



The

# Main Line

August 2019



National Model Railroad Association

Mid-Continent Region

The Monthly publication of the **Western Kansas Division**



On the Cover...

The final installment of Rocky Ops (North) 2019 covers the operating session on John Parker's BNSF Fall River Division HO-scale layout. The picture above shows the operating crew for the session, and I was fortunate enough to be allowed enough time to take photos of the layout before the session started, as well as multiple short videos of the action posted to YouTube with the links inside...



# The Mid-Continent Region Facebook Page

Created in August of 2017, the Mid-Continent Region now has its own Facebook page. It's open to all members to post everything model train related. You are encouraged to post any activities such as train shows, clinics, and upgrades to your home or club layouts. This is your page, so feel free to use it, just take this link to your page:

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/1851848998468077/?ref=group\\_header](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1851848998468077/?ref=group_header)



One part of the "Southern Kansas Free-Mo" HO-scale layout on display during the 2019 MCoR Convention in Wichita, KS.

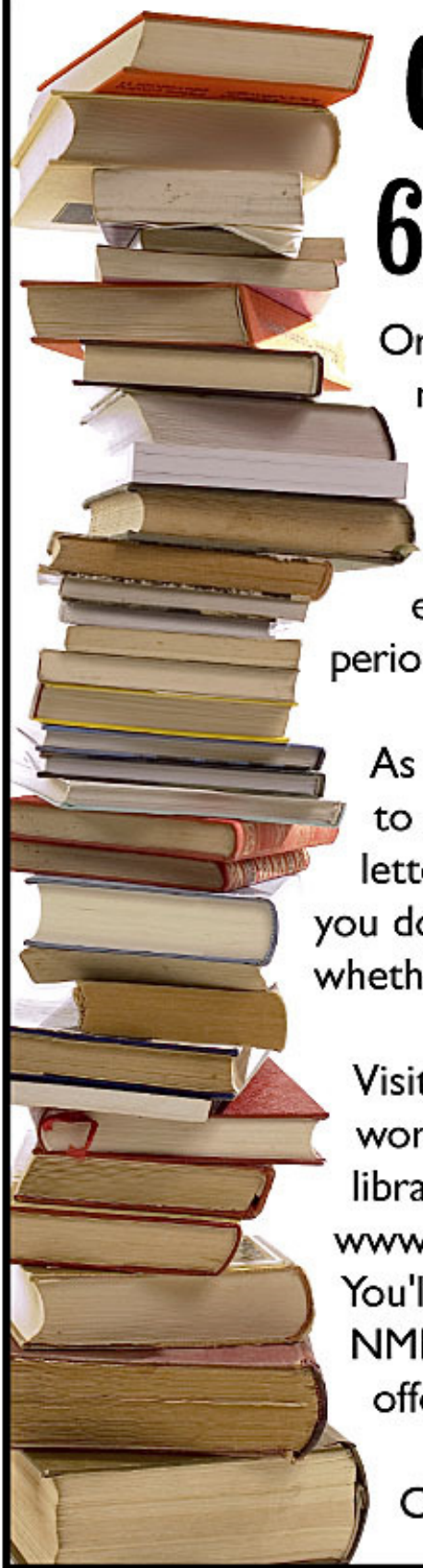


The WKR Layout on display In Denver, CO.

## Western Kansas Division You Tube Page

The activities of the Division are on my original YouTube page, located here:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9EPv8cQ04rRGAYts-734jw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9EPv8cQ04rRGAYts-734jw?view_as=subscriber)



# Check out 6,000 train books.

Or 100,000 train photos. Or 50,000 train magazines. In fact, there are a lot of things you should be checking out at the National Model Railroad Association's Kalmbach Memorial Library. You'll find everything from prototype railroad periodicals to vintage model kit instructions.

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4 2 3 - 8 9 2 - 2 8 4 6

Check it all out!



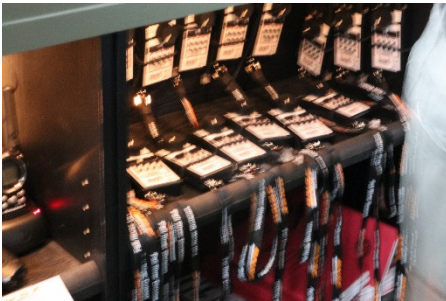
# Rocky Ops 2019

## Part III



On Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> of this year I was privileged to be part of the operating crew on John Parker's BNSF Fall River Division HO-scale layout as the final session for me during Rocky Ops (North) 2019. As everyone was gathering, I took my camera and was able to get almost the entire layout in 196-photos (which in the short time I had before the session started, was about 1-picture every 10-seconds or so). I had also remembered to bring my video camera which fit into my apron pocket, so I was able to get 19-short videos which are loaded on YouTube and the links are also in the story.

Luck was a Lady for me this day, as during the drawing for job assignments, my card was drawn second, so I was able to choose the PSC Coal Drag job which allowed me to run coal trains from one end of the layout to the other and back again, so I was able to witness the entire layout rather than being spotted in one location for the duration.



(Left) The storage area for the throttles.



(Right) The radio nook with chargers.



The PSC Coal Drag began at the power plant (Left) on one end of the layout where I needed to bring my awaiting power over to a string of MT's (empties) after receiving clearance from Dispatch by radio.

The entire layout is signaled, and you have to pay attention which I learned right off, after receiving clearance to depart, I started videoing my train and in a short distance promptly over-ran a **red** signal and derailed on a closed switch. After removing my head from you know where, I was able to operate the train first and then video when possible (usually waiting on a green signal).

The PSC Coal ran the MT's to the far end of the layout where the coal mine was located, we looped around through the flood loader and inserted coal loads in each car. After receiving clearance from Dispatch, we were off back to the power plant where we repeated the process a second time, again a great way to see the entire layout.



# Rocky Ops 2019

## Part III



Video 1: Waiting for the green signal to leave the power plant, I caught the AmTrak as it heads out and goes down the helix.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8-qPI-1bxM>

Video 2: PSC Coal gets the green signal and leaves the power plant, gets to the other side of the room and promptly over-runs a red signal (edited out of course).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4sunhxnU79E>



(Above) After exiting the helix, we go around the corner and into the main yard area



# Rocky Ops 2019

## Part III



(Above) Approaching the yard on a long down grade

(Both below) Near the entrance to the yard, a couple of views of the engine repair facilities





# Rocky Ops 2019

## Part III



Video 3: PSC Coal has entered the yard and is waiting for the Hostler to come take our motive power. This is some of the yard action.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EA1U0eGKHLm>

Video 4: The Hostler takes our motive power to the service facility and returns with a recently serviced set for PSC Coal.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6n8SQSfC5Vw>



(Above) Some of the MOW equipment in the yard



# Rocky Ops 2019

## Part III



(Above) The entrance to the yard from the right side.



Video 5: While PSC Coal is waiting for clearance to leave the yard, here is more yard action.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1DBMMRpyPQ>

Video 6: While PSC Coal left the yard but is sitting in the hole waiting for three other trains to pass each other just outside the yard limits.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvLXOuW7FUE>





# Rocky Ops 2019

## Part III



(Above) A look from right to left of the Yard



(Left) The Yard entrance on the right side



(Right) Ground view of the Yard



# Rocky Ops 2019

## Part III



(Above) the entrance to the Yard on the left side



Video 7: PSC Coal climbing out of the helix to an upper level and clearing the trains waiting on me.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lb9cQeDSRhE>

Video 8: Waiting on a green, then crossing the impressive viaduct

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0H2njW8Kw4>



Video 9: Moving around the corner beneath snow sheds, then coming to a red signal to wait on another train.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79d7eP2TY\\_I&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79d7eP2TY_I&t=1s)





# Rocky Ops 2019

## Part III



Video 10: Once the intermodal clears, it's off again...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bw6SzbIRGEA>

Video 11: PSC Coal has made it to the base of the hill, and we come to a stop to wait on a passing intermodal, then to proceed and have a pair of helpers tacked on to the rear for the climb up the helix.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ionMuC7PO\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ionMuC7PO_g)



Video 12: By this time, we made it to the coal mine, ran through the loader loop, inserted coal loads into the cars, and after clearance proceeded back to the power plant, here we are gliding down-grade near the Yard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPMIEGjOjXA&t=15s>



(Above) the grain mill facility and passenger waiting area



# Rocky Ops 2019

## Part III



(Above) The Sage Recycle Center is a building flat that disguises the corner, but the details of the scene are exceptional.



Video 13: Loaded PSC Coal glides through the Yard and then awaits clearance to depart for the power plant.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWoRr0ArfI0>

Video 14: PSC Coal receives clearance, departs the yard, and makes the climb back towards The corner leading to the helix to the upper level and the power plant.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHFrI2\\_07vQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHFrI2_07vQ)



Video 15: PSC Coal has delivered the loaded cars to the power plant, picked-up a new string of MT's, and is exiting the helix back towards the Yard on our second run.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PS1SV1FQeKA>



# Rocky Ops 2019

## Part III



(Above) An interesting scene with the LP tank farm, instead of having the storage tanks parallel to the tracks, John cut them in half and mounted them behind plexiglass, each one with a different amount of LP gas inside. Although LP gas is clear, John added a bit of yellow dye so the simulated gas can be seen.





# Rocky Ops 2019

## Part III



Video 16: PSC Coal has returned to the Yard, and the Hostler is again swapping out the motive power for servicing, back to the original consist.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZoyLJOPFc&t=159s>





# Rocky Ops 2019

## Part III



Video 17: PSC Coal is waiting in the hole (again) for a superior train, then we move out.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls\\_obmfHDJM&t=42s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls_obmfHDJM&t=42s)



# Rocky Ops 2019

## Part III

Video 18: While PSC Coal was on our second run we were once again in the hole waiting for the green, but this time next to a grain facility with a wonderful “critter”. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKsiNhqgjOk>



(Above Both) Two views of the coal mine. The right picture shows the entrance to the mine loop where you loop around and come through the flood loader. Under the layout is a box of coal “loads” to insert into the cars as you head back out. I was able to run the train very slowly and a drop the loads in as the cars rolled past.





# Rocky Ops 2019

## Part III





# Rocky Ops 2019

## Part III



(Above) A view of the Yard and the excellent background scenery



(Left) Video 19: Perhaps the most important video of them all, a peek into the hidden world of the main staging and Dispatcher's nook. The picture at left shows the small entrance where you have to literally crawl through to get into the nook, the Maytag Repair man was almost as lonely as these guys. Within the nook the Dispatcher has his computer screens plus closed circuit TV monitors showing views of the layout, there are two staging yards, plus access to one of the helix loops.

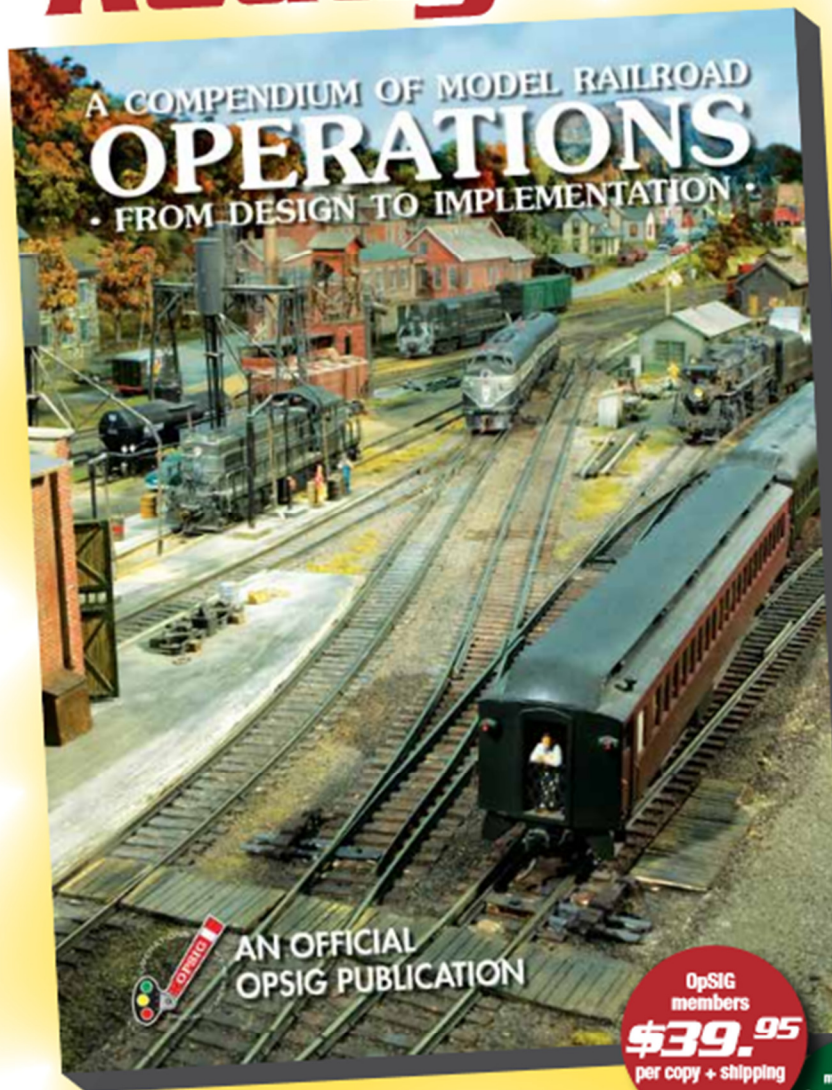
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ol1g30G7-pc>

Once again, I would like to personally thank all of the layout owners who participated in Rocky Ops 2019, just imagine all of the hard work it took to get this huge layout ready to run as flawlessly as it did.



Dispatcher to OpSIG Publication No. 2, you're ...

# Ready to Roll!



All model railroaders, whether expert or beginner, will find a wealth of useful information in the OpSIG's second publication, **A Compendium of Model Railroad Operations - From Design to Implementation**. A complete guide to all things operations, our latest offering covers every aspect of prototype operations and how to apply them to your model railroad—from design and staffing to yards and paperwork, from communications and signals to dispatching and car forwarding—in 310 full-color pages. Written by ten of your fellow modelers and professionals, **The Compendium** contains more than 350 photos, 120 illustrations, and countless tips, pointers, suggestions, and prototype information to help guide you on your journey. A must for any modeler interested in prototype operations, add it to your library today!

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# The Real Deal



On Tuesday July 9<sup>th</sup> I came across a six-pack of BNSF motive power tied down on the stock track in Garden City, KS. While most power in this area is of GE origin, this group included a EMD SD70ACe number 8464.





# The Real Deal





# Improve your modeling with a few sheets of paper.

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# WKR Layout



We're just about one month away from moving into the new homestead in Dodge City, Kansas.



(Above) A peek inside the shop area, the new home of the WKR layout



# WKR Layout



(Above) inside the home, the sheetrock is complete and painted





# Date Book

## August, 2019

25<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday

**Mid-America Train & Toy Show**  
[https://www.railserve.com/jump/train\\_shows.cgi?ID=210](https://www.railserve.com/jump/train_shows.cgi?ID=210)

Kansas City, MO.

## September, 2019

28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>  
Sat & Sun

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Wichita Toy Train Show**  
Cessna Activity Center [https://www.railserve.com/jump/train\\_shows.cgi?ID=327](https://www.railserve.com/jump/train_shows.cgi?ID=327)

Wichita, KS.

\*\*\* Click on the blue links to go to the Club's show page \*\*\*





On the Back Cover...

I was just wrapping up taking photos prior to the start of the Operating Session when John Parker (holding the paper) started calling everyone to attention for the pre-op briefing.

**Note:** Near the end of August My Wife, Kathy, and I should be moving into our new home in Dodge City. Part of that will entail a disruption in our internet service for a while plus a transition and adjustment period, so I don't know if there will be a September issue, but the Main Line will return.

## The **Main Line**

Publisher & Editor: Robert A. Simmons

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