







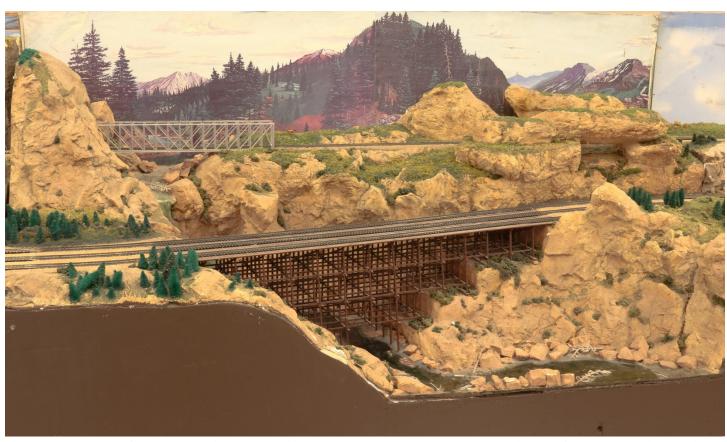
Mid-Continent Region

National Model Railroad Association

The Monthly publication of the



#### **Western Kansas Division**



On The cover: The former Boot Hill Model Railroad Club's N-Trak layout was brought out of storage and displayed by Donnie Becker of Salina, KS. At the McPherson Train Show.

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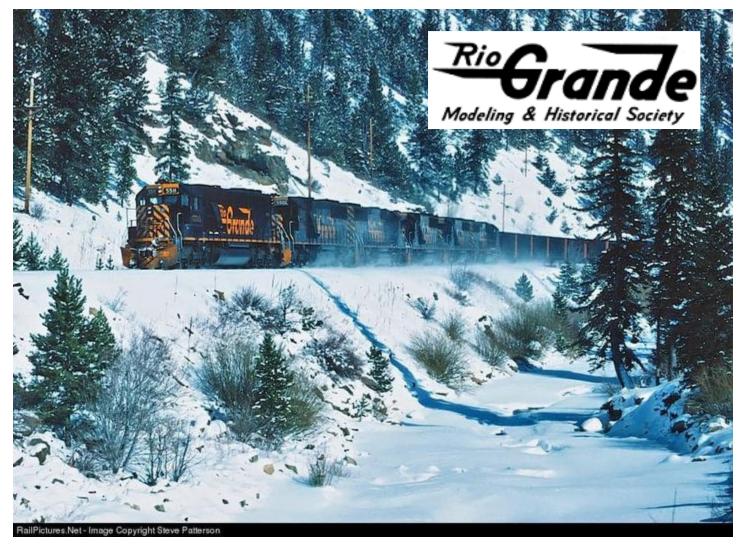
WKR Update.....Page 44 and more!

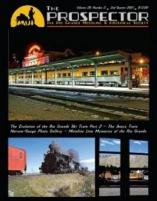


## Realistic water modeling tricks



Click the link to start reading MRH today: <a href="https://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/">https://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/</a>





The RGM&HS publishes *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 issues of *The Prospector* over the past 20 years back to Volume 1 which was first published in 2002.

We invite you to **join** or **renewal** your membership in the RGM&HS and join over 400 other Rio Grande Enthusiasts from all over the world.

#### All Members receive:

- One year (4 issue) subscription to *The Prospector*, the official magazine of the Society
- A subscription to the Society's e-mail newsletter, the Green Light.
- Members-only emails with advance notice of events, programs, and offers.
- Special benefits and features in the Members-only section of the Society's website

Click this link for the RGM&HS website: https://rgmhs.org/

Click this link for the RGM&HS Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/



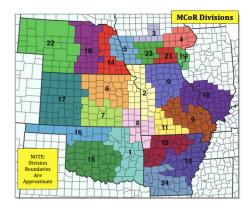
## Welcome to the Mid-Continent Region of the National Model Railroad Association

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 the link for the Mid-Continent Region website: <a href="http://mcor-nmra.org/">http://mcor-nmra.org/</a>

#### Conventions

Hold the Date: The 2023 Mid-Continent Region convention will be held at the Holiday Inn at US 69 and 87th Street in Overland Park, Kansas from July 27 through 29.





**RETAIL STORE HOURS** 

MON-FRI 10AM to 6PM SAT 10AM to 4PM RETAIL STORE ADDRESS 6060 WEST 55th AVENUE ARVADA, COLORADO 80002

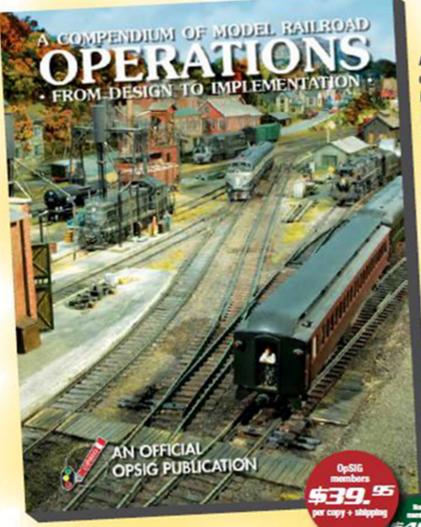
## We want to buy your stuff!

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

Click this link for N Scale Supply: <a href="https://www.nscalesupply.com/">www.nscalesupply.com/</a>

## Dispatcher to Op516 Publication No. 2, you're ...

# Ready to Roll!



To Order: Please mail a check or money order, payable to OpSIG, with number of copies and your mailing address, phone number, and e-mail to:

> Steve Benezra 2737 Thistle Trail Hillsborough, NC 27278-9302 Opsig.editor@gmail.com

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 forwardingin 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!

> Shipping: US (\$8) Canada/Mexico (\$21) Overseas (\$28)

For shipping rates on multiple books, as well as better international shipping, please contact Steve Benezra.

For Paypal orders, please add \$1 to the cost of the book and send to OPERSIG@Yahoo.com. Provide your mailing address and telephone number in the subject box.

The OpSIG is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. For information on how to join the OpSIG, please visit www.opsig.org.

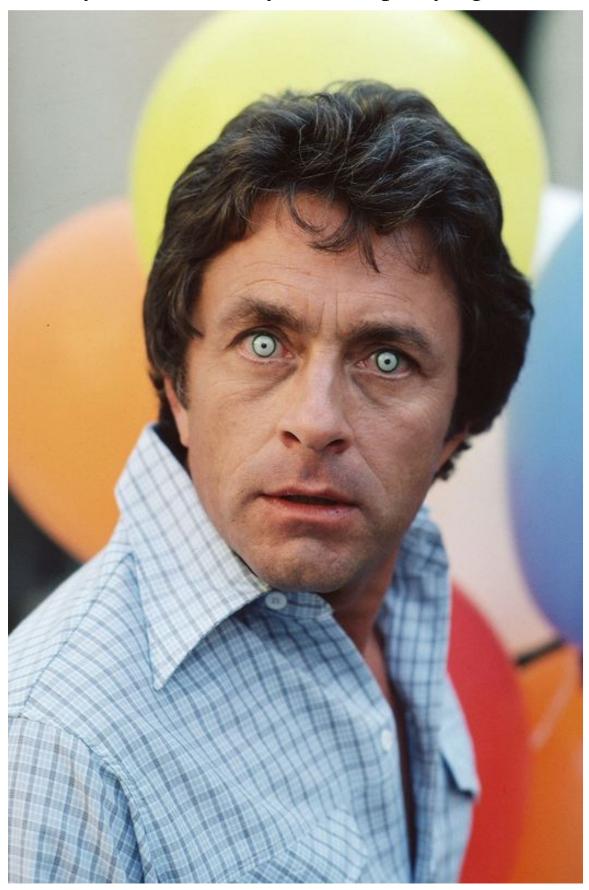


Convention Location Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center 1501 Gaylord Trail Grapevine, TX 76051 Phone: (817) 778-1000



Click the link for the website: <a href="https://www.2023texasexpress.com/">https://www.2023texasexpress.com/</a>

## When your Wife tells you to stop buying trains...

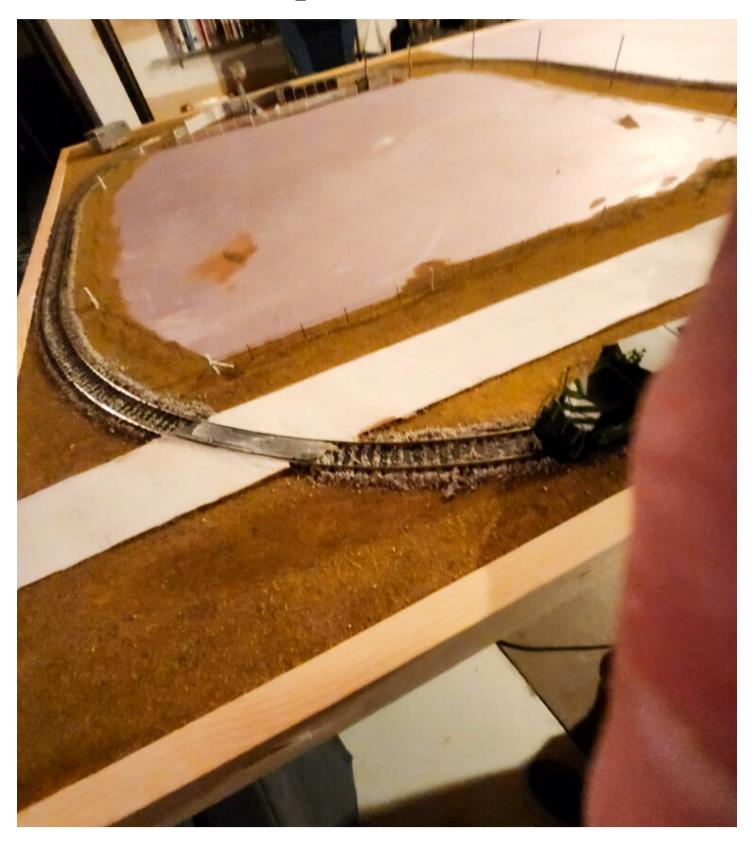




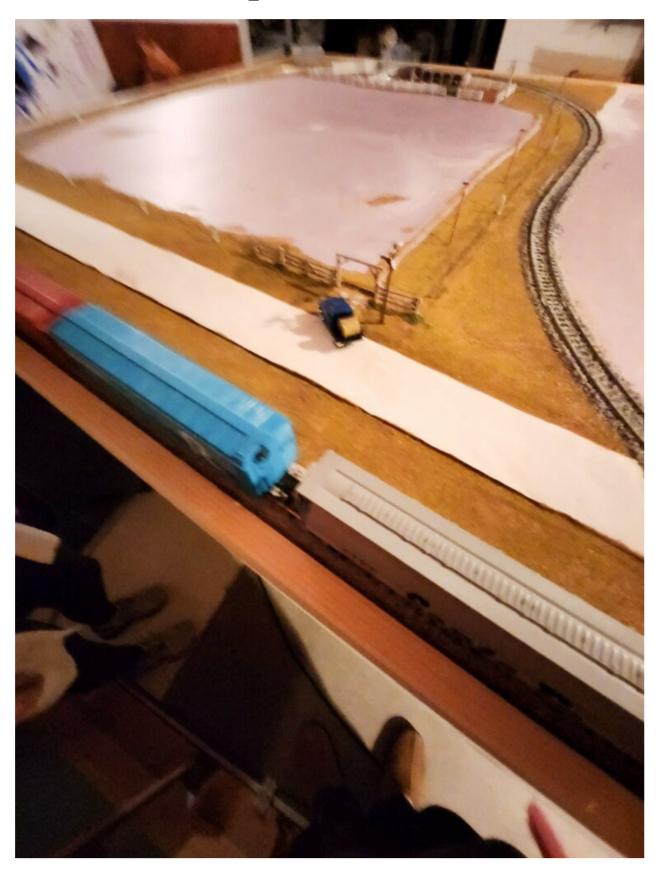
Jim Adams, President of the Boot Hill Model Railroad Club, has been working diligently on his HO-scale layout, "Adamsville". (Above) This is a view of the end of section three which depicts a suburban setting around a High School complete with track, football field, bus barn, and surrounding neighborhood.

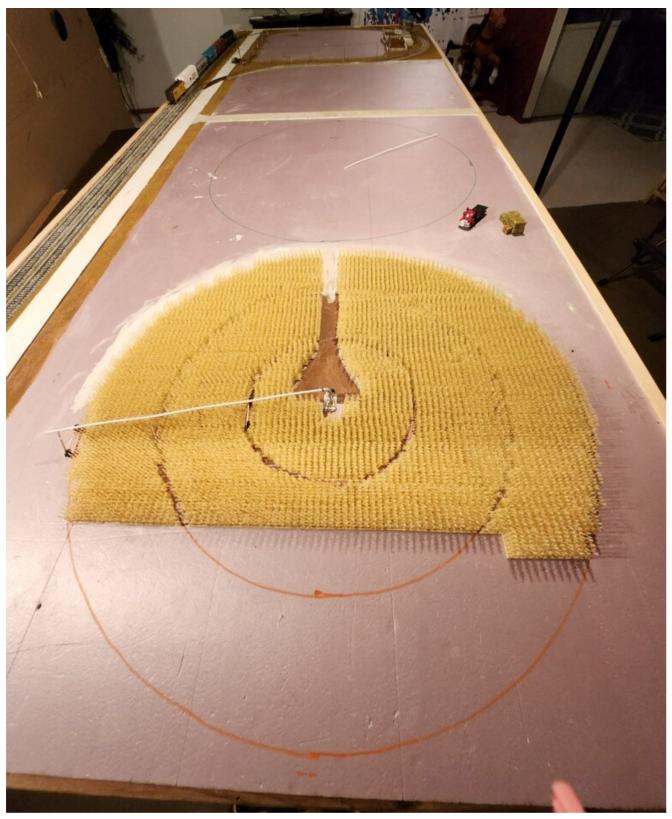


(Above) A view of section three, the same end, from the other side.



Just recently, Jim told me that he has begun the fourth and last expansion section of "Adamsville". (Above) On the new section, on this end, Jim is planning on having a pasture in the open space.





(Above) On the other end of section four, Jim has added a Corn circle with irrigation system and in the empty circle in the middle will be an irrigated alfalfa field. Plans also include farmhouses and other structures. Stay tuned to this channel for further "Adamsville" updates.



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McPherson, KS. Train Show

McPherson, KS. Train Show 2023

McPherson, KS. Train Show 2023

McPherson, KS. Train Show

McPherson, KS. Train Show 2023

McPherson, KS. Train Show

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The Western Kansas Division



channel under Division Director, Robert Simmons

Current subscribers

892

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+2 in last 28 days



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGX\_jOzGe24

McPherson, KS. Train Show 2023

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70Ao5zUZels



McPherson, KS. Train Show 2023





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.

#### **BECOME A MEMBER - JOIN US NOW!**

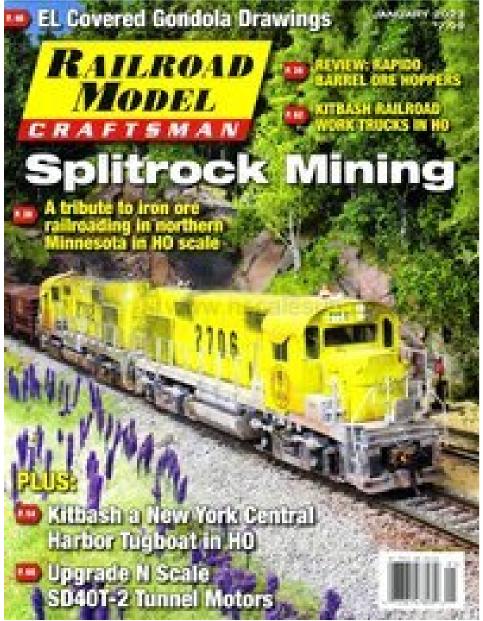
#### Membership in NRail includes:

- One year of the Newsletter (6 issues).
- Monthly ZoomTRAK live broadcasts.
- · Support of the National N Scale layouts at major shows.
- Access to the Members Only section of NRail.org (including over 270 issues of the Newsletter).
- · Discount on merchandise in the NRail store.

Click this link for the NRail website: <a href="https://nrail.org/">https://nrail.org/</a>

For the NRail Facebook page, click this link: <a href="www.facebook.com/NRail.org">www.facebook.com/NRail.org</a>





#### The HO Scale Splitrock Mining Co.

THOMAS GASIOR, MMR - An Alco-powered tribute to iron ore railroading in northern Minnesota in HO

#### **Erie Lackawanna Covered Hopper**

JAMES KINKAID - EL ordered 25 covered gondolas from Ortner in 1967 to serve the steel industry

#### Remembering W. Allen McClelland

MIKE BRESTEL - The builder of the Virginian & Ohio was known for his many contributions to the hobby

#### **New York Central Tugboat Kitbash**

V.S. ROSEMAN - Transforming a Walthers HO kit into a detailed workhorse of New York Harbor

#### Model Two Railroad Flatbed Trucks

HUNTER HUGHSON - Modifying an Atheam model to represent a typical 1970s-1980s railroad work truck

#### **Southern Pacific Tunnel Motor Upgrade**

DON LOFFELMAN - Upgrading details and lighting on an older InterMountain N scale EMD SD40T-2

Click here to start reading today: <a href="mailto:rmodelcraftsman.com/">rmodelcraftsman.com/</a>

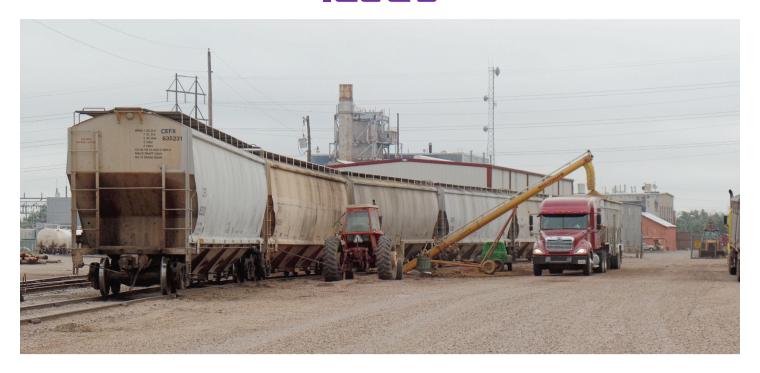
## Union Pacifc Engineer trains his replacement before retirement ca. 2035





Check out the Western Kansas Division MeWe page: <a href="mailto:mewe.com/p/westernkansasdivisionnmra">mewe.com/p/westernkansasdivisionnmra</a>

## Ideas



So, you want to operate grain cars on your layout but don't have enough room for a grain elevator, no problem. Here is a simple scene that can add operation possibilities with just a short piece of track and access road. The Garden City Western RR in Garden City, Kansas uses this process.



In the top photo we see a string of five hopper cars, tractor, grain auger, air compressor, and grain truck. The bottom photo shows the tractor moving the cars with a chain.



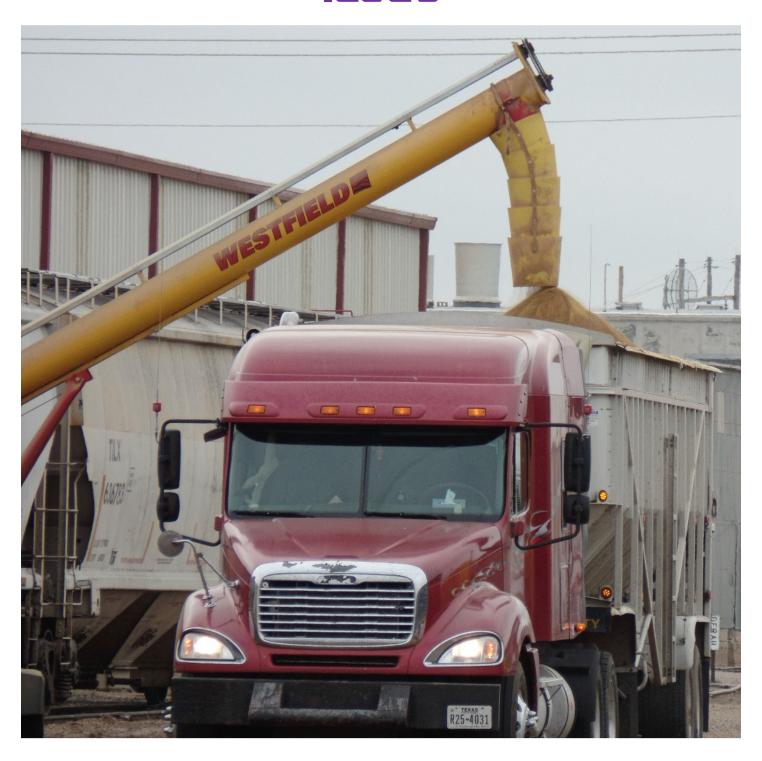
(Below) This photo shows a close-up of the grain auger that would feature a grain dump pan which would go under the bottom hatch. Just to the right of the blue barrel you can see the auger is powered by an electric motor. It appears that the green trailer is a portable air compressor with a red hose attached to the car to help blow residual grain out of the car.



Depending on your scale, the larger scales will have the augers available, for the smaller scales, you can check out Shapeways: <a href="https://www.shapeways.com/">https://www.shapeways.com/</a>. Just below the electric motor, you can see the yellow electric cord connections, but it is unclear where the power cord is coming from.

For the tractor, check out 3000Toys: <a href="https://3000toys.com/index.aspx">https://3000toys.com/index.aspx</a>

## Ideas



Now you simply need to add a tractor and grain trailer to finish the scene.



## MACRail PTC UP Antenna Array (Type 1, 2, 3)



MACRail 870 - PTC Antenna Array UP "Full-Top" Type #1 (2 PAIRS) - HO Scale



MACRail 871 - PTC Antenna Array UP "Full-Top" Type #2 (2 PAIRS) - HO Scale



MACRail 872 - PTC Antenna Array UP "Full-Top" Type #3 (2 PAIRS) - HO Scale

#### Midwest Model Railroad

In 2011 **Midwest Model Railroad** started with the idea of making this hobby more accessible to everyone. Since day one we have striven to keep our operating costs to a bare minimum and pass on those savings to you, the hobby's best customers. As of 2022 we are succeeding in offering some of the best prices anywhere in the hobby. Some great side effects of this goal have been the creation of real-time inventory on our website and a turnaround time of just one day between purchase and shipping.

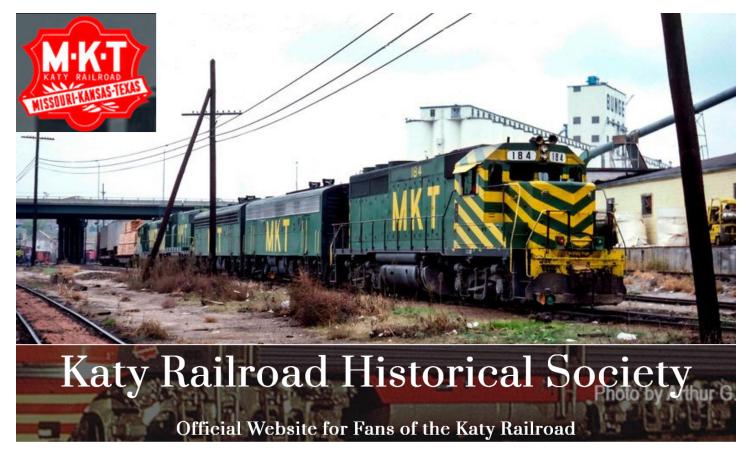
In fall 2020 we moved to a new 9,000sqft location in Independence Missouri that serves as both our retail location and our shipping facility. Then in summer 2021 we expanded even more acquiring an additional 6,000sqft, bringing our total to 15,000sqft of model railroad product, slot cars, board games, and more. Our central location near Kansas City, MO means orders can get to any corner of the United States, usually arriving within just a few days.



HONEY! WAKE UP...
IT SOUNDS LIKE
SOMEONE BROKE
INTO THE HOUSE!

IT'S PROBABLY JUST THE CAT.





The **Katy Railroad Historical Society**, a nonprofit organization, was formed in Parsons, Kansas, on October 1, 1977 with a nucleus of 43 charter members. 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. These include; 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, as they are able 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.





Click this link for the KRHS website: katyrailroad.org/

For the KRHS Facebook page, click this link: <a href="www.facebook.com/groups/">www.facebook.com/groups/</a>

## Something New





For 100 years, EMD® has produced the most durable, reliable, and sustainable locomotive products in the rail industry. We design and manufacture locomotives for all commercial rail applications, with over 65,000 EMD-powered locomotives delivered to more than 75 countries. Our technology leadership and superior performance

drive our reputation for exceptional quality, service, and innovation.

Progress Rail is proud to offer the **EMD Joule Battery Electric Locomotive series**, available as new build or repowers. EMD Joule locomotives support a wide range of railway operations with battery capacities up to 14.5 MWh. Applications include:

- Switching/shunting yards
- Regional service
- In consist with diesel-electric locomotives

Joule locomotives recover energy through dynamic braking. When dynamic braking is activated to control train speed, the batteries are charged, saving what would otherwise be wasted energy. Alternatively the batteries can be charged through our range of wayside charging options tailored to meet operational needs.

Our growing family of zero exhaust emissions locomotives is just one way Progress Rail helps our customers achieve their sustainability goals.

I can't wait for the Scale Trains, N-scale, Rivet Counter version to come out...



### AN ICONIC S SCALE BRAND RETURNS



S 1:64 SCALE

**S-Helper Service** began as a collaboration with American Models in 1989. By 1995, S-Helper Service was developing its own line of products, including diesel and steam locomotives, freight cars, and track. MTH Electric Trains acquired the company in 2010 and marketed models under the MTH brand name. We purchased the tooling in 2020 and are excited to announce our first S Scale release.



Our first S Scale release, the **2-Bay Peaked End Fish belly Open Hopper**, includes six (6) classic roadnames and paint schemes from the golden age of railroading. The model features a standard detailed plastic molded body; metal handrails and grab irons; die-cast sprung metal trucks, and a detailed brake system. The S-Helper Service line is available exclusively from ScaleTrains and is not available in stores. Preorder your favorite roadnames and paint schemes by February 27th, 2023 for delivery this summer.

Preorder now: <a href="https://www.scaletrains.com/">www.scaletrains.com/</a>

## Real Deal

In Dodge City, Kansas, **Kansas Feeds, Inc.**, a manufacturer of cattle feed components, has greatly expanded their West Plant. They added new holding tanks, expanded their tank car unloading facility, and new metal buildings. I believe the tank cars come in loaded with molasses, an ingredient in cattle feed mix. The molasses is pumped into the holding tanks, mixed with vitamins and other nutrients, then sent to feed yards to be mixed with dry cattle feed.





(Above) Part of the West Plant expansion, they added a two-track, curved rail extension, unloading racks, and new storage tanks. On January  $6^{th}$  2023, I noticed one of the first parking of tank cars at the new facility.

(Below) A close up of one of the tank cars.



## Real Deal



(Above) A closer look at the new extension.

(Below) Spotted in the BNSF yard in Dodge City, Kansas, a westbound Boeing train with several 737 fuselages on December  $23^{\rm rd}$ , 2022.



## Real Deal



BNSF 1977 is a EMD SD40-2. It began as C & S (Colorado & Southern) 980 in February of 1974. It also wore BN and BNSF colors as number 6850 and then renumbered as BNSF 1977. Here is info on the C & S from Wikipedia:

The Colorado and Southern Railway (C&S, CS) was an American Class I railroad in the western United States that operated independently from 1898 to 1908, then as part of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy until it was absorbed into the Burlington Northern in 1981.

The railway began as the consolidation of bankrupt railroads in 1898. The Colorado Central and Cheyenne and Northern were brought together to form the Union Pacific, Denver and Gulf in 1890. When Union Pacific went bankrupt in 1893 they were separated from the Union Pacific and united with the Denver, Leadville and Gunnison and others, by Frank Trumbull to form the Colorado and Southern in 1898. In 1908 the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy bought control of the C&S. It would later merge into the Burlington Northern in 1981.



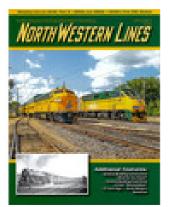


## CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Chicago & North Western Historical Society was founded in 1973 by Joe Follmar and 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.



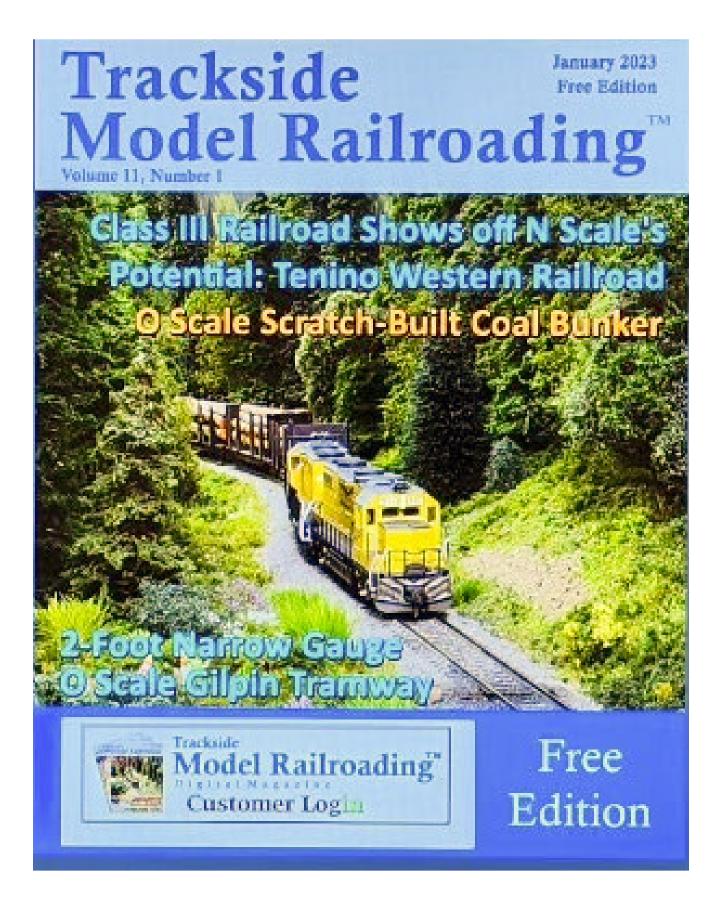
North Western Lines is a quarterly publication which began in early 1974 as a seven page mimeographed issue totaling 85 copies. Today it is published by the Society as one of the premier historical publications with 64 pages and more than 5000 readers. Each issue contains current news, feature articles, rosters, schedules, technical information, and modeling articles. Members are encouraged to participate by writing articles and submitting photographs.

Each issue of North Western Lines contains a regular column "C&NW Happenings" which reports current news events on all lines of the former C&NW and corporate activities as well as train operations, equipment and route map changes. News photo supplement this reporting of recent history.

**Join us today!** A regular 1-year membership includes 4 issues of the North Western Lines magazine. As a contributing member, you also receive a copy of the current C&NWHS all-color calendar.

Click this link for the **CNWHS** website: cnwhs.org/

For the CNWHS Facebook page, click this link: www.facebook.com/cnwhs



Click the link to start reading today: www.tracksidemodelrailroading.com



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. So, if you like to operate the railroad you've created, this is a place to learn more and find others with similar interests.

We publish a quarterly magazine, <u>The Dispatcher's Office</u>, 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.

Back issues are available. 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 are an official special interest group recognized by the National Model Railroad Association. While NMRA membership is encouraged, it is not required to join the Operations SIG. **Join us today!** 

As part of your yearly membership, you'll receive four quarterly issues of *The Dispatcher's Office*, our operations-focused publication. *The Dispatcher's Office* is available as either a digital download or a mailed printed copy. As a print subscriber, you'll also get access to the digital copy. In addition, all members have complete access to 30+ years of our digital back catalog at no additional charge as long as they remain members of the OpSIG.

Click this link for the OPSIG webpage: <a href="www.opsig.org/">www.opsig.org/</a>

For the OPSIG Facebook page, click this link: <a href="www.facebook.com/OperationsSIG">www.facebook.com/OperationsSIG</a>

The OPSIG also features a

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channel: <a href="www.youtube.com/@OperationsSIG">www.youtube.com/@OperationsSIG</a>

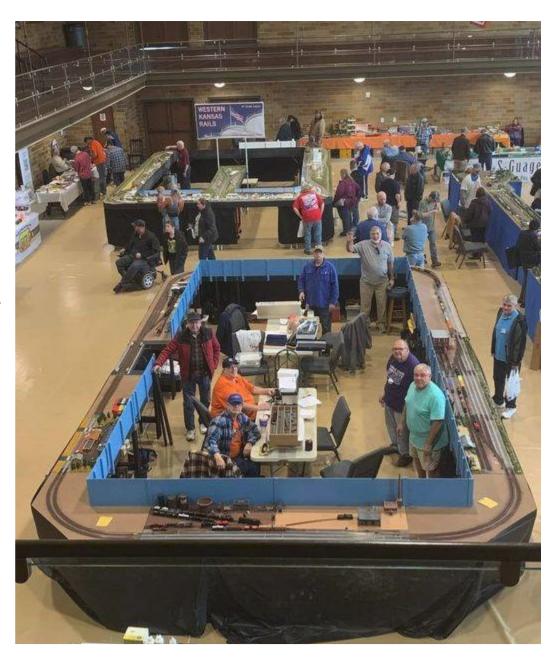
The weekend of January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15, 2023 McPherson, Kansas played host to the McPherson Train Show in the Community Building.

The Community Building features a second story with a viewing gallery and this photo was taken from the upper deck.

The layout in the foreground is the brand-new HO-scale modular layout of the **NMRA**, **Chisholm Trail Division**. The Division began construction of this layout in August of 2022, so they have accomplished a lot in just four months.

In the background is the Western Kansas Rails N-scale layout displayed by the Western Kansas Division, NMRA.

To the right is a partial look at the **MacTrax** linear N-scale layout, the DCD&W, and behind them is the S-scale layout of the **Wichita Toy Train Club**.



(Below) A closer look at the Chisholm Train Division modules.







(Above) The S-scale layout by the Wichita Toy Train Club Video link: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/">www.youtube.com/</a>

(Below) A pair of N-Trak modules called "Fallout" displayed by the McPherson County Maker Space. Video link: <a href="https://www.youtube.com">www.youtube.com</a>





These photos show the high level of craftsmanship displayed by the MacTrax group of McPherson, KS.

This is a linear N-Trak, N-scale layout with turn around loops on each end.

This layout, winner of the **Fireman's Choice Award**, Is a real crowd pleaser with details everywhere and an excellent use of lighting.

The "ghosts" come from my use of F-stop setting requiring a very long shutter speed, but it offers much better depth of field with the entire layout in focus.





Back in 1995, the N-scale modelers of the **Boot Hill Model Railroad Club** began construction of the Club's N-Trak layout with the first two modules being already completed by Mark Fisher of Ingalls, KS. (Left) This view shows the "Farm Scene", the first two modules of the new Club layout.

Recently, **Donnie Becker** of Salina, KS. Pickedup the layout which had been in storage since 2004 and is now displaying the layout at shows again.

(Right) One of the first three-foot corners (the layout featured two three-foot and two four-foot corners) was built by Chuck Nelson of Garden City, KS. Featuring a small lake and nice detailing.

Video link: www.youtube.com/watch



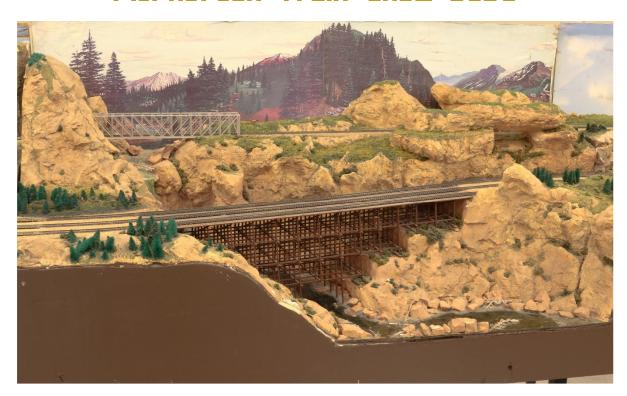


(Left) These two straight modules were constructed by Jon Ryman of Garden City, KS.

Most N-Trak layouts have three main line tracks, while this layout had the regular three track mains in front and the fourth "Mountain Division in the back plus an additional "Fisher Private Loop" on the farm scene modules.

Power was provided by power packs mounted in an exterior rack off one of the four-foot corners, but this was eventually replaced by a rolling metal cart. The Cinch Jones power connectors were ditched in favor of Radio Shack 12-pin connectors.

## McPherson Train Show 2023





(Above) One of the most visually stunning modules is the "Canyon Scene".

(Below) One of the four-foot corners, the "Harbor Scene" and a look at two more modules from Mark Fisher, the "City Scene"



Seeing this layout together again was like running into an old friend. Thank You Donnie for displaying this layout again.

(Page 36)

## McPherson Train Show 2023



(Above) This is the Lionel O-27 layout from the Hutchinson Club. The blue tablets on the front allowed kids to control the trains.

Video Link: www.youtube.com/watch



(Left) The largest vendor at the show was Dave & Deb from Spring Creek Model Trains out of Deshler, Nebraska.

(Right) The "Western Kansas Rails" N-scale layout from Dodge City, Kansas.

Video Link: www.youtube.com/watch



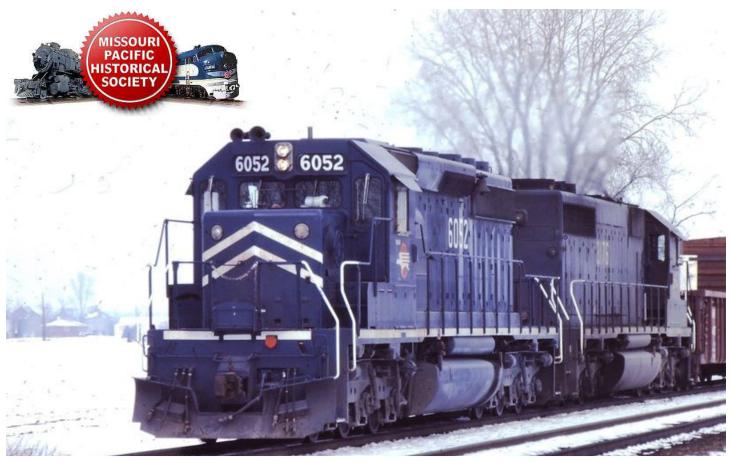
## McPherson Train Show 2023



One of my favorite parts of displaying at Train Shows is the Saturday evening gathering at a local restaurant to visit with other participants. (Above) The main organizer of the McPherson Show was Kelly Bruce of McPherson, KS. He is beaming after a great Saturday showing.







Our mission is to preserve and promote the heritage of the Missouri Pacific Railroad and its affiliates. This includes the Texas & Pacific, Chicago & Eastern Illinois, Kansas Oklahoma & Gulf, Alton & Southern and many other roads that were part of the MP family.

Please consider becoming a member and help us keep this history alive.

## **New Member Incentive**

In addition to four issues of "The Eagle" magazine, a yearly calendar (delivered in the fall for following year), discounts at the Company Store, and full access to the Archives Image Gallery on our website; new members will also receive a welcome packet that includes six assorted (our choice) back issues of "The Eagle" magazine.

Click this link to the MPHS website: <a href="www.mopac.org/">www.mopac.org/</a>

For the MPHS Facebook page, click this link: <a href="www.facebook.com/MoPacHistorical">www.facebook.com/MoPacHistorical</a>



## Welcome to Spring Creek Model Trains



Rapido Trains HO Scale M420R Diesel Iowa Interstate

Our first exclusive locomotive. We partnered with <u>Rapdio Trains</u> on a HO scale Alco M420R in Iowa Interstate paint scheme. We did all 3 numbers in DCC & Sound. For more information and to order the exclusive car follow this link.

Spring Creek Model Trains - HO Scale M420R Iowa Interstate



We partnered with <u>Railfan Models</u> on the Boeing 777 covered well car, and are offering the car fully assembled. These cars are being done in a very limited number. For more information and to order the exclusive car follow this link.

Spring Creek Model Trains - Boeing 777 Car

For the Spring Creek website, click this link: www.springcreekmodeltrains.com/

The Facebook page for Spring Creek is here: <a href="www.facebook.com/springcreekmodeltrains">www.facebook.com/springcreekmodeltrains</a>



# oddballs

Every so often an idea or product just doesn't catch on and is not mass produced.

The **EMD BL2** is a dieselelectric locomotive built by General Motors Electro-Motive Division. A total of 59 units (including a single BL1) were built between 1947 and 1949. The BL2 was not very successful, as it was unreliable and occupied a gap between carbody and hood units which resulted in it suffering from the drawbacks of both designs. However, lessons learned from the BL2 were incorporated into EMD's next design, the GP7.

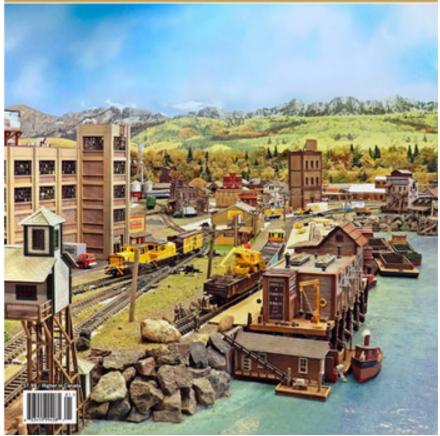


EMD's diesel program was well underway by the late 1940s and while F-units in production were great for moving trains over the railroad, their full-width carbody made it difficult for locomotive crews to see to the rear of the locomotive while switching. By 1948, competitors Alco, Baldwin, and Fairbanks-Morse had introduced road switcher locomotives, which used the narrow hood and full walkway of a switcher with a longer frame and the high-speed trucks of a road locomotive.

EMD developed the BL1, basing it on the F3 and using the same bridge-truss carbody construction as the F-unit with the body cut away behind the cab to provide visibility to the rear. The first BL1 was EMD Demonstrator #499, built in September 1947. The BL in the model name stood for "Branch Line", indicating that EMD felt the locomotive was best suited for light traffic and frequent switching chores.

Limiting the locomotive's success were several mechanical and ergonomic drawbacks. The BL2 was expensive and time-consuming to build because of its unique carbody design. Rather than being built in small segments which could be moved to another area for final assembly, the BL2 had to be built entirely in one place. The mechanical components in the engine compartment were difficult to access and maintain, reducing its appeal among railroad shop crews. The locomotive's carbody lacked the full-length walkways of a true switch engine making it difficult for the brakeman or switchman to move from one point on the locomotive to another during switching operations. Finally, although the industrial designers at EMD tried to build a carbody that evoked high-class passenger trains while retaining the utilitarianism of railroad work, the design never became popular. EMD applied the lessons learned from the BL2's lack of success in developing the GP7.





#### IN THE CURRENT ISSUE

#### Once Upon A Waterfront

Part 1

by Dennis Murphy

#### Along the Line Series

Part 2: Switching by Dan Lewis, MMR

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#### Kit Bashing Simplified

by Dave Pomarenski

#### The Elm Park Loop

A Micro-Layout Built on a Shipping Skid by Marc Pitanza

#### Building "Miniatur Wunderland" at home

by Dirk Vollmerhaus

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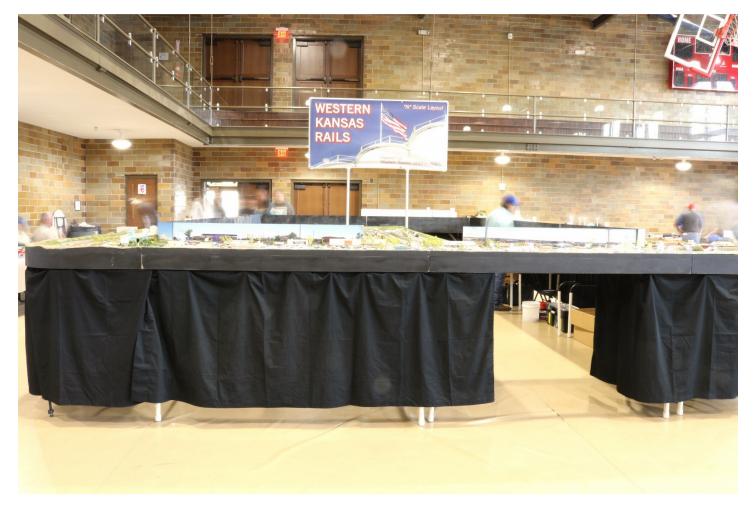
Train

When you buy your 237th

**Train** 



# WKR Update



The WKR N-scale layout made the trip to McPherson, Kansas in January, the trip was a success, but we encountered some problems.

One issue with the folding banquet table legs, the locking supports in the middle are like scissors to the electric wiring harness. Some time ago I discovered a cut wire on one connector on section 3 for the inner green line. It was not an issue as power was being fed from both directions.

However, on this trip, there was also a problem with the connectors between the power cart and section 14, so only two sections (1 & 2) had power on the green line. We had no choice but to abandon operating on the green line, but a few minutes later, I pulled on the wiring harness under section 14 to get a better look at the problem and the entire line suddenly started working again. I left it alone and the green line functioned normally throughout the weekend.

Once the layout comes out of the LTV (layout transport vehicle) the first thing is to repair the cut wire on section 3 and hunt down the gremlin on section 14.



### THE WICHITA TRAIN SHOW & SWAP MEET

www.besttrainshow.com

# The Best Train Show in Wichita, KS

Sponsored in part by
Chisholm Trail Div. NMRA

Saturday, February 4, 2023 9am-5pm Sunday, February 5, 2023 11am-4pm

Cessna Activity Center 2744 George Washington Blvd.

Operating Layouts ~ Model Contests
Clinics ~ Over 100 Dealer Tables

Scouts in uniform get in FREE

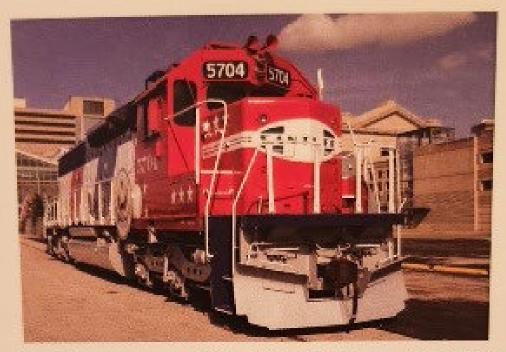
# HOURLY DOOR PRIZES

**Admission \$8 Both Days** 

food item

Military, First Responders, Fire,
Law Enforcement Admission \$1.00 with ID
Kids 10 & under free with paid adult

Dealers: 8-foot tables (Call for pricing)
Call: Phil 316-259-5190 or email:
aylward1@cox.net



The Lawrence Model Railroad Club

The 21st Annual Train Show and Swap Meet

# 2023

## **Attention: New Date!**

March 4th (9am-5pm) & 5th (9am-3pm)

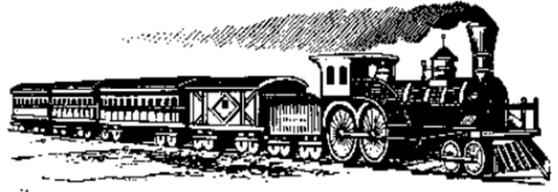
Admission: Adults \$8.00 donation & Children 12 and under free with paid adult Bring canned food donations and receive \$2 admission discount

# Barbwire BBQ Food Truck Saturday and Sunday

Crown Toyota 3400 South Iowa St, Lawrence, KS More information at www.lawrencemodelrailroadclub.org

# 2023 GARDEN CITY MODEL TRAIN SHOW

**Boot Hill Model Railroad Club** 



# Garden City, Kansas Finney County Fairgrounds Exhibition Building

409 Lake Ave Garden City

### March 11th & 12th 2023

Saturday 10 am to 5 pm; Sunday 11 am to 4 pm

#### BIGGEST LITTLE TRAIN SHOW AROUND

Operating Layouts Train Vendors Lunch Counter

Admission: \$6 for Adults
Children 10 and under free with adult admission

#### For more information contact:

Jim Adams 620-335-6964 adamsarabians@hotmail.com

Steve Weidner 620-290-1862 sweidner@ucom.net Mark Fisher 620-260-5560 markfish@ucom.net

Robert Hahn 620-271-8365 robertlh@wbsnet.org

We ask that all Covid-19 precautions be taken when visiting the show

Check us out at: https://www.facebook.com/BootHillModelRailroadClub

Benefitting Mosaic of Garden City



# 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Train Show

(Largest train show west of Lincoln and east of Denver)

SPONSORED BY THE NEBRASKA WEST-CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

## **LOCATION: D&N EVENT CENTER**

501 East Walker Road

North Platte, Nebraska

**APRIL 15th AND 16th, 2023** 

HOURS: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. SATURDAY THE 9th

10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. SUNDAY THE 10th

ADMISSION: \$5.00 CHILDREN UNDER 12 \$1.00 (under 5 with paid adult free)

FOR ADDITONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gene Tacey P.O. Box 485, Sutherland, NE 69165 308-386-2489

## Date Book

## February 2023

4th & 5th Wichita Train Show & Swap Meet Wichita, KS. https://www.nmra.org/events/ Sat & Sun 4th & 5th Train Expo Colorado (TECO) Train Show Colorado Springs, CO. Sat & Sun tecoshow.org/ March 2023 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 21st Annual Train Show & Swap Meet Lawrence, KS. Sat & Sun http://lawrencemodelrailroadclub.org/ 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> **Boot Hill Model Railroad Club Train Show** Garden City, KS. Sat & Sun Finney Co. Exhibition Building *A*pril **2023** 1st & 2nd **Rocky Mountain Train Show** Denver, CO. rockymountaintrainshow.com/ Sat & Sun 29th Annual Train Show 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> North Platte, NE. D & N Event Center Sat & Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

Deshler, NE.

Spring Creek Model Trains FreeMo Event Center

Thayer County Event Center - springcreekmodeltrains.com/show-schedule/

Sat & Sun



During the McPherson Train Show 2023, each paid entry was given a green ticket, which they were to give to the exhibit they liked the best. After the tickets were collected Saturday evening and the counting was completed, Kelly Bruce, the Show Director presented the Western Kansas Division, NMRA with the Public Choice Exhibit award for the Western Kansas Rails N-scale layout. We are deeply grateful to all the spectators who voted for us.



## The Main fine

Publisher & Editor: Robert A. Simmons

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