

The Main Line

The monthly publication of the
Western Kansas Division

June 2025

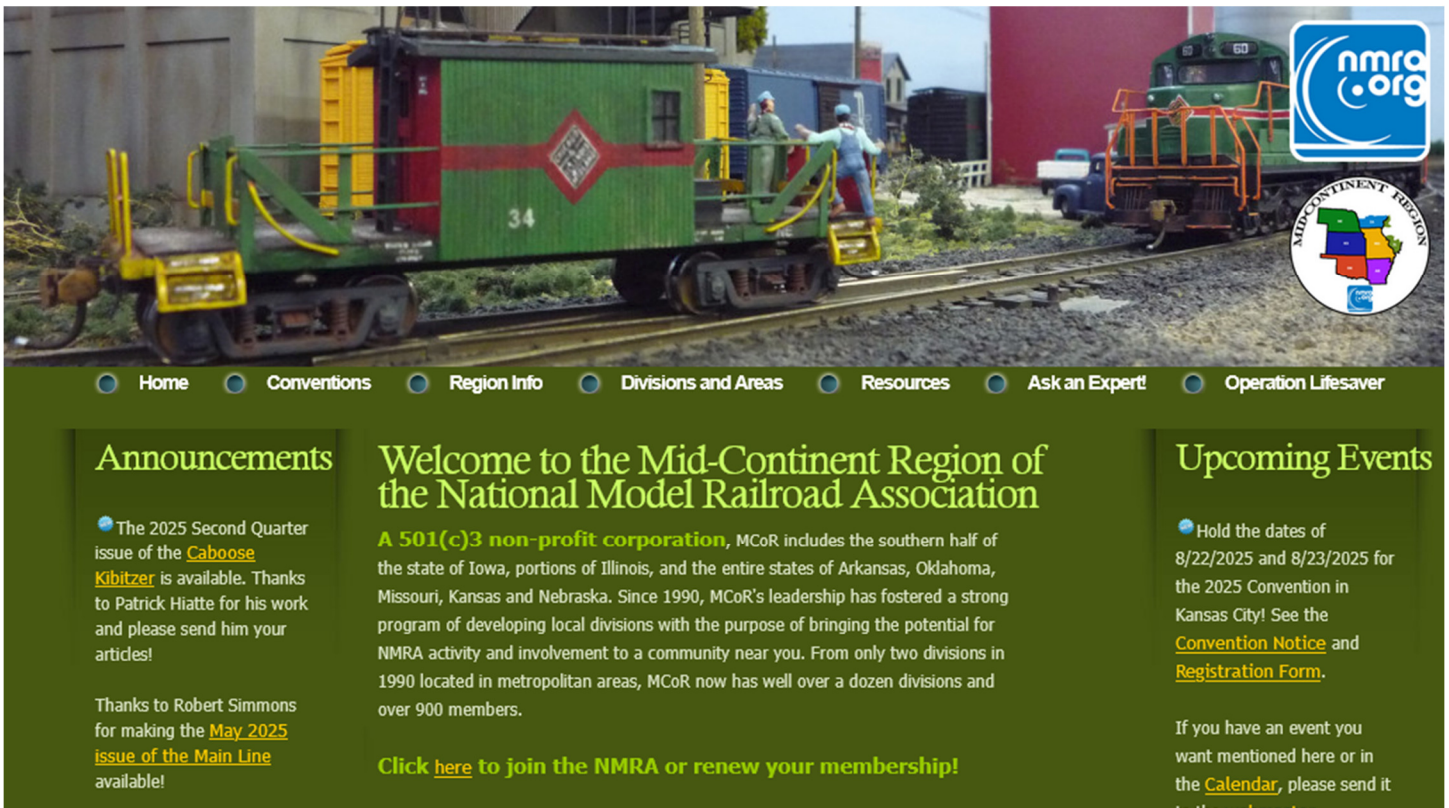


On The Cover:

Several FreeMo Clubs and individuals displayed their authentic and highly detailed HO-scale modules during the 2025 Garden City Train Show hosted by the Boothill Model Railroad Club in Garden City, Kansas. Details inside...

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Home Conventions Region Info Divisions and Areas Resources Ask an Expert Operation Lifesaver

Announcements

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

Thanks to Robert Simmons for making the [May 2025 issue of the Main Line](#) available!

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

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

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

Upcoming Events

Hold the dates of 8/22/2025 and 8/23/2025 for the 2025 Convention in Kansas City! See the [Convention Notice](#) and [Registration Form](#).

If you have an event you want mentioned here or in the [Calendar](#), please send it to the [webmaster](#).

Anything you need to know about the **Mid-Continent Region** can be found on their website:

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

Plan to Attend

78th Mid CONTINENT REGIONAL CONVENTION

MCoR to KC IN '25

AUGUST 22nd & 23rd

... Friday and Saturday ...

Lenexa/Kansas City

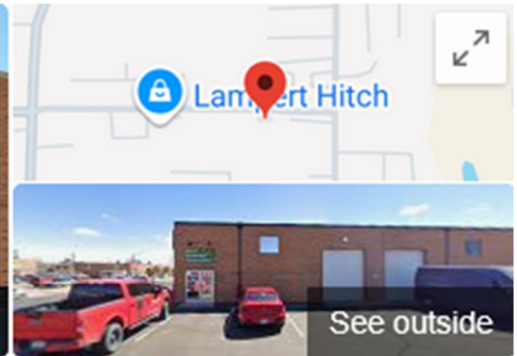


STORE HOURS

MONDAY	10AM-6PM
TUESDAY	10AM-6PM
WEDNESDAY	10AM-6PM
THURSDAY	10AM-6PM
FRIDAY	10AM-6PM
SATURDAY	10AM-4PM
SUNDAY	CLOSED



[See photos](#)



[See outside](#)

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NEW SALE ITEMS

We want to buy your stuff!

N Scale Supply is looking to buy collections,
large and small, or just extra stuff you may have
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Click here for the website: <https://www.nscalesupply.com/nscalesupply.html>



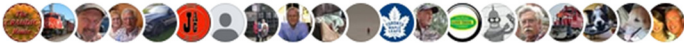
NEW OpSIG discussion group on Facebook

It is my pleasure to announce that we have opened a new OPSIG Group on **Facebook**. This group is a great mechanism to share, collaborate, ask questions, and learn with other members of the group. While Operations SIG membership is not a requirement to join the group, we encourage all members to join and enjoy receiving the Dispatcher's Office, layout directory, member directory, and the industry database.



OPSIG

Private group · 696 members



+ Invite

Share

Joined ▼

▼

The new OPSIG Group on Facebook was soft launched last week. We now have close to 400 members who have joined in from around the globe. A lot of content is being shared from layout owners and operators. We have even created a dedicated chat channel specifically for folks who have a Facebook Group or Page for their model railroad.

This new OPSIG Facebook group is a complement to our existing Facebook Page and Website and will not be a replacement of either. All media channels combine for a larger web presence of the Operations SIG.

Click here for the new OpSig Discussion Group on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2508886722776038>



RMC RECEIVING YARD

Model Manufacturers Speak Out Against Tariffs

Prices on models are expected to increase if President Trump's 145% tariffs, implemented last month, remain in place.

RMC EXTRA BOARD

Western Maryland Chop-Nose Diesel in S Scale

Cutting down the short hood on a Western Maryland GP9 diesel, just like the prototype. Brooks Stover shows us how he made his S scale model.



RMC EXTRA BOARD

Milwaukee Road: Extra 626 West

Follow Milwaukee Road Extra 626 West on this beautiful N scale model railroad set in Northern Montana and built for operations.



RMC PRODUCT REVIEWS

HEP-Equipped E8/9As and Budd Gallery Commuter Cars from Rapido Trains

Now available from Rapido Trains are all-new highly detailed replicas of EMD E8A and E9A passenger locomotives and Budd Gallery Cars used on Chicago's commuter lines from the 1970s until the 1990s.



RMC PRODUCT REVIEWS

Alco FA-1/FB-1 Diesels from Rapido Trains

Continuing its series of streamlined Alco diesel models, Rapido Trains is now offering highly detailed replicas of the Alco FA-1 and FB-1.



RMC PERSPECTIVE

The Milwaukee Road Mystique

What draws fans to The Milwaukee Road, especially the vast territory to the Pacific Coast known as "Lines West"?



Click here to start reading today:
<https://rrmodelcraftsman.com/>



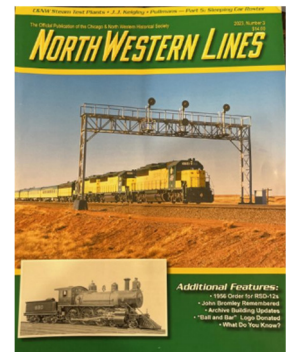
CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The **Chicago & North Western Historical Society** was founded in 1973 by a group of Midwestern railfans interested in the C&NW, along with its predecessor and successor roads. These roads include the Chicago, St. Paul Minneapolis & Omaha; the Minneapolis & St. Louis; the Chicago Great Western; the Litchfield & Madison; the Fort Dodge, Des Moines & Southern; the Des Moines & Central Iowa; and many more.

The Society's purpose is to collect, circulate and preserve the history of the C&NW and its predecessor and successor lines; to create and publish a magazine; and to promote fellowship among C&NW fans and Society Members.

Northwestern 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 issue. A one-year subscription comes with a membership. And members are welcome to submit news items and articles.



We have found N scale C&NW Morgan St. Yard Station Kits produced especially for C&NWHHS. See the Company Store for purchase. Limited stock.

Check out the C&NWHHS website:

<https://cnwhs.org/wp1/>

Sam: “How’s the world treating you Norm?”



Norm: “It’s a dog-eat-dog world Sammy, and I’m wearing Milk Bone underwear.”

**George Wendt “Norm”
1948 - 2025**

Real Deal

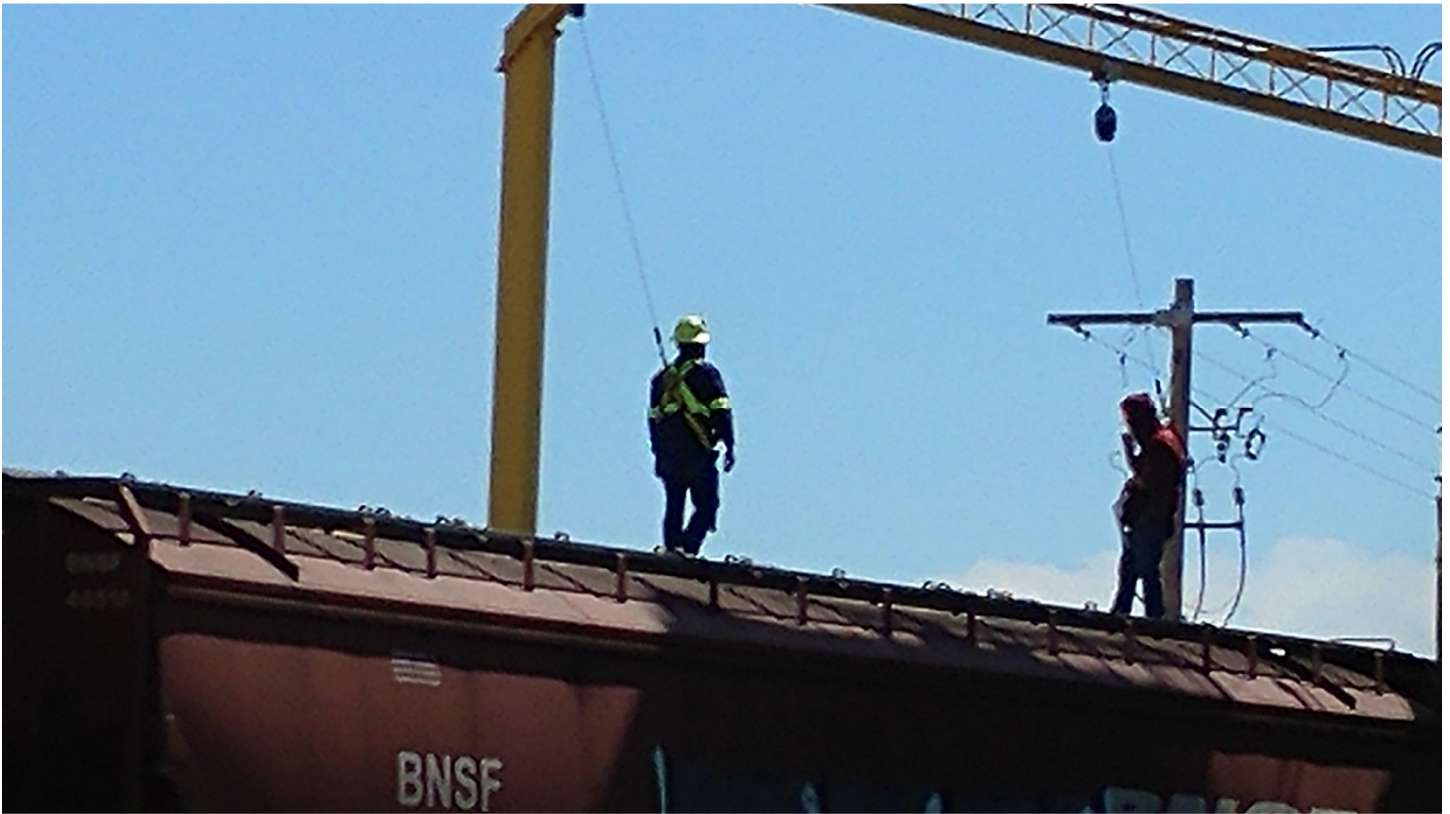


Modeling Detail Tip:

Back on May 8th, I was driving on Trail Street to get some pictures from the BNSF yard when I noticed some grain car loading going on at the ADM elevator. This turned out to be an important find as I had seen several types of overhead railing at elevators but had no idea what they were for. I was able to pull into their lot and get some more pics of the safety rail system. This is an important detail that would be easy to replicate on any elevator scene, so this is the next detail upgrade for the WKR.



Real Deal



(Above) These are elevator employees that are walking the tops of the cars to open, then close the loading hatches while wearing a safety harness. I have seen some free-standing units such as this one and some are attached to the side of the elevator.



(Above) **SFGX 1810** that had starring roles in two movies was providing the shoving power.

Real Deal



(Below) BNSF motive power in the yard.





Real Deal

On Mother's Day, we passed by Wright, Kansas and noticed the Right Co-Op elevator was in the process of loading another 100+ car grain train for BNSF to pick up.



(Above) A closer look of the Right Co-Op Association elevator at Wright, Kansas. Years ago, the Right Co-Op added several long siding tracks to become one of the grain train hubs in Western Kansas that can load 100+ car grain trains as required by BNSF. In this view we can see that this safety rail system is attached to the side of the elevator itself.

Real Deal



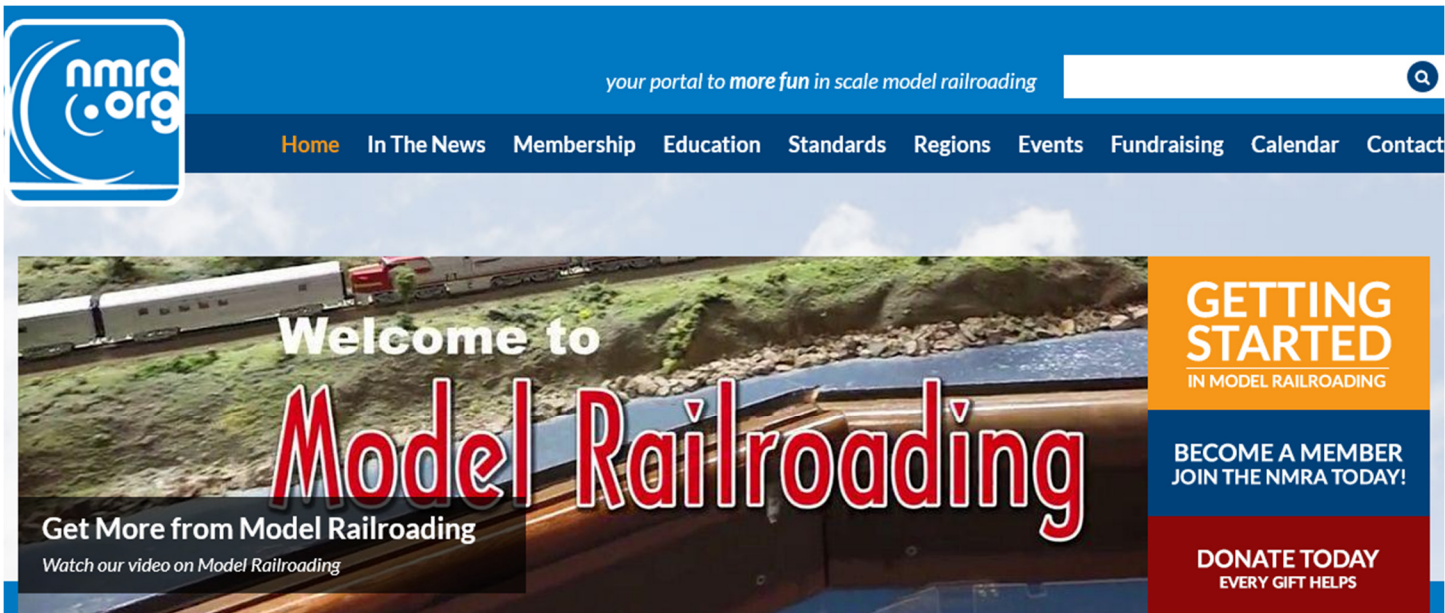
(Above) The motive power for the Right Co-Op is a EMD GP 7 and GP9B that are operated by remote control.



(Above) This Right Co-Op Association loco is a former Norfolk and Western high-nose GP7 that had been re-engined with a Caterpillar prime mover and an eye-catching paint job which is now faded. Notice the raised dynamic brake grids.



(Above) BNSF 1702 was built in July 1957 as Northern Pacific 326, a GP9B.



Everything you ever wanted to know about the NMRA can be found on the website:
<https://www.nmra.org/>



Follow the activities of the Mid-Continent Region, NMRA on their Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1851848998468077>



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.

The **RGM&HS** publishes ***The Prospector***, our professionally produced and beautifully illustrated quarterly magazine.



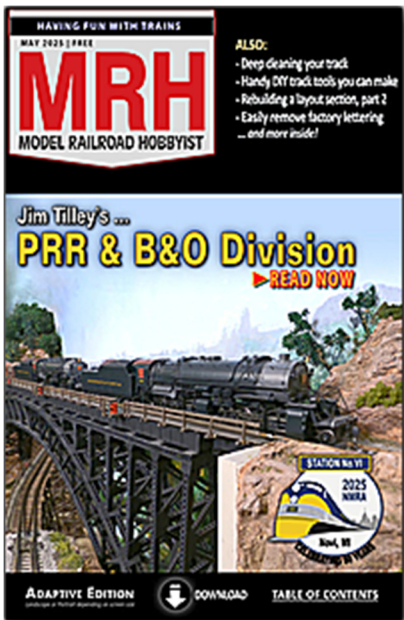
2025 Western Pacific / Rio Grande Railroad Historical Joint Convention

September 11-14, 2025 (Thursday- Sunday)

Hosted by the California State Railroad Museum and the Delta King
located in Old Sacramento, California
Connecting the West

Click here for the RGRHS website: <https://rgmhs.org/>

For the Facebook page of the RGRHS, click here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rgmhs.org>



In this issue:

- [Publisher's Musings: Time for a manufacturing BHAG?](#)
- [Best of the MRH website this month](#)
- [Let's talk ops: More on determining trains to run](#)
- [What's Neat: Rebuilding a layout section – part 2, ...](#)
- [Electrical Impulses: Deep cleaning your track](#)
- [Jim Tilley's PY&A Division of the PRR & B&O](#)
- [Handy do-it-yourself trackwork tools](#)
- [Savvy Modeler: Remove factory lettering easily](#)
- [May 2025 news and events](#)



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WELCOME TO **NRail**TM

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.



National N Scale Convention 2025

Tuesday, June 24, 2025 | Overland Park, KS

[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 here for the N Rail website: <https://nrail.org/>

When someone insults you and it's actually a good one you haven't heard before.



Garden City Train Show 2025



In March, several **FreeMo** Clubs and individuals came together to design, assemble, and operate the largest and highly-detailed layout during the 2025 Garden City Train Show hosted by the Boothill Model Railroad Club.



Garden City Train Show 2025



Garden City Train Show 2025



Garden City Train Show 2025



Garden City Train Show 2025



Garden City Train Show 2025



Garden City, KS. Train Show
2025 - Free Mo - HO scale

Click here for the video tour:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqWkPNoSE08>

The hardest part of covering any **FreeMo** layout is trying to pick and choose from the over forty photographs, each showing excellent modeling, and deciding which ones to leave out. As usual, the **FreeMo** members put on an excellent show for the public and had a lot of fun operating in the evenings and during the show.



Welcome to Spring Creek Model Trains

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.

New Exclusive Product



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. For more information and to order the exclusive car



Broadway Limited HO Business Car Observation Union Pacific “Lone Star, Nebraska 150 Express” #101

Spring Creek Model Trains offers exclusive [Broadway Limited](#) business car pulled during the Nebraska 150th express in the year 2017. This model comes in one road number. For more infor-

Our next Show:

Center of the Nation Model Railroad Expo

Pride of Kansas Building

Kansas State Fairgrounds

Hutchinson, Kansas

June 14th & 15th

Click here to start shopping today: <https://www.springcreekmodeltrains.com/>



Robert Simmons

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This channel is about Model Railroading in general, and specifically the antics of the West...more

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WKR Layout Update: NEW
Cimarron Valley Locos

276 views · 1 day ago



Garden City, KS Train Show
2025 - Western Kansas Rail...

199 views · 2 months ago



Garden City, KS. Train Show
2025 - Free Mo - HO scale

599 views · 2 months ago

Click here to visit the YouTube page of the Western Kansas Division, NMRA:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9EPv8cQ04rRGAYts-734jw?view_as=subscriber

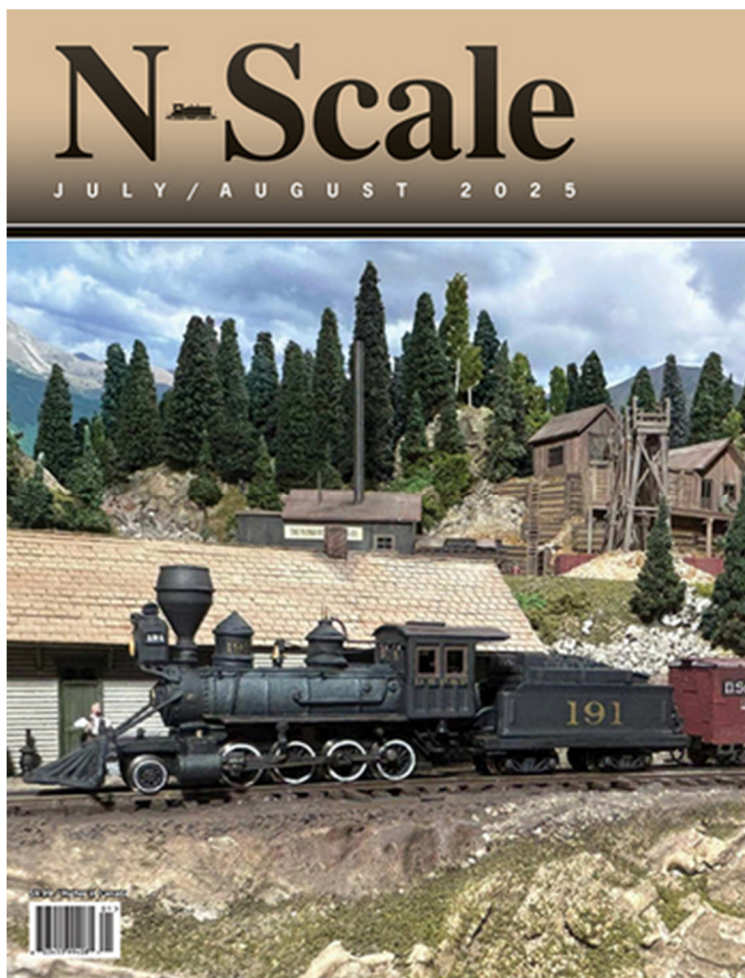


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IN THE CURRENT ISSUE

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

Review: Jokari PWS Plus 001 Wire Stripper
by Thom Knapp

A City Above the Freigh-T
by David Gentry

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

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

An Industrial Layout Built to Run
by Richard Wroblewski

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

My N Scale Layout
by Dennis Blank

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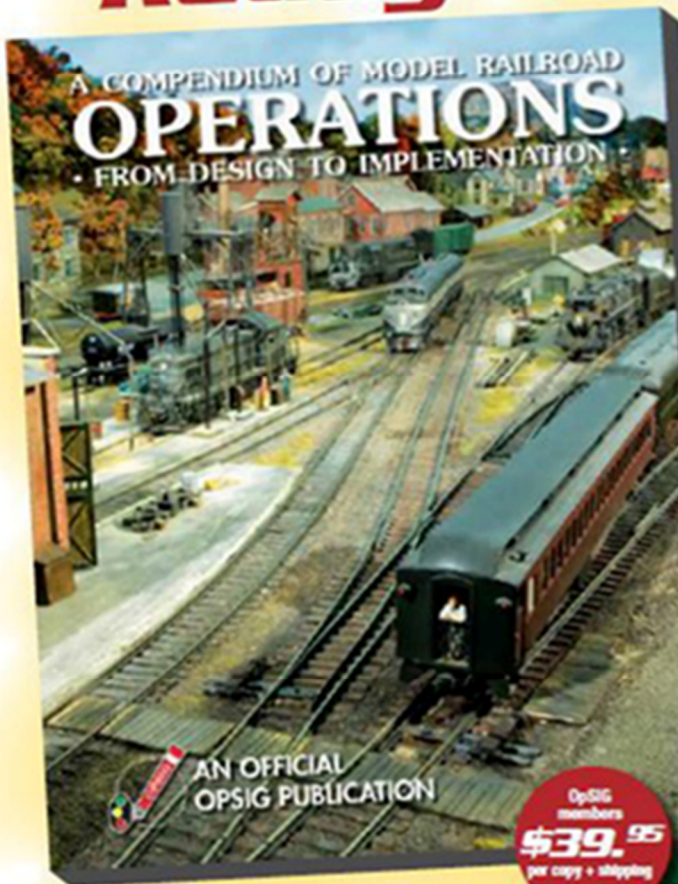
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Dispatcher to OpSIG Publication No. 2, you're ...

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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Katy Railroad Historical Society



The **Katy Railroad Historical Society** was formed in Parsons, Kansas, on October 1, 1977. 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.

Katy Flyer Membership

\$27 /One Year

- ✓ 4 Issues of the *Katy Flyer* Magazine
- ✓ Annual Member Directory



Click here for the KRHS website: <https://katyrailroad.org/>

**IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S
DUCT TAPE OR ZIP TIES**



If women don't find you handsome...
they should find you handy!

WKR Update



(Above) Just arrived on the WKR property, new Atlas Master Gold GE Dash8-40C's in Cimarron Valley colors.

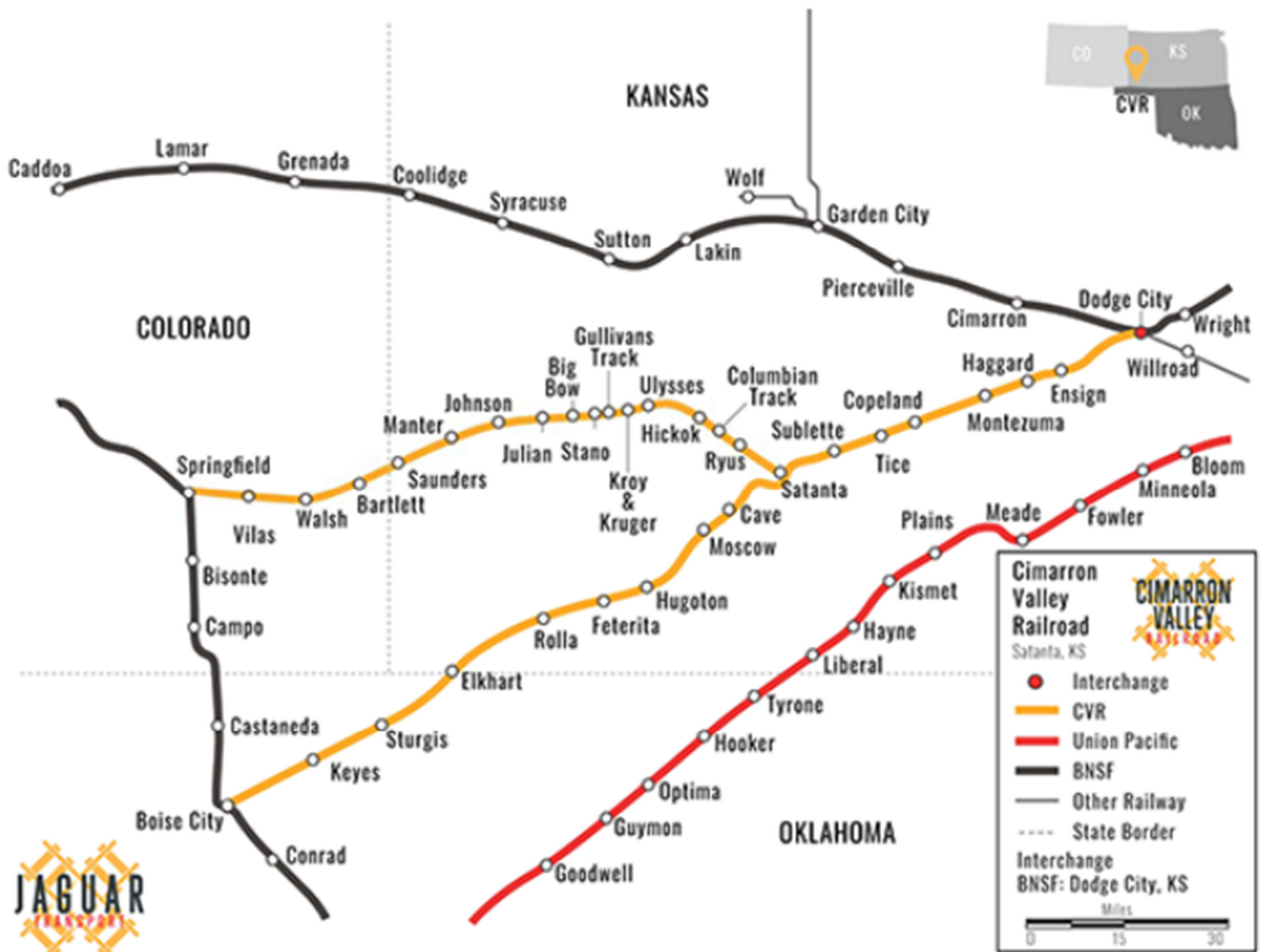
Ordered last year, these beauties recently arrived safe and sound. The previous month I had ordered four boxcars which were sent UPS. They never arrived (they did but I didn't know it). After checking with the sender and UPS they swore they had been sent and delivered. A couple of weeks later I ordered some Trainworx road trailers. I was on the computer and checked on delivery, it said they had been delivered two minutes ago. I went to the door and there was no package! Then I stepped out further to see around the corner of the house and found the porch pirate...the neighbor dog who was laying on my front lawn happily chewing on the package. I rescued it and kept an eye out for these.



WKR Update

The Cimarron Valley Railroad was formed in May of 1996 in Utah. In that year it purchased from BNSF Railway trackage built circa 1912, being the former C.V. and Manter Subdivisions of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway tracks in Oklahoma, Colorado, and Kansas. One line runs from Dodge City, Kansas, to Boise City, Oklahoma, the other from Satanta, Kansas, to Springfield, Colorado.

The CVR runs a total of 254 miles of track primarily hauling agricultural commodities (such as wheat, corn, and milo), along with sand, cement, poles, pipe, and fertilizers. CVR was one of several short-line railroads operated by The Western Group of Ogden, Utah. On November 1, 2020, the CVR was purchased by Jaguar Transport Holdings.



WKR Update



(Above) From Google Earth, an overhead view of South Dodge City. You can follow the CVRR line from the lower left corner as it runs North, then swings East to tie-in with the BNSF tracks/yard where they interchange.



Cimarron Valley Arrives
In Dodge City #train ...

(Left) A short Video of the CVRR entering the Dodge City Yard.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/y4ll4I7CUAU>

(Right) A trip around the WKR

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_uhUy6D4nk



WKR Layout Update: NEW
Cimarron Valley Locos

WKR Update

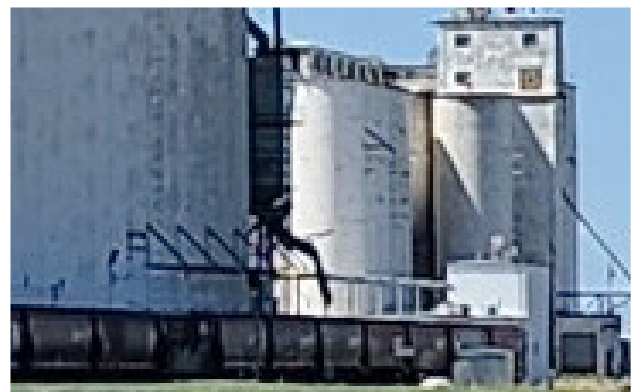


(Above) While hunting for photos earlier in the month, I came across our next project, a scenery upgrade to the Pride Ag elevator.



(Left) Since it's construction back in 2017, we really have done little to enhance the scene. After seeing the safety harness rail system in real life at the ADM elevator in Dodge, it seems like a good addition.

As in the case with most models we'll have to fudge authenticity for it to fit in the space available and not conflict with the second track.



(Right) we will need to use a system like the Right Co-Op where the rail is mounted to the side of the silos. Keep an eye out for future articles on the progress.

Free-mo was developed with the idea that a set of standards focusing on module endplates would enable faithful modeling of prototype track plans and operations in a modular environment.

The length and track configuration of a Free-mo module or module set is up to the modeler. Free-mo takes the boredom out of running trains monotonously around a double or even a triple track mainline. With Free-mo, less is more.

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



Free-mo is not a club or even an organization. Free-mo is a set of standards for building Prototype Model Train Modules.

Some clubs have adopted the Free-mo Standard as their club module standard. Other groups have published their own Standards based off the Free-mo Standard. Some are a copy of the standards posted here, others have added more to their standards; so long as their standards still meet the Free-mo standards they are still Free-mo.

Click here for the Free-Mo website: <https://free-mo.org/>

For the Free-Mo Facebook page, click this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/218290678222679/>



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A large background image showing the silhouette of a steam locomotive moving across a landscape under a dramatic sunset sky with orange and blue clouds.

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CENTER OF THE NATION MODEL RAILROAD EXPO

June 14th & 15th, 2025

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

**Kansas State Fairgrounds
Pride of Kansas Building
Hutchinson, Ks**

Info: kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org
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NATIONAL - N - SCALE - CONVENTION



Kansas City
JUNE 24 - 29 • 2025

2025 National N Scale Convention*

**TUESDAY, JUNE 24 TO
SUNDAY, JUNE 29**

Sheraton Overland Park 6100 College Blvd.

Overland Park, KS 66211

913-234-2100



Other Area Attractions:

Union Station • Kansas Speedway • Ameristar • Oceans of Fun
Harry S. Truman Library • Extreme Grand Prix • KC Barbecue Tours
Harley Davidson Factory Tour • Roosterie Factory Tour • Gangster Tour
KC Northern Miniature Railroad • Belton Grandview & KC Railroad

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAIL
National-N-Scale-Convention.com

Contact: Dick Ollendorf, Convention Chairman (610) 923-7535

Dick@NScaleEnthusiast.com



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

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

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

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



Mark your calendar now for this spectacular summer event that is fun for all adults and kids.

Watch for further notices about this tour as we describe what you will see and experience.

Thank you,

MO-KAN Garden Railroaders

Plan to Attend

78th Mid CONTINENT Regional CONVENTION

MCOR to KC
IN '25

AUGUST 22ND & 23RD

... Friday and Saturday ...

Lenexa/Kansas City

hosted with and overlaying

Turkey Creek Division Annual Show

Special Clinics



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





All Aboard For The 48th Annual OKC Train Show!

November 15th-16th 2025

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layouts!

Date Book

JUNE

14 th & 15 th Sat & Sun	Center of the Nation Model Railroad Expo http://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org/train-show.html	Hutchinson, KS.
24 th - 29 th Tue - Sun	N Scale National Convention (Train Show Sat-Sun) https://www.nationalscaleconvention.com/	Overland Park, KS.

July

5 th & 6 th Sat & Sun	Spring Creek 25th Annual Train Show https://www.springcreekmodeltrains.com/show-schedule/	Deshler, NE.
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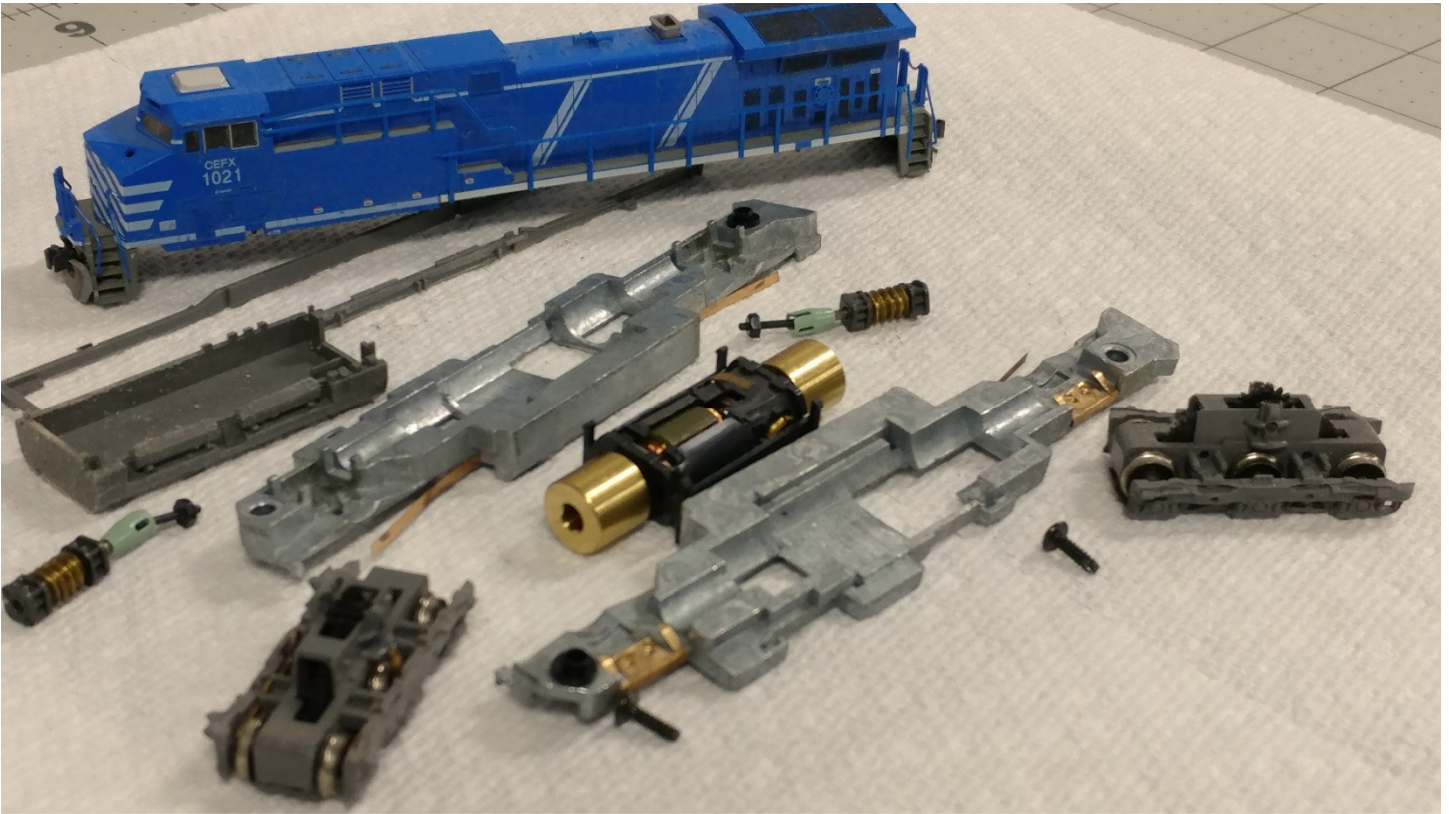
August

22 nd & 23 rd Fri. & Sat.	Mid-Continent Region Convention https://www.mcor-nmra.org/Conventions/	Lenexa (Kansas City), MO.
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November

15 th & 16 th Sat & Sun	Oklahoma City Train Show https://www.okctrainshow.com/	Oklahoma City, OK.
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Curious enough to take it apart...



Skilled enough to put it back together...

Smart enough to hide the extra parts when I'm done...

The *Main Line*

Publisher & Editor: Robert A. Simmons

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