



The

# *Main Line*

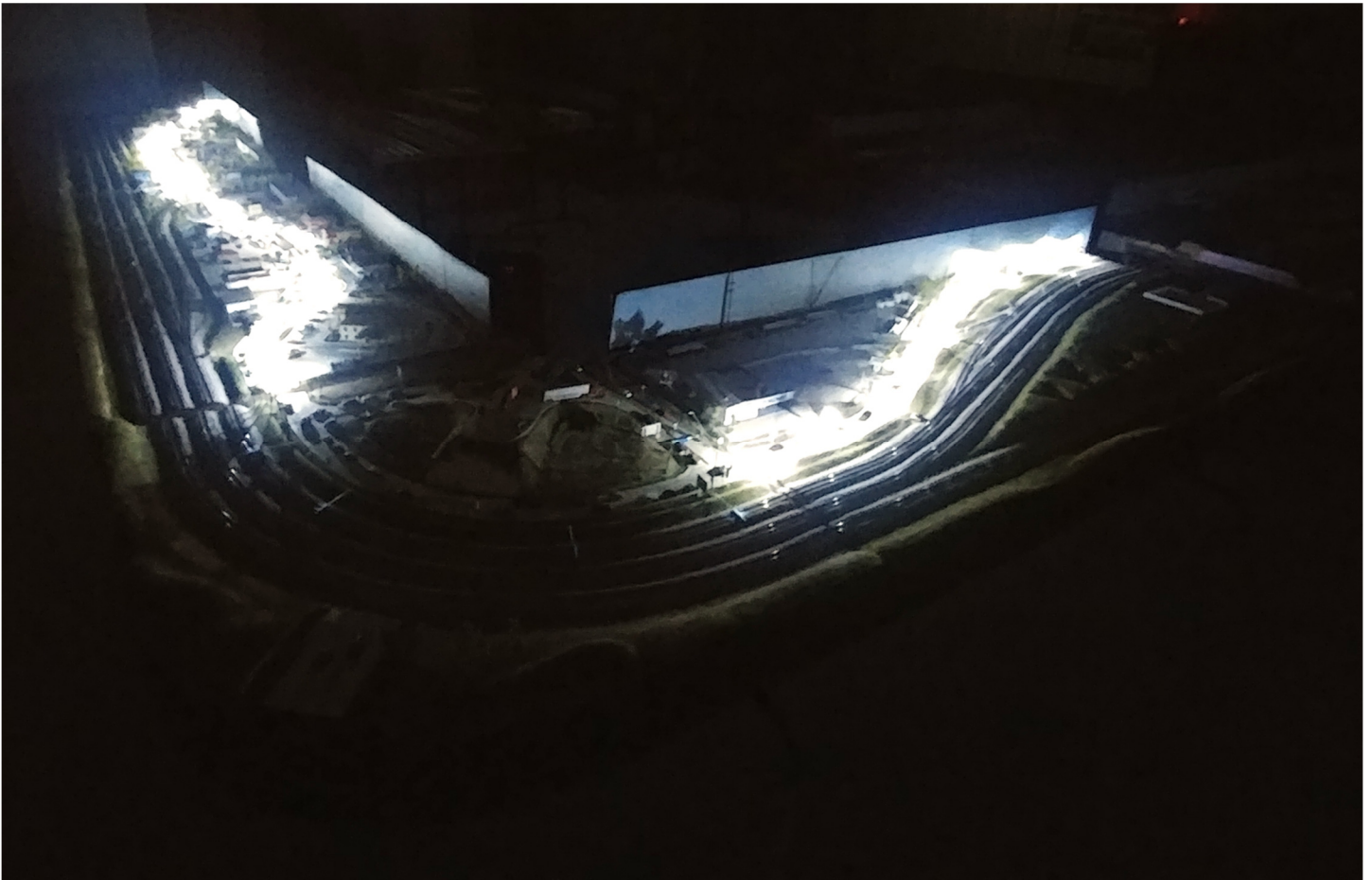
June 2021



National Model Railroad Association

Mid-Continent Region

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



On The Cover:

A night view of a portion of the Western Kansas Rails (WKR) layout, showing the new streetlights on sections 14, 1 and 3, with corner section 2 next on the program.

In this issue:

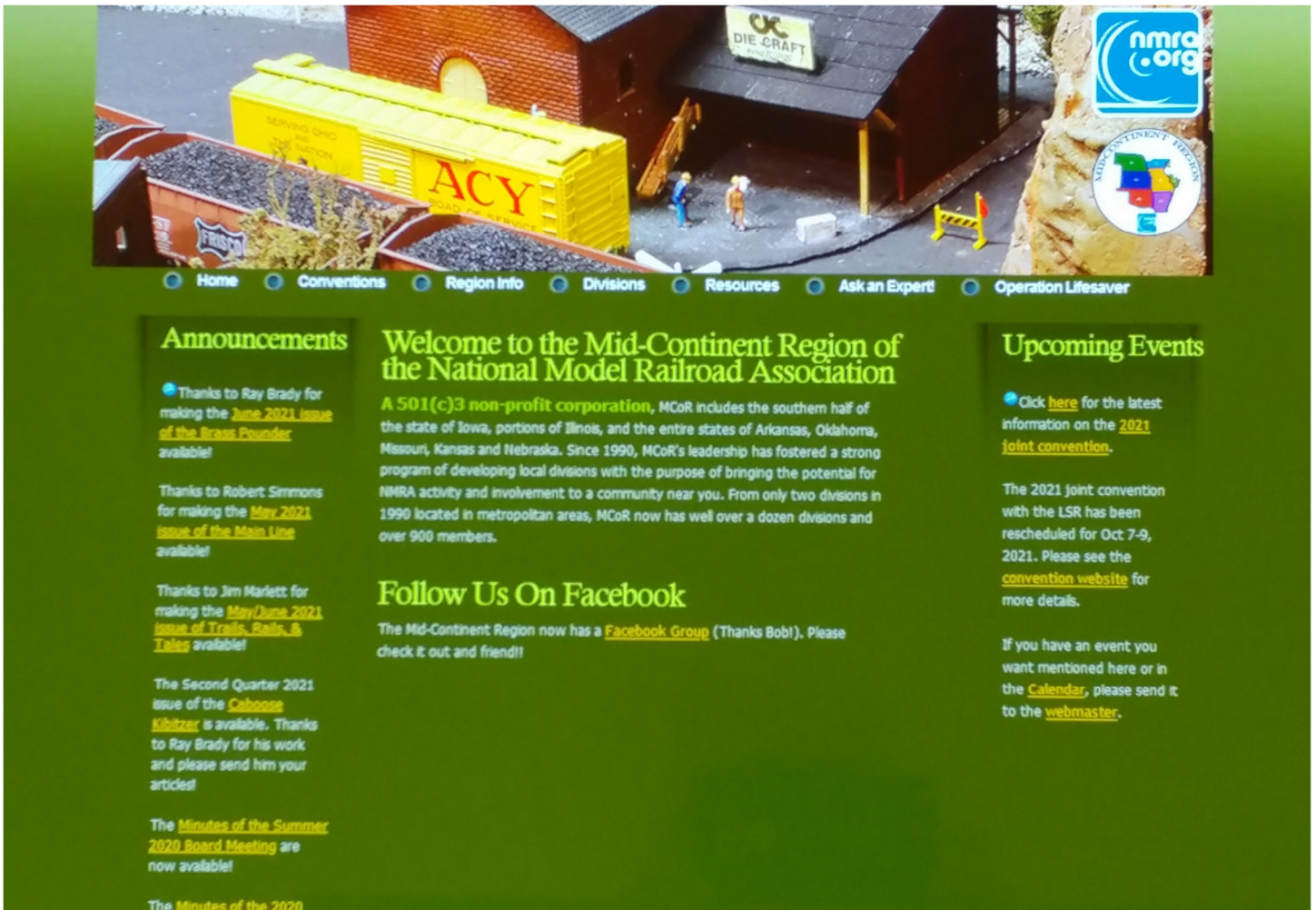
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Stay up to date on all the activities of the Mid-Continent Region with a visit to the official website. Find contact information on all the Divisions plus the region, get the latest details on the up-coming conventions, look through the resources, and get copies of the Region newsletter and some Division newsletters as well. Just click on the link below:

<http://mcor-nmra.org/>

## Editor's Musings

As I write this, we are just days away from the official start of Summer, a time when we turn off the furnace and turn on the air conditioner. It is also the start of the busy season for me as I now have to add the lawn care of 4-acres to my weekly to-do list, but I always manage to find some "train time" here and there.

Things are starting to improve around the country and locally, our Church continues to add worshipers each week, restaurants are re-opening their in-dining areas, and train shows are becoming a more regular feature. Just this weekend, (June 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>) The Center of the nation Train Show was held in Hutchinson, KS. (I did not attend as I am still making electrical up-upgrades to the WKR layout), and more are on the calendar. Other than gas prices, things are looking bright for the future train shows.





Interested in operating your layout, visit the [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/OperationsSIG) page of the **Operations Special Interest Group (OPSIG)**:

<https://www.facebook.com/OperationsSIG>

Or their website:

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

# Real Deal



Jerry Bruce Photo

Jerry Bruce of McPherson, KS. Sent me this picture of the Buffalo & Pittsburgh Geep, number 3344 from Glen Elder on May 13<sup>th</sup>.



# Real Deal



Hector Coss photo

Not to be outdone, Hector Coss of Lewis, KS. Sent in this photo of a Denver and Rio Grande box car he found West of Boone, Colorado on May 14<sup>th</sup>.



On May 7<sup>th</sup>, I was downtown fetching the mail when I heard a train horn and saw a train leaving the Dodge City yard. I thought it was heading West, but they took the Satanta line to the Southwest. I was able to beat it to the 14<sup>th</sup> street crossing and got this video. It's the first time I witnessed the BNSF running long hood forward.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AO2ccxtnrk>





The Friends of the **Burlington Northern** also include **BNSF**, and **Montana Rail Link**. You can view their web site here:

<https://fobnr.org/>





Letter From the N-Rail President:

Hi Folks:

For most of us we have had great news in the past month. Many of us here in the USA can now go without masks and can do almost anything. Ten days ago, I shook hands with some friends and fellow modelers for the first time in 14 months; how many articles have been written over that period that said people would never shake hands again? A group of us “train guys” met for our monthly lunch for the first time in those 14 months.

Train shows are happening. Unfortunately, the big conventions scheduled for this summer won’t happen. With large conventions the hotels require an upfront commitment many months in advance. With the uncertainties at the end of last year the organizations made the only choice that made sense and canceled. Onward to 2022. Look forward to Nashville and St. Louis.

The NTRAK/T-TRAK FT diesels are expected from Micro-Trains any day now. We will be in touch with those who have ordered them as soon as they are shipped.

The next ZoomTRAK meeting is scheduled for June 19, one week later than normal. A link will be sent out before the meeting but mark the date on your calendar now!

I was intrigued by the article by Andy Zimmerman on 3D Printing that appeared in the May/June Newsletter. I have heard of several others who are experimenting with 3D printing to make items that are not and probably will never be made available commercially. After reading the article I emailed Andy and asked him, with tongue in cheek, when Zimmerman 3D Enterprises, Inc. would open for business. I know of a few other 3d printer experimenters making items that I would have an interest in. Anyone interested in making a small business out of their 3D printing talents? Let us know and we will list you in the Newsletter.

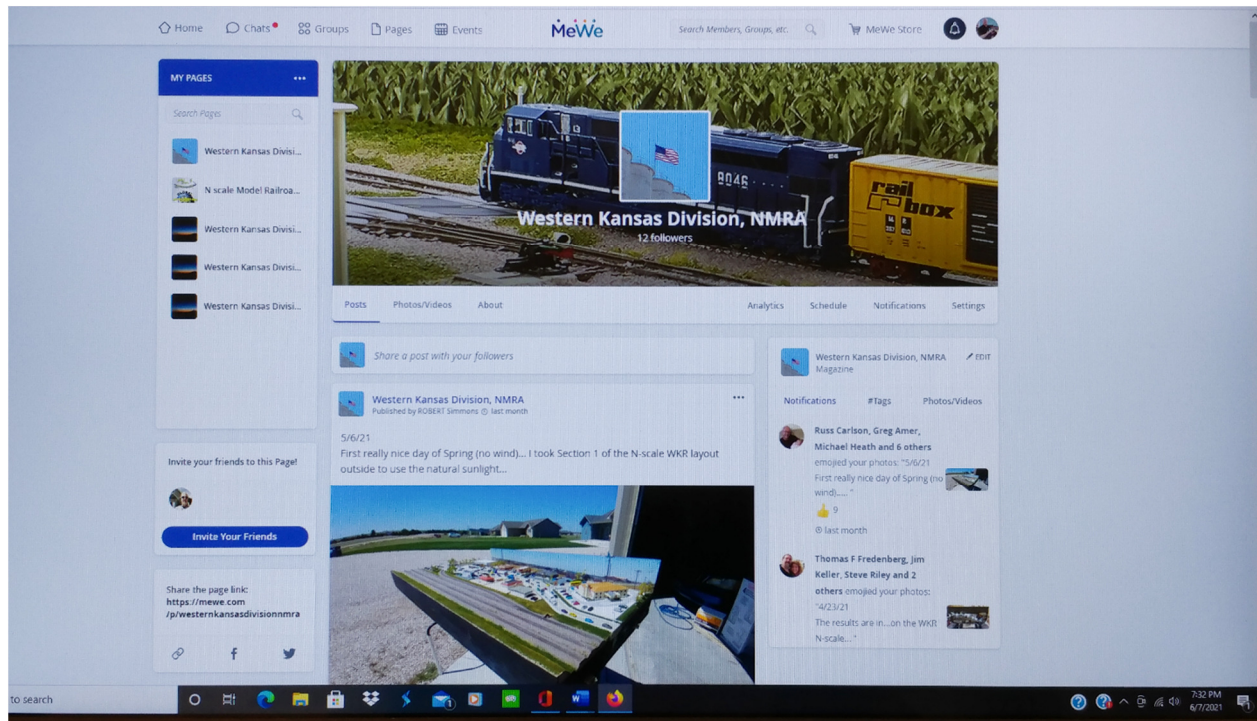
In my article on “How to be a Show Superintendent” in the newsletter I included a plan of a layout from 2017. However, with a few different modules that is the plan the Eastern N Lines Partnership will be using for the Danville Old 97 Rail Days this September 25 and 26. This is a TRAK 2.0 layout as described in my article in the March/April 2021 newsletter. If you want to try out a NTRAK 2.0 layout, come to Danville. Let me know if you are interested.

Regards,

John Wallis

NRail President.

N-Rail Website: <https://www.ntrak.org/>



You can visit the MeWe page of the Western Kansas Division: <https://mewe.com/p/westernkansasdivisionnmra>

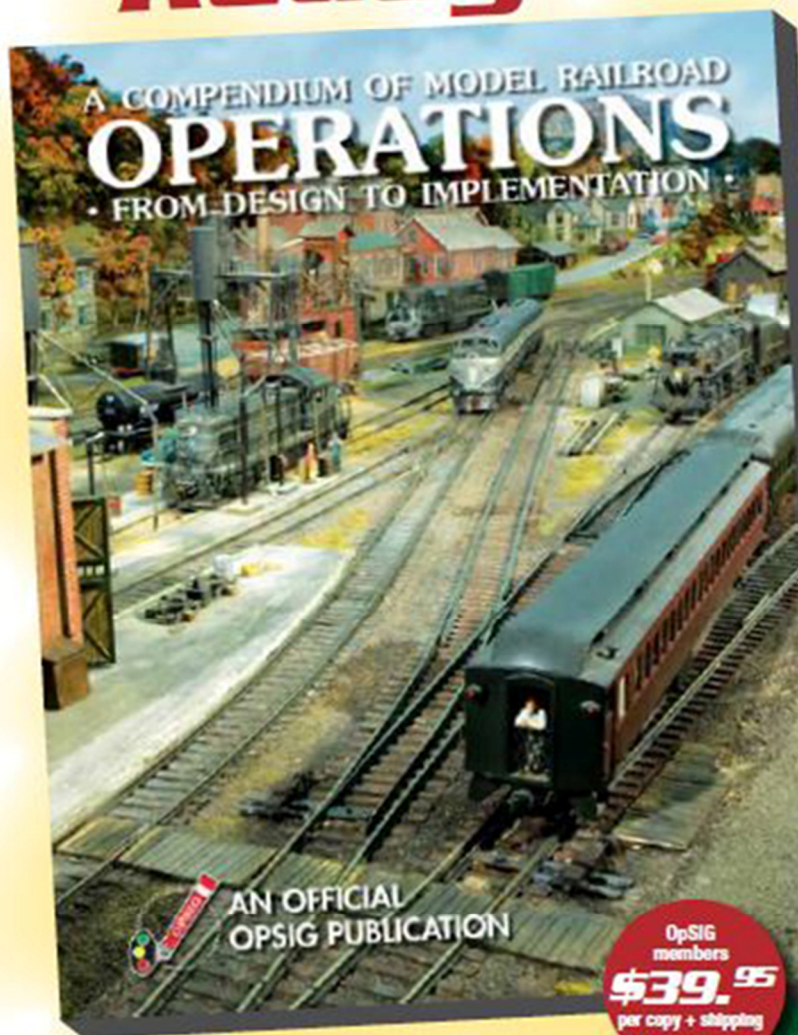
A hundred bucks says there is a Coyote under it.





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

# Ready to Roll!



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

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

# ***2021 TULSA UNION CONVENTION***

**October 6-10, 2021**

The convention has the **highball!**

*Check out the website for recent updates!*

*and*

**Remember that Early Registration  
rates will disappear on July 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Sign up now!**



<http://www.2021tulsaunion.com/>

The 2021 Tulsa Union Convention is the joint production of the Indian



DON'T WORRY ABOUT  
GETTING OLDER



YOU'RE STILL GONNA  
DO DUMB STUFF  
ONLY SLOWER

# WKR Update



Work continues on installing working streetlights on four sections of the Western Kansas Rails layout. The details crew were unsatisfied with the previous scratch-built traffic/streetlight combination, as they were way too large. On corner section 2 (left) and straight section 3, there are several combination light poles. We compared the previous traffic signals to the scale ones on the crossing units. So, we ordered several 3-D printed crossing poles then we carefully removed the traffic signals, and mounting poles, then added them to one of the streetlights (Above). We believe this looks much better and are actually N-scale plus the streetlight works, a win-win-win.





# WKR Update



The progress so far, the electrical crew has completed sections 14, 1, and 3. The distribution block for corner section 2 is pre-wired and ready to install. We are constructing the combination traffic light/streetlight units (there are six) and we hope soon that corner 2 will also be lighted.



Another project that is nearly complete also, that is the covering of the small feeder wires, so they do not get accidentally entangled and broken during set-up and tear-down. While working on the wires, I am also removing sharp screw points poking through the bottom, so we don't get cut. Only one straight and two corners are left to complete.

We are also having some difficulty reassembling the layout as it has been so humid lately and the wood dowel alignment pins have swollen. We are running the A/C to drop the humidity. More work to come...



**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.**

The MPHS Website: <http://www.mopac.org/>

The MPHS Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/MoPacHistorical>





Check out the NMRA website: <https://www.nmra.org/>

### **Want to "test drive" the NMRA for a little while?**

Sign up for our [9-month Rail Pass trial membership](#) for only \$19.95! Includes 9 months of *NMRA Magazine*, plus all regular member benefits (except voting). Sign-up on the website.

## **Notice of 2021 Annual Meeting**

The National Model Railroad Association, Inc. will hold its 2021 Annual General Meeting Sunday, August 15, 2021, at 3 PM EDT.

The meeting will be held virtually through the video conferencing platform GoToMeeting. Registration is required to use GoToMeeting. To register, contact the Vice President Administration at [VPAdmin@nmra.org](mailto:VPAdmin@nmra.org). Registration opens July 8, 2021, and closes August 1, 2021.





Visit our website: <https://www.springcreekmodeltrains.com/>





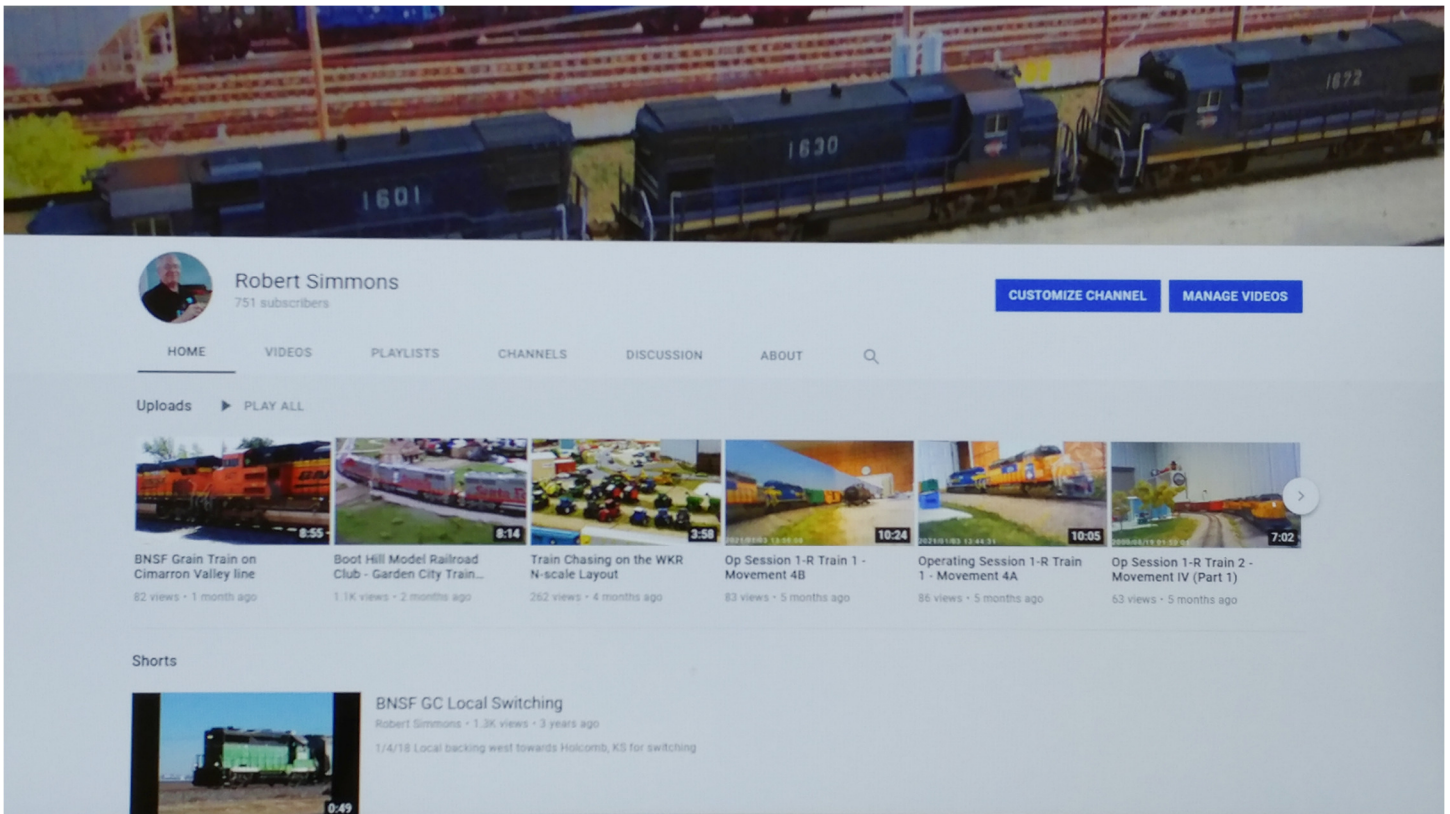
## Union Pacific Historical Society

**UPHS 2021 Convention and Annual Membership and Business Meeting** – Because of uncertainties and concerns about the on-going pandemic, **the UPHS Board has decided to postpone the Pasco Convention until 2023.** (We will hold the 2022 Convention in Cheyenne.) **In lieu of a full convention this year, we will hold an on-line Mini-Convention 9am – 5pm Pacific time Saturday July 17, 2021,** and we will hold the Annual Membership and Business Meeting on-line 8-9am the same day. **Attendance of the on-line Mini-Convention will be free to UPHS members and \$25 for non-members.** The Mini-Convention will include hour-long clinics on a variety of topics from both steam and diesel eras. For security reasons, all attendees will need to procure tickets for the Mini-Convention and for the Annual Membership and Business Meeting through the UPHS Company Store. (When tickets are available, we will issue another announcement.) More details will be posted as they are developed. *Rob Leachman, Vice President and Chair of the Membership Committee.*



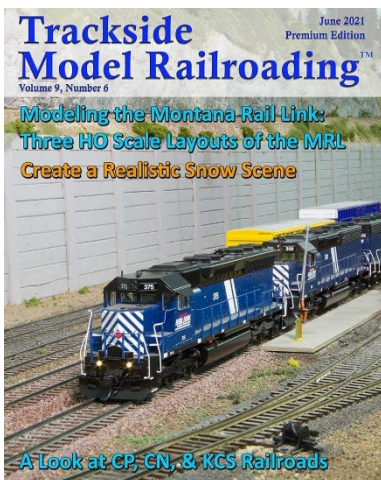
**Spring issue of *The Streamliner* available now!**

Interested in the **Union Pacific** check out the **Union Pacific Historical Society:**  
<http://uphs.org/>



Visit the Western Kansas Division **YouTube** page for videos of real train action, train show coverage, and model railroad operations. Just click on the link:

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



What's inside this month:

### *Modeling the Montana Rail Link: Three HO Scale Layouts of the MRL*

See how three different modelers approach the MRL (all in HO scale) and learn about the prototypical railroad.

### *A Look at CP, CN, and KCS Railroads.*

We share model railroads from three prototypical railroads that are in the news due to the potential merger. Several different modelers' work is included in this feature.

### *Create a Realistic Snow Scene*

Make a snow scene on your layout that looks quite like actual snow. The project is in HO but is the same in any scale.



# Date Book

## July 2021

6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>  
Tue – Sat

**NMRA National Convention (virtual)**  
<http://www.pcrnmra.org/NMRA2021/>

Internet

24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>  
Sat & Sun

**Biennial Train Show** (Spring Creek Model Trains)  
Race Street & 4<sup>th</sup> Street <https://www.springcreekmodeltrains.com/show-schedule/>

Deshler, NE.

## August 2021

1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>  
Sun – Sun

**Lionel Operating Train Society (LOTS) National Convention**  
<https://lots-trains.org/annual-convention/>

Lawrence, KS.

## October 2021

6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

**Tulsa Union Convention** (NMRA)  
Embassy Suites Hotel <http://www.2021tulsaunion.com/>

Tulsa, OK.

**Multi Division Virtual Meet NMRA**

Sunday, June 13th: 1 PM Central

**Layout Tour:**

**Perry Lamb - Kennesaw GA**

Perry Lamb will give us a tour of his own model layout. The audience can ask questions and interact with Perry about his layout.

**Interactive Clinic:**

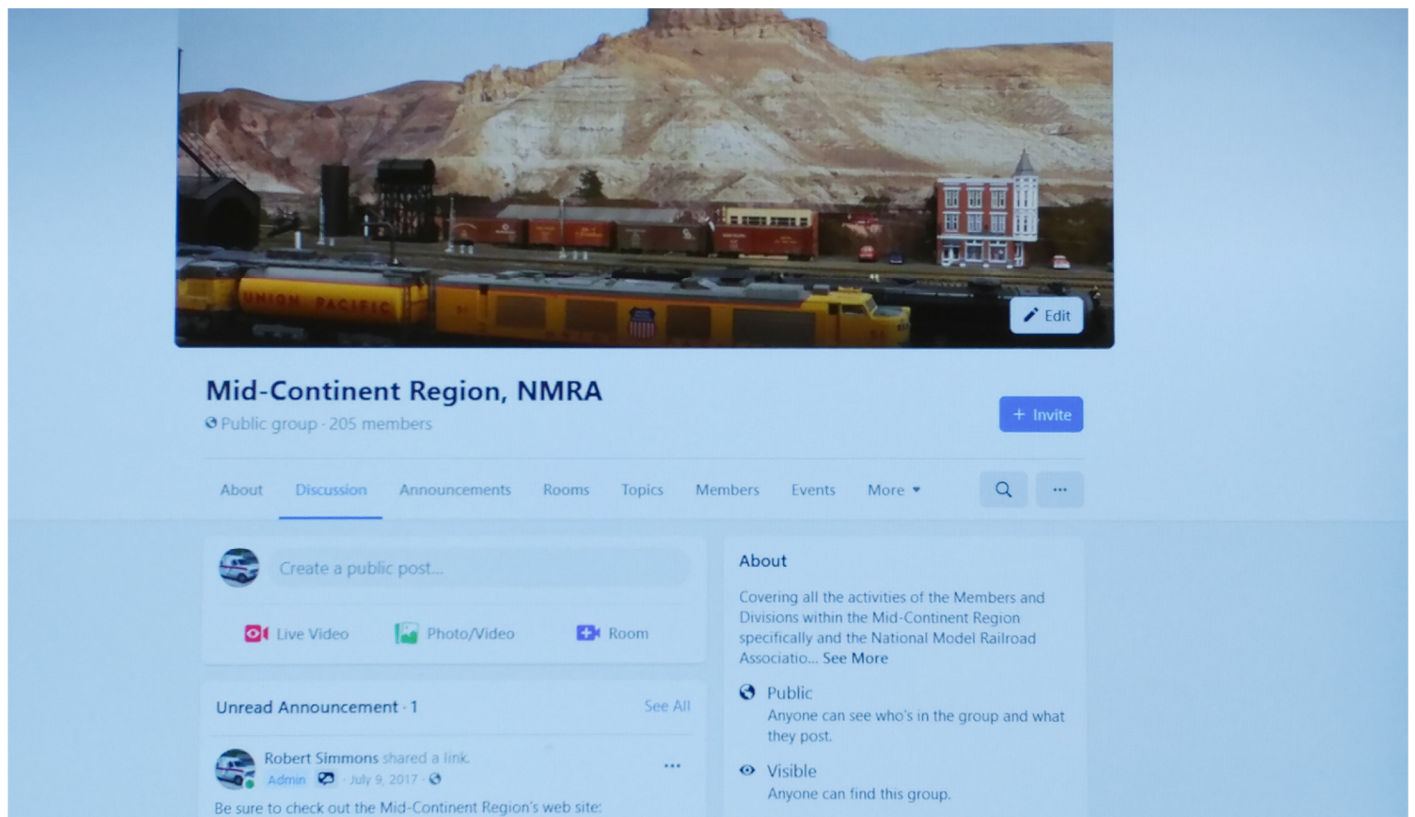
**Bill Schneider - Higganum CT**

Bill's clinic will cover his modeling experiences with his layout. The audience will dive in and discuss about model railroading and layout design.

**Mini Clinic:**

**Mini Prints**

3D printed detail parts can help you make unique scenes that transform your layout into something wonderful. You will be able to transform your resin 3D prints into miniature works of art.



Check out the [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1851848998468077) page of the Mid-Continent Region, and if you're a region member, feel free to post your or your Club's efforts. Click on the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1851848998468077>





On the back cover...

A view of sections 14 and 1, the “city scenes”, and although the new streetlights do not dazzle in bright room light, you can still see them. Hopefully this project will be complete by the end of June.

## 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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