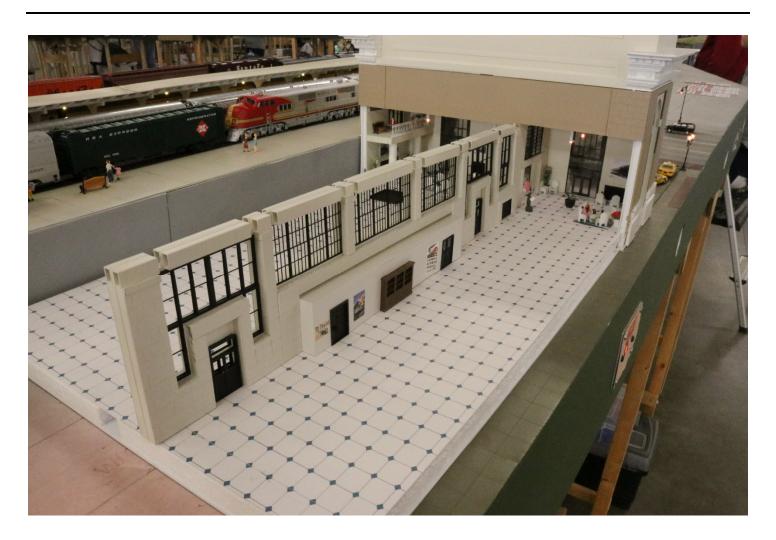
The Main Line

The monthly publication of the Western Kansas Division

April 2025





On The Cover:

FreeMo put on a great display during the 2025 Garden City Train Show hosted by the Boothill Model Railroad Club in Garden City, Kansas. Details inside...

In This Issue:

Real Deal Page 6

Garden City Train Show – Part 1 Page 20

WKR Update Page 16

Date Book Page 49



The principal purpose of the **Operations Special Interest Group** (OPSIG) is to discuss, develop and disseminate ways of operating model railroads to realistically emulate practices of the prototype.

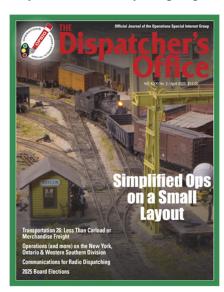
This includes sharing information on various methods of generating, moving, and controlling traffic to heighten the feeling that our models are an active and integral part of the national rail transportation network, serving shippers and consignees throughout the nation. We also discuss and communicate information about the methods and procedures used by the real railroads and ways of most practically and realistically adapting

them to the model world.

We publish a quarterly magazine, *The Dispatcher's Office*, which in addition to containing articles and information on railroad operations (both prototype and model), contains listings of operating layouts, sessions, and events that members are invited to attend. In addition, the OPSIG web site serves as a clearinghouse for publicizing regional operating events and meetings, where layouts are open for guest operations.

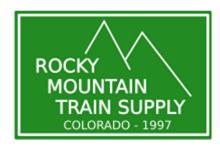
We also have a Facebook page and send out the *Second Section* email newsletter on a regular basis.





Click here for the OpSig website: https://www.opsig.org/

For the OpSig Facebook page, click here: https://www.facebook.com/OperationsSIG



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Katy Railroad Historical Society





The **Katy Railroad Historical Society**, a non-profit organization, was formed in Parsons, Kansas, on October 1, 1977. The purpose of the society is to bring together in close association those persons who have a common interest in the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, known to many as the Katy. To increase the enjoyment of their interest through appropriate activities, including group trips to points on the railroad, photographic excursions, photo, slide, and video shows, meetings, discussions, and other undertakings of a fundamentally social nature. The encouragement of members to contribute to the collection, compilation and publication of interesting data pertaining to the Katy, including preservation of such information for future reference. The increase of knowledge of and fostering of goodwill towards the M-K-T Railroad among members and the public. The promotion of good fellowship among the members through ethical social functions found to be beneficial, educational, and morally wholesome to those interested in the Katy Railroad.

2025 KRHS CONVENTION

April 24 – April 27, 2025 Fort Worth, Texas

The KRHS' 2025 annual convention is on the weekend of April 24 – 27, 2025. Our hotel headquarters is the Home 2 Suites/Tru by Hilton in Euless, Texas in the northeast suburbs of Ft. Worth, Texas, only 6 miles from the Grapevine Vintage Railroad. Home 2 Suites/Tru bedroom rates will include complimentary buffet breakfast. Our Grapevine Vintage Railroad excursion will be on Friday April 25, 2025. The trail will stop at the historic Fort Worth Stock Yards for lunch. History and modeling clinics, bus tours and annual banquet will be detailed in the December Katy Flyer magazine and online. Be prepared for a memorable KRHS weekend.

Click here for the KRHS website: https://katyrailroad.org/









RMC RECEIVING YARD

HO Scale Berkshire Steam Locomotives Arrive from Broadway Limited

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3: Not talk

4: Talk too much

5: Not show

emotion

6: Be too emotional

7. Breathe







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BNSF 4541 is a General Electric **Dash-944CW**. Part of GE's "Dash 9" series of locomotives, the Dash 9-44CW shares its frame, HiAd trucks, 16-cylinder 7FDL engine, and traction motors with the GE Dash 9-40CW. But while the more common 9-44CW offers 4,400 horsepower, software in the 9-40CW's engine-governing unit restricts its power output to 4,000 horsepower.









The second unit was BNSF 602, a **GE AC44C4M**. Part of another Dash 9 rebuild program, this time between BNSF and GE, it aimed to create **A-1-A AC**-traction units. BNSF 602, a former ATSF C44-9W was shipped off to the GE shop in San Luis Potosi, Mexico back in early 2014. The unit received extensive rebuilding including an overhauled 7FDL-16 prime mover, AC traction equipment, and new A-1-A trucks. BNSF's goal was to create A-1-A "AC4400CW's" out of the 600-series of C44-9W's. Units 599-619 round out BNSF's current AC44C4M fleet. There are currently no plans for more. This unit suffered an engine fire..







Part of the westbound consist were two Boeing fuselages being shipped to the assembly plant in Renton, Washington. These are destined to be part of the **737 MAX-10** models. The Boeing 737 MAX 10 is the largest member of the 737 MAX family, designed to accommodate up to 230 passengers with a stretched fuselage and powered by CFM International LEAP-1B engines, offering improved fuel efficiency with a 3,300 nautical mile range and passenger comfort.









(Above) a closer look at how the fuselage is attached to the flatcar.

(Below) a close view of the tail section.





1/13/25 On one lucky day, I was taking pictures of the yard and was startled to see from the corner of my eye, the arrival of a Cimarron Valley freight entering the yard, and was able to get a quick snapshot of the motive power.





(Left) March 23rd was a sunny and more Spring-like day when I caught a westbound freight again awaiting a crew replacement, but this train had a visitor from another Country.





(Above) BNSF **4156** is a GE **Dash-944CW**. (Below) The Canadian visitor is Canadian National 8508, a **GE AC4400 DRF44**. The DRF44 is a CN designation for: **D**iesel **R**oad **F**reight 4400HP. Needless to say, we don't see one of these every day.







(This Page) Something else we rarely see is EMD power.

BNSF **1424** is a EMD **SD60M**. It was built in March of 1990 as Burlington Northern 9243. After changing to BNSF, it

After changing to BNSF, it also wore 8143 before its current number.









(Above) Located near the RIP track is this stash of replacement wheels. This would be a wonderful detail addition to any model railroad yard scene. In this photo it seems that the wheel sets on the far-left look slightly smaller in diameter, either an optical illusion from the angle and distance, or they could be 33" vs 36" wheels.

(Below) A quick shot through the windshield of the old turntable on the East end of the Dodge City yard.





The **Friends of the Burlington Northern Railroad** (**FOBNR**) historical society was chartered to gather, preserve, and share information about the history and the current operations of the Burlington Northern Railroad. The group began with about 140 members interested in studying the history of the Burlington Northern Railroad. In 1996, following the merger between Burlington Northern and Santa Fe, the group voted to follow the Burlington Northern from 1970 to 1995 and the BNSF from 1995 to the present. Then in 2018 we added coverage of the Montana Rail Link.





The FOBNR quarterly publication, *The BN Expediter*, is the voice of the organization that shares news about the group's activities, BN historical data, and current operations of the railroad. It is currently a 30+ page all-color publication and will grow even larger as the society grows and more members contribute more information.

FOBNR 2025 Convention

Holiday Inn Express Fossil Creek 6351 North Freeway Fort Worth, Texas 76131

Date: June 18-21, 2025

Click here for the FOBNR website: https://fobnr.org/



For the FOBNR Facebook page, click here: https://www.facebook.com/fobnr



The purpose of **NRail** is to promote N Scale model railroading in all forms, all standards wherever N Scale is present. NRail has been the voice of N Scale model railroading for over 45 years.

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National N Scale Convention 2025

Start Tuesday, June 24, 2025 End Sunday, June 29, 2025 Location Overland Park, KS

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hASUZZ_62I0

Garden City, KS. Train Show 2025 - Mark Fisher / Steve...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mVJOq2J0hc

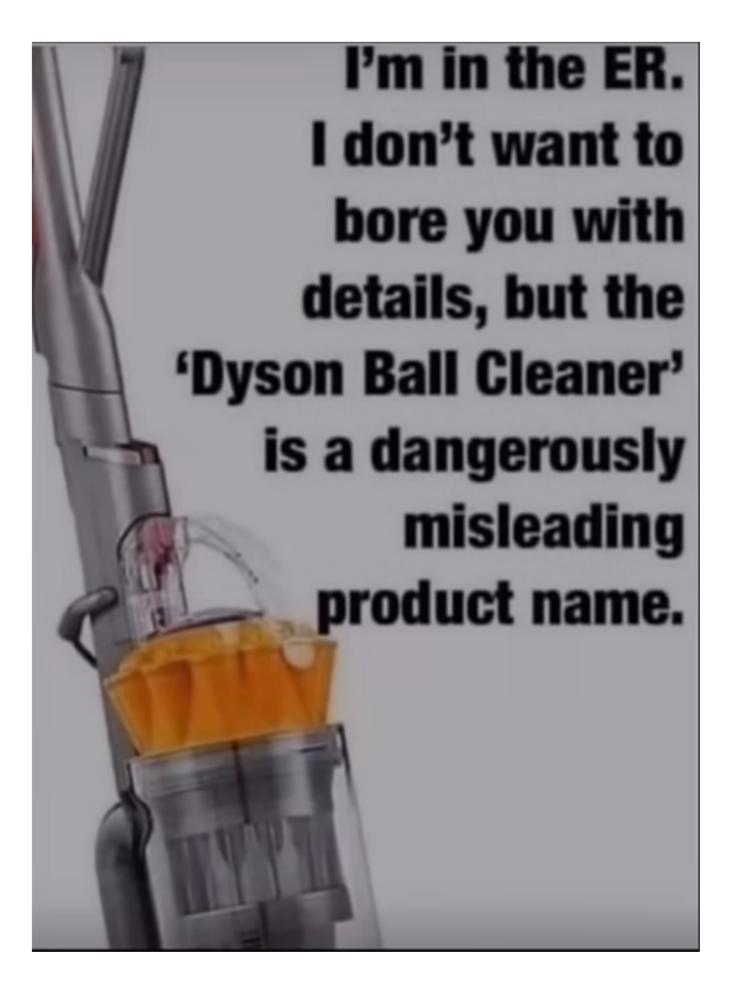


Garden City, KS. Train Show 2025 - Sylvester Rodriquez ...



 $\underline{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqWkPNoSE08}$

Garden City, KS. Train Show 2025 - Free Mo - HO scale



March 2025 MRH

The March MRH magazine is here.



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- Montana Rail Link (MRL)
- Norfolk & Western (NW)
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- · Southern Pacific (SP)



N Scale - Pre Order Broadway Limited Baldwin Sharknose

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- Delaware & Hudson (D&H)
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Mark Fisher of Ingalls, Kansas and Steve Wagner of Sublette, Kansas joined their On30 layouts together.

The **Garden City Train Show 2025** hosted by the Boothill Model Railroad Club in Garden City, Kansas was held at the Finney County Fairgrounds on March 8th and 9th.

Several highly-detailed layouts were displayed, and we will spread out the coverage over several months to do justice to them all.

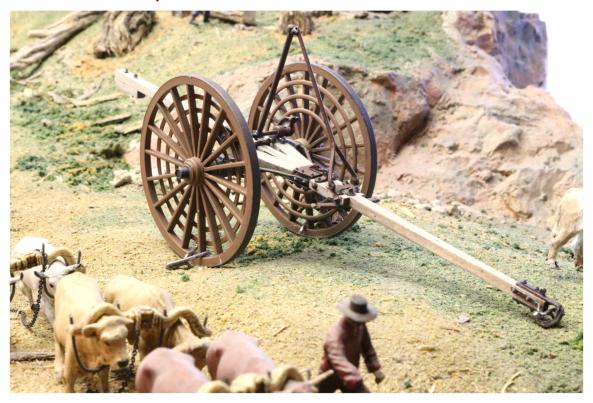


(Below) Mark's layout features a look at logging in the 1800s, beginning with the felling of the trees and branch removal.



(Right) So how do you move the incredibly heavy tree trunks to the train tracks, you use a device which rolls over the log, is chained to it, and then is drawn by oxen team.

Once at the rail head, the logs are loaded onto flat cars for transport to the sawmill.





(Left) As you can see at the upper left, the cars are positioned next to the holding pond and then rolled down the bank to the holding pond.

Workers then position the logs at the end of the lift where they are hooked to the lift chain to be drawn up to the sawmill.

(Right) On Mark's layout the saw trolly moves back and forth to simulate the cutting process.





(Left & Below) Once the cut boards come off the saw, the workers process them and stack them.





(Left) Some of the details in the sawmill.



(Above) All the motive power is narrow gauge steam.

(Right) A view of the rear of the sawmill showing the steam power plant that powers the mill.



Garden City, KS. Train Show 2025 - Mark Fisher / Steve...

Click here for the video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hASUZZ 62I0





The second of the two layouts was displayed by Steve Wagner of Sublette, Kansas. The original On30 layout of the Club, Steve's layout depicts mining in the same era.

The layout is highly detailed above and below. It features an underground mine shaft with working lights and compressed air engine pulling the ore cars.

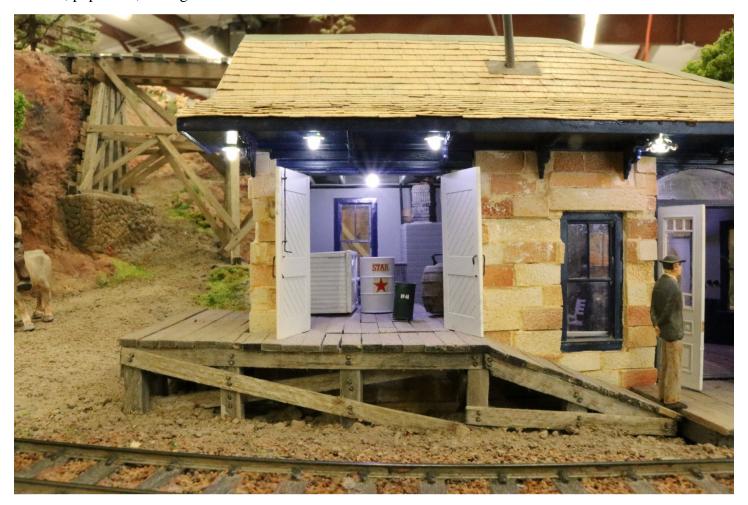
(Below) All items on the layout are scratch-built or modified by Steve, including the station. After building the foundation, Steve cast the bricks and constructed the station brick by brick including all interior details.



(Right) A look at the back side of the station.



(Below) The entire layout is chocked-full of details. He we peer into the interior of the station with is fully detailed, populated, and lighted.





(Right) Most of the locomotives on Steve's layout are scratch-built. Here is a view of one of Steve's "critters" on the move.

(Left) Sheep being pastured above the mine and a mule team pulling an ore wagon.



(Below) A stagecoach exchanges passengers.





(Left) an overhead shot of the mine scene.

(Below) The above ground mine scene. The mine shaft on the left features a moving elevator and ore bucket dump which are on delayed timers. The ore carts have a turntable with multiple tracks while the power shed is on the right.









Garden City, KS. Train Show 2025 - Mark Fisher / Steve...

Click here for the video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hASUZZ 62I0



Sylvester Rodriquez of Garden City, Kansas displayed his N-scale coal flood loader layout. The roughly 5-by-9 Layout demonstrates how modern coal trains are loaded. A basic loop format features double track main and features many details throughout.







(Above) A nicely detailed MOW scene.

(Left) Details rarely seen on a N-scale layout, the layout featured functional signaling, electric cabinets, and switch heaters.



Garden City, KS. Train Show 2025 - Sylvester Rodriquez ...

View the video here:

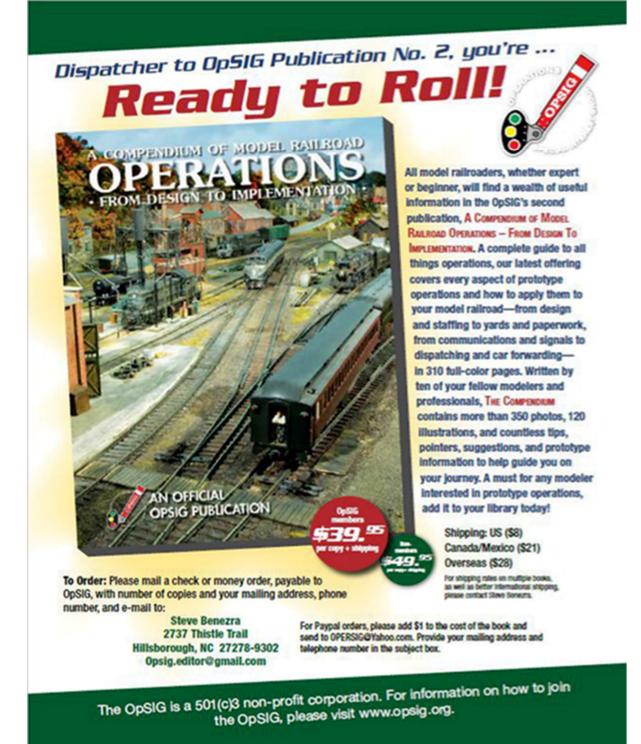
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mVJOq2J0hc



More coverage of the 2025 Garden City Train Show will follow in the coming months issues.







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Everything you ever wanted to know about the **Mid-Continent Region** of the NMRA can be found on their website: https://mcor-nmra.org/



Mid-Continent Region, NMRA





Follow the activities of the Mid-Continent region on their **Facebook** page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1851848998468077



The **Rio Grande Modeling & Historical Society** (RGM&HS) is a non-profit corporation whose membership consists of diverse group of historians, collectors, railfans, photographers, modelers and railroad employees who have banded together to share one common interest, the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad, and its predecessors. The mission is to preserve and disseminate historical information about the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad for the benefit of our members and to others by locating, gathering, preserving, interpreting tangible items relating to the D&RGW and distributing information, documents, publications thus promoting fellowship and education among persons with interests in the railroad.

Among the RGM&HS publications is *The Prospector*, our professionally produced and beautifully illustrated quarterly magazine featuring the finest work of historians and other experts on all aspects of Rio Grande Railroad. We make available individual issues and volume sets of the magazine for purchase from our website—from the current issue to back to Volume 1 which was first published in 2002.



The *Green Light* is the society's electronic newsletter named after the D&RGW employee newsletter is delivered eight times a year via e-mail and is intended to provide information not included in the regular issues of *The Prospector* magazine. In each issue of the *Green Light*, we cover Society news, highlighting current operations over former Rio Grande territory, and preservation initiatives geared to educate interested Individuals in the rich history of the railroad. We promote our society functions, social gatherings, annual convention, and photo and data archiving. We also promote Rio Grande related products like books, calendars, and model railroad announcements.

PROSPECTOR

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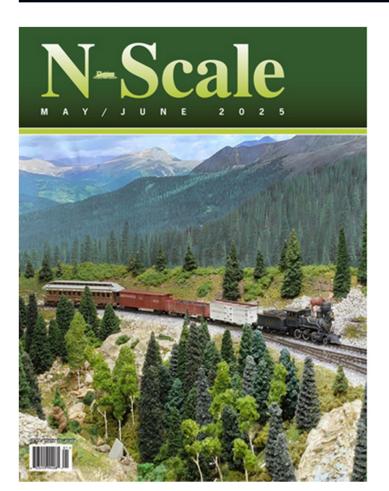
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N-Scale





IN THE CURRENT ISSUE

Extra Extra! Read All About It!

Build Your Own Layout, Along With Me! by Dennis Murphy

Planning & Constructing Scenery

On my Denver South Park & Pacific Railroad
Part 2

by Preston Sands

The Badger Midwestern Railroad

Article by Dave Rickaby, Modelling by Paul Hillmer

Let's Build A World

Part 3: The Heart of Town by Dennis Murphy

The Short & Nn3arrow

Modelling the Pacific Coast Railway, Part 23: Motive Power – Steam Locomotives by Thomas Knapp, MMR #101

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WKR Update



The weekend of March 8th and 9th, the Western Kansas Rails (WKR) made the trip to Garden City, Kansas for the 2025 Garden City Train Show hosted by the Boothill Model Railroad Club. Since it was not a long way to

travel, it proved to be a fun weekend. We're happy to say everything ran smoothly with no troubles or issues.

(Right) One of the best aspects of model railroading is visiting with friends both old and new. Mark Fisher (left) is a member of the Boothill Model Railroad Club and Jerry Bruce of McPherson, KS. came down along with Leroy Schmidt to help and run trains and both were an immense help in packing up.





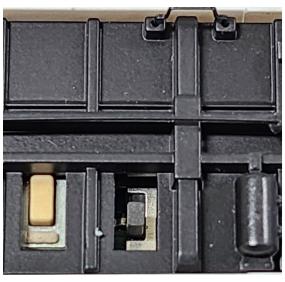
(Left) Over a couple of days I was able to empty out the LTV and the WKR is currently resting in the Train Room. The first order of business is to check over everything and repair any "battle damage," then we'll get it back together.

WKR Update





March also brought new additions to the rolling stock fleet a pair of Scale Trains sound equipped mechanical reefers. They look impressive but since the layout is not set up we can't try them out yet.

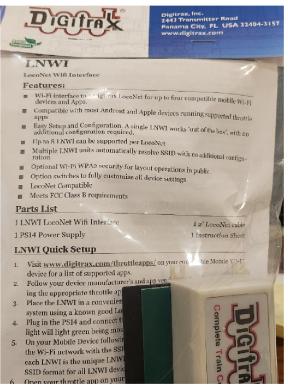




(Right) No instructions come with the cars, but it's noted there is a switch in the car floor to control volume.

We're lucky to have these as a "Porch Pirate" nearly got them. I had an order for four boxcars earlier delivered to the door through UPS. I never got the package and nobody could trace it. Then this package was delivered, and I saw the delivered e-mail just 30-

minutes later. I open the door – no package. I stepped out to peer around the house and saw the neighbor's dog happily chewing on the box which I was able to save. No trace of the other box though.



WKR Update

(Left) When Jerry Bruce came down to run on the WKR for the Train Show, he brought his LNWI (Loconet WiFi Interface) so he could run his new wireless throttles. The thought struck the Electronics Shop of the WKR that we could use this to interface with our cell phones as throttles. So, we ordered a LNWI which will be permanently mounted to the power cart. Next, we need to download the throttle app on our phone.

(Right) The Scenery Department spotted an ad for the Micro-Trains modern billboard kit and so ordered two for the layout. They will need to be removable for transport and will need a transport cushioned box. The intent is to drive around and spot eye-catching billboards, photograph them, print them out and apply them to the model for a bit of realism.





(Left) When ordering the billboards, we needed more for the order, and located two, new in the box, pre-owned Atlas Master SD50s with DCC and sound. The intent is to patch both for the Missouri Pacific Leasing Corp. (MPLX) With new road numbers.

Plan to Attend

A MCOP. Regional Convention

MCOR to Cin '25

August 22nd & 23rd

... Friday and Saturday ...

Lenexa/Kansas City hosted with and overlaying Turkey Creek Division Annual Show

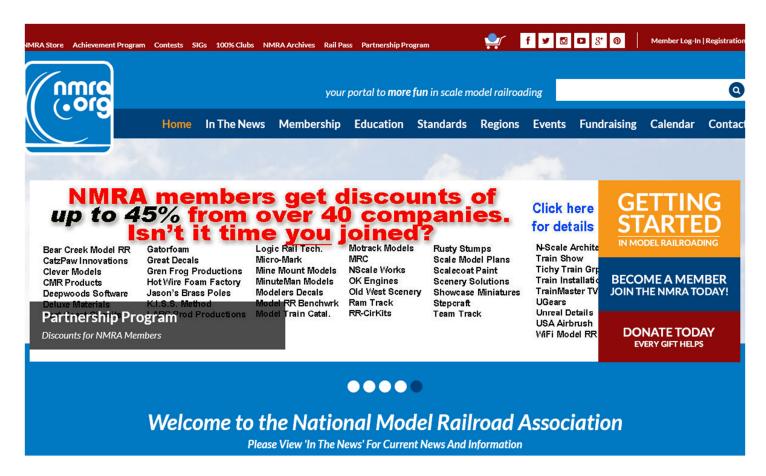


Clinics
Modeling Photo Contest
Dessert Bar & Ice Cream
Speakers
Train Show
More Clinics
Turkey Creek Model Contest

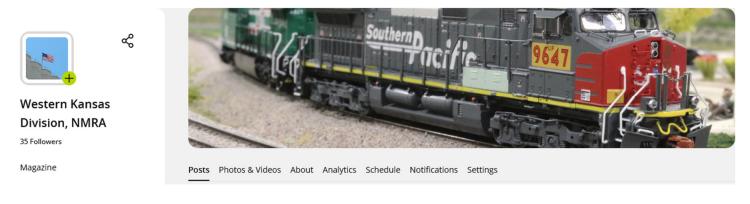
Layout Tours
Banquet
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Live Auction
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Another source for model railroad activities is the Western Kansas Division page on



Click here to check it out: https://mewe.com/westernkansasdiv/feed







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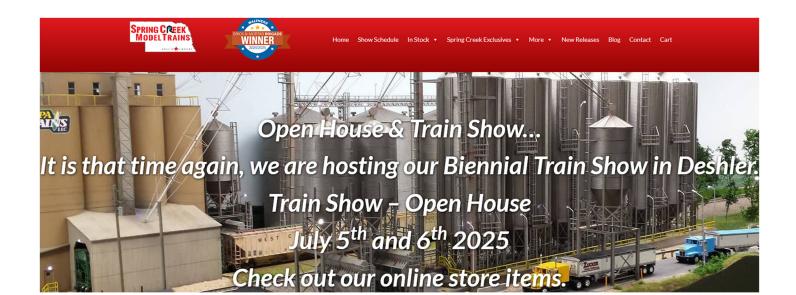




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Greater Tulsa Area Train Show

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma April 25-26, 2025

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Saturday - Apr 26, 2025, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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Contact: Dick Offendorf, Convention Chairman (610) 923-7535 Dick@NScaleEnthusiast.com



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Date Book

April

5 th & 6 th Sat & Sun	Rocky Mountain Train Show	Denver, CO.
19 th Saturday	https://rockymountaintrainshow.com/Default.aspx 2025 Arkansas City Train Show http://www.wichitatoytrainmuseum.org/	Arkansas City, KS.
25 th & 26 th Fri & Sat	Greater Tulsa Area Train Show https://www.ttos-soonerdiv.org/	Broken Arrow, OK.
26 th & 27 th Sat & Sun	Spring Creek Model Trains – FreeMo Event https://www.springcreekmodeltrains.com/show-schedule/	Deshler, NE.
	June	
14 th & 15 th Sat & Sun	Center of the Nation Model Railroad Expo http://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org/train-show.html	Hutchinson, KS.
24 th - 29 th Tue - Sun	N Scale National Convention (Train Show Sat-Sun) https://www.nationalnscaleconvention.com/	Overland Park, KS.
	July	
5 th & 6 th Sat & Sun	Spring Creek 25 th Annual Train Show https://www.springcreekmodeltrains.com/show-schedule/	Deshler, NE.
	November	

Oklahoma City, OK.

15th & 16th

Sat & Sun

Oklahoma City Train Show

https://www.okctrainshow.com/



The Main fine

Publisher & Editor: Robert A. Simmons

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