada Pacific Railroad and its history.

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

May 2026

May 2 – Marceline Train Show. Walsworth Community Center, 124 E Ritchie St, Marceline, MO. Saturday 9AM-3PM. <https://www.marcelinespringfestival.com/train-show/#>

May 9-10 – Lincoln Area Railway Historical Society Train Show. Sandhill Global Event Center, 4100 N 84th St, Lincoln, NE. Saturday 9AM-5PM. Sunday 10AM-4PM. <https://larhs.org/annual-show/>

May 9-10 – Council Bluffs Railroad Days at Mile Zero. Union Pacific Railroad Museum, 200 Pearl Street, Council Bluffs, IA. Saturday & Sunday 12PM (Noon)-6PM. https://www.unleashcb.com/features/railroad_days/

June 2026

June 13-14 – Center of the Nation Model Railroad Expo. Kansas State Fairgrounds, Pride of Kansas Building, Hutchinson, KS. Saturday 9AM-5PM. Sunday 10AM-3PM. <http://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org/train-show.html>

July 2026

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

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/>

August 2026

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). <https://2026nngc.com/>

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

Jim Marlett

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