



The

# Main Line

May 2023



National Model Railroad Association

Mid-Continent Region

The Monthly publication of the



**Western Kansas Division**



On The Cover: A recent addition to the Western Kansas Rails N-scale layout, this Intermountain SD40-2 was heavily weathered before it joins the Missouri Pacific Leasing Corp. (MPLX) lease fleet. Details inside....

**Inside this issue:**

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### The Friends of the Burlington Northern Railroad (FOBNR)

The historical society was incorporated on January 3, 1993. It was chartered to gather, preserve, and share information about the history 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.

The society also has an annual convention at some location on the BNSF system with programs, tours, displays, a banquet with a keynote speaker, and a business meeting.

- Membership is for one full year.
- Multiple-year memberships are permitted and even encouraged!
- All members get 4 issues of *The BN Expediter*, our quarterly magazine.
- **Sustaining** members get our annual BN calendar free and are acknowledged by name in every issue of *The BN Expediter*.

Click this link for the **FOBNR** website: <https://fobnr.org/>

For the **FOBNR Facebook** page, click this link: <https://www.facebook.com/fobnr>



## Mid-Continent Region, NMRA

+ Invite

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**Mid-continent Region Facebook** page?

**Interesting articles** (left)

**Region Train Show schedules**

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**Scenery ideas**

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**BNSF Railway**

April 6 at 4:41 PM · 🌐

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Take a look at how this unique work is done at our Springfield, Missouri facility on Rail Talk at <http://bit.ly/3MimoDE>

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HO Scale Clearance



N Scale Clearance

Our Clearance section has been updated! Over 2200 items are on clearance! Take a look at just some items in both scales below (we couldn't fit in 2200 items)! Make sure to order the products you want as these will go quickly.

# One Hundred Ghosts:

## An Exposition Of Rural Grain Elevators

By Blaine Hadfield



**One Hundred Ghosts: An Exposition of Rural Grain Elevators** is a photographic exposition of rural grain elevators, with a focus on wood elevators of both frame and crib construction.

Click here for Midwest Model Railroad: <https://midwestmodelrr.com/>





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## Western Kansas Division, NMRA

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You can also follow the **Western Kansas Division** on our MeWe page:

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**"Dad, I'm scared of zombies."**

**"Zombies aren't dangerous, they're just people with makeup on."**

**"Like Mom?"**

**"Exactly like Mom, yes."**



**SPRING CREEK MODEL TRAINS**  
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Here are pictures provided by Spring Creek Model Trains....







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**2023 Free-Mo  
Event  
April 22-23**











**Spring Creek Model Trains**  
2023 Free-Mo Event  
April 22-23  
304 E. Bryson Ave, Deshler, NE  
402-365-7628  
SpringCreekModelTrains.com

I wasn't able to attend this year's event, but a big Thank You goes out to Spring Creek for hosting the event and providing these photos. Both Free-Mo and FreeMo Hon30 groups put on one heck of a display and they never fail to awe spectators with their spectacular scenery and attention to detail.







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Click this link for the N-Rail website: <https://nrail.org/>

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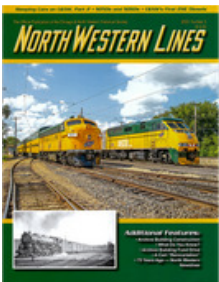
**Kirk Reddie**  
• Rapid prototype with paper structures.

**Keith Lyons**  
• Servo Switch Machines





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. 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.



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/>

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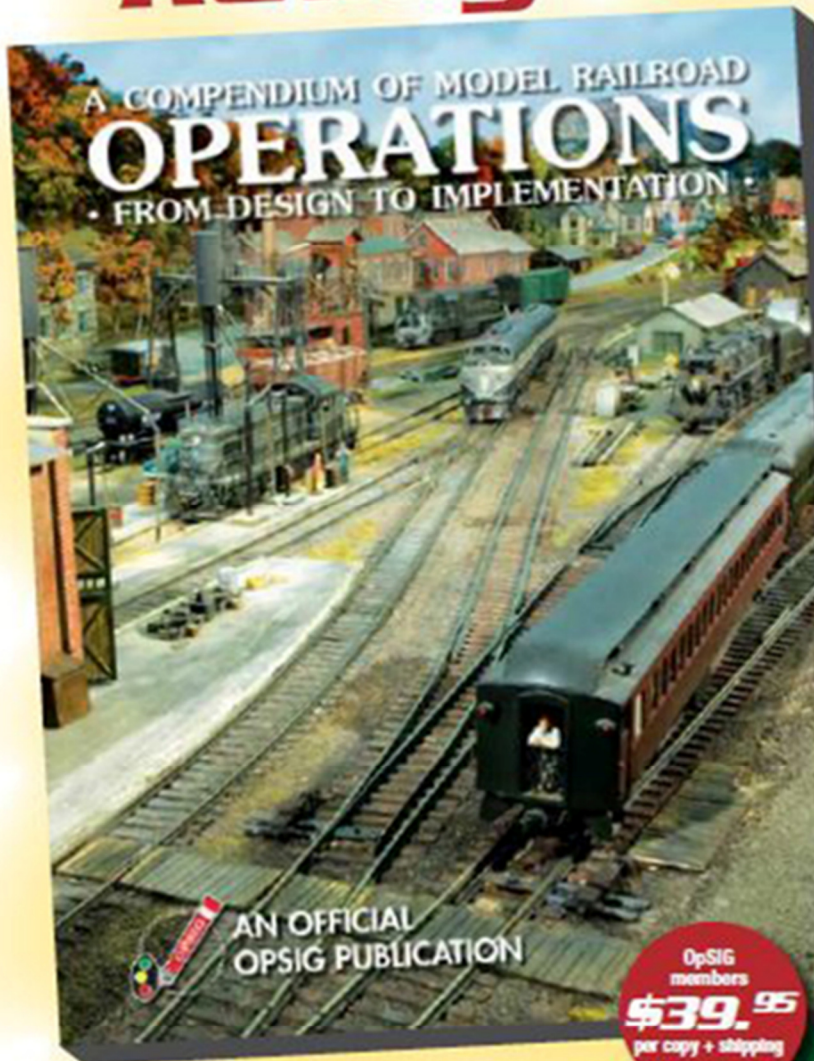
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Just click this link: <https://2023texasexpress.com/>



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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© Bob Boudreau

Master Model Railroader, **Bob Boudreau**, constantly amazes with his highly detailed models and dioramas.

In these shots he details a locomotive at the scrappers. Most of us have painted, detailed, and weathered our locomotives, but how many of us have envisioned the scrapping of a loco, and then gone to model it.

Take a bit of time and closely view these photos as there are details, large and small in every portion of the model.

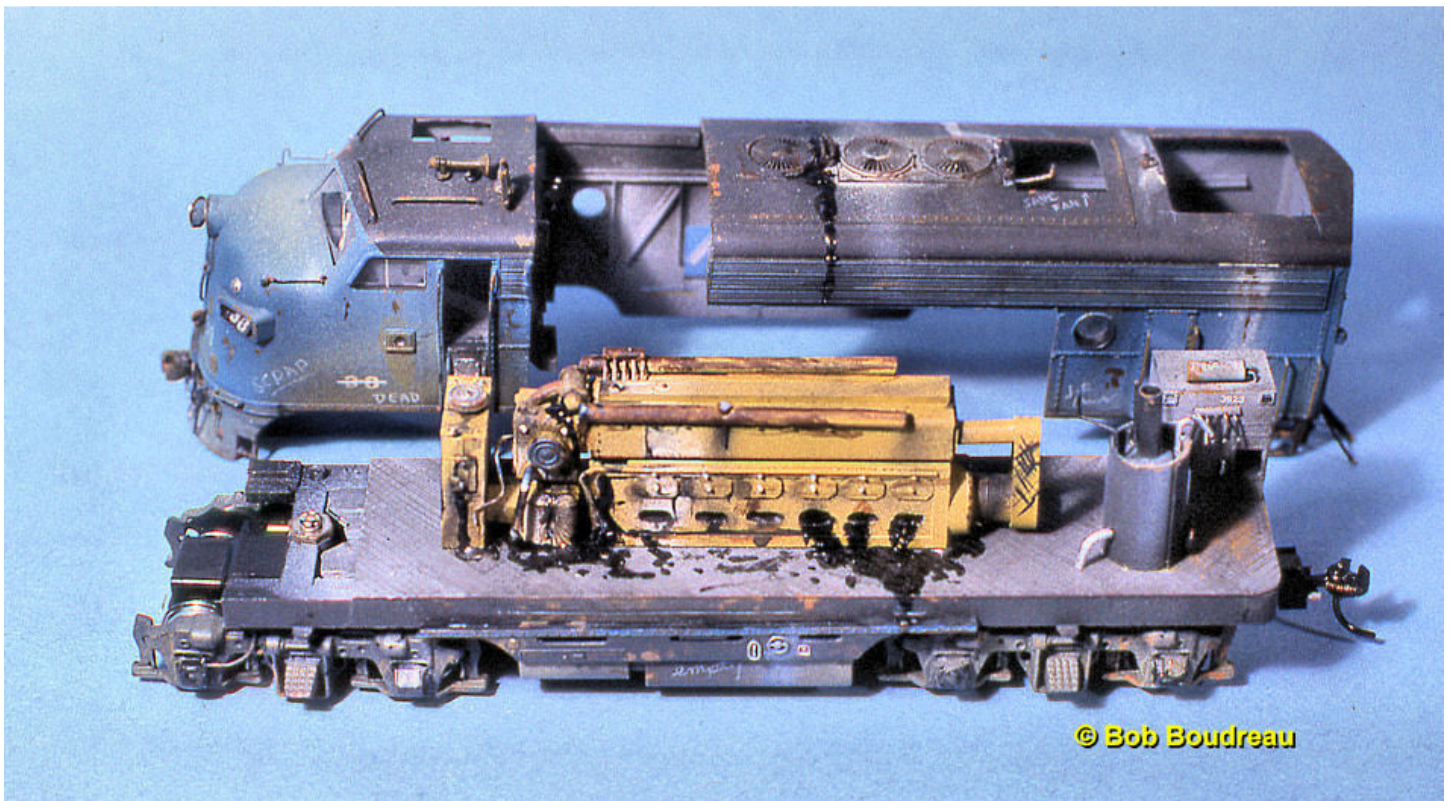




©Bob Boudreau

## Ideas

This model is impressive with the body shell on but remove the shell and there are even more details such as the oil spill from the prime mover.



© Bob Boudreau





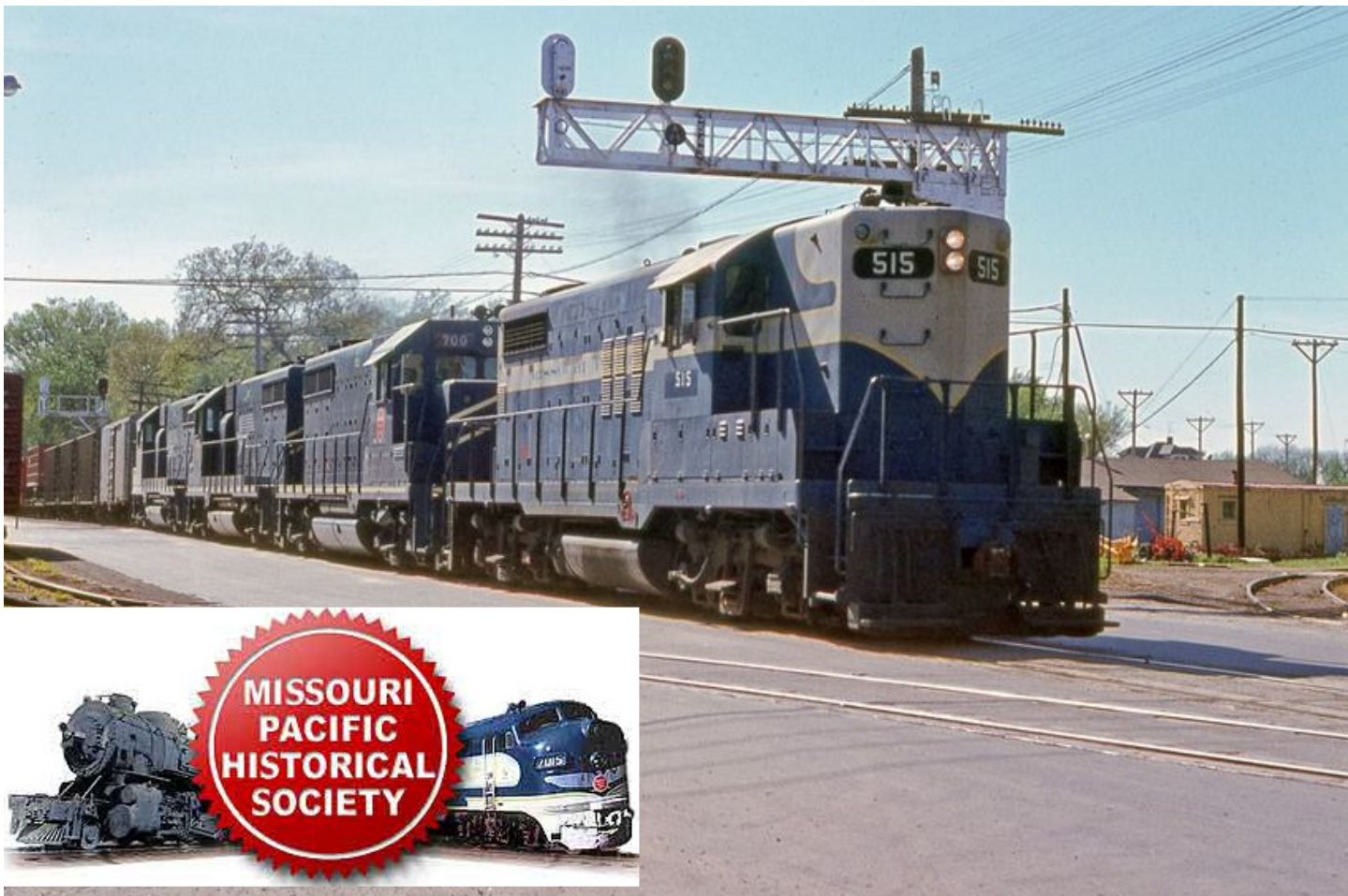


**Arguing with a woman  
is like reading the Software  
License agreement**



**In the end you  
have to ignore everything  
and click "I agree"**





**Our mission is to preserve and promote the heritage of the Missouri Pacific Railroad and its affiliates. This includes 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 publishes a quarterly magazine called "**The Eagle**." All members receive a copy of this magazine as part of their membership dues. Copies of this magazine can be purchased through our Company Store.

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This channel is about Model Railroading in general, and specifically the ant... >



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Train 2 - Move 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFzb4QwVQ1s>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f\\_LRhZr11YA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_LRhZr11YA)



WKR Operations Session 2 -  
Train 1 - Move 3



New Power for the WKR -  
Scale Trains C44 9Ws

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aPWd48I\\_rA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aPWd48I_rA)

Check out the **Western Kansas Division YouTube** channel and subscribe:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9EPv8cQ04rRGAYts-734jw>



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# Real Deal



In early April I happened upon a Loram rail grinding train at rest in the BNSF yard behind the depot. While staying on the station platform by necessity these are all zoom shots.





# Real Deal



(Above) There were several of these cars, all identical, so I won't show all of them.



(Above) There were two tank cars, one on each end.





# Real Deal



Back in the February 2023 issue, we posted photos of a molasses unloading station under construction. In April we were able to take some updated photos of the nearly complete plant.



(From February) In Dodge City, Kansas, **Kansas Feeds, Inc.**, a manufacturer of cattle feed components, has greatly expanded their West Plant. They added new holding tanks, expanded their tank car unloading facility, and new metal buildings. I believe the tank cars come in loaded with molasses, an ingredient in cattle feed mix. The molasses is pumped into the holding tanks, mixed with vitamins and other nutrients, then sent to feed yards to be mixed with dry cattle feed.

(Currently) Kansas feeds, Inc. has added exterior coverings and perhaps insulation and heating elements for cold weather operations. The unloading tracks curve to the left ahead of the pictured tank cars and are probably twice the length shown in the photo.



# Real Deal



(Right) A closer view of the completed tanks. For modeling purposes, not the concrete spill containment wall that surrounds the tanks. We will try to get a better shot of the unloading pipe rack between the two tracks in the future.







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# 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.

## 2023 Regional Convention

The [2023 Mid-Continent Region convention](#) will be held at the Holiday Inn at US69 and 87th Street in Overland Park, Kansas from July 27 through 29. [The convention website is now available](#). Interested in giving a clinic? See this [page](#) for more details.



The event will take place at the **Holiday Inn & Suites**, 8787 Reeder St., Overland Park, KS 66214, which is easily accessible from I-35 at 87th St. in Overland Park.

Check out the Mid-Continent Region, NMRA website: <http://mcor-nmra.org/>





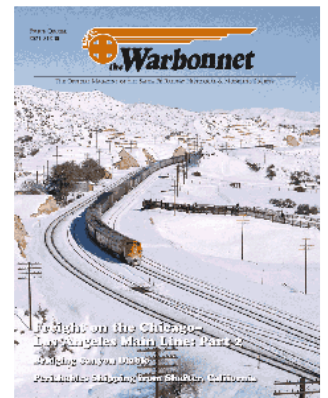
## The Santa Fe Railway Historical and Modeling Society



To advance the hobby of railroad history in general, and of The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company, Incorporated in particular, wherever and whenever possible by publications, meetings and all things necessary or incident to these purposes.

### 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.



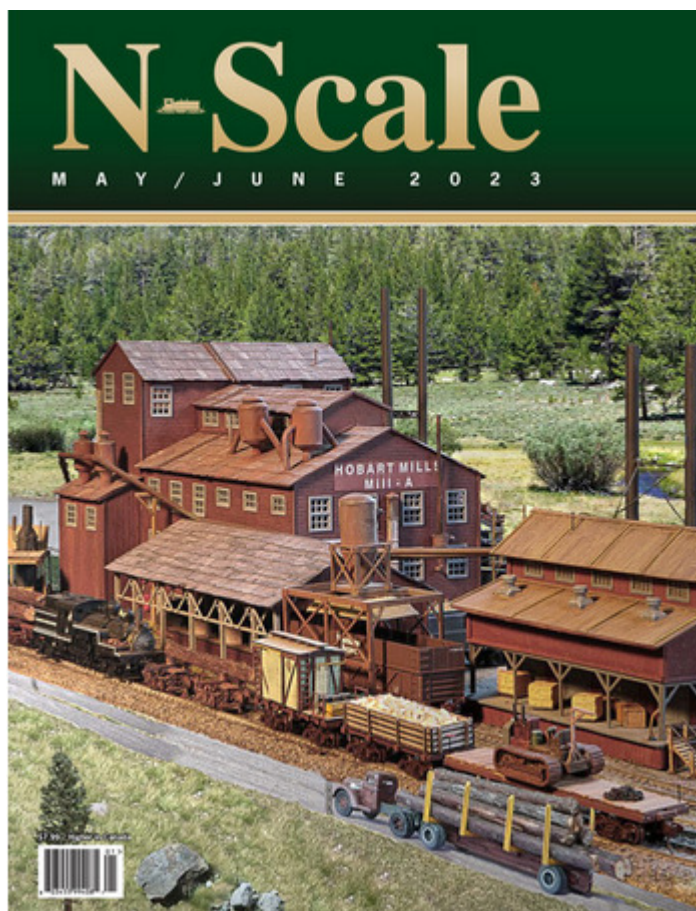
### 2023 annual convention – *The Fast fifteen*

Houston, Texas – June 7-11, 2023

Click here for the SFRH&MS website: <https://sfrhms.org/>

For the Facebook page of the SFRH&MS, click here: <https://www.facebook.com/SFRHMS>





**On the cover:** Hobart Mills is a beehive of activity today. A Shay switches loaded skeleton log cars, disconnected log cars, and support cars for the woods train. These include a scrap wood load for the camp stoves and a logging tractor. Meanwhile, a truck delivers more logs to the mill pond. You'll find all this and more on Bob McLaughlin's Hobart Mills module, starting on page 32.

## IN THE CURRENT ISSUE

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### Quick Notes

Monroe Models Hobo Creek Bridge Kit  
by Dennis Murphy

### The Short & Nn3arrow

Pre-Weathered Structure;  
Nn3 Turnout; Model Railroading in a War Zone; 3D Printing  
by Tom Knapp, MMR#101

### Along the Line Series

Part 3: Tools & Techniques  
by Dan Lewis, MMR

### Hobart Mills

A Lumber Mill Module  
by Bob McLaughlin

### Once Upon A Waterfront

Part 2  
by Dennis Murphy

### Eight Square Feet of Nostalgia

by David K. Smith

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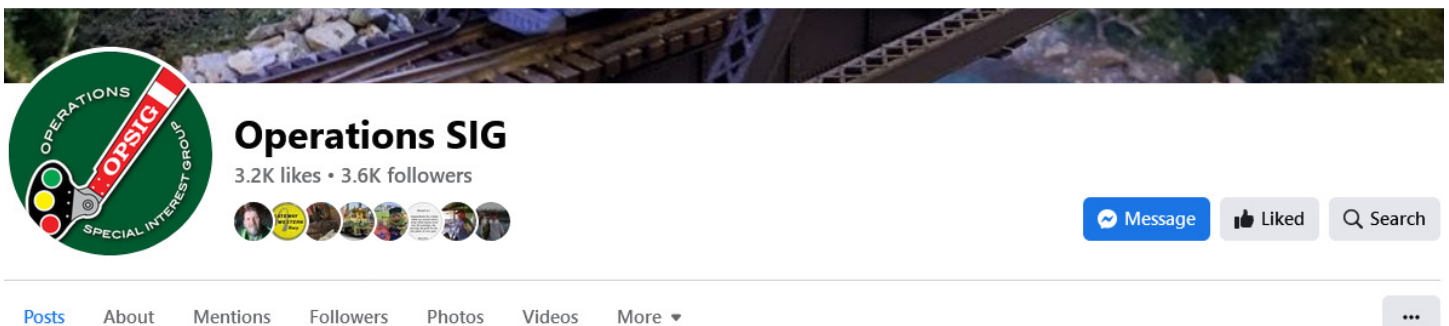
The principal purpose of the **Operations Special Interest Group** (OPSIG) is to discuss, develop and disseminate ways of operating model railroads to realistically emulate practices of the prototype. This includes sharing information on various methods of generating, moving, and controlling traffic 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. We also send out the *Second Section* email newsletter on a regular basis.



For the **OPSIG** website, click here: <https://www.opsig.org/>



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## Welcome to Spring Creek Model Trains



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# Oddballs

Every so often an idea or product just doesn't catch on and is not mass produced.

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## ALCO Century 855



(From Wikipedia) The **ALCO Century 855** was a model of 5,500 hp diesel-electric locomotive built in 1964 by the American Locomotive Company for the Union Pacific Railroad. The locomotive was notable for being ALCO's most powerful diesel-electric locomotive and, at the time, the most powerful diesel locomotive ever built, being surpassed by the 6,600-horsepower EMD DDA40X in April 1969.

Union Pacific wished to reduce the number of locomotives needed on a consist, to keep in line with their allowable gross weight limit. By consolidating several locomotives into one or two, this allowed them to lower the axle load on the rails, but to stay within the limits placed by the company.

Only three were built and they spent their lives in the general freight pool at North Platte; however, constant shutting down due to overheating & poor performance with its twin prime movers led to their early retirement and eventual scrapping by February 1972, after only being in service for less than eight years.





# Oddballs

Every so often an idea or product just doesn't catch on and is not mass produced.

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## ALCO Century 855



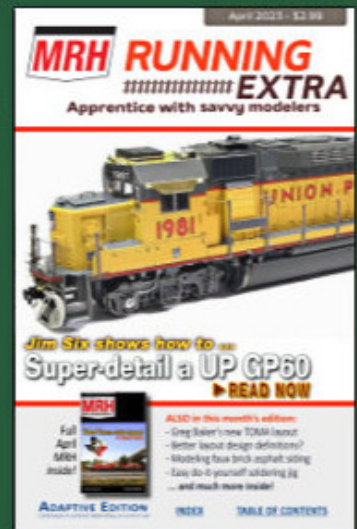


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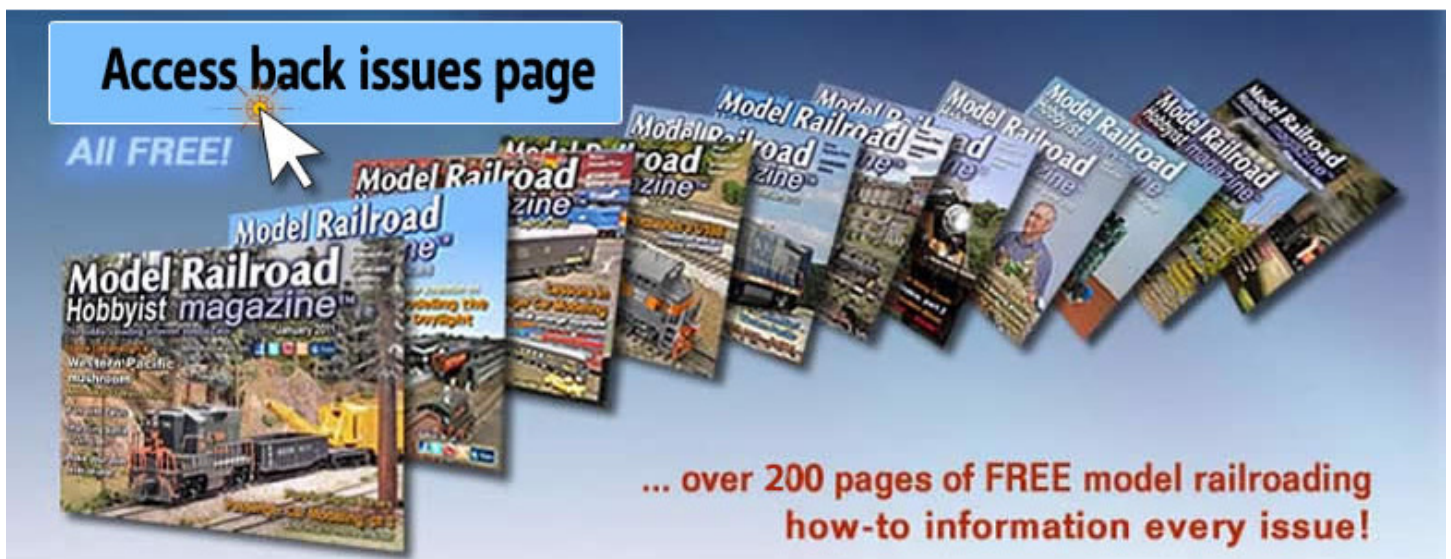


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The mission of the **Rio Grande Modeling & Historical Society** is to preserve and disseminate historical information about the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad for the benefit of our members and to others by locating, gathering, preserving, interpreting tangible items relating to the D&RGW and distributing information, documents, publications thus promoting fellowship and education among persons with interests in the railroad.

## 2023 RGM&HS Convention in Denver, Colorado



**2023 Convention, August 27-30 - Denver, Colorado**

Click here for the **RGM&HS** website: <https://rgmhs.org/>

For the **RGM&HS Facebook** page, click this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rgmhs.org>



# WKR Layout Update



In April, the WKR Weathering Department decided to get busy and try to “age” a new Intermountain Kansas City Southern SD40-2. This was our first attempt at severely aging a locomotive, so as usual we applied way too much of the colors, then used alcohol on a swab to reduce the effect to get better results.



The first step was to fade the original paint using a very thin wash of white craft paint. This was slathered on the locomotive and allowed to dry overnight.

The crew then picked out three different shades of “rust” colors, very light (almost a tan) for new rust, a reddish medium shade, and finally a very dark (almost brown) for old rust.

We set about determining where water was most likely to collect, and then added the three different shades. It looked good at first, but after drying overnight, and viewing it in close-up photos, it looked garish with way too much paint applied.

The solution was to take our cone shaped foam swabs, dipped in alcohol, and then lightly stroke over the weathering, slowly removing the “too much” and it also gave a better “patchy” effect.

The final step was to use “grimy black” weathering powder, brushed over the exhaust area.



# WKR Layout Update





# WKR Layout Update



In late April, the Purchasing Department of the WKR received four new, Scale Trains C44-9Ws. These are “Rivet Counter” models with sound. The purchase included a single UP version and three ex-Southern Pacific “patch” units. The intent is to re-patch all four into the MPLX lease fleet. In our world, the Missouri Pacific was the dominant partner in the 1982 merger and took over all the other roads absorbed by the UP. In so doing, the MoPac created the Missouri Pacific Leasing Corp. (MPLX) to purchase older locos from other roads, rebuild them to dash-3 standards, then lease them back to the MoPac or other roads as needed.





# WKR Layout Update



Click this link to hear how they sound:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aPWd48I\\_rA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aPWd48I_rA)

**New Power for the WKR -  
Scale Trains C44 9Ws**



# Trackside Model Railroading™


April 2023  
Free Edition

Volume 11, Number 4

## Coast to Cascades: N Scale Short Line Works Western Washington


### Installing Sub-Roadbed

## Creating Successful Water Scenes in Any Scale



Natural Sagebrush Tree Armatures Available

<https://tmrmag.com/trees>



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### Main Features

**08 Coast to Cascades: N Scale Short Line Works Western Washington**  
 Walt & Nancy Huston's Aberdeen, Tacoma & Spanaway Forrest Railroad in N scale

**30 Creating Successful Water Scenes**  
 examples in N, HO, and S scale show high-quality water scenes with tips on how they were created

**16 Installing Sub-Roadbed**  
 step-by-step instructions show you how to install sub-roadbed on a layout





### April 2023



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 Recent Railroading Events in the News

**38 Along the Rails**  
 Photos From Our Readers

April Desktop Images



# **CENTER OF THE NATION MODEL RAILROAD EXPO**

**June 3rd & 4th, 2023**

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

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

Info: [kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org](http://kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org)  
[kansascentralmodelrr@gmail.com](mailto:kansascentralmodelrr@gmail.com)

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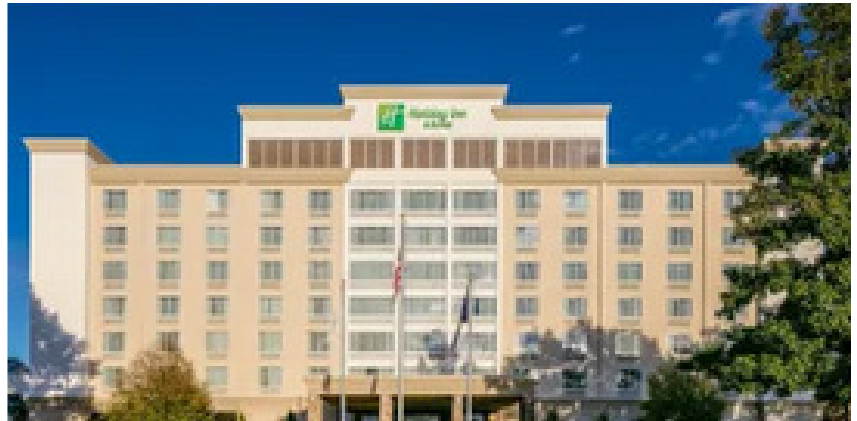
Kids under 13 FREE with paid adult





# KANSAS CITY FLYER 2023 MID-CONTINENT REGION ANNUAL CONVENTION

JULY 27-29, 2023



The event will take place at the Holiday Inn & Suites, 8787 Reeder St., Overland Park, KS 66214, which is easily accessible from I-35 at 87th St. in Overland Park. Registration forms for the convention and the Holiday Inn are coming soon.



# 43rd National Narrow Gauge Convention



Tim Bain photo

## *A Mile High & Three-Foot Wide*

From August 30, 2023, until September 2, 2023, Denver Colorado will be the epicenter of Narrow-Gauge Activities. From the full roster of informative clinics presented by well known model railroaders and railroad specialists, to the largest dedicated narrow gauge retail space anywhere, the convention hotel will be the hub of the week's activities. Both on-site model railroad displays as well as home layouts will be on the schedule for those wishing to experience state of the art narrow gauge model railroading. Prototype venues at nearly every point on the compass are there for those venturing out. Most are less than a half day's drive, many only an hour's travel. Visit them as part of the convention or add them to your before or after convention travel plans.

Remember, Denver is easily accessible by air, rail, and road. So, planning travel could not be simpler. The Hotel's Special Convention rates won't break the bank either! The area hosts food options for every taste and budget.



# Date Book

## June 2023

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>      **Center of the Nation Model Railroad Expo**      Hutchinson, KS.  
Sat & Sun      <http://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org/train-show.html>

## July 2023

27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>      **Kansas City Flyer – Mid-Continent Region Convention**      Kansas City, MO.  
Thu – Sat      <https://2023mcorconvention.com/>

## August 2023

30<sup>th</sup> – Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>      **43<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Narrow Gauge Convention**      Denver, CO.  
Wed – Sat      <https://www.43nngcdenver.com/>



**STOP LOOKING AT MODEL TRAINS  
YOU HAVE A BASEMENT FULL OF THEM**



**WHY CAN'T YOU JUST LOOK AT  
PORN LIKE A NORMAL HUSBAND**

### The *Main Line*

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