

# *The Main Line*

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

**August 2025**



## **On The Cover:**

**Purchased over two years ago, two Broadway Limited Imports SD40-2s are finally on the job earning revenue on the Western Kansas Rails layout. Details inside...**

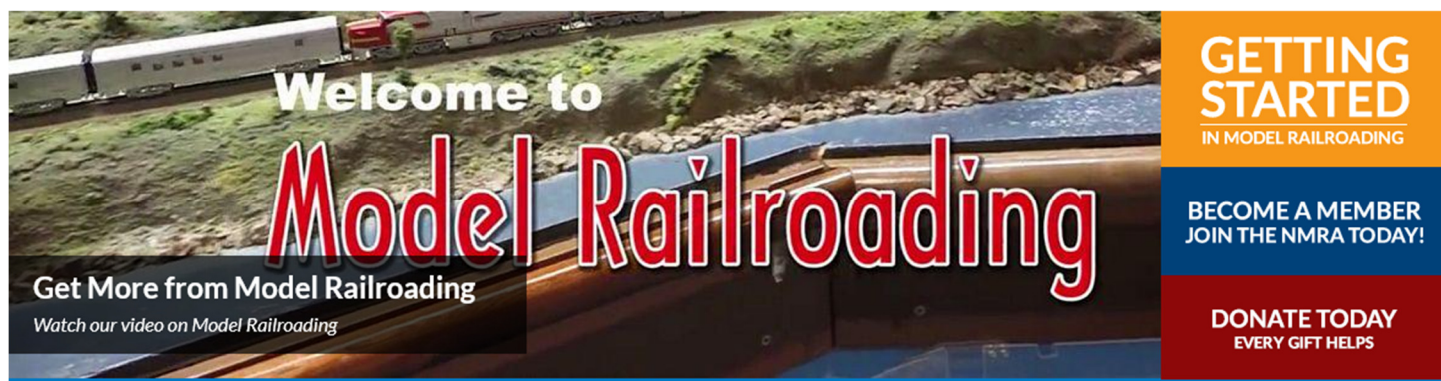
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## Membership Benefits

### Direct Individual Member Benefits

- **Access to coaching and support by Master Model Railroaders® (MMR)**

NMRA assists other members whenever possible, whether or not the individual requesting assistance is a participant in the Achievement Program.

- **Achievement Program (AP)**

Push your skills to new levels while earning recognition for your efforts in the [Achievement Program](#).

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- **Beginner's Guide**

Learn the basics of trackwork, wiring, scenery, and more in this [online guide](#).

- **Collection Insurance**

Group property insurance for collections, layouts, live steam, tools, slides and photographs, books, magazines, railroad memorabilia, and more.

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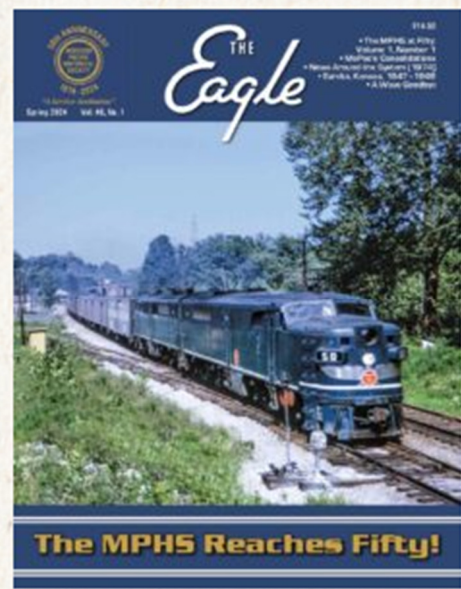
NMRA members are automatically assigned to a geographically close Division where they'll be able to participate in regularly scheduled in-person and virtual events.

See how the NMRA can aid your modeling on the website: <https://www.nmra.org/>





The Society publishes an illustrated quarterly magazine called "The Eagle." Each issue contains current news and articles of historical interest. Rosters of equipment, technical information and data, and modeling projects are just a few of many items of interest published along with the business of the society. All members are urged to contribute material for publication. Along with the magazine, the Society produces a full color calendar of photos from across the railroad covering all eras.



## Become a Member

All memberships include a year's worth of "The Eagle" magazine, the following year's calendar, and discounted pricing on selected items in the Company Store.

Learn more about the MPHS on the website:

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- Bay State Milling Company (BSMX)
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- Burlington Northern (BN)
- CSX (CSXT)
- Missouri Pacific (MP)



## N Scale - Atlas EMD SD35

- Baltimore & Ohio (B&O)
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# Real Deal



(This Page) A recent visitor to the BNSF yard in Dodge City, KS. on July 10<sup>th</sup> was CPKC 8897. The 8897 was built by GE in 2008 as a ES44AC, which CPKC identifies as a **DRF-44** (Diesel Road Freight – 4400 Horsepower).





# Real Deal



(Above) Passing through the yard on the same day was BNSF 1935. It was built by EMD in January of 1979 as a SD40-2 by Burlington Northern and numbered as 7137. After the merger it wore BNSF 7137, and finally 1935.



(Above) Also passing through was a rare bird, **BNSF 1438**. On the BNSF in Western Kansas, we usually spot GE power with a few SD40-2s. BNSF 1438 is an **EMD SD60M**, constructed in 1991. The SD60M features a "North American safety cab" design and has a full-width short hood. Early models until 1990 featured a three-piece windshield with vertical windows (nicknamed "triclops"), Later production from 1991 on used two windshield panes that were sloped back and had a somewhat shorter nose tapered on the sides.



# WELCOME TO **NRail**<sup>TM</sup>

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. Starting as NTRAK, it created the first national modular standard, provided the vehicle for N Scale to grow to the second most popular scale in North America, was the birthplace of T-TRAK and today is the home of N Scale model railroading. We welcome all N scalers.



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- Discount on merchandise in the [NRail store](#).

**Find out more here: <https://nrail.org/>**



**Announcements**

The 2025 Third Quarter issue of the [Caboose Kibitzer](#) is available. Thanks to Patrick Hiatte for his work and please send him your articles!

Thanks to Jim Marlett for making the [July/August 2025 issue of Trails, Rails, & Tales](#) available!

**Welcome to the Mid-Continent Region of the National Model Railroad Association**

A 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, MCoR includes the southern half of the state of Iowa, portions of Illinois, and the entire states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. Since 1990, MCoR's leadership has fostered a strong program of developing local divisions with the purpose of bringing the potential for NMRA activity and involvement to a community near you. From only two divisions in 1990 located in metropolitan areas, MCoR now has well over a dozen divisions and over 900 members.

[Click here to join the NMRA or renew your membership!](#)

**Upcoming Events**

The 2025 St Louis Railroad Prototype Modeler's Meet will be running from 7/24-7/26 in [Collinsville, IL](#). See the [flyer](#) for more information.

The 2025 Convention will be held 8/22/2025 and 8/23/2025! Our [Headline Speaker](#) has been finalized

Keep track of the Mid-Continent Region activities on the website: <https://mcor-nmra.org/>

Or...follow the Mid-Continent Region on their Facebook Page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1851848998468077>



## Mid-Continent Region, NMRA

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The **Chicago & North Western Historical Society** was founded in 1973 by a group of Midwestern railfans interested in the C&NW, along with its predecessor and successor roads. These roads include the Chicago, St. Paul Minneapolis & Omaha; the Minneapolis & St. Louis; the Chicago Great Western; the Litchfield & Madison; the Fort Dodge, Des Moines & Southern; the Des Moines & Central Iowa; and many more. The Society's purpose is to collect, circulate and preserve the history of the C&NW and its predecessor and successor lines; to create and publish a magazine; and to promote fellowship among C&NW fans and Society Members. Click here for the CNWHS website: <https://cnwhs.org/wp1/nwl/>



**Chicago & North Western Historical Society**

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# NMRA National Train Show



The National Model Railroading Association Annual Convention was held in Novi, Michigan from July 14<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Here is just a taste of what went on.



# National Train Show

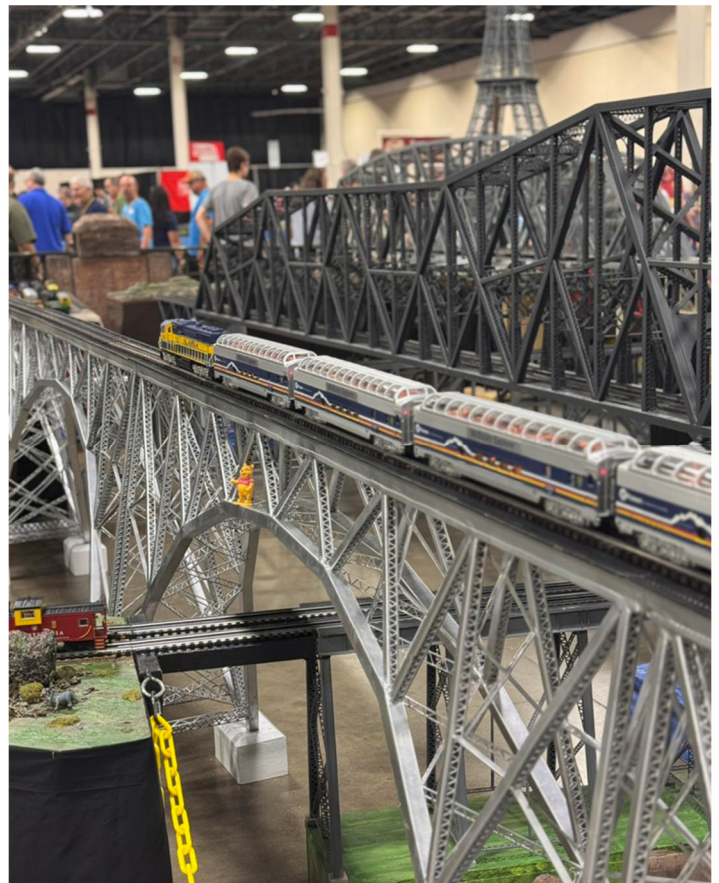




# NMRA National Train Show

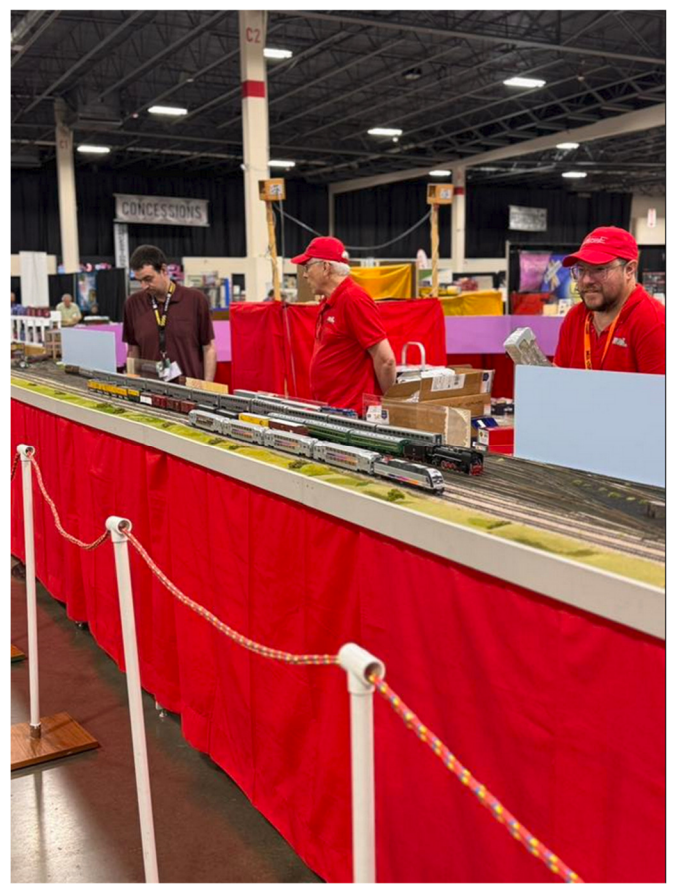


(Above) The waiting line to enter on the first day.





# NMRA National Train Show





# NMRA National Train Show





## Western Kansas Division

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**Want to test drive the NMRA for a while?**

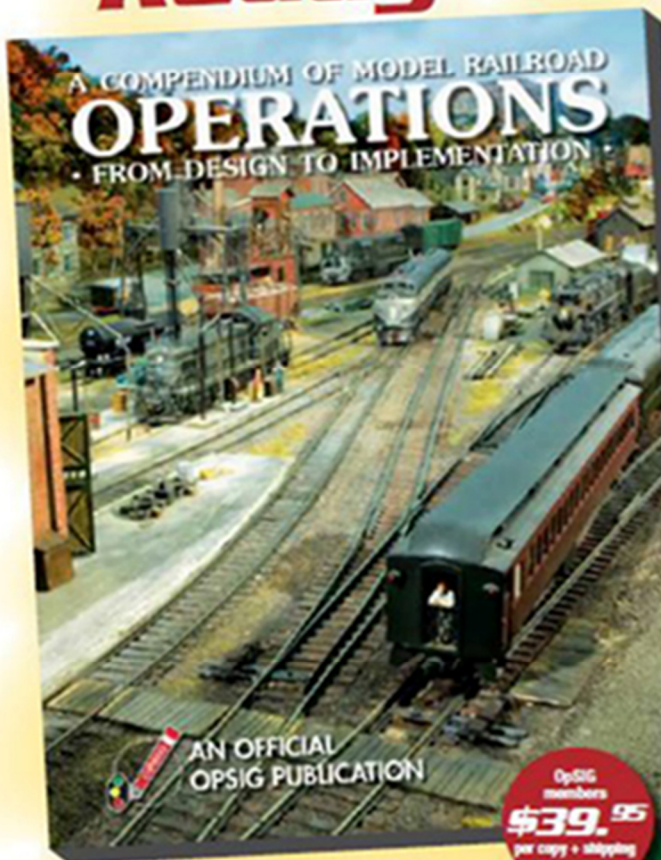
Sign up for our **9-month Rail Pass trial membership** for only \$19.95! This Includes 9 months of the *Digital NMRA Magazine*.

The Rail Pass offer is good **in the U.S. only** and is for **new members** and those who have not been NMRA members for two years or more. Individuals can join at the Rail Pass rate **only once**. Rail Pass members can attend conventions and participate in contests but cannot hold office or vote in NMRA events. Membership will renew at the regular membership rate.



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# 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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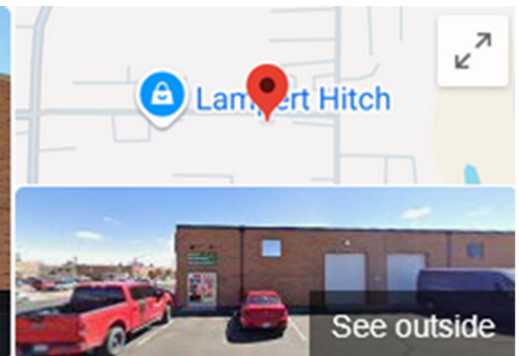
N Scale Supply is looking to buy collections, large and small, or just extra stuff you may have  
[click for details](#)

Click here for the website: <https://www.nscalesupply.com/nscalesupply.html>



### STORE HOURS

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FRIDAY	10AM-6PM
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SUNDAY	CLOSED

[See photos](#)[See outside](#)

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**Free-mo** operates like a permanent or sectional layout but still retains its modularity. Free-mo layouts are operated with a single track mainline in a point to loop, loop to loop, or point to point. Layout sizes can vary to any size conceivable.

The Free-mo mainline is centered on a two-foot end so modules can be inverted 180-degrees and still mate up to the adjacent module without modification to wiring or track. The Free-mo mainline also takes advantage of stronger industry support of code 83 rail.



Find out more here: <https://free-mo.org/>



when you sister tells you to not  
wear anything stupid



**What men do!**



# WKR Update



(This Page) A couple of years ago, the Purchasing Department of the WKR acquired four, new, Broadway Limited Imports EMD SD40-2s in early MoPac colors (top). Unfortunately, they only offered two road numbers which resulted in duplicates.

They sat in storage all this time as the WKR I-T Department was having great difficulties running the JMRI program “Decoder Pro” (details on this later). The Paint Department first attempted to change the numbers using Micro Scale decals, however the two companies had vastly different views on the size of the numbers. Our favorite scheme is the single year (1972) “Double Eagle”. This features the then new eagle buzzsaw under the cab along with the “Screaming Eagle” on the long hood. The Paint Shop removed the original numbers, switched to the large road numbers, and added the eagle buzzsaw under the cab. (Below)

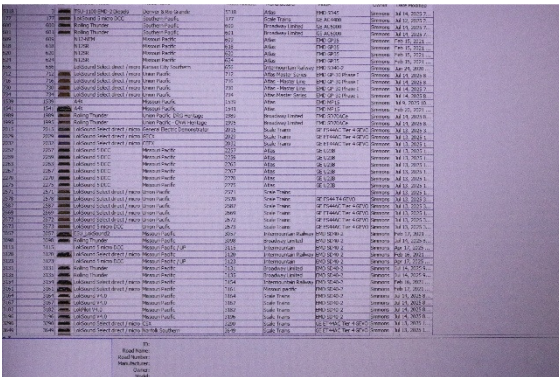




# WKR Update



(Above) The new SD40-2s are in service.



(Left) About the JMRI issue, in no way was it an issue with the JMRI software. We struggled with this issue for almost two-years, but it is very satisfying to finally get things working. This is a shot of the computer monitor showing we have the software up and running.

(Right) This is our programming track. A piece of scrap plywood with cork and track installed. We started with a Digitrax PR-3 then upgraded to the PR-4. It turns out that the USB A-B cable was at fault. The jacks had become worn and loose which provided intermittent contact at best. Replacing the cable solved all the issues.





# WKR Update



(This Page) We believe that the tariffs imposed by the USA, has caused manufacturers to get product out quickly as several “preorders” have suddenly come in all at once. Besides locos, the WKR Car Department received several new Athearn acid tank cars. These are nicely detailed and will make a fine addition to the fleet.





# WKR Update



(Left) The current project of the WKR Scenery Department is the construction and installation of a safety rail system at the Pride-Ag Co-Op elevator, similar to this unit.

(Right) It's hard to tell the sizes of I-beams just by numbers, so we ordered several sizes that would be close to the scale sized beam. Although the real beam is a truss unit, because of the small size in N-scale, we will accept a solid I-beam.



(Left) We already had a supply of square rod which we can use for the vertical supports.

to determine the Loading Point for the cars and the total length of the safety rail system.

(Right) First step is a template. Using copy paper, we secured two pieces to the area, then traced the top of the track rails with the edge of a pencil. This allowed us

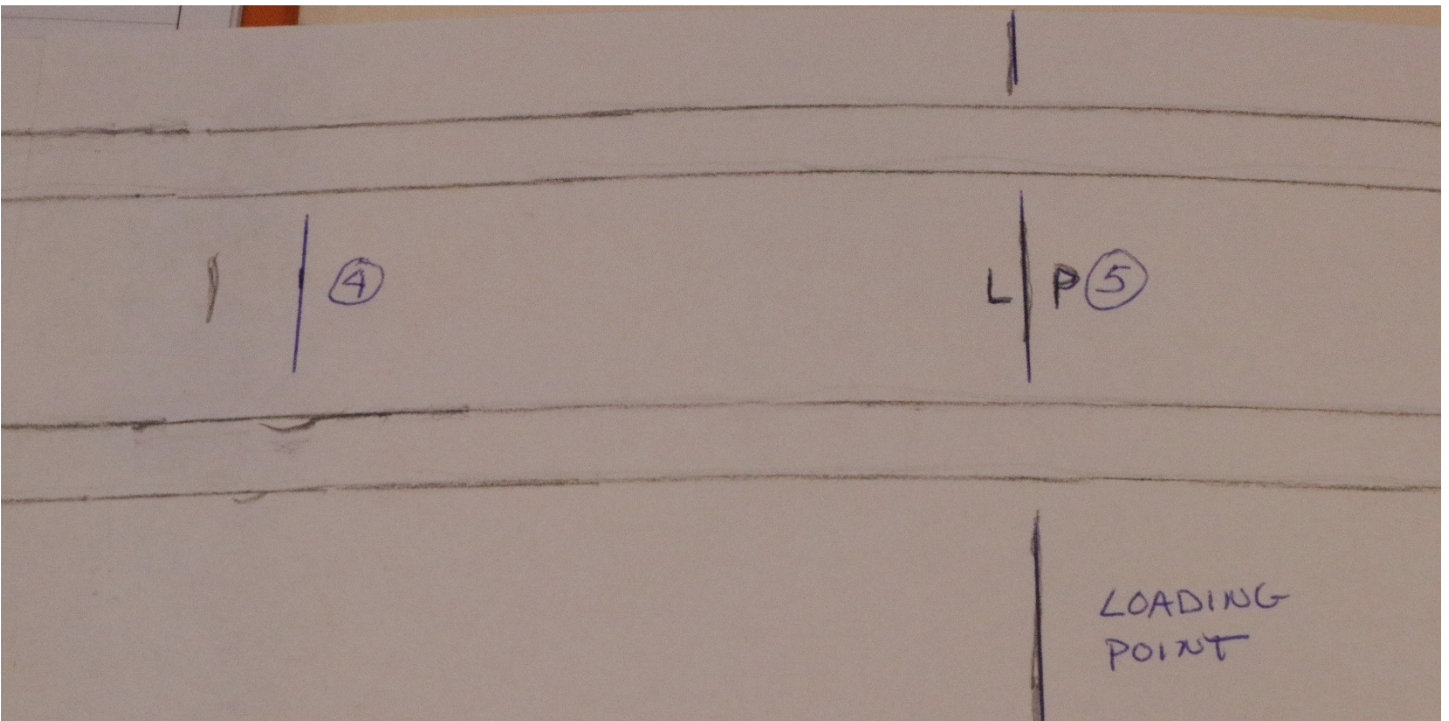




# WKR Update



(Above) The template is marked with the rails to show how much space we have between tracks. We also marked the loading point at the head house. Using a grain car, we marked-off the length of the car across the page giving us five supports. (Below) After review with a scale ruler, we decided to use 45-feet between supports to give us six supports and a slightly shorter distance as the tracks taper together on the left side. More to follow next month...







The Rio Grande Modeling & Historical Society (RGM&HS) founded in 2001 is a Colorado non-profit corporation whose membership consists of diverse group of historians, collectors, railfans, photographers, modelers, and railroad employees. The mission of the Rio Grande Modeling & Historical Society 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.

The *Green Light* is the society's electronic newsletter delivered eight times a year via e-mail. Each issue of the *Green Light*, we cover Society news, highlighting current operations over former

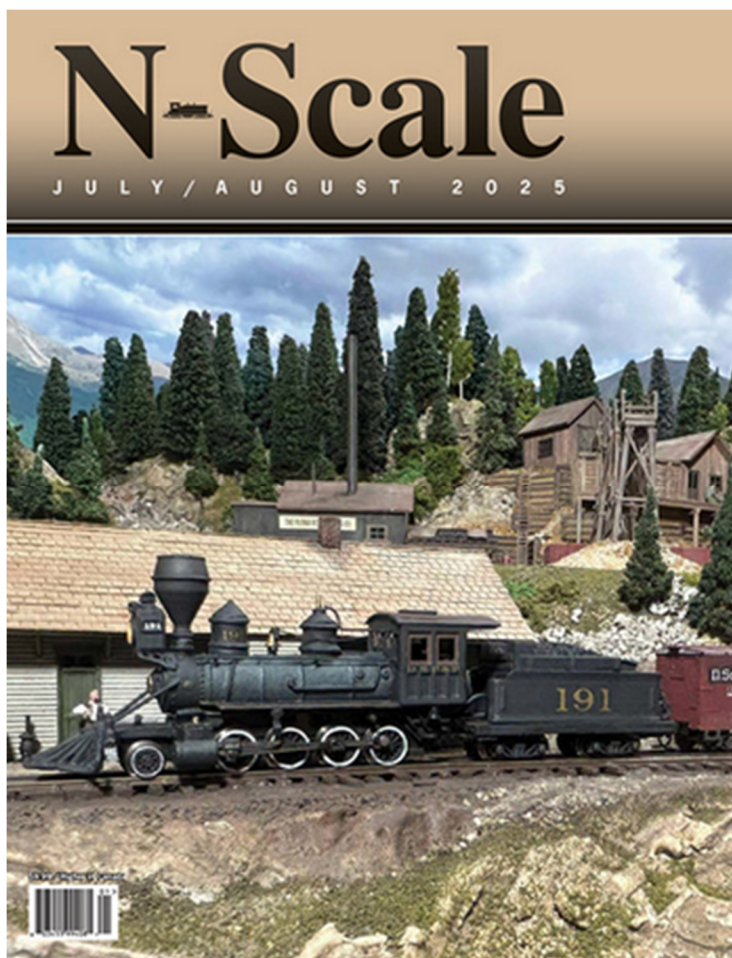
Rio Grande territory, and preservation initiatives geared to educate interested Individuals in the rich history of the railroad.



**Join Us in Sacramento for the 2025 WP–Rio Grande Railroad Joint Convention!**

**For more information, click here: <https://rgmhs.org/>**





## IN THE CURRENT ISSUE

Review: Rokuhan Z-Scale USRA 0-6-0  
by Thom Knapp

Review: Jokari PWS Plus 001 Wire Stripper  
by Thom Knapp

A City Above the Freight-T  
by David Gentry

The Short & Nn3arrow  
Building the DSP&P #191  
by Preston Sands

Extra Extra! Read All About It!  
Build Your Own Layout, Along With Me!  
by Dennis Murphy

An Industrial Layout Built to Run  
by Richard Wroblewski

The Baltimore & Ohio Southeastern  
Part 1  
by Thom Placier, Photos by Lance Adkins

My N Scale Layout  
by Dennis Blank

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MO-KAN Garden Railroaders invites you to see its 2025 selection of unique garden railroads. This year our tour is offering three dates by region in the KC metropolitan area.

July 12, Central Region      July 26, East Region      August 23, West Region

You can visit all the garden railroads for \$10 a car, and half of the proceeds go to Harvesters. For more details, pictures of the garden railroads, tickets and tour guide, click on our website:

<https://mokangardenrailroaders.org/2025-public-tour>



Mark your calendar now for this spectacular summer event that is fun for all adults and kids. Watch for further notices about this tour as we describe what you will see and experience.

Thank you,

MO-KAN Garden Railroaders





Plan to Attend

# 78<sup>th</sup> Mid CONTINENT Regional Convention

MCOR to KC  
IN '25

**AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup> & 23<sup>RD</sup>**

... Friday and Saturday ...

Lenexa/Kansas City

hosted with and overlaying

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Special Clinics



and Contest

Clinics  
Modeling Photo Contest  
Dessert Bar & Ice Cream  
Speakers  
Train Show  
More Clinics  
Turkey Creek Model Contest  
Layout Tours  
Banquet  
Good Food  
Speaker  
Chinese Auction  
Live Auction  
Fun!







# **2025 Joint**

**Missouri Pacific Historical Society,  
Burlington Route Historical Society,  
and Chicago & Eastern Illinois Historical Society  
Convention in Marion, Illinois**

**October 9-11. 2025  
At Marion, Illinois**

**The activities for the meet will be held at the "Pavillion"  
in Marion. Activities will be full of clinics, a banquet, and  
evening speaker. However, no bus trip is currently  
planned. Times and clinicians will be announced later.**

**The meet hotel will be will be:  
Drury Inn & Suites Marion  
2706 W Deyoung St, Marion, IL 62959  
Phone: (618) 997-9600**

Click here for more information: [https://www.burlingtonroute.org/BRHS/annual\\_meetings/index.php](https://www.burlingtonroute.org/BRHS/annual_meetings/index.php)





# All Aboard For The 48th Annual OKC Train Show!

November 15th-16th 2025

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This coming **March 13<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> 2026**, the Indian Nations division of NMRA along with the Tulsa Operating Layout Owners will host our 10<sup>th</sup> Layout Design and Operations Weekend in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

More than just operating sessions, this event includes a 6 ½ hour seminar on Saturday with presentations from several well-known experts and three operating sessions.

We changed the date so as not to conflict with other events on the west coast. **PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday workshop** 8:00am – 2:30pm with several presentations

Track plan consulting by appointment by LDOP Team members.

Bring your track plans, photos, display boards and mockups to share with everyone. Great place to solicit feedback on your layout.

Catered hot lunch.

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**Operating sessions** – 11+ layouts including HO, N, HON3, and SN3

Friday 6:pm – 9:00pm

Saturday 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Sunday 9:00am – 12:00 pm.

***Everyone is invited, you do not need to be an NMRA member to participate.*** Please contact [steve@kcs1982.com](mailto:steve@kcs1982.com) for further updates. Details on our past event (in 2024) can be found at [Layout Design and Operations - Tulsa NMRA](#). Layouts will be similar, but presenters will be different of course.



# Date Book

## August

- 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> **Mid-Continent Region Convention** Lenexa (Kansas City), MO.  
Fri. & Sat. <https://www.mcor-nmra.org/Conventions/2025/2025%20Convention%20Notice.pdf>
- 23<sup>rd</sup> **Mo-KAN Garden Railroaders Tour** Kansas City, MO.  
Sat. <https://mokangardenrailroaders.org/2025-public-tour>

## October

- 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> **Joint Annual Convention MPHS-BRHS-CEIHS** Marion, IL  
Thu – Sat <https://mopac.org/event/2025-joint-convention-with-brhs-and-ceihs/>

## November

- 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> **Oklahoma City Train Show** Oklahoma City, OK.  
Sat & Sun <https://www.okctrainshow.com/>
- 

# 2026

## January

- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> **Great Train Show** Kansas City, MO.  
Sat & Sun <https://www.trainshow.com/>

## March

- 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> **Layout Design & Operations Weekend** Tulsa, OK.  
Fri – Sun <https://www.ldopsigmeet.tulsanmra.org/>





## MRH: July 2025



Hard-coded wide PDF version of MRH magazine

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The **Burlington Route Historical Society** (BRHS) is an Illinois non-profit corporation. The membership, which is over a 1,100 consists of diverse group of historians, collectors, railfans, photographers, modelers and railroad employees who have banded together to share one common interest, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad; its two affiliates, the Colorado & Southern and the Fort Worth & Denver; and their predecessors. BRHS activities are geared to serve the wide variety of interests of its members on almost every facet of the CB&Q as it served "Everywhere West."

## BRHS Publications

Founded in October 1979, the BRHS has enjoyed a steady growth that now allows us to produce two publications.



**REGULAR MEMBERSHIP LEVEL**= Entitled to one vote, all activities, three *Burlington Bulletins*, three *Zephyr* newsletters and one calendar during the membership year.

**SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP LEVEL** = Entitled to all regular membership benefits and you are recognized as a Sustaining Member in a *Burlington Bulletin* each year. \$40.00 of a Sustaining Membership is the portion that covers basic dues, the additional \$40.00 is a tax-deductible donation to the BRHS.

**CONDUCTOR'S CLUB LEVEL** = Joining at the Conductor's Club level entitles you to all regular membership benefits and provides a \$60 tax-deductible donation to the work of the BRHS. Members at this level will receive special recognition with a special pin to wear and will be recognized in a separate group in our publications when the Sustaining Members list is published.

Click here to learn more: <https://burlingtonroute.org/index.php>





**My wife sent me a selfie in a new dress and asked, “Does this make my belly look big?” I texted back “Noo!” My phone autocorrected my respondse to “Moo.” Please send help!**

## The *Main Line*

Publisher & Editor: Robert A. Simmons

The newsletter of the Western Kansas Division is published monthly for no charge by Robert A. Simmons, Division Superintendent / Director

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