



The

# Main Line

June 2019



National Model Railroad Association

Mid-Continent Region

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



On the cover:

The weekend of May 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> I made the journey to Denver, Colorado to participate in Rocky Ops (North) 2019. Coverage begins with the operating session on Steve Mann's Chicago & North Western HO-scale layout on Friday evening...It wouldn't be a trip to Denver without a trek to the hobby shop named Caboose...and Todd Skaggs has great coverage of the 4014 excursion train...and an up-date on the new home / train room...all this and more inside...



# What happened to the May Issue?

In late April, my desktop computer was acting strangely occasionally and as I was starting work on the May issue my tower made some noises I had never heard before, and did not sound good, and then refused to boot. After a trip to the computer service center, I was told the 6-year old hard drive had crashed and nothing was recoverable. Fortunately I had been storing everything important on an external hard drive, but all the software on the C: drive was lost.

With this news, I immediately ordered a new computer (which of course arrived while I was in Denver) and upon returning I began the set-up and downloading the previous software which took some time. Once the software was re-installed, I began the processing of over 400 photographs and more than 25 videos from the trip, so while there was no May issue, I have plenty of good stuff for the next issues.



## Western Kansas Division You Tube Page

The activities of the Division have been moved to 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)

(Left) A scene from Todd Skaggs' HO-scale home layout



(Right) a scene on Larry  
Gulick's  
On30 home layout

## 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/>



# Chasing 4014



Todd Skaggs Photo

May 2019 was an exciting month for steam fans around the world as Union Pacific Big Boy 4014 pounded the rails again along with sister 844. **Todd Skaggs** of Dodge City was part of the chase (I saw a photo on Face Book that showed cars parked alongside the highway for miles for people to get a glimpse of the legend) and he was able to take several excellent photos and videos. Thank You Todd.



Todd Skaggs Photo



# Chasing 4014



Todd Skaggs Photo

4014 video #1:

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FRm53yjek0eA&data=02%7C01%7C%7C6f7b3c1965d6427ba8af08d6e0be3788%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636943504904031102&sdata=iACHyXOG4ltDprTgHfXDLNFVXnei99uWXePZtsXeD5k%3D&reserved=0>

4014 video #2:

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FpS7cfg552ig&data=02%7C01%7C%7C6f7b3c1965d6427ba8af08d6e0be3788%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C636943504904041113&sdata=Kvt00%2FfogwiUTzJSHxjrD60dSG4bM16km2r%2Fpc51HxA%3D&reserved=0>



Todd Skaggs Photo



# Chasing 4014

Todd Skaggs Photo



Todd Skaggs Photo



# *Register Today*

## **2019 Mid-Continent Region Convention & Train Show**

Wichita, Kansas - June 20-23, 2019

Presented by: Chisholm Trail Division



*A lash-up of K&O Diesels, West of Wichita*



<https://www.facebook.com/mcor.convention>



<https://twitter.com/2019Mcor>

**Convention Website:** <http://wichitamcor2019convention.tripod.com/mainx.html>

## **2019 MCoR CONVENTION TRAIN SHOW**

Hosted by: Chisholm Trail Division, NMRA

Saturday June 22, Sunday June 23, 2019

AT: DOUBLETREE by HILTON

2098 AIRPORT ROAD

WICHITA, KS

**SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> 9AM TO 5PM**

**SUNDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> 11AM TO 4PM**



# Rocky Ops 2019

As I have come to understand it, Rocky Ops occurs each year in May and alternates between the North (Denver) and the South (Colorado Springs), this year being held in the Denver area. The three-day event was well organized, well attended, and a lot of fun. There were fifteen layouts to choose from and I was able to be scheduled on all three of the layouts I chose during registration.

I would like to personally thank all those involved in setting this event up and I believe all of the attendees had a great time.

After making the drive to Denver and checking into the hotel, I made the trek to the hobby shop called simply Caboose. I had departed Garden City early (I picked-up an hour by crossing time zones) and it gave me the time to get snarled in I-25 traffic going and coming.



Since I did not know how much time it would take to return to the hotel, I did not get much of a chance to browse the entire store, so I checked-out the N-scale section as well as I could and made a few purchases, then it was back into the car for another forty-five minute or so trip back down south to the hotel to change clothes and get ready for the Friday evening session.

It's a new store, they're learning, and they are eager to please, so if you're in Denver, stop by and check them out.





# Rocky Ops 2019

The first operating session for me was on **Steve Mann's** "Chicago & North Western" HO-scale layout, and according to Steve, the layout models western Chicago to the coal mines in Wyoming with about 460 feet of main line and about 100-feet of coal branch line. The layout is a double level, point-to-point, walk-around with staging at each end, and control by Digitrax.

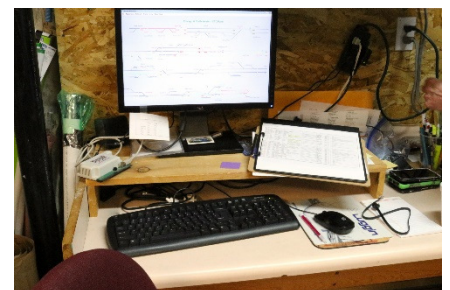
The HO-scale Chicago & North Western based layout is set in the mid-1990's and while it is mostly CNW, there are multiple BN and ATSF trains that also run. The layout is signaled and detected, controlled by a Dispatcher using JMRI, and uses car cards.

(Below) The Operating crew, Steve Mann (the Owner) is lower left



(Left) The hidden staging and Dispatcher's office

(Right) The Dispatcher's workstation



**Layout Video 1:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmmBaGDBIY>



# Rocky Ops 2019



(Top Left) the "Wedding Cake helix"



(Top Center) Grain elevator area on the lower level (West Chicago)



(Top Right) Also on the lower level

**Layout Video 2:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjuE8fo4d54>

(Below) A long view of the layout room standing in front of the helix





# Rocky Ops 2019



(Above) The main yard on the lower level

(Left) The yard wraps around the corner  
(Right) A great river crossing scene



(Below) A rural fuel oil scene





# Rocky Ops 2019



One important aspect of the operations was grain hauling, one of the many grain elevators is shown above, and I was the engineer on the grain train which moved hoppers all along the layout.



The bridge scenes are all well done with several in various designs and lengths with these two examples, one a short thru-truss design and to the right a tall viaduct with plate girder design.





# Rocky Ops 2019



(Insert) Exiting the helix on the upper level

(Top) On the outside of the helix

(Below) Just past the refinery on the upper level

(Page 11)





# Rocky Ops 2019



On the upper level there were several eye-catching scenes including the motorcycle run (Upper Left) followed by a bridge construction scene (Upper Center) as well as a team of surveyors taking some sightings (Upper Right).





# Rocky Ops 2019



Another important industry was moving coal on the C&NW, at the coal mine a Burlington Northern locomotive pair with natural gas fuel tank in-between are waiting for their call to duty (Top Left). The coal mine area contained a reverse-loop to load-up through the flood loader and return.

(Center Left) the coal mine featured a nicely-detailed excavator.



(Center Right) The track leading into the flood loader with a LED-lit radio tower nearby.

**Layout Video 3:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcd2K7EHoe0>

(Bottom Left) The entrance to the flood loader.



(Bottom Right) The other side of the flood loader





# Rocky Ops 2019



Besides coal, the C&NW also moved gravel / ballast and in this scene the rock face was well-carved to simulate drilling and blasting effects.



(Above) two views of the gravel loading facility.

Thank You to Steve Mann and everyone else who helped make this a memorable weekend.



# Trial Membership

## Railpass

Would you like to test drive the NMRA?

Now's your chance! With a Rail Pass membership, you'll have access to one of the world's largest railroad libraries, get reduced rates on special layout or collection insurance, receive 9 issues of NMRA Magazine, and much more.

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Print out the form, fill it in and MAIL it to HQ at:

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# Date Book

## June, 2019

1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat & Sun	<b>Center Of The Nation Model train Exposition</b> <a href="http://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org/train-show.html">http://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org/train-show.html</a>	Hutchinson, KS.
20 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Thu – Sun	<b>2019 Mid-Continent Region Convention</b> NMRA <a href="http://wichitamcor2019convention.tripod.com/mainx.html">http://wichitamcor2019convention.tripod.com/mainx.html</a>	Wichita, KS
29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> Sat & Sun	<b>Spring Creek Model Trains Train Show</b> Thayer County Event Center <a href="https://www.railserve.com/jump/train_shows.cgi?ID=348">https://www.railserve.com/jump/train_shows.cgi?ID=348</a>	Deshler, NE.

## July, 2019

7 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> Sun – Sat	<b>2019 NMRA National Convention</b> Little America Hotel <a href="https://nmra.org/conventions/nmra-2019-salt-lake-city">https://nmra.org/conventions/nmra-2019-salt-lake-city</a>	Salt Lake City, UT.
27 <sup>th</sup> Saturday	<b>Turkey Creek Division Annual Train Show</b> (+ Layout Tours) Shawnee Mission North High School	Overland Park, KS.
30 <sup>th</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tue – Sat	<b>Toy Train Operating Society National Convention</b> Drury Plaza Hotel <a href="https://www.railserve.com/jump/train_shows.cgi?ID=219">https://www.railserve.com/jump/train_shows.cgi?ID=219</a>	Wichita, KS.

## August, 2019

25 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	<b>Mid-America Train &amp; Toy Show</b> <a href="https://www.railserve.com/jump/train_shows.cgi?ID=210">https://www.railserve.com/jump/train_shows.cgi?ID=210</a>	Kansas City, MO.
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## September, 2019

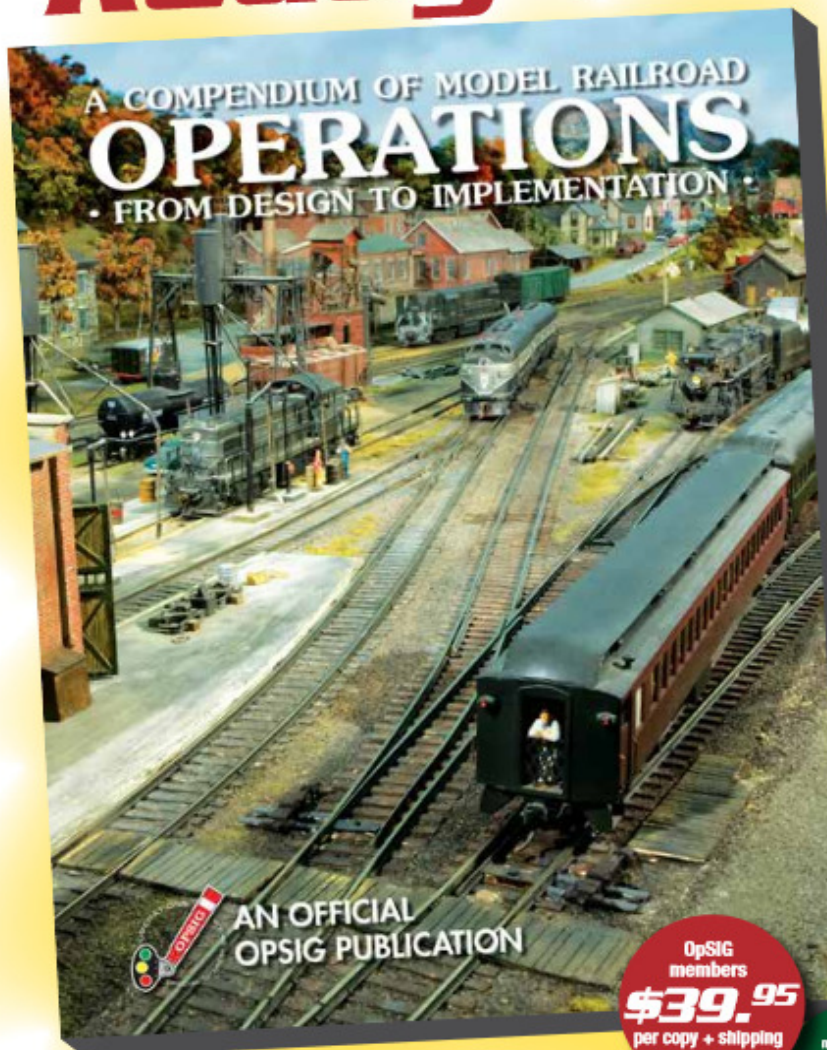
28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> Sat & Sun	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Annual Wichita Toy Train Show</b> Cessna Activity Center <a href="https://www.railserve.com/jump/train_shows.cgi?ID=327">https://www.railserve.com/jump/train_shows.cgi?ID=327</a>	Wichita, KS.
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\*\*\* Click on the blue links to go to the Club's show page \*\*\*



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!

Shipping: U.S. (\$8)

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# Layout Update



With the construction of our new home in Dodge City, KS. All work on the old home layout or the WKR traveling layout has ceased, mostly because a lot of my tools and supplies are packed up.

Construction continues on the home structure, and as of 5/28 the extra-wide basement steps are in-place, the extra width will allow an easy installation of a chair lift for Kathy and visitors.



(Right) To the far left, there will be a hallway to the office and utility rooms at the far end. The rest of this area will be the new home of the Simmons Home Layout.

I have already pulled-out my Missouri Pacific Timetable and will begin the planning for a new, double-deck N-scale layout based on the Missouri Pacific Kansas Division, but this time I wish to do much more research and construct a more realistic layout with reality-based operations, but set in modern times.



# *Layout Update*

Part II...



The Shop building is nearly completed, just waiting on the garage door and interior work. (Below) Looking in from the garage door to the garage / shop area in front.





# Layout Update



(Top) Standing at the double doors and looking in to the new home of the WKR traveling layout...



(Left) From the far right side looking towards the rear passage door.

(Right) From the back corner looking out towards the front showing the dividing wall and the bathroom and utility room.





# The Real Deal



5/30/19 – 26,000-Horsepower, including two prancing horses from NS are resting between assignments at Garden City.





# The Real Deal



The visitors enjoying the Western Kansas hospitality are Norfolk Southern 9576 designated as D9-40CW (above) and Norfolk Southern 8036 wearing the label ES44AC, both are part of a six-pack awaiting their next assignment. In the past such large power assignments had brought a large train in and were waiting to take another back East. I have no idea, but possibilities include a grain train, ethanol tank train, or wind mill blade train.







On the back cover:

One last look at Steve Mann's HO-scale Chicago & North Western layout, on the upper level after running the layout your train sweeps around another grain elevator and heads into the hidden staging.

## 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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If you have a change of e-mail address, or no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please contact Robert Simmons

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