



The Main Line



The monthly publication of the
Western Kansas Division

July 2026



On The Cover:

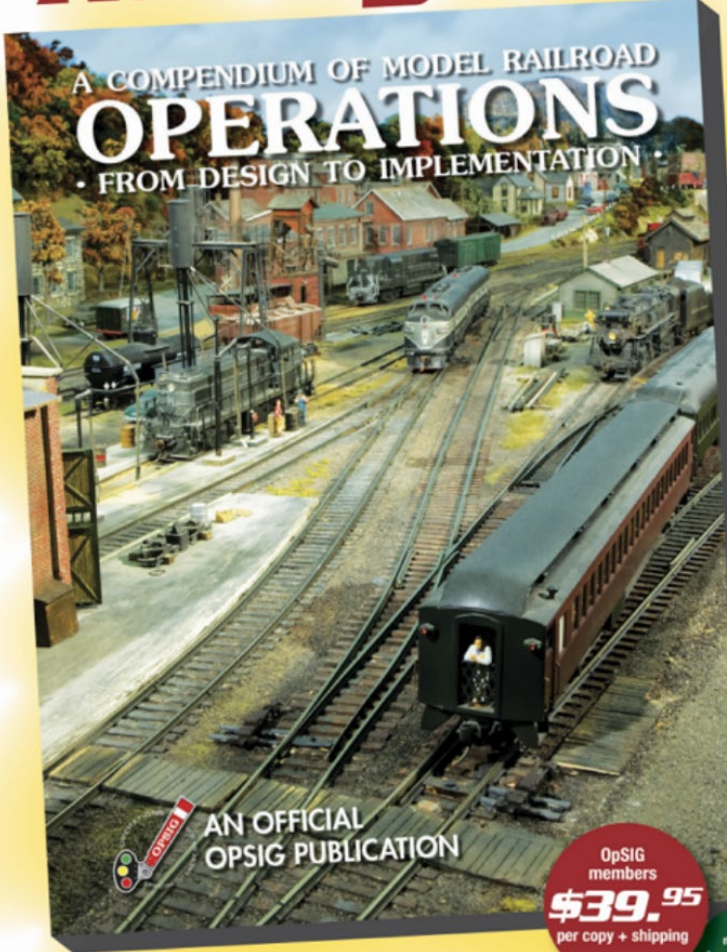
The Purchasing Department of the WKR stumbled upon this gem. **Firecrown** (the new owner of Trains.com) is offering a special run of Atlas Gold EMD GP38-2s in the Model Railroader layout paint scheme. More details inside...

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

Ready to Roll!




A COMPENDIUM OF MODEL RAILROAD
OPERATIONS
FROM DESIGN TO IMPLEMENTATION

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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!

Shipping: U.S. (\$8)
For shipping rates outside the US, please contact Steve Benezra at compendium@opsig.org. We strongly recommend consolidated book orders



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<https://www.opsig.org/About/Merchandise>

Trackside Model Railroading™

June 2026
Premium Edition

Volume 14, Number 6

**Spokane, Portland & Seattle:
The Northwest's Own Railway
Build a Farming Loading Area
Textured Glass as a Water Surface**

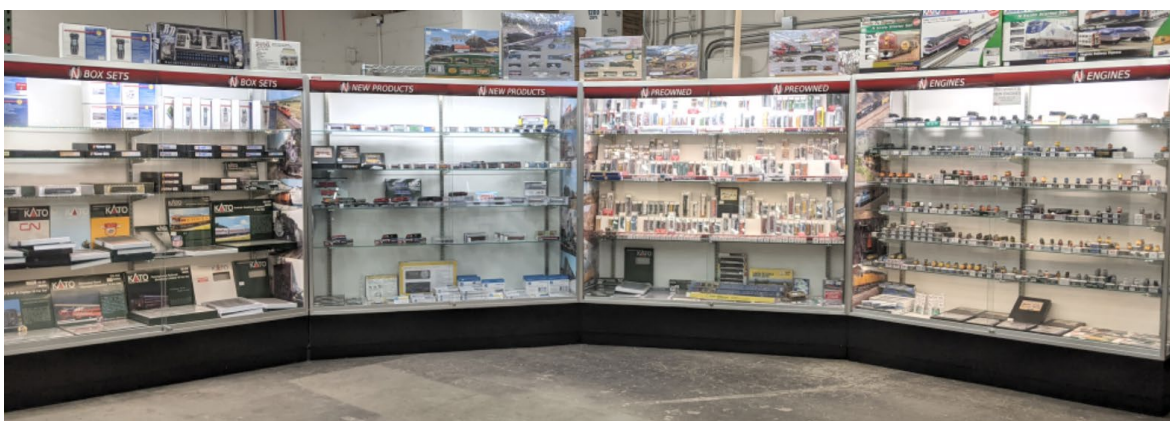


**What's inside this month:
Spokane, Portland & Seattle: The Northwest's Own Railway
Textured Glass as a Water Surface
Build a Farming Loading Area**

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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.



The MPHS publishes a quarterly magazine called *The Eagle*.

All members receive a copy of this magazine as part of their membership dues. New members will receive a copy of the current issue as soon as their dues have been received.

The Eagle is a full-color magazine printed on high-quality, heavy paper.

Copies of this magazine can be purchased through our Company Store.

A comprehensive index of The Eagle issues is available.

**2026 Annual Convention
October 8th to 11th
Independence, MO.**

Click here to visit the MPHS: <https://mopac.org/>



Mid-Continent Region, NMRA Group

Public

Train Shows, discussions and activities of the Mid-Continent Region, part of the National Model Railroad Association

Look At What's New!

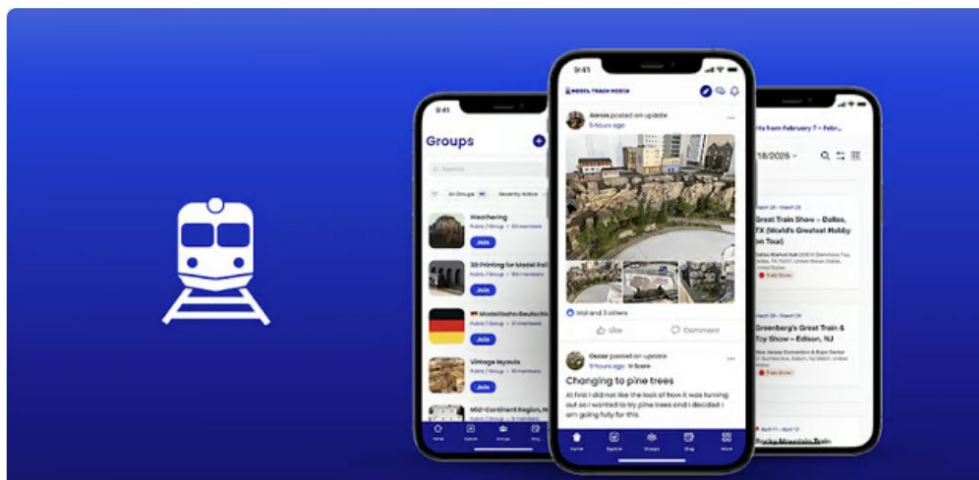
 Welcome to the official Model Train Media app!

After months of hard work, the app is finally here and I'm incredibly excited to have you all here from the beginning 🙌

I'd love to encourage everyone to start posting photos/videos, interacting with other members and exploring the different groups and features inside the app.

If you find bugs, have ideas or feedback, please let us know! Your...

[Read more](#)



Click here for the Mid-Continent Region MTM page:

<https://modeltrainmedia.com/groups/mid-continent-region-nmra/>



Lesser-Known Knights of the Round Table

- The knight who was afraid to fight: Sir Render
- The knight no one believed: Sir Real
- The knight too big to sit at the table: Sir Round
- The knight who designed the table: Sir Cumference
- The undercover knight: Sir Veillance
- The knight who was never killed in battle: Sir Vivor
- The knight who exceeded expectations: Sir Passed
- The knight who showed up unexpectedly: Sir Prize
- The knight who overcame obstacles: Sir Mount
- The knight who kept the maps up-to-date: Sir Veyor
- The knight who drank too much: Sir Rhosis
- The knight who performed in three rings: Sir Cus

Real Deal



Jerry Bruce Photo

On the Kyle Railroad at Colby, Kansas.



Jerry Bruce Photo

Real Deal



Jerry Bruce Photo

High Plains Hogger P... · 5h · 🌐

Mainline Services out of North Platte Nebraska was on scene in Colby Kansas Monday picking up overturned boxcars on the KYLE. NW Kansas was hit with measured 90 and 100 mph winds on Saturday that toppled over 20 cars at Gem and another seven at Colby. 6-21-26

Real Deal



On June 5th we caught this flatcar with a transformer load on the RIP track in Dodge City, Kansas.





Real Deal



BNSF 1737 started life in October of 1980 as a EMD SD40-2 built for the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe, numbered **5169**. After the merger, it was renumbered as BNSF 6897 and was further renumbered into the present 1737. Most recently assigned as one of the two local yard switchers in the Dodge City, Kansas yard but on this day, it was sitting idle with another loco taking its place. **Recent Activity:** It was spotted in **Wichita, KS** (roughly 160 miles east of Dodge City) trailing last on the BNSF **H-WELKCK** freight train. This could suggest it was going to a service center for scheduled service or immediate repair.



(Above) On the East side of the yard we caught the local yard switchers at work with the **1737** missing and being replaced with a road unit on point.

Real Deal



Near the yard office we got a photo of **BNSF 999783**.

BNSF caboose **999783** is an **ATSF (Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe) Class Ce-11** extended-vision steel caboose. Built originally for the Santa Fe Railway, these units are notable for their expanded cupola sides that provide enhanced visibility for crews.

While **BNSF Railway** officially retired traditional long-haul cabooses, many ATSF-painted way cars like 999783 continue to survive as part of BNSF's heritage fleet. These cars are primarily utilized on local freight switch assignments as **shoving platforms**. A shoving car acts as a safety measure for reverse moves (push-pull operation), saving crews the time of running locomotives around short trains.

Paint/Heritage: Originally outshopped in traditional Santa Fe red with white lettering and reflectors, many such cars rolling under BNSF maintain their classic reporting marks as heritage units.



Real Deal



(This Page) The yard goats are switching on the East end of the yard, crossing over Underpass Road.



Real Deal



On June 15th, the BNSF 1659 was parked by the yard office.



The present 1659 began service as **Burlington Northern 7061** built in June of 1978 as a EMD SD40-2. Following the merger, it wore **BNSF 7061**, then wore **BNSF 1659** in BN green, followed by a full repaint as it is today.



Real Deal

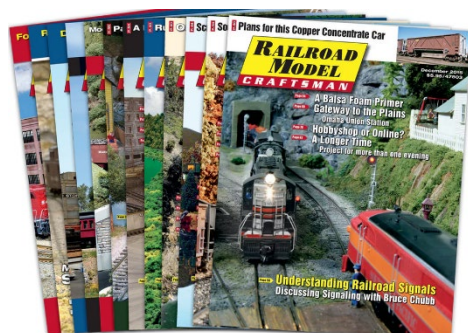


(Above) Ground view of the BNSF Yard turntable in Dodge City, Kansas.
(Below) Google Earth view of the same yard and the turntable is right of center.





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RMC RECEIVING YARD

Broadway Limited Releases Southern Pacific 4-8-4s in HO Scale

Broadway Limited has released a "Deskirted" version of Southern Pacific's famous GS-4 steam locomotives in HO scale.



RMC EXTRA BOARD

Squawbottom Depot on the Cease & Desist

Scratchbuilding an ornate junction depot in HO scale inspired by John Allen's Gorre & Daphetid.



RMC EXTRA BOARD

Century Club: New York Society of Model Engineers at 100

As the New York Society of Model Engineers celebrates its 100th anniversary, their Union, Hoboken & Overland is a celebration of craftsmanship in HO.



RMC PRODUCT REVIEWS

Class One Model Works 20'-2" TTQX Auto Racks

Recently released from Class One Model Works are highly detailed replicas of the distinctive 20' 2" TTQX autoracks.



RMC PERSPECTIVE

What Are We?

There are many ways we can frame the pursuit of our hobby. Have you considered all the skills you built up over the years?

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NRail is *the* organization promoting N-Scale model railroading *including*: NTrak, T-TRAK, FreeMoN, Club Layouts, Home Layouts, or collectors! **If it's N-Scale, you're in the right place!**

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BECOME A MEMBER!

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 past issues of the Newsletter)
- Discounts on merchandise in the [NRail store](#).

ZoomTrak:

In September of 2020, NRail started ZoomTRAK meetings with the membership. These monthly hour-long get-togethers include short how-tos, vendor announcements and more in-depth clinics. Meeting links are sent out to members only before the meeting, including the morning of the meeting. Past episodes are available online in the ZoomTRAK Library.

Click this link for the Nrail website: <https://nrail.org/>



Now Carrying: The Train Tape

The Train Tape is a double-sided, retractable, 80" Model Railroaders Measuring Tape for both HO and N Scale Modelers.

HO Scale - Tangent Bicentennial UP 4750



Jackson Railcar N62067 - Lumber
Bundles with Wraps (17 pck) - N Scale Kit

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<https://midwestmodelrr.com/>



MCoR 2026 Convention

July 23rd – 25th, 2026

Collinsville Convention Center
Collinsville, IL.

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Collinsville St. Louis

We have a special rate for the Convention with the Double Tree by Hilton for \$118 plus tax per night. The hotel is located just across the street from the Convention Center and in easy walking distance. We also have a special \$8 breakfast deal with the hotel. Just use the link on the right to make your reservation online and it takes you directly to the MCoR room rate.



This year's convention is a joint convention with the **RPM Meet!** One registration gets you into ALL the RPM events and the MCoR events including our Contest and Saturday Night Banquet!



Click here for the latest Convention information:

<https://www.mcor-nmra.org/Conventions/>



CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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 is considered one of the premier historical publications. Each issue contains current news, feature articles, a photo section, and a combination of rosters, technical information, maps, schedules, and modeling information, depending on the make-up of that particular issue. A one-year subscription comes with a membership. And members are welcome to submit news items and articles.



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 here for the CNWHS website: <https://cnwhs.org/wp1/>



WKR Update



(Left) After returning from the Train Show in March, after setting up the layout, we discovered electrical problems on the outer (Red) line. We had power on most of the layout, but the loco has stopped on one corner as there are wire breaks on the same line and same wire.



(Right) We seem to have had a rash of broken wires at the corners as this is the fourth break in the last couple of years.



(Left) In late May, the WKR Car Department received some new reefers. These are the new Rapido Greenbriar reefers. The Car Department was quite pleased with these cars, for the details plus the proper weighting. Testing them on two different lines, they tracked quite well.



Check out the YouTube video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbiV7V1z68U>



What Happened to the WKR Layout ?

WKR Update



(Left) One nice aspect of creating a newsletter is discovering things you didn't know about. In May, while working on the **Friends of the Burlington Northern** (Historical Society), I discovered they are selling FOBNR decals for BN hoppers. The decals came in, but we could not find our lone BN hopper, so we ordered two new units.



The WKR Motive Power Division received in May another preorder (you never know when they will arrive) came in, an Atlas Gold Baldwin VO-1000 in early Frisco paint. The Paint Shop painted the boarding ladders and couplers.



WKR Update

(Right) If you have read *Model Railroader* magazine, you know their “home” layout is based on the fictional MR & T.



Again, while working on their page for the *Main Line*, we discovered that **Firecrown Media** (the new owners of Kalmbach) is offering Atlas Gold (DCC & sound) EMD GP38-2s in the MR & T paint scheme. Of course, the Motive Power Division had to have one and it came in in late May.

To get yours, click this link:

<https://www.trains.com/mrr/news-reviews/news/n-scale-mrt-emd-gp38-2-diesels/>

These are very nicely done with even the radiator and air intakes blackened. The Motive Power Department found only a single flaw, the color of the front boarding ladders. We did a Google search for the rules:

Under Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations (49 CFR 231.30), locomotive handrails (specifically vertical handholds) must be painted in a **contrasting color** to a height of at least 48 inches above the switching step. This rule enhances visibility for train crews boarding and dismounting in dim light or at night.

The Core Rules

- **No Single Mandatory Color:** The FRA does not dictate a specific color like yellow or white. The requirement is simply that the color must **contrast** sharply with the rest of the locomotive.
- **The 48-Inch Rule:** On switching steps, the contrasting color must extend upwards at least 48 inches from the safety tread.

Industry Practices

- **Common Colors:** Railroads most commonly use high-visibility colors such as **white, yellow, or safety green**.

WKR Update



(Above) To follow the rules, the Paint Shop painted the front boarding ladder handrails safety yellow, but we also considered matching the blue paint which would also contrast and maintain the paint scheme.





We welcome everyone, from our loyal “show” regulars to those discovering us for the first time. Feel free to stop by and explore our offerings! Stay connected by following our **Facebook** page, where we announce website updates, show schedule changes, and new product arrivals. Additionally, our **newsletter** keeps you informed about all things new, including product announcements and arrivals.



**Spring Creek Model Trains 25th Anniversary
Kadee HO Scale PS-2 2 Bay Covered Hopper**

Spring Creek Model Trains offers exclusive [Kadee](#) 2 Bay covered hopper celebrating our 25th year. This model comes in one road number.

**Rapido Trains N Scale Autoflood 3
Hopper OMAX**

We partnered with [Rapido Trains](#) on a N scale Autoflood 3 hopper in the OMAX paint scheme. We did 12 different numbers.



Click here for SCMT website:

<https://www.springcreekmodeltrains.com/>



The definitive guide for N-Scale enthusiasts since 1989

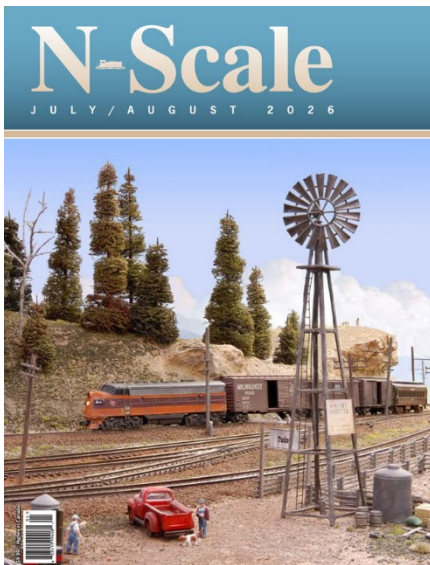


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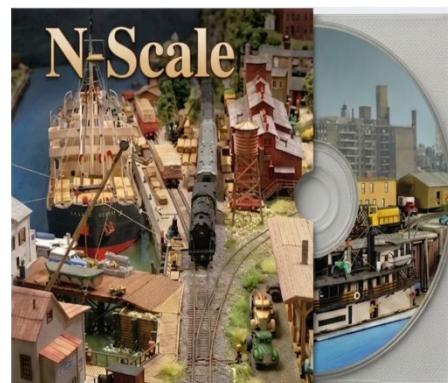
N-Scale is now printed in **full-color** with more pages devoted to articles and less to self-advertising. These are just a few examples of how we have put N-Scale Back-on-Track!

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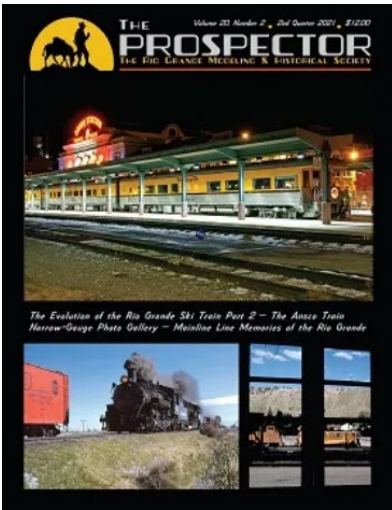


Rio Grande

Modeling & Historical Society



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. 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.

Bundle sets of *The Prospector* from *Volume 1* through *Volume 20* are available for purchase from our website and will vary by volume between prints or combinations of prints and CD (for out-of-print issues) per volume set. Pricing varies per set based on availability while supplies last.

Membership:

Join or **renew** a Memberships in the RGM&HS which provide wonderful benefits and supports our goal to preserve the rich history of the Denver & Rio Grande Western. Explore the benefits of our varied membership levels in the Society,



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Free-mo operates like a permanent or sectional layout but still retains its modularity (Free-mo is actually more modular than existing double track modules). 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.

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June 2026 MRH

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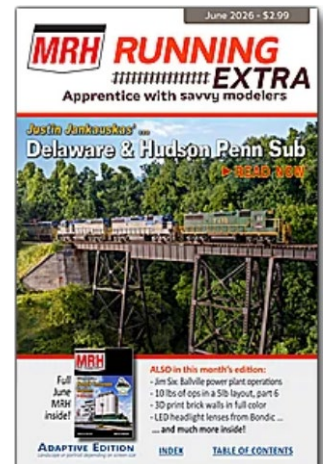
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- [What's Neat: Car storage / basement upgrade, ...](#)
- [Electrical Impulses: Debugging problem shorts: 3](#)
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MODEL RAILROAD EXPO**

June 13th & 14th, 2026

Saturday 9 am to 5 pm & Sunday 10 am to 3 pm

Kansas State Fairgrounds

Pride of Kansas Building

Hutchinson, Ks

Info: kansascenralmodelrailroaders.org

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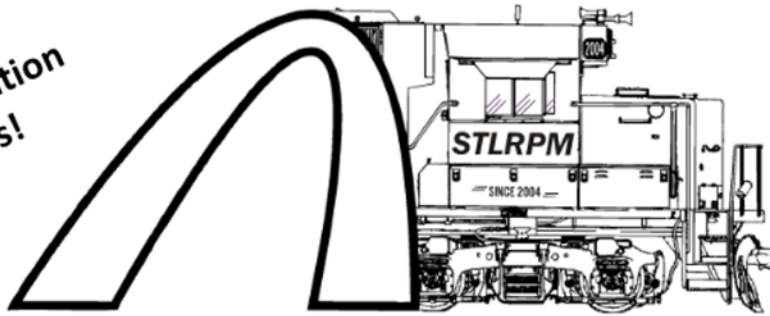
Kids under 13 FREE with paid adult



2026 ST. LOUIS RAILROAD PROTOTYPE MODELER'S MEET

July 23rd - 25th in Collinsville, IL

No Preregistration
for Attendees!



St. Louis RPM is ALL ABOUT YOUR MODELS!

BRING YOUR MODELS, finished or in-progress, for display and discussion.

This is a modelers event! Bring your models of all scales, gauges, and sizes from all eras. Attendees will bring over 4000 models, displayed on 100 tables, for display and discussion; bring *YOURS* and be part of the fun. Locomotives, structures, freight cars, dioramas and vehicles are all welcome. There are no contests. The purpose of our event is to teach, learn, grow and meet your fellow modelers from around the U.S. Display space is free with admission!

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Vendor set-up begins at 6:00 A.M. Friday.
Sales end at 5:00 P.M. Saturday.

Our 2026 clinic theme is OPERATIONS; however, the St. Louis RPM will feature at least 31 clinics and Learning Stations with over half of them focused on the theme. Clinics will begin at 9:30 AM on Friday and Saturday. A clinic line-up will be posted at www.STLRPM.com as the times are solidified.

Location:

Gateway Convention Center: One Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234. Website: info@gatewaycenter.com
Phone: (800) 289-2388 Meet info and area hotel information is available at <http://www.STLRPM.com>

Thanks to our partners at the Gateway NMRA. <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/default.htm>

Need more info? Contact Lonnie Bathurst at bathurst@litchfieldil.com (217) 556-0314

Or, just Google: **STLRPM** and check us out online.





North Platte, NE

MODEL TRAIN SHOW

August 7-9, 2026

ADMISSION:
ADULTS \$5.00
CHILDREN UNDER 14 \$2.00
UNDER 5 FREE W/ADULT

Friday-Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

D&N Event Center

501 E Walker Road, North Platte, NE

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GOLDEN SPIKE TOWER

Date Book

June

13th & 14th **Center of the Nation Model Railroad Expo** **Hutchinson, KS.**
Sat & Sun <https://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org/train-show.html>

July

24th & 25th **St. Louis Railroad Prototype Modelers Meet** **St. Louis, MO.**
Sat & Sun <https://www.stlrpm.com/schedule>

August

7th – 9th **North Platte Model Train Show** **North Platte, NE.**
Fri – Sun <https://dakotasoutheastern.org/event/north-platte-rail-days/>

September

11th & 12th **Ozarks Model Railroad Association Train Show** **Springfield, MO.**
Sat & Sun <https://trainshows.net/event/1426/ozarks-model-railroad-association-train-show>

November

14th & 15th **49th Annual OKC Train Show** **Oklahoma City, OK.**
Sat & Sun <https://www.okctrainshow.com/>

December

12th & 13th **Festival of Trains** **Wichita, KS.**
Sat & Sun <https://www.festoftrains.com/>



Mid-Continent Region, NMRA

Public group · 903 members



+ Invite

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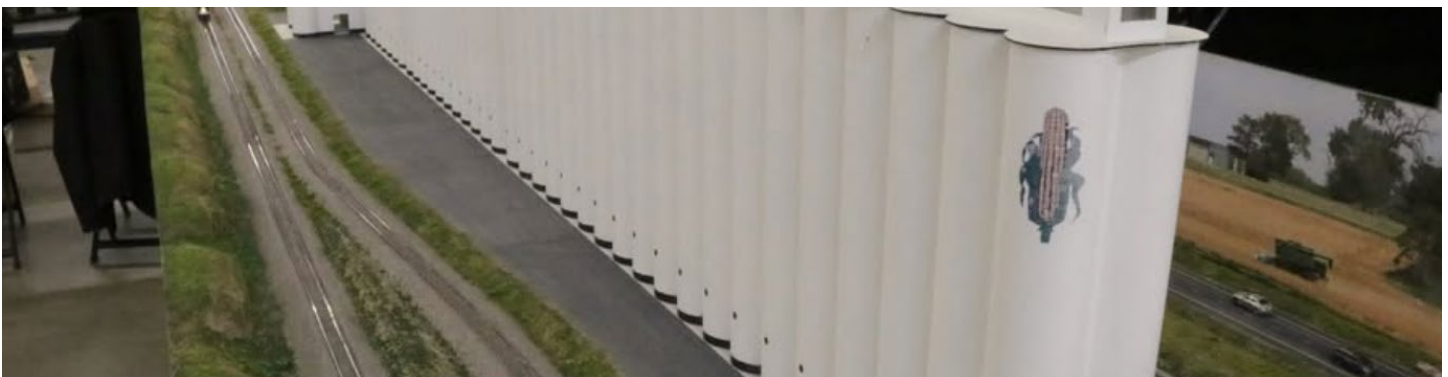


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Western Kansas Division

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Organization



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

IT'S
PROBABLY
JUST THE
CAT.



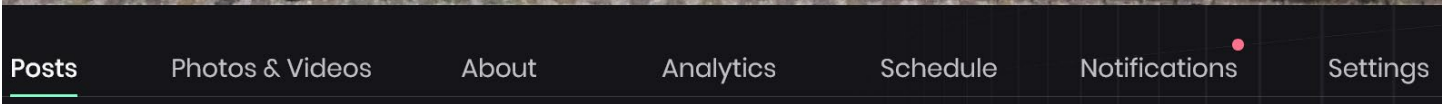
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NOW IT SOUNDS
LIKE THEY'RE
NEAR YOUR
TRAIN ROOM.



MeWe The Next gen Social Network



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<https://mewe.com/westernkansasdiv/feed>

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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