

The Main Line

The monthly publication of the
Western Kansas Division

May 2025



On The Cover:

Jim Adams displayed his colorful and highly detailed HO-scale layout during the 2025 Garden City Train Show hosted by the Boothill Model Railroad Club in Garden City, Kansas. Details inside...

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Announcements

- Thanks to Robert Simmons for making the [April 2025 issue of the Main Line](#) available!
- Thanks to Jim Marlett for making the [March/April 2025 issue of Trails, Rails, & Tales](#) 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.

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

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



Welcome to Spring Creek Model Trains

Check out our **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 follow this link.

[Spring Creek Model Trains - 25th Anniversary 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 information and to order the exclusive car follow this link.

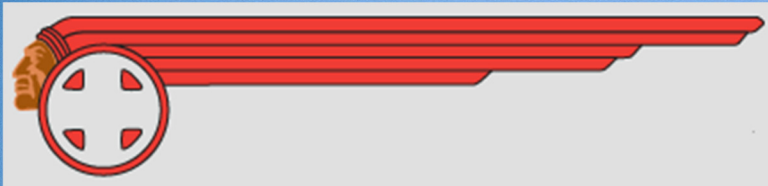
Our next Kansas Train Show Date:
Center of the Nation Model Railroad Expo
Hutchinson, KS.
June 14th & 15th

It's that time again,
we are hosting our Biannual Train Show in Deshler, NE.

Open House and Train Show
July 5th and 6th

Click here for the SCMT website: <https://www.springcreekmodeltrains.com/>

For the Facebook page of SCMT, click here: <https://www.facebook.com/springcreekmodeltrains>



The Santa Fe Railway Historical and Modeling Society

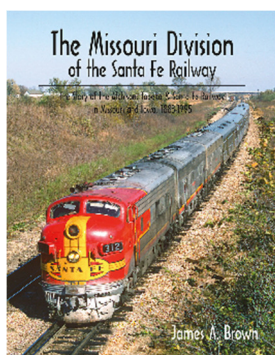


The **Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society** is an independent non-profit corporation devoted to preserving, studying, and sharing information about the former Santa Fe Railway; including its rich history, fascinating operations, distinctive equipment, and facilities.



2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION – THE CHICAGO LIMITED

June 10 – 15, 2025 (Extra Fares June 10, 11 & 12; Convention proper June 13, 14, & 15)

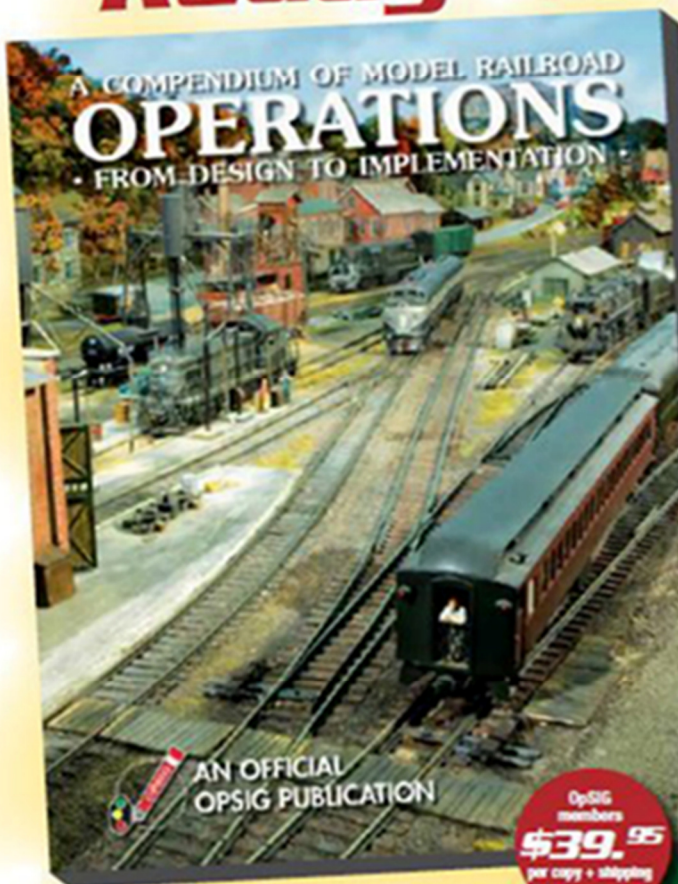


Santa Fe's Missouri Division by James A. Brown. This installment of a series of regional histories published by the Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society examines the Missouri Division of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe. The Missouri Division extended westward from Fort Madison, Iowa, to Sheffield, Missouri, on the east side of Kansas City. The St. Joseph District, a branch line that extended northwest from the mainline at Henrietta, Missouri, to St. Joseph, Missouri, is also examined.

Available Now

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.



Click here to order your copy today:

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



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May 2025

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Featured In this issue



MODELING SIGNATURE TANK CARS IN N SCALE
Kitbashing, scratchbuilding, and resin casting were just some of the techniques used



BIG SKY COUNTRY IN N SCALE
You can visit this 38 x 52 layout during the 2025 NMRA National Convention



EVOLUTION ON THE MIGHTY MKT
How this N scale layout evolved from 1990 to today



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May 2025

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Featured In this issue



THE FINAL BALLAD
CSX's Big Sandy Subdivision is the last holdout for C&O US&S cantilever signals



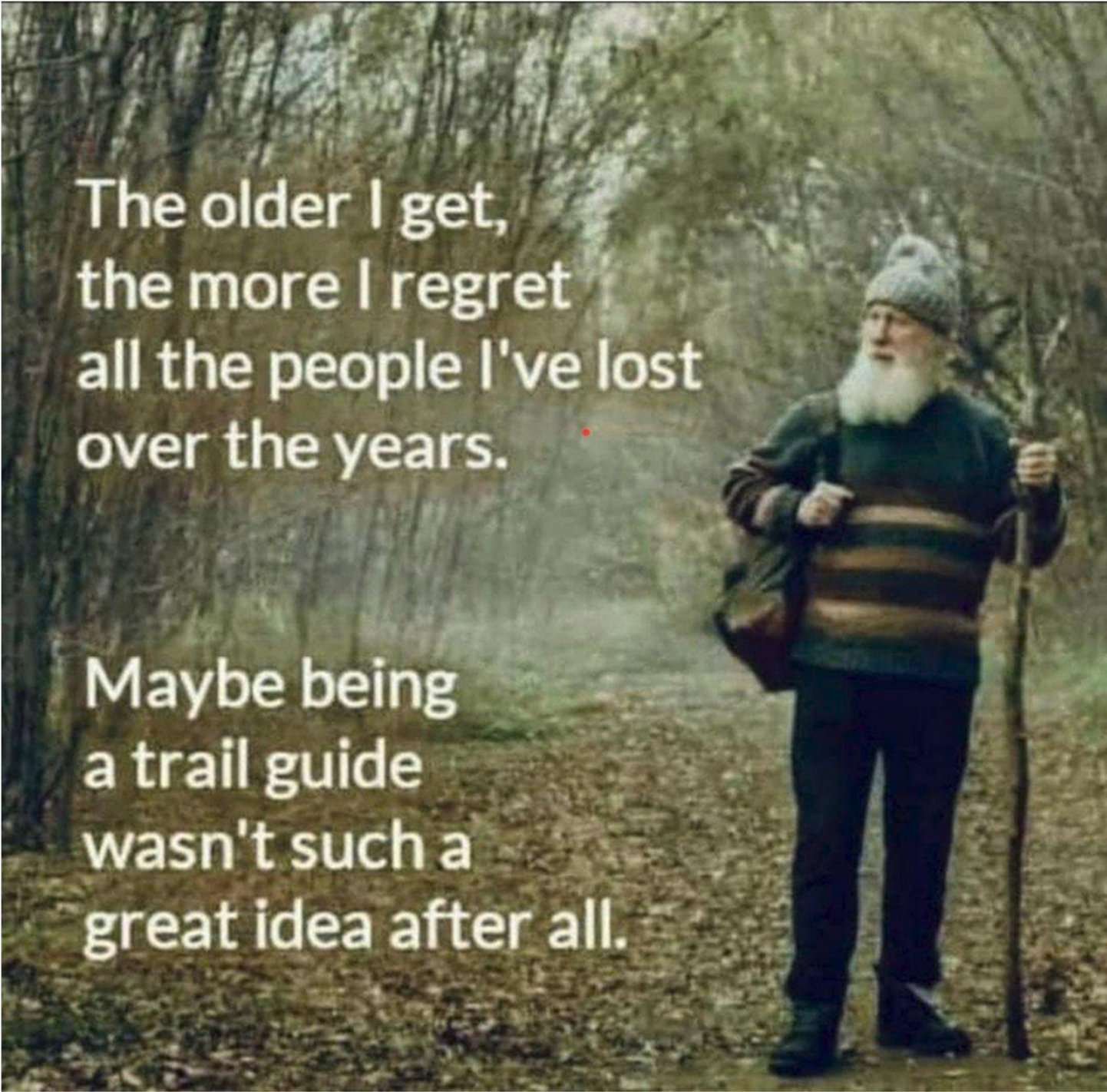
PASSAGE INTERFERENCE
Amtrak and freight railroads square off over how passenger trains should be dispatched



MASSACHUSETTS SURVIVOR
The 122-year-old Fore River Railroad thrives



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The older I get,
the more I regret
all the people I've lost
over the years.

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a trail guide
wasn't such a
great idea after all.



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Click here for more details: <https://www.nmra.org/>

Real Deal



On the point of a westbound freight, **BNSF 7202** and **Union Pacific 2557**.



"Now there's something you don't see every day, Chauncy." (From Rocky & Bullwinkle) Back on April 7th Dodge City hosted a rare visitor, **Union Pacific 2557**. I can only guess that due to heavy rains just prior, this was a reroute over BNSF rails.

The 2557 is a **C45AH** which is basically a GE **ES44AC** (Evolution Series, 4,400 hp, AC traction motors) that replaced the AC4400CW model in the GE catalogue. These locomotives have been ordered by every Class I railroad in North America. Union Pacific also bought the **heavy ballasted** variation of this model, the ES44AH, and refers to it as the C45AH. The 2557 was constructed in April of 2015.





Real Deal



Real Deal



At the point is BNSF 7202 a GE ES44DC.





Real Deal

Modeling Ideas:

Bulkhead flat car with plate steel load



Real Deal



Modeling Ideas:

Bulkhead Stake Flat car with utility pole load.



(Below) A couple of visitors to the RIP track.





Welcome to the Union Pacific Historical Society! Founded in 1984, UPHS is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the Union Pacific Railroad. The Society has about 1,900 members. Historians, railfans, employees, and modelers have found the UPHS to be a matchless source of accurate and in-depth material concerning historical operations, traffic, motive power, rolling stock and facilities of the Union Pacific and predecessor companies.

UPHS 2025 Convention

Rock Island, IL

September 17-20

Publications: The UPHS publishes *The Streamliner*, a professionally produced and beautifully illustrated quarterly journal featuring the finest work of historians and other experts on all aspects of Union Pacific Railroad operations, traffic, management, equipment, and facilities.

In addition to our journal, the UPHS publishes books relating Union Pacific’s rich history of traffic, operations, motive power, and rolling stock. Our most recent book is Jeff Asay’s *Union Pacific Northwest*, tracing the history of UP in Oregon, Washington, and Northern Idaho. We also have published a history of the early streamliner era 1934-1941 as well as a comprehensive series of prototype photo books of UP steam power.



Click here for the UPHS website: <https://uphs.org/>

For the UPHS Facebook page, click here: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069786331658>



**Click Here
To start reading today:**

<https://rrmodelcraftsman.com/>



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

New Baltimore & Fair Haven

We visit a beautiful freelanced HO scale layout set in the Michigan Great Lakes region in the late 1920s.



RMC EXTRA BOARD

Niagara, St. Catharines & Toronto 17: Build an Electric Loco in Brass

Using "old school" methods like resistance soldering to assemble a unique brass model in S scale.



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

Planning for Aging

Give some thought to and explore now what your next model railroad venture might be, especially as you near retirement.

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



and Contest

Clinics

Modeling Photo Contest

Dessert Bar & Ice Cream

Speakers

Train Show

More Clinics

Turkey Creek Model Contest

Layout Tours

Banquet

Good Food

Speaker

Chinese Auction

Live Auction

Fun!





N Scale Free-mo

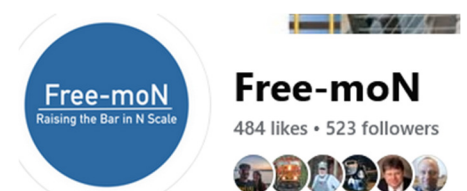
Free-mo is a modular scale railroading standard designed for individual modelers that specifies bench work, track work, scenery and digital control intended to *raise-the-bar* for scale modular railroading in general and, in this case, for N scale modular railroading.



The standard promotes, and even forces, prototypical appearance and operations by using a single or double tracked mainline running through the middle of the scenery resulting in prototypical point-to-point or loop-to-loop configurations and operation.

Click here for the Free-moN website: <http://free-mon.net/>

For the Free-moN Facebook page, click here:
<https://www.facebook.com/FreemoN.net>



Free-moN

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MeWe

Click here for the Western Kansas
Division MeWe page:

<https://mewe.com/westernkansasdiv/feed>



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Garden City Train Show 2025



Back in March, the Boothill Model Railroad Club hosted their annual Train Show in Garden City, Kansas.

Jim Adams of Lakin, KS. displayed his large and colorful HO-scale layout.



Garden City Train Show 2025



Garden City Train Show 2025



Garden City Train Show 2025



(Left) A fisherman holds his catch for the photographer.



(Right) The number of trees on the layout is staggering.

(Below) Part of the High School section.



Garden City Train Show 2025



(Left) The irrigated corn circle.



(Right) A closer look at the scratch-built irrigation center pivot.

Garden City Train Show 2025



The layout is not only colorful but highly detailed, everywhere you gaze falls, you notice more incredible details. Thank You to Jim Adams and his Wife for displaying their layout.



April 2025 MRH

The April magazine came out 3 weeks ago



April
Running Extra:

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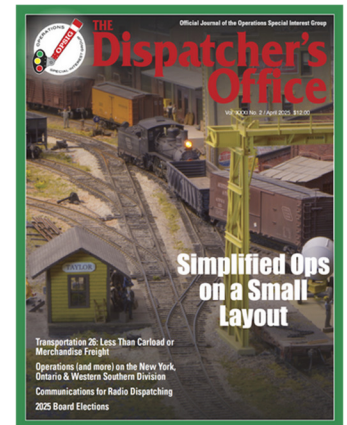




The principal purpose of the **Operations Special Interest Group (OPSIG)** is to discuss, develop and disseminate ways of operating model railroads to realistically emulate practices of the prototype, this includes sharing information on various methods of generating and controlling traffic to heighten 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.

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. 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/>



Operations SIG

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For the OPSIG Facebook page, click here: <https://www.facebook.com/OperationsSIG>



About Midwest Model Railroad

In 2011 Midwest Model Railroad started with the idea of making this hobby more accessible to everyone. Since day one we have striven to keep our operating costs to a bare minimum and pass on those savings to you, the hobby's best customers. As of 2023 we are succeeding in offering some of the best prices anywhere in the hobby. Some great side effects of this goal have been the creation of real-time inventory on our website and a turnaround time of just one day between purchase and shipping. In 2021 we moved to a new 15,000sqft location in Independence Missouri that serves as both our retail location and our shipping facility. Our central location near Kansas City, MO means orders can get to any corner of the United States, usually arriving within just a few days..

Click here for the MMR website: <https://midwestmodelrr.com/>

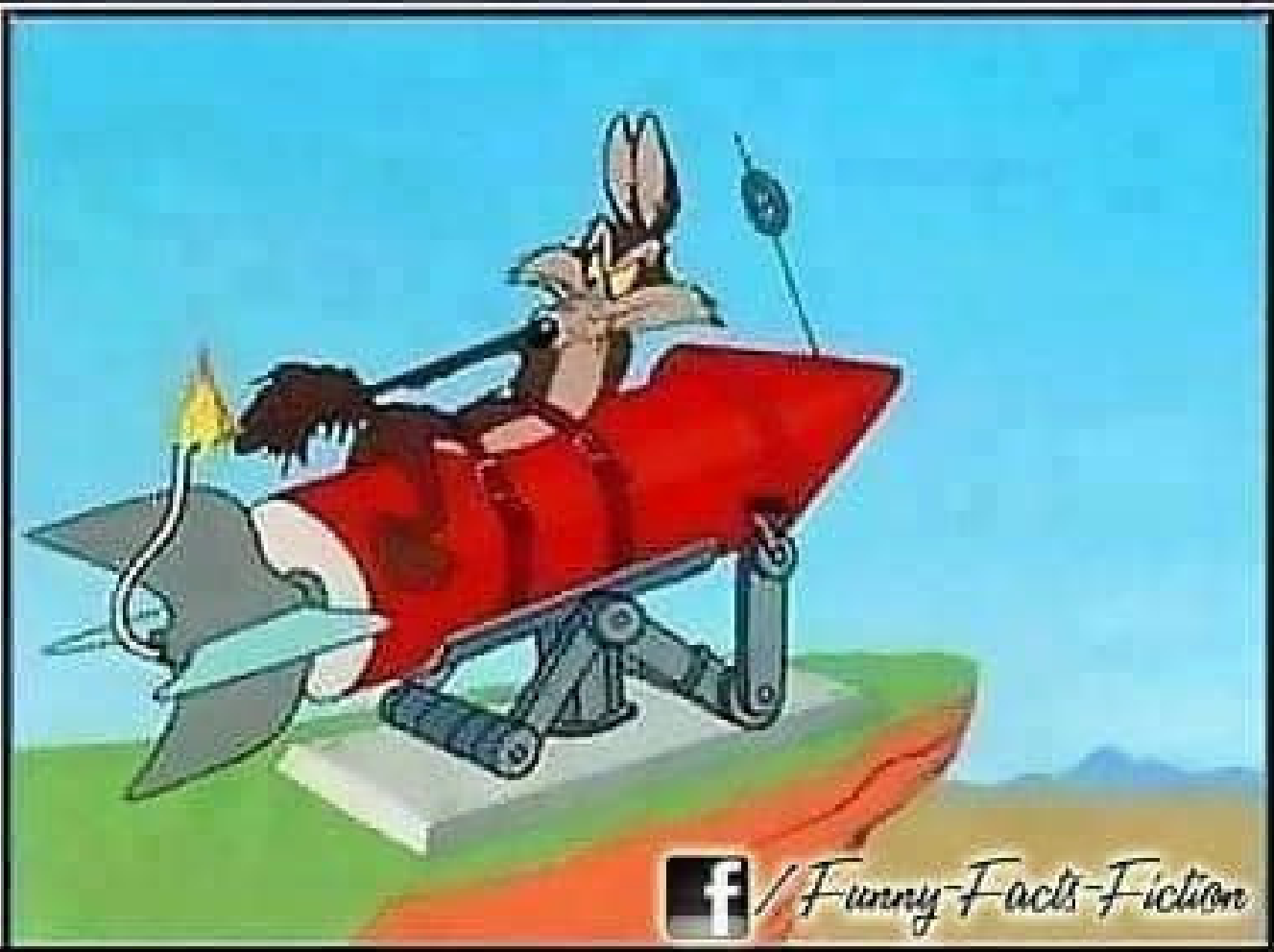


The Latest in HO-Scale Modular Model Railroading

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 still retains its modularity (Free-mo is more modular than existing double track modules). 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.

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



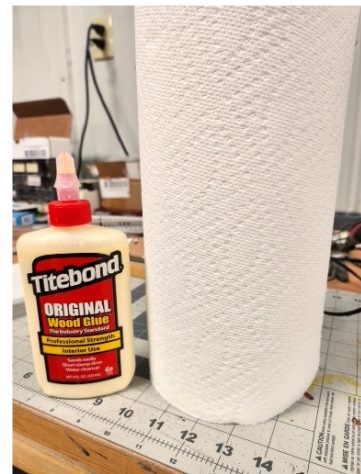
WHEN I WAS A KID

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY "DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME!"
BECAUSE WE WEREN'T COMPLETE MORONS BACK THEN

WKR Update

(Left) It's hard to see, but we had some delamination on corner section 13. For the photo we are using a piece of dowel to spread the bottom skin apart from the side. This is a serious weakness and needs to be repaired.

(Below) The preferred method of repair is the combination of wood glue and paper towel.



(Left) The first step is to force glue between the bottom skin and side, note the paper towel underneath to catch any drips.

(Right) Once the glue was inserted in the gap, a wood ruler and several clamps were used to spread the clamp force across the entire repair area and to hold the two pieces in place until the glue dried overnight.



WKR Update

(Right) After an examination of the underside of the layout, some more transport damage was detected, so we repaired it at the same time.



(Left) For the reinforcement, we cut paper towel into about two-inch wide strips.



(Right) All the work materials were laid on top of the section, glue, sponge applicator, dish with a bit of water (pencil keeps the water on one side) and towel strips.



(Left) for the gap, we applied glue to the gap, then laid paper strip from one end to the other, applied glue, then folded the strip back over itself until the gap was filled. A final two strips were laid on top and completely saturated with the glue. Once dry it can be sanded and painted to match.

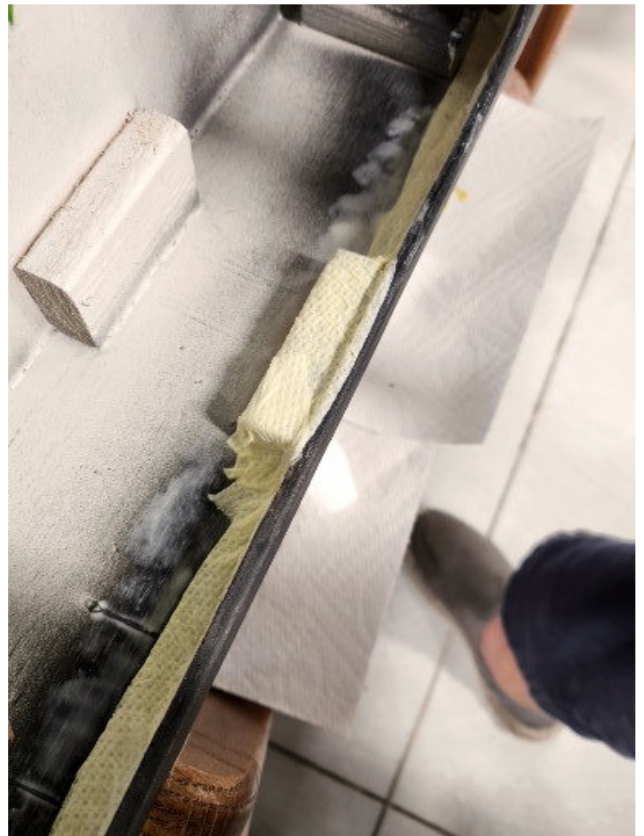
WKR Update



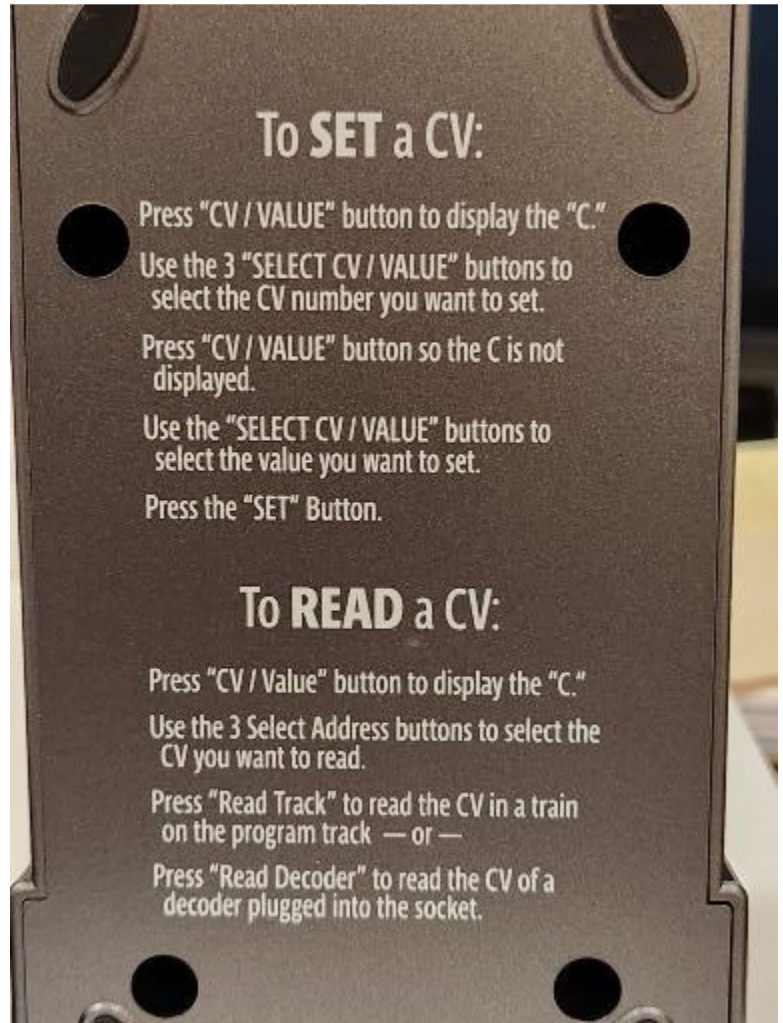
(Left) Back to the corner section, we turned the section set upside down, then placed the module set on the arms of a chair to make it easier to work on with the repair now at the bottom.

(Right) Using the foam applicator, glue was applied to the inside of the repaired joint. Paper towel strips were then folded in half length-wise and pressed into the glue. More glue was then applied over the area. The original bond was restored by clamping and then reinforced from the inside.

This was a critical area as it is handled often while assembly, disassembly, and transport. It should now be strong enough to handle the loads.



WKR Update



(Above) April saw a new addition to the WKR toolbox, the Broadway Limited CV Setter. Since we had been having problems with our Decoder Pro software for some time, we picked this up to change CV values without needing a computer and for issues during train shows.



(Left) April also saw some new rolling stock to the WKR. We took the opportunity to pre-order some more Rapido center beam flat cars to add to the ones we have. This car is one we had.



WKR

Update

(Left) One reason for the purchase was the availability of wrapped lumber loads, so the Purchasing Department acquired enough for the two we had plus the ones on order.



(Both) The load installed in one car. They not only look good but add enough weight to help the car track better.



WKR Update

(Right) More motive power appeared on the WKR in April with the arrival of four Atlas Gold EMD GP38's with DCC and sound. One in lease colors (FURX) and three in Chicago and Northwestern.



(Left) More easily seen on the FURX model, the Locomotive Department has just completed blacking the grill openings.

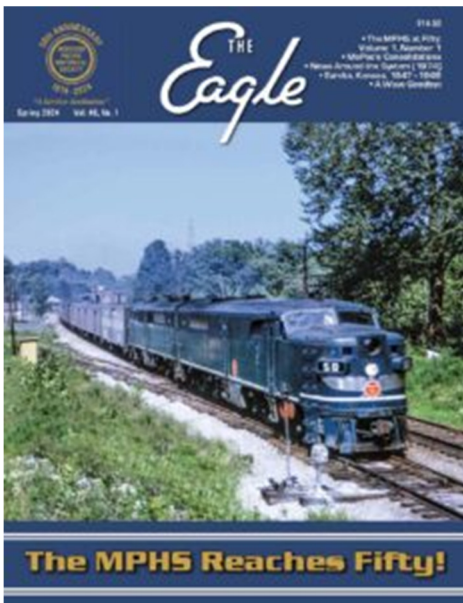
(Right) The dark green on the C&NW units hides the blacking on the grills, but you can still see it up-close.

These units will soon be patched for their transfer to their new owner, the Missouri Pacific Leasing Corp. (MPLX) but will retain their numbers.





The current **MPHS** is an outgrowth of a prior group which was formed in 1974. The society's area of interest includes not only the Missouri Pacific Railroad, past to present, but its predecessor railroads. These include but are not limited to Texas & Pacific; Chicago & Eastern Illinois; St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico; International Great Northern; Gulf Coast Lines; St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern; New Orleans, Texas and Mexico; Missouri-Illinois.



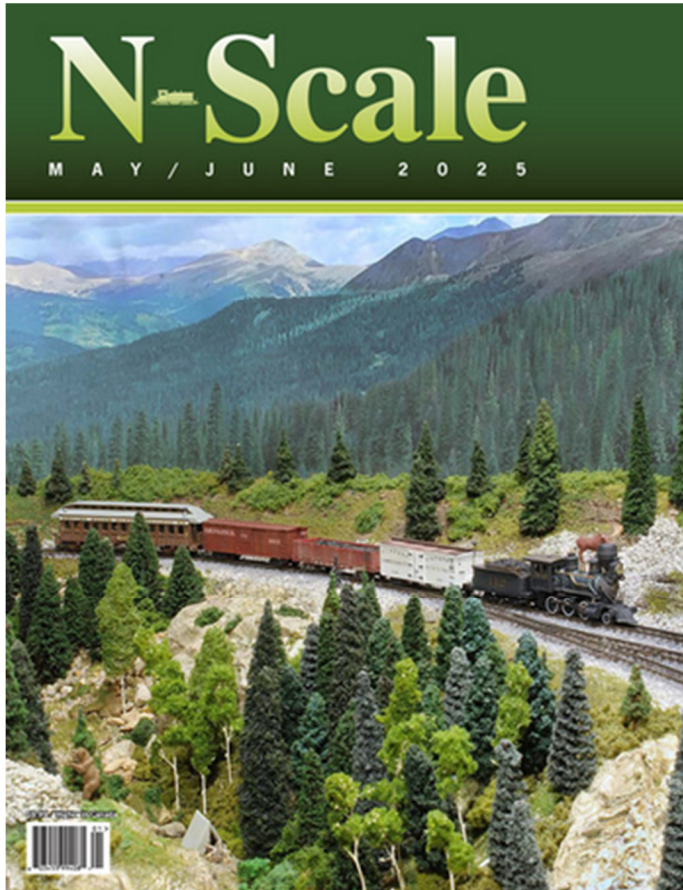
The Society publishes an illustrated quarterly magazine called ***“The Eagle.”*** Each issue contains current news and articles of historical interest. Rosters of equipment, technical information and data, and modeling projects are just a few of many items of interest published along with the business of the society. Along with the magazine, the Society produces a full color calendar of photos from across the railroad covering all eras.

2025 Joint MPHS, BRHS, and CEIHS Convention in Marion, Illinois October 9-11.

Click here for the MPHS website: <https://mopac.org/>

For the MPHS Facebook page, click here: <https://www.facebook.com/MoPacHistorical>

N-Scale



IN THE CURRENT ISSUE

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

Planning & Constructing Scenery
On my Denver South Park & Pacific Railroad
Part 2
by Preston Sands

The Badger Midwestern Railroad
Article by Dave Rickaby, Modelling by Paul Hillmer

Let's Build A World
Part 3: The Heart of Town
by Dennis Murphy

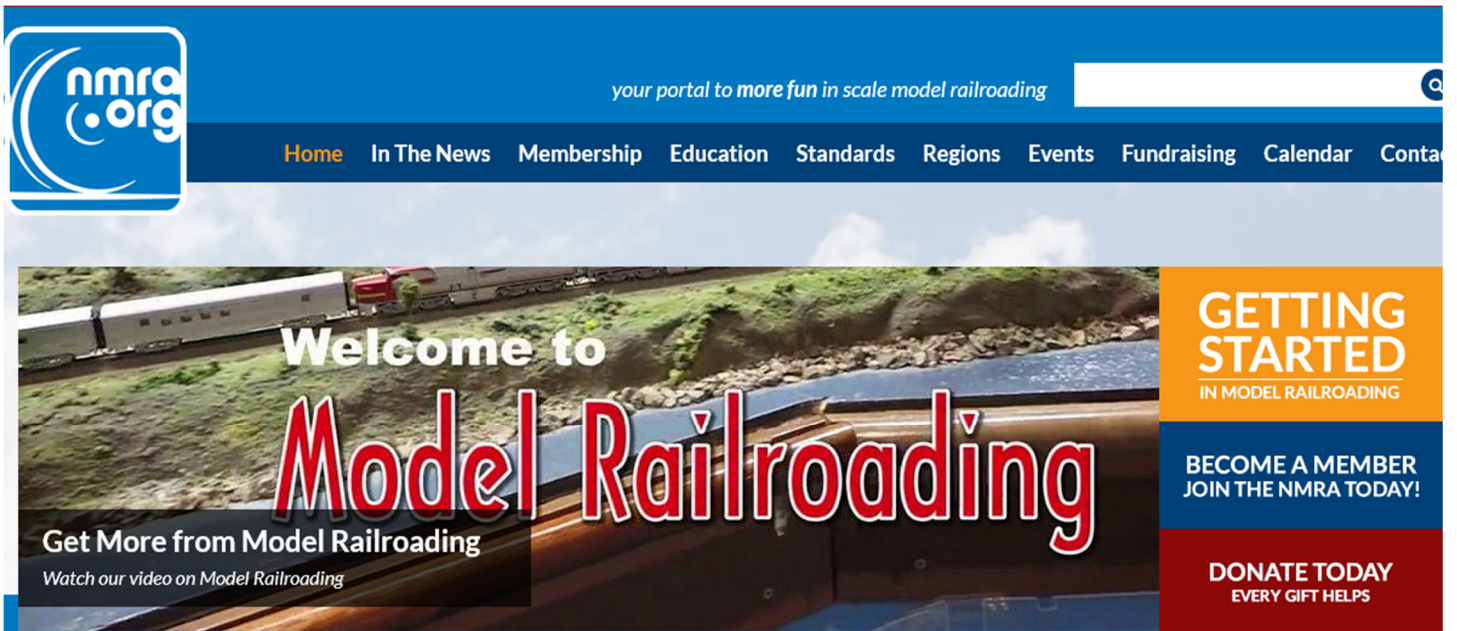
The Short & Nn3arrow
Modelling the Pacific Coast Railway,
Part 23: Motive Power – Steam Locomotives
by Thomas Knapp, MMR #101

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



Keep track of the **Mid-Continent Region** on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1851848998468077>

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
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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



All Aboard For The 48th Annual OKC Train Show!

November 15th-16th 2025

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Date Book

JUNE

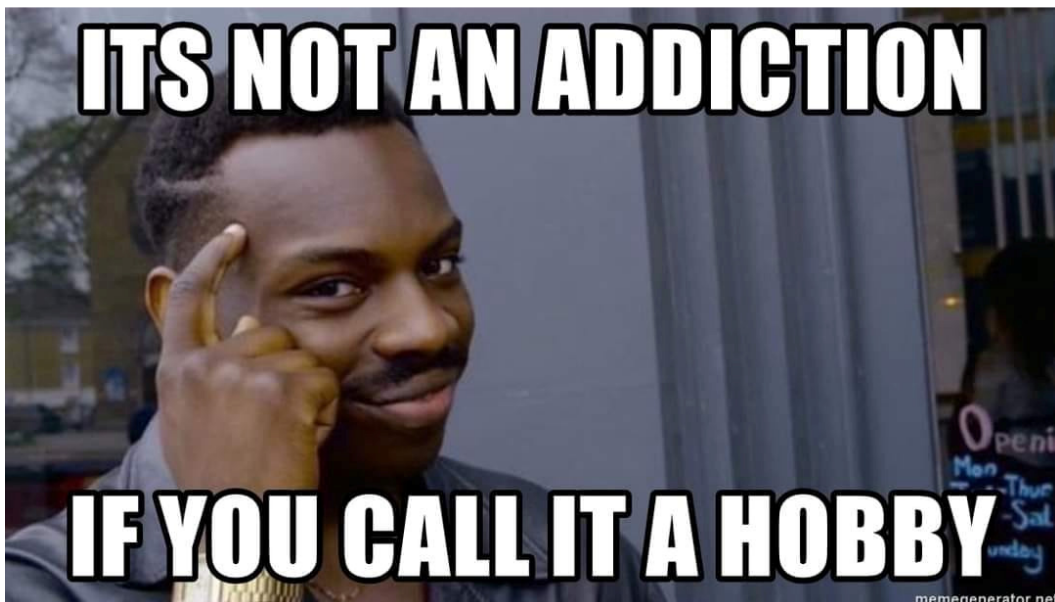
14 th & 15 th Sat & Sun	Center of the Nation Model Railroad Expo http://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org/train-show.html	Hutchinson, KS.
24 th - 29 th Tue - Sun	N Scale National Convention (Train Show Sat-Sun) https://www.nationalscaleconvention.com/	Overland Park, KS.

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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November

15 th & 16 th Sat & Sun	Oklahoma City Train Show https://www.okctrainshow.com/	Oklahoma City, OK.
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On the Back Cover:

New GP38 FURX 5527 is hard at work on the WKR layout delivering a tank car of oil products to Robinson Oil, the local distributor.

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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