



The

# Main Line

May 2022



National Model Railroad Association

Mid-Continent Region

The Monthly publication of the



**Western Kansas Division**



**SPRING CREEK  
MODEL TRAINS**

## 2022 Free-Mo Event

Thayer County Event Center  
4th & Race Streets, Deshler NE

### Store Hours

April 23rd 9am-6pm  
April 24th 10am-4pm

On The Cover:

**Spring Creek Model Trains** hosted their annual Free-Mo Event in Deshler, Nebraska April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

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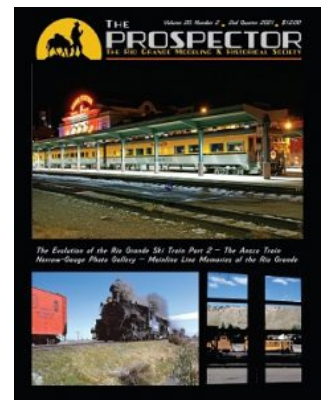


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We invite you to **join** or **renew** your membership in the **Rio Grande Modeling & Historical Society** and join over 400 other Rio Grande Enthusiasts from all over the world.

**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



Visit the website: <https://rgmhs.org/>

- or -

Check out their **Facebook** page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rgmhs.org>

# Gateway 2022

Gateway Rail Productions LLC



Sun, August 07, 2022 @ 08:00 AM — Sat, August 13, 2022 @ 06:00 PM (CDT)



The 2022 NMRA annual convention is August 7-13. The event is being held at the St Louis, Marriott Grand Hotel. Registrants will receive one free self-driving tour.

## Operations Special Interest Group

Gateway 2022 and the Operations Special Interest Group have lined up 26 operating sessions on 20 different layouts for a total of almost 200 operating slots. One or more sessions are available every day of the convention. Convention registration is required but OpSIG membership is not. Many layout owners are asking all visitors be vaccinated against COVID, so please bring your vax card with you.

After registering for Gateway 2022 you will receive an email containing the OPSIG authorization code.

To register for an Operations Session click this link -> <https://www.operatingsessions.com/E/DE3TPW>

If you aren't already registered at the OperatingSessions.com website, click the blue "Register" button at the bottom of the OperatingSessions page."

## Register Today!

Visit the **website**: [https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event\\_id=13724](https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event_id=13724)

— or —

See the **Facebook** Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Gateway2022NMRA>

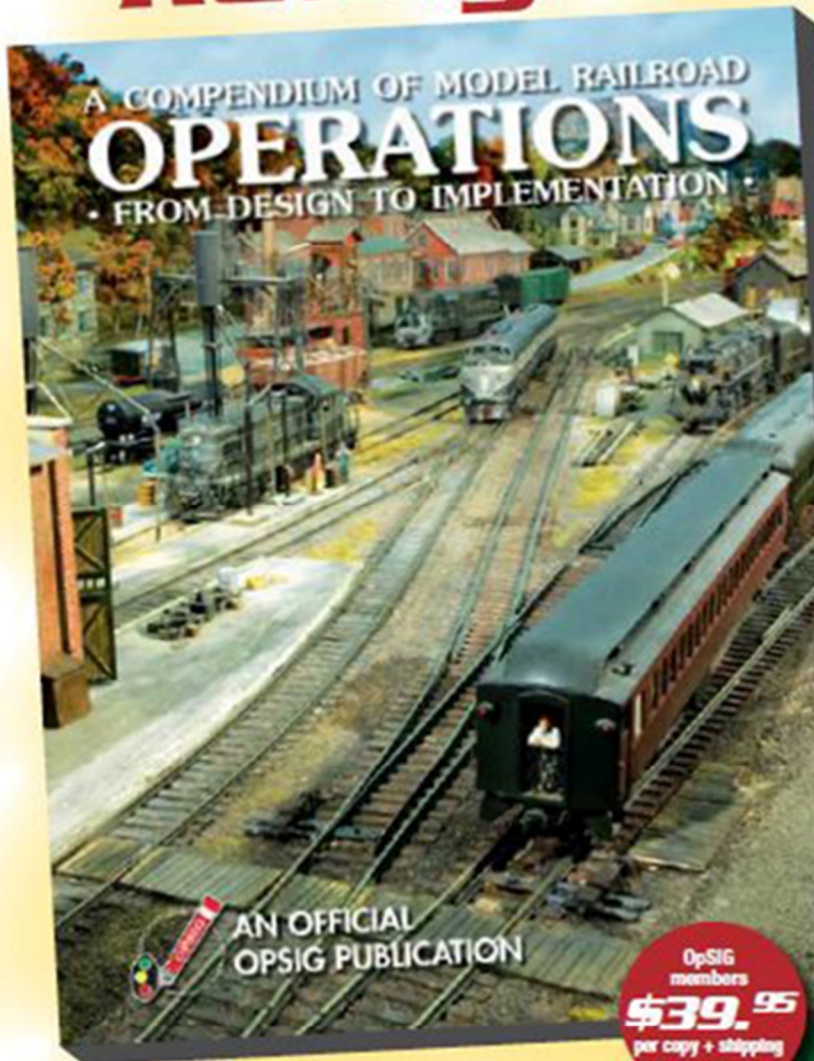


“He just bought a NEW Scale Trains locomotive With DCC AND SOUND!”





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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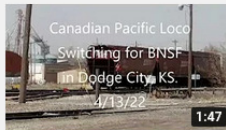
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Part II

93 views • 3 weeks ago



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Part I

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Pikes Peak Engineers T-Trak

85 views • 1 month ago



Ops On The WKR N-scale  
Layout - Train 1 - Move 1

208 views • 1 month ago



Grain Train On The WKR  
N-scale Layout

359 views • 2 months ago

The **Western Kansas Division YouTube** page in April has:

**4**

NEW SUBSCRIBERS



Intermodal and Grain Trains -  
Part I

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2lXbOrJfzQ>

**1,834**

TOTAL VIEWS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeShwAw4nY0>



Intermodal and Grain Trains -  
Part II

**4,252**

MINUTES WATCHED



Canadian Pacific Loco  
switching for BNSF

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hnVm8U3M2E>

Visit the **Western Kansas Division YouTube** page:

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



# No joke. It's here.

But you must be registered on the [nmra.org](https://www.nmra.org) website

## nmra magazine



### GETTING STARTED

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● ● ● ● ●

## Welcome to the National Model Railroad Association

Please View 'In The News' For Current News And Information

Click this link for the website: <https://www.nmra.org/>

- or -

Click here for the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NMRA.org>

# Achievement Program

## Introduction

In simple terms, the Achievement Program (AP) is a travel guide, to help you on your journey through the world of model railroading. The AP also provides incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. With the completion of each category, you will be issued a certificate acknowledging your achievement.

The AP requirements are a set of standards, but they can also serve as a set of guideposts for those who are new, near-new, and not-so-new to the hobby. Not because they lead to some sort of official pat-on-the-back, but because they are a source of ideas for projects that can help us learn to become better modelers.

Briefly, the AP is a system of requirements for demonstrating a superior level of skill in various aspects of our hobby. It covers not only building various types of models, but also building other things which are important to the hobby, such as scenery, structures, track work, and wiring. It also recognizes service to the hobby and the NMRA, which are important as well. The Achievement Program is also a personal commitment to share one's knowledge with others and to encourage them as they also make the AP journey. Use the links on the right to explore the different certificates and requirements.

We hope that you will soon find just how easy it is to participate in the Achievement Program, and if you are not yet involved start you off on the right foot. Please visit the [AP Staff Roster](#) page to find contact information for your Regional AP Manager.



The historical society focused on the Burlington Northern Railroad, the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway, the BNSF Railway and the Montana Rail Link.

The **Friends of the Burlington Northern Railroad (FOBNR)** historical society was incorporated in the state of Idaho on January 3, 1993. It was chartered to gather, preserve, and share information about the history and the current operations of the Burlington Northern Railroad. The group began with about 140 members absorbed from the Burlington Northern Historical Society. In 1996, following the merger between Burlington Northern and Santa Fe, the group voted to follow the Burlington Northern from 1970 to 1995 and the BNSF from 1995 to the present. Then in 2018 we added coverage of the Montana Rail Link.



The Group's quarterly publication, [The BN Expediter](#), is the voice of the organization that shares news about the group's activities, BN historical data, and current operations of the railroad. It is a 24-page all-color publication and will grow even larger as the society grows and more members contribute more information.

We are over 200 members, from all over the United States and several foreign countries. As with any organization, its true success is measured by its continued, sustained membership. And, to continue its endeavors, the Friends of the Burlington Northern Railroad need member participation and support. Membership dues run per calendar year (January through December). Please consider joining or renewing your [membership](#) in the Friends of the Burlington Northern Railroad.

Click the link to the **website**: <https://fobnr.org/>

Click here for the **Facebook** page: <https://www.facebook.com/fobnr>



# Real Deal



Nathan Zachman photo

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Nathan Zachman posted this picture of the Cimarron Valley 4052 arriving in Dodge city, Kansas



Also on the 6<sup>th</sup>, I was able to catch a pair of depressed center flat cars with large loads in the Dodge city yard.



The loads were on a West bound train waiting on a crew change. I have no idea what these units are, possibly electrical transformers, but unlike any I have seen before.



# Real Deal



This is an enlarged photo...

April 12<sup>th</sup> was a good spotting day as I also got a shot of this gondola with a switch.





# Real Deal



On April 12<sup>th</sup>, I discovered the Norfolk Southern 4138 as part of a West bound train in the Dodge City yard.

The NS 4138 was built in January of 1996 for Norfolk Southern as 8894, a **GE C40-9W**. It was rebuilt by GE in the Fort Worth, TX. Plant as 4138 now a **GE AC44C6M**.

The **GE AC44C6M** is a 4,400-horsepower (3,300 kW) diesel locomotive that was built by GE Transportation Systems, and rebuilt by GE, American Motive Power, Inc., and Norfolk Southern Juniata and Roanoke Shops, starting in September 2015. The AC44C6M retains the 16-cylinder 7FDL-16 prime mover used in the core locomotive prior to rebuilding, but features GE's alternating current traction motors.

Externally, the rebuilds have received new wide-nosed cabs and a new front hood section of the same design as on the ES44AC, while retaining the underframe and engine and radiator compartments of the original Dash 9 units. Internally, the AC44C6M features a new under-floor air conditioner, cab signals, LSL, DPU systems, PTC, and ECP braking ability, a significant technological improvement from the GE Dash 9-40C units.

(Below) April 8<sup>th</sup> saw a flock of Boeing 737-9's pass through Dodge City, here is the lead bird.



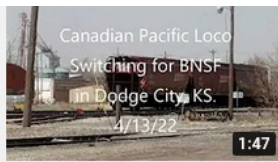


# Real Deal



April 12<sup>th</sup> was a bonus day. I had already taken many pictures, but as I was getting in the car to leave, this Canadian Pacific pulled out from behind the train I was photographing, doing some switching work. I was able to get a quick pic, and a short video.

**Canadian Pacific 9809** was born in April of 2004 as a **GE AC44CW**.



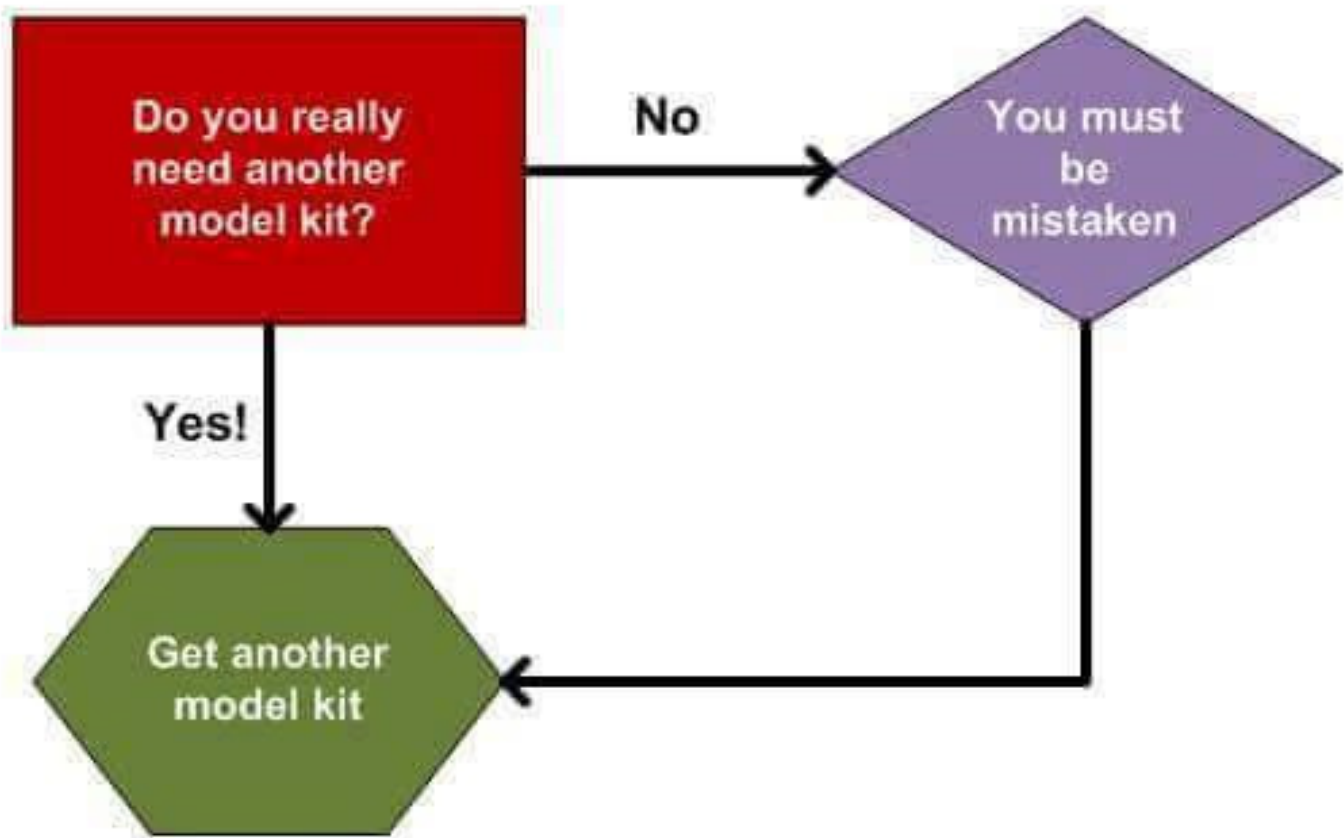
Here is the link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hnVm8U3M2E>

Jerry Bruce Photo



(Right) Webb Asset Management (WAMX) 3905 began life in January of 1965 as Gulf Mobile & Ohio 626 a EMD GP35. Later, it also wore ICG 2524, BN 2974, BNSF 2974. And then WAMX 3905. It was rebuilt into a GP39V. BN rebuilt both GP35 and GP30 units and Both MK and VMV were involved. The locomotives had their original 16-567 engines rebuilt to 16-645 specs (they were not repowered with new 12-645 prime movers) and retained their turbochargers. The electrical systems were upgraded to Dash 2 standards and the original generators were replaced with alternators. Basically, they were completely remanufactured and considered "zero hour" new builds.

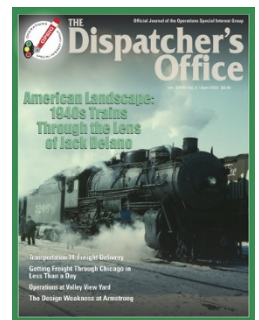




The principal purpose of the **Operations Special Interest Group (OPSIG)** is to discuss, develop and disseminate ways of operating model railroads to realistically emulate practices of the prototype, this includes sharing information on various methods of generating, moving and controlling traffic to 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, [\*The Dispatcher's Office\*](#), 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.



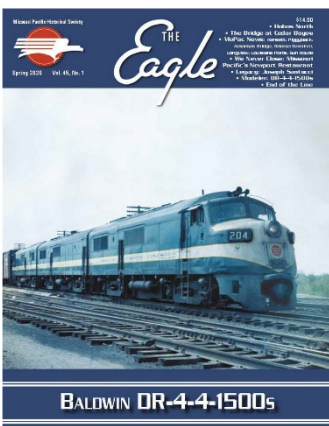
Click here for the OpSig **website**: <https://www.opsig.org/>

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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.**

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



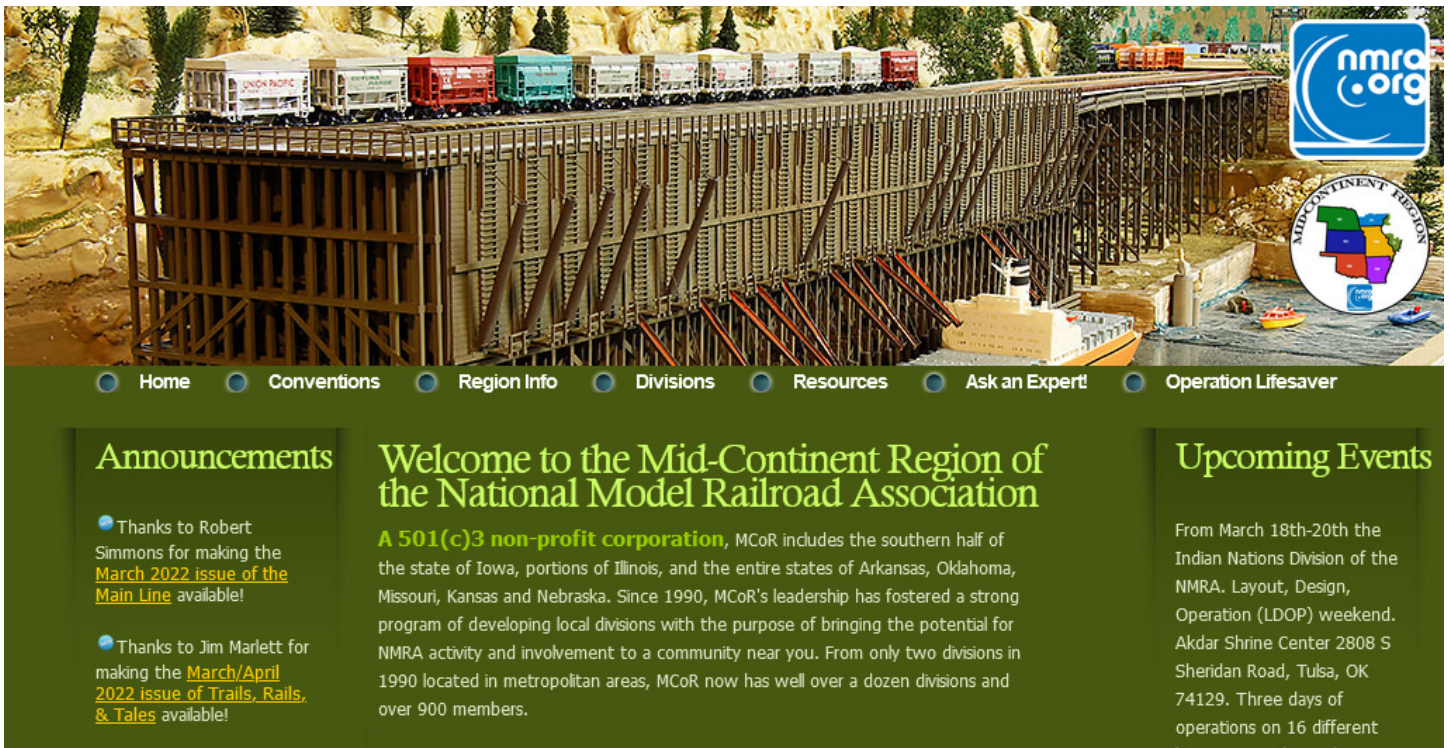
The Society publishes an illustrated quarterly magazine called "The Eagle." Each issue contains current news and articles of historical interest, rosters of equipment, technical information, data, and modeling projects are just a few of many items of interest published along with the business of the society.

All members are urged to contribute material for publication. Along with the magazine, the Society produces a full color calendar of photos from across the railroad covering all eras.

Click here for the website: <http://www.mopac.org/>

Click here for the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MoPacHistorical>



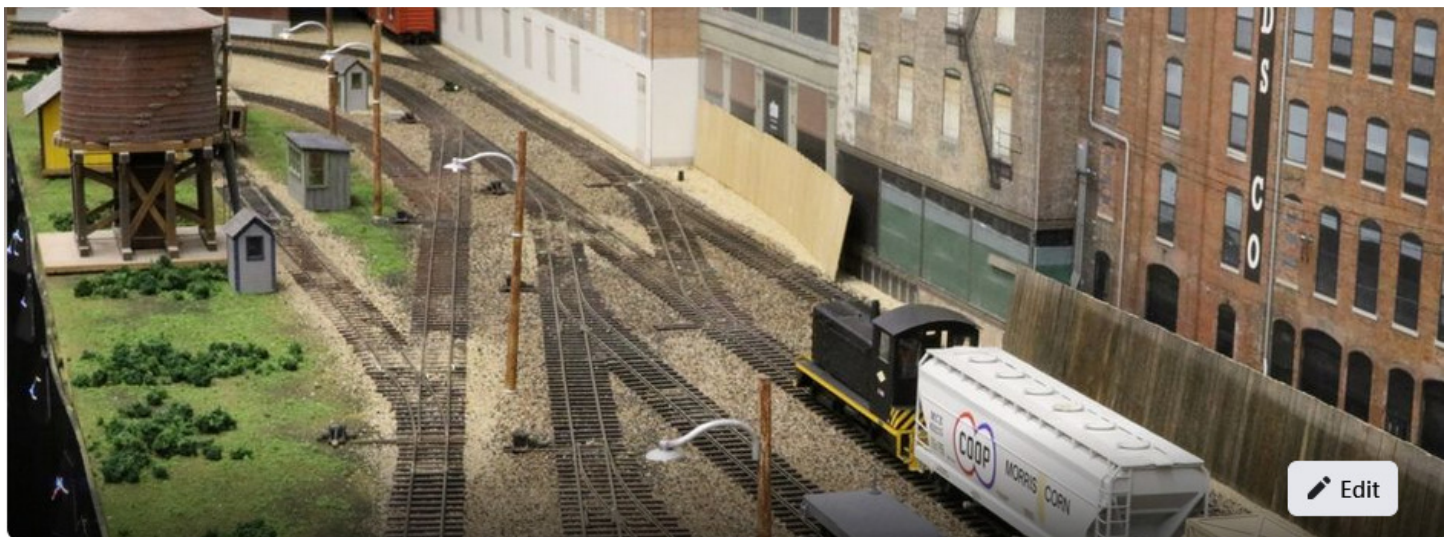


The Mid-Continent Region, NMRA has you covered two ways...

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- Or -

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N-Scale Railroading is now digital!



Click here to download the issue of your choice: <https://nscalerailroadingmagazine.com/>





**NRail** has provided 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



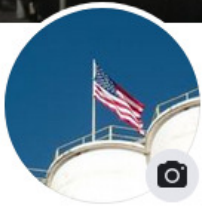
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- **Access to the Members Only section of NRail.org (including over 270 issues of the Newsletter).**
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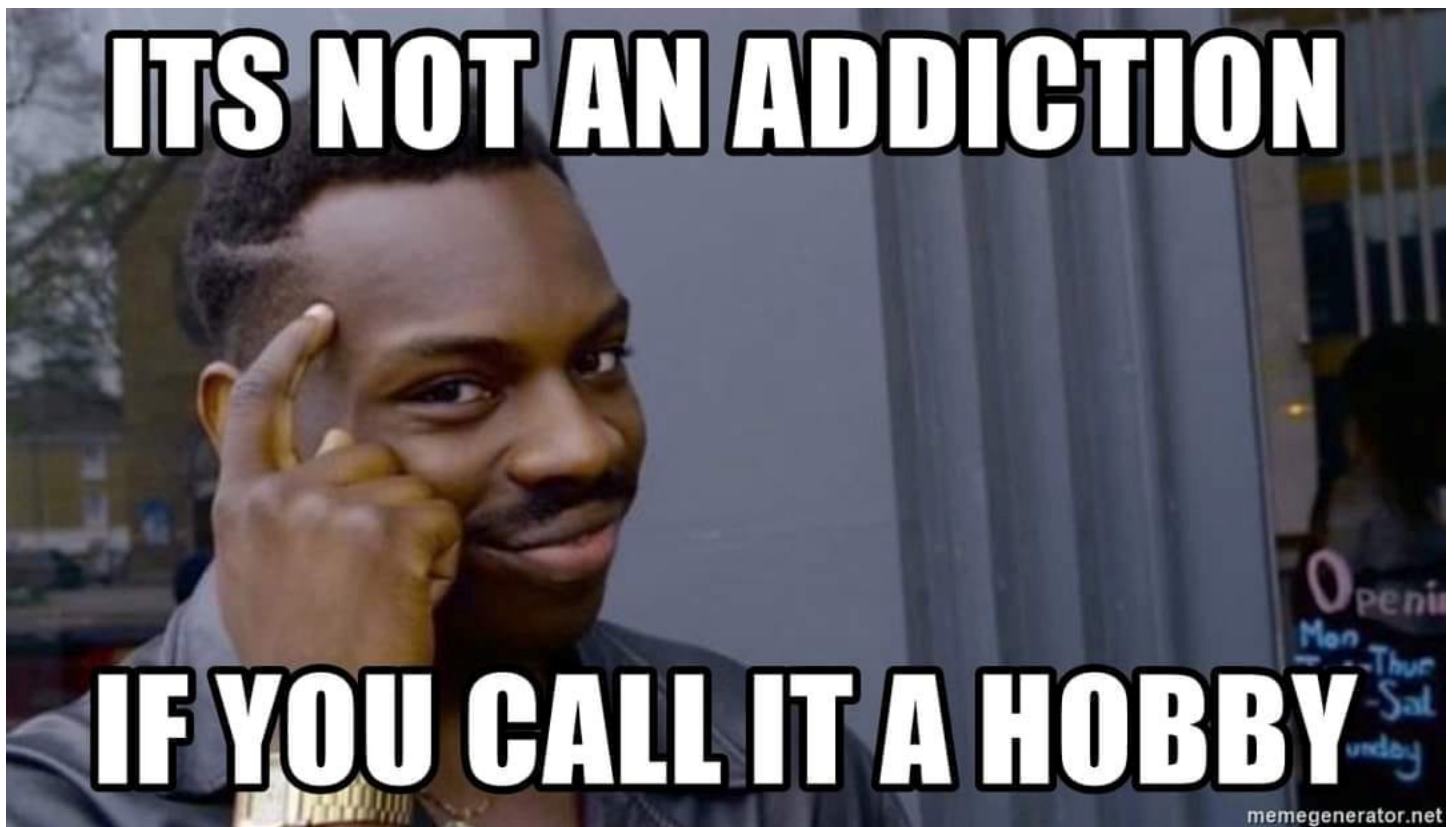
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## Editor's Musings

*"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times..."* The famous line from a novel might just describe the time we are in now. As the pandemic winds down and we begin to return to "normal" (whatever that is) I can see an increase in interest in model railroading on the social media platforms from people who had sets years ago and are returning to the fold. It is also pleasing to see the train show schedules returning to their regular activity, plus manufacturers are releasing some great new product in multiple scales.

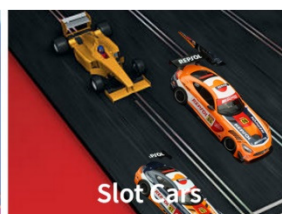
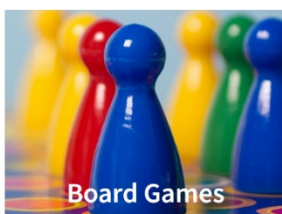
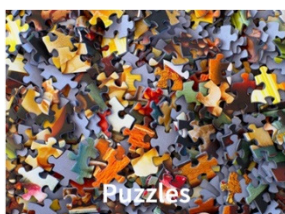
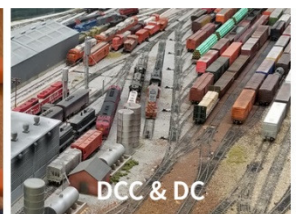
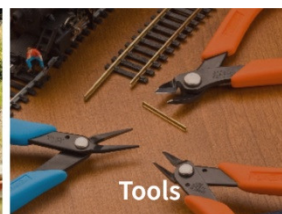
The downside is the economy, now showing a GDP loss, inflation is high which robs everyone of their buying power, and we all know about fuel prices. The natural tendency is when money gets tight, people start to cut back on their hobbies first. This can also be an opportunity for us. The **NMRA** has always led the way in presenting clinics both separately and in conjunction with train shows.

Scratch building structures has become very pleasurable and satisfying for me, and you almost can't believe how much money it saves for any given structure. As you will see later in this issue, I have scratch built the entire concrete plant (just one item to go) using inexpensive sheet styrene instead of a pricey kit.



**Midwest Model Railroad** has two goals: make high-quality model trains easier to acquire and make our niche hobby more accessible to everyone. Operating since 2011, we've been able to do just that by keeping our operating costs low and passing on our savings to you. You will be hard pressed to find a model train shop more organized and affordable than us—which is especially significant considering the variety of model train supplies available and how quickly costs add up.

With a passion for model trains, we want to welcome newcomers to our hobby by making the first steps easy and enjoyable for all.



Click here to visit **Midwest Model Railroad**: <https://midwestmodelrr.com/>

Click here for the **Facebook** page: <https://www.facebook.com/MidwestmodelRailroad>





## The Santa Fe Railway Historical and Modeling Society



The Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society is an independent non-profit corporation devoted to preserving, studying, and sharing information about the former Santa Fe Railway, from its rich history and fascinating operations to its distinctive equipment and facilities.



### 2022 convention: *The Kansas City Chief*

**Date: June 14-19, 2022**

**Convention Hotel: DoubleTree by Hilton, Kansas City-Overland Park. Located at 10100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS 66210.**

**Membership Benefits:** Regular members receive the Society's quarterly magazine, *The Warbonnet*, the quarterly newsletter, *Running Extra*, and receive a 20% discount on most Society publications and offerings. They also receive access to the Members' Only area of the website, which contains hundreds of documents about the Santa Fe.

**Website link:** <https://sfrhms.org/>

**Facebook Page link:** <https://www.facebook.com/Santa-Fe-Railway-Historical-Modeling-Society-139733926103107>

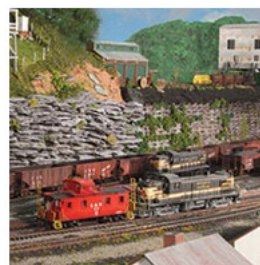




RMC RECEIVING YARD

## KR Models Announces Skeleton Log Cars

Each car will be available in three different configurations — a single car with no logs, a single car with three large logs or a single car with six smaller logs.



RMC EXTRA BOARD

## When Coal Was King: Louisville & Nashville

Inspired by coal-hauling operations in Eastern Kentucky, Jeff Keubler's HO scale Louisville & Nashville layout is part of the 2022 St. Louis NMRA convention tour.



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RMC EXTRA BOARD

## Solving S Scale's Identity Problem

With its roots in American Flyer toy trains, S scale is a vibrant modeling medium that allows you to stretch the boundaries of modeling creativity in a scale larger than HO, but smaller than O.

RMC PRODUCT REVIEWS

## Micro-Trains' Weathered Conrail/ex-Reading 50' Boxcars

The latest release from Micro-Trains is a pair of ex-Reading 50-foot boxcars patched for Conrail.



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



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RMC PRODUCT REVIEWS

## Walther's Proto EMD FP7 Locomotive

Walther's Proto has released a model of one of the most iconic North American diesel locomotives: The FP7.







## Spring Creek 2022 FreeMo Event

The weekend of April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Spring Creek Model Trains hosted their annual FreeMo event in Deshler, Nebraska.

It is a free event held in the Thayer County Event center and features the displays of FreeMo, HO-scale, and FreeMo N, N-scale.

I was not able to make the trip, but Spring Creek provided some pictures, and Jerry Bruce of McPherson added a few as well.



Jerry Bruce Photo





FreeMo HO – Jerry Bruce Photo



One of the hallmarks of FreeMo, is their excellent scenery. Each module is small in size, but huge in details.

FreeMo HO – Jerry Bruce Photo





FreeMo HO – Jerry Bruce Photo



FreeMo HO – Jerry Bruce Photo





FreeMo HO – Jerry Bruce Photo





"We produce model railroad layout tours in both our digital magazine and our Blu-ray DVD movies. Trackside Model Railroading is a publisher for model train enthusiasts who want to enjoy layout tours in depth.

The premium digital magazine is advertisement-free and features new tours each month. We feature layouts of all the fine scales with lots of full-page photos, articles about the railroads, and railfan style videos.

Our full movies feature much more video of the layouts and often include interviews, operations, and creative back stories and railroad history. Check out the library of our full-length movies of model railroads. Many titles include operations, interviews, and other extras, and you'll get to see the model trains in action."

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### Main Features

On the Cover

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Carl Lester's HO scale freelanced Spring River & Western Railroad Company

**28 More Accurate Ops: Modeling Ag Storage**  
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Build your own derailer from a turnout



**April 2022**  
Volume 10, Number 4

### Departments

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Photos From Our Readers

**April Desktop Images**











**The UPHS 2022 Convention will be held in Cheyenne, Wyoming May 11-14, 2022.**

This year’s convention will incorporate both historical programs along with model railroading. The convention is being held in conjunction with the **Cheyenne Rail Heritage Days**, the **Sherman Hill Train Show**, the **Cheyenne Depot events**. There is ample parking at the Model train show at the Laramie County Fair Exhibition Hall at Archer, and there will also be a shuttle bus from the hotel to the show. Weather permitting, we will also have some vintage equipment on display outside the hotel. A CA Caboose will be on display outside and some live steam models on display in the lobby.



We invite you to join the **Union Pacific Historical Society**! Join with Union Pacific enthusiasts from all over the world by submitting your one-year membership application.

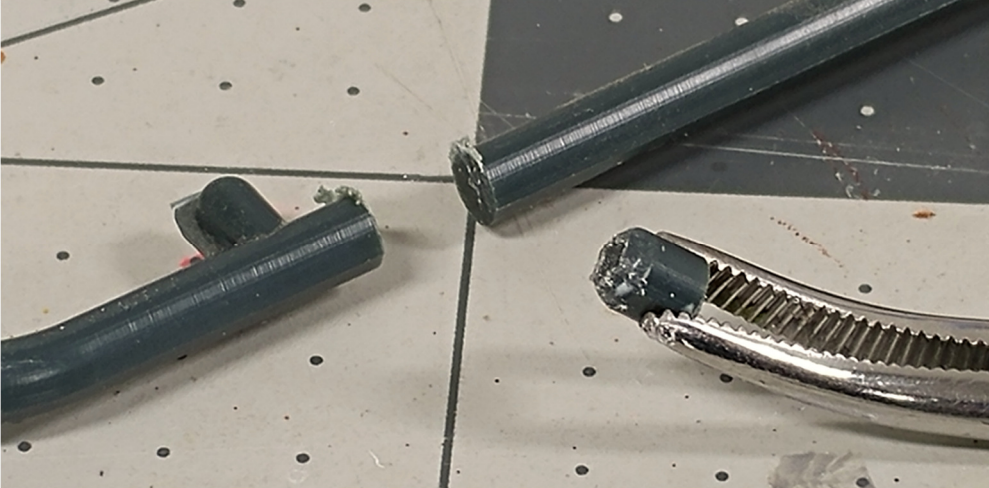
- *Regular membership* (for those in the USA over 25 as well as all those abroad). Both Youth and Regular memberships entitle one to receive four issues of our highly acclaimed quarterly magazine, *The Streamliner*, as well as discounts on selected products in the Company Store.

Click here for the **website**: <http://uphs.org/>

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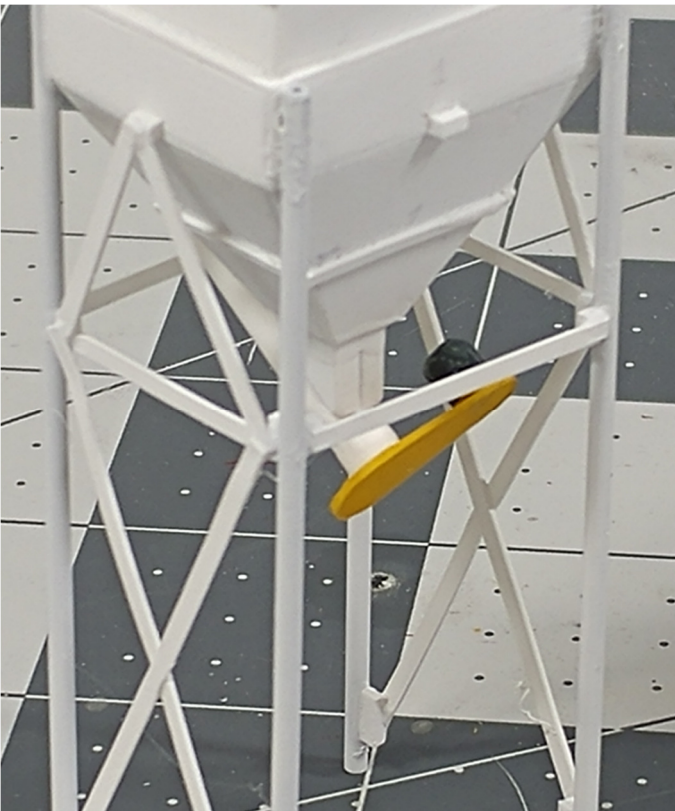
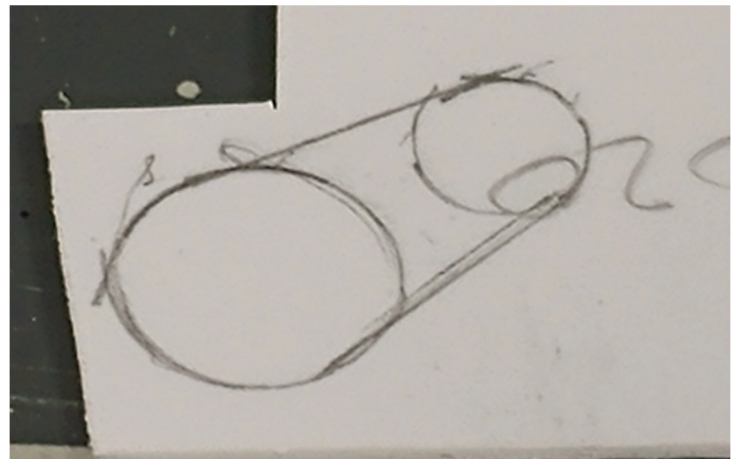
# WKR Update



The Western Kansas Rails (WKR) Scenery Crew are still working on the concrete plant on section 11.

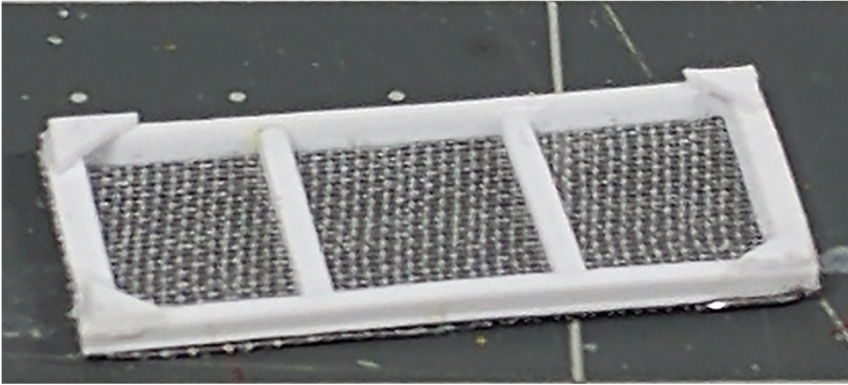
(Left) We never throw anything away, here we are using a piece of old kit sprue to "make" an electric motor for the cement powder auger.

(Right) Using a piece of 0.020 sheet styrene scrap, we sketched out the shape of the drive belt guard.



(Left) The rear of the cement powder hopper with the new drive guard and electric motor installed.

# WKR Update



(Above) The new catwalk for the hopper made with sheet styrene strips and a wire mesh ribbon which is also used for chain link fence.

(Right) a view of the cement hopper in its position behind the main structure. We have now added the drive guard and electric motor, the catwalk, and the concrete footers.

The next detail to add are the handrails, so we will use some BLMA handrails from the culvert kit.

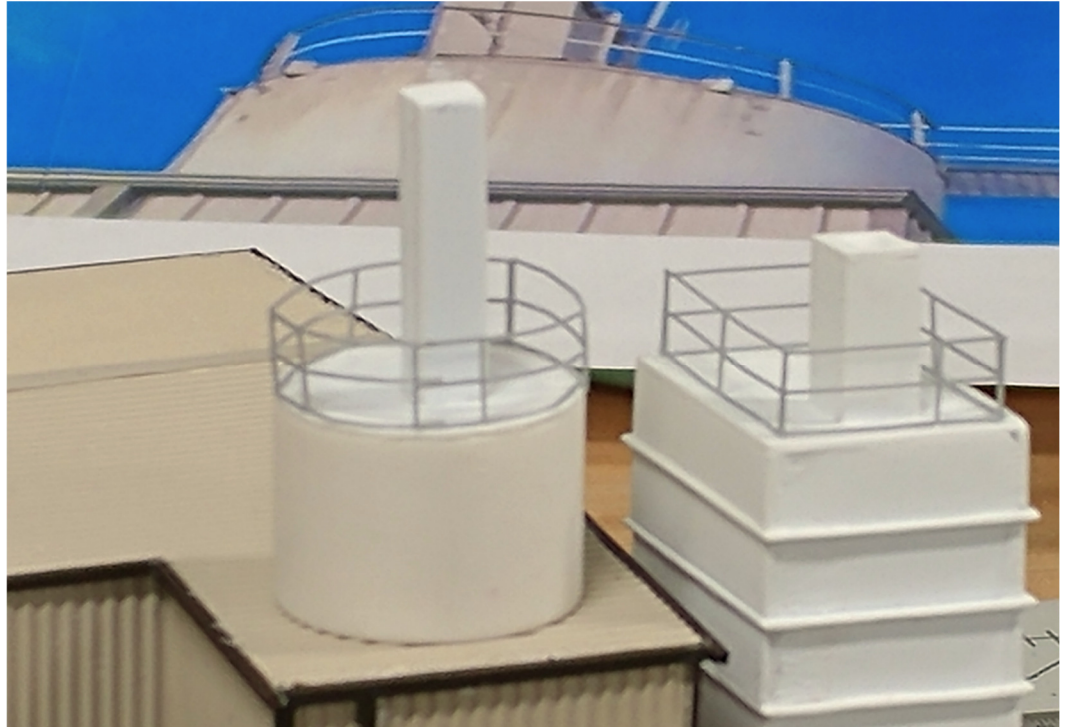




# WKR Update

(Right) The BLMA handrails have been cut to fit on the hopper.

A water tank was needed for the roof of the building, so a piece of PVC pipe was topped with a sheet styrene top, and then the handrails were carefully bent and glued into position (a lot easier said than done).



(Left) This view shows the additional structure atop the water tank, plus handrails were also applied to the catwalk.



# WKR Update



(This Page) Two views of the structures in place on the concrete plant.





# WKR Update



(This Page) The WKR Purchasing Department acquired a pair of delivery vehicles. The FedEx van is making a delivery to American Implement, while the DHL van made a delivery to Teeter Irrigation.





# WKR Update



(Above) The next challenge, and the final one for the concrete plant is the aggregate conveyor belt. It's an interesting structure as it slowly moves back and forth on a separate concrete curved pad, plus the opening in the building is protected by a sliding screen that moves with the conveyor.

Tune in next month, same Bat Time, same Bat Channel to see how we tackle this project.

On another front, the Operations Crew have been standing down for a couple of weeks as we try to use JMRI Decoder Pro to increase the volume for the sound on our Scale Trains ET44AC's.



**THIS RARE PHOTO WAS TAKEN JUST  
SECONDS BEFORE**

**FAMOUS BANJO PLAYER "ONE EYED BOB" GOT  
HIS NICKNAME**



# Date Book

## June 2022

19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>  
Sun – Sat

**National Garden Railway Convention**  
<https://www.ngrc2022.org/>

Denver, CO.

## August 2022

7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>  
Sun – Sat

**NMRA National Convention / National Train Show**  
[https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event\\_id=13724](https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event_id=13724)

St. Louis, MO.







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*It's amazing what you can  
do with just two fingers  
and a thumb!*

*And boy oh boy you  
sure can work up  
a thirst!*



## The *Main Line*

Publisher & Editor: Robert A. Simmons

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