



# *The Main Line*

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

**October 2026**



## **On The Cover:**

We completed the scenery upgrade on corner section 13, the Fantastic  
Plastics tank car unloading facility.

Part III, the conclusion is inside...

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# OFFICIAL YOUTUBE CHANNEL FOR THE NMRA

**The National Model Railroad Association - NMRA**  
@NMRAonline · 5.82K subscribers · 407 videos  
Official YouTube channel for the National Model Railroading Association (NMRA). The NMRA is the largest and oldest model railroad organization in the world. For more information, visit [nmra.org/membership-application-and-renewal](http://nmra.org/membership-application-and-renewal)

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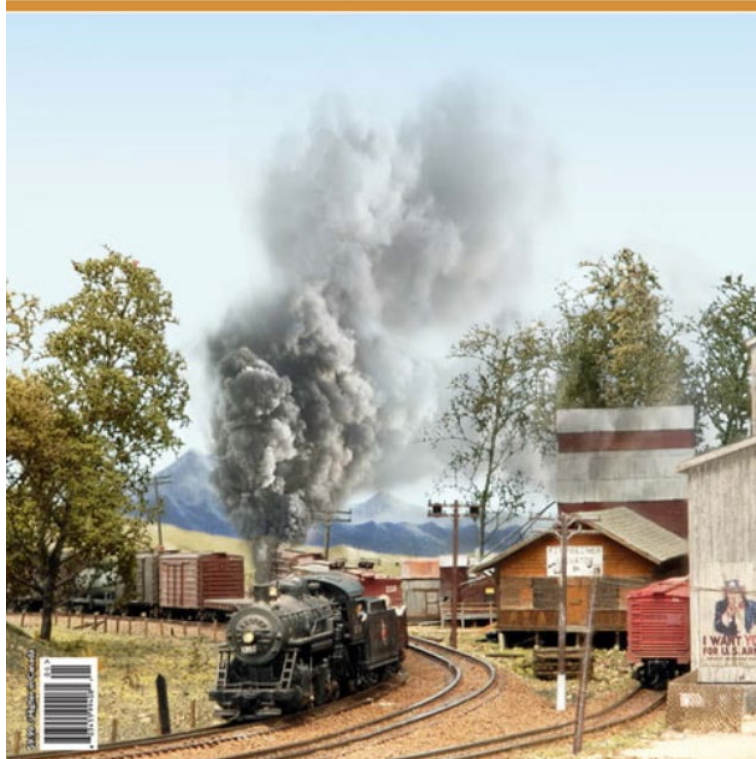
| Video Title                                                                  | Duration |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Trainfest 2025 is coming to Milwaukee November 1st and 2nd!                  | 0:16     |
| Richard Frazier What Happens To Your Model Layout and Trains When You Are... | 52:24    |
| Byrne Blumenstein and Scott Kramer NoVI 2025                                 | 54:05    |
| Dave Ackman Creating 3D Structures Without Learning CAD 202409 NMRAx         | 45:51    |
| John Sacerdote Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show 202312 NMRAx      | 57:06    |
| Mike Rainville Maple Landmark Woodcraft 202311 NMRAx                         | 53:23    |
| Martyn Jenkins The Lost Layout of Mick Williams 20240823 NMRAx               | 1:00:45  |
| John Young & Speed Muller How We Built Our Free MoN Yards 20240823 NMRAx     | 1:01:36  |
| Eric Hansmann Backdating Plastic Freight Car Models 20240823 NMRAx           | 56:07    |
| Lee Calkins Modular Layout Design 202409 NMRAx                               | 56:07    |
| Lloyd Henchey Scenery Pillar 3 Water 202404 NMRAx                            | 57:12    |
| Eric Hansmann Weathering As Layers 202409 NMRAx                              | 53:22    |

Official **YouTube** channel for the **National Model Railroading Association (NMRA)**. The channel contains over 390 videos covering a wide range of subjects including how-to projects, railroad history, prototype, and model railway operations, and many more subjects. More videos are being added to the collection all the time, mostly through the NMRA's online video presentations that take place every month. Take a look and see what has been added recently!

Click here to check it out: <https://www.youtube.com/@NMRAonline/videos>

# N-Scale

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026



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# N-Scale

PLATINUM RAIL PUBLICATIONS

## In The Current Issue



### Locomotive Noise

A Troubleshooter

BY RON BEARDEN



### The Short & Nn3arrow

The OmniRGS in Nn3, Part 1

BY GREGG CUDWORTH



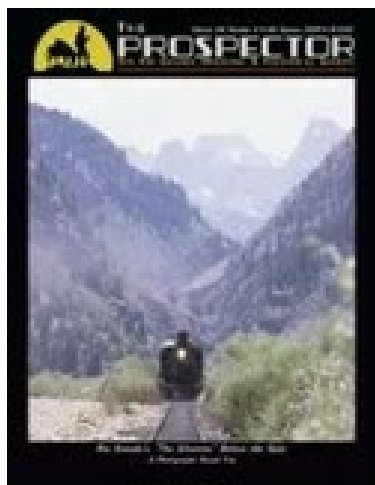
### Quick Notes

Making Easy Power Poles

BY DENNIS MURPHY



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.



Among the RGM&HS publications we publish ***The Prospector***, our professionally produced and beautifully illustrated quarterly magazine featuring the finest work of historians and other experts on all aspects of Rio Grande Railroad. We make available individual issues and volume sets of the magazine for purchase from our website—from the current issue to back issues of ***The Prospector*** over the past 20 years back to Volume 1, which was first published in 2002.

**Join** or **renew** a Membership in the RGM&HS which provide wonderful benefits and support our goal to preserve the rich history of the Denver & Rio Grande Western. Explore the benefits of our varied membership levels in the Society.

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



## HO Scale - Rapido U30CG

Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe (ATSF)



## HO Scale - Bachmann New Arrivals

52' Center-Beam Flatcar with Lumber Load

1900s Era 68' Passenger Car



## HO Scale - HO Scale Pre Owned Trains



## HO Scale - Pre Order Athearn September/October Announcements



## N Scale - Kato Steam Locomotives

4-8-4

Big Boy



## N Scale - Pre Order Athearn September/October Announcements

50' FMC 5277 Combo Door Box Car



## N Scale - N Scale Pre Owned Trains



Check out Midwest Model Trains: <https://midwestmodelrr.com/>



## Mid-Continent Region, NMRA

Public group · 970 members



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While on Facebook, follow the activities of the **Mid-Continent Region**, NMRA

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



### Western Kansas Division

1.8K followers • 1 following

The Western Kansas Division is part of the Mid-Continent Region of the National Model Railroad Association. Railroads, Model Railroad, Hobby, fun

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You can also follow the antics of the **Western Kansas Division**, NMRA:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064641403539>



**NRail** is *the* organization promoting N-Scale model railroading *including* NTrak, T-TRAK, FreeMoN, Club Layouts, Home Layouts, or No Layouts! Whatever your pleasure, **if it's in N-Scale, you're in the right place!**

## NEW AP ANNOUNCED!

Modular model railroading is now officially recognized by the NMRA Achievement Program! The new [Modular Model Railroading AP](#)<sup>✓</sup> is the first new certificate added to the Achievement Program in nearly 40 years!



NTRAK, T-TRAK, Free-moN, and other modular modelers now have a dedicated path to earn Achievement Program recognition. We are here to help you achieve success with this new AP!

**Find out more on the NRail website:**

**<https://nrail.org/>**

CHICAGO — The National



Transportation Safety Board

# NTSB recommends end to crew members riding railcars during shoving moves

By David Lassen | September 21, 2026

on Monday called for a ban on train crews riding railcars during shoving moves, saying the switching practice has led to 14 deaths since 2020.

In a press conference today (Sept. 21) at Chicago Union Station, the NTSB urged the Federal Railroad Administration and every Class I to take action. Board member Tom Chapman said the NTSB has investigated 18 incidents involving shoving moves since October 2020, and that in those incidents, 14 workers were killed and four were seriously injured.

“Nowhere else in transportation would this be acceptable,” Chapman said.

“Our investigations have repeatedly shown that riding moving rail equipment can have deadly consequences,” Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy said in a press release. “Railroads have safer alternatives, and they should use them.”

The board’s recommendations call for the FRA and all Class I railroads to:

- Prohibit crew members from providing point protection by riding equipment during shoving movements.
- Conduct site-specific evaluations to determine the safest methods of protection during shoving moves.
- Require job briefings before shoving moves to address the hazards identified in those evaluations.

## Announcement is start of a larger safety campaign, agency says

Read the entire article at **TrainsPro:**

<https://www.trains.com/pro/>

# Real Deal



(Above) The Right Co-Op Association recently took delivery of a new-to-them SD40-3 purchased from BNSF.



The **Right Co-Op** located in Wright, Kansas, just East of Dodge City, KS. has become the loading site for 100+ car grain trains for this area. They built a large siding with several tracks to build the trains, and until now have relied on a pair of old Geeps to shuffle the cars by remote control.



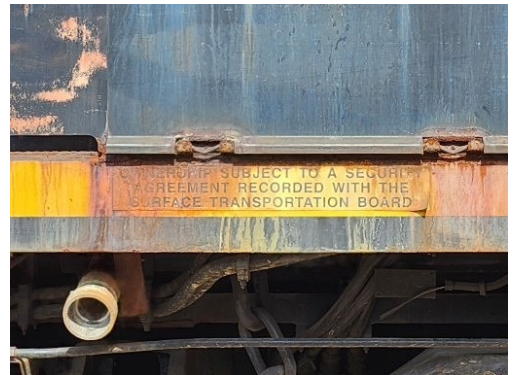


# Real Deal



(Left) The white stripe under the road numbers covers lettering that this is a remote-controlled unit.

(Right) This sticker reads: "Ownership subject to a security agreement recorded with the Surface Transportation Board."



# Real Deal



The **BNSF 1749** began life in November 1981 as Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe SD40-2 **5181**. After the BN merger, the unit was renumbered to BNSF **6933**. Later it was renumbered to BNSF **1749** and eventually was rebuilt to **SD40-3** standards still as BNSF **1749**.

(Below) **ATSF 5181** on point on a TOFC fast freight in December 1990.



(Below Left) BNSF main line facing East.

(Below Right) BNSF main facing West towards Dodge City.





# Real Deal



(Left) Parked at the main loading silos are the current switching locos, both EMD GP9s.

In Burlington Northern paint but labeled for BNSF, the 1702 was built in August 1957 as **Northern Pacific 326**, an EMD GP9 with control cab and high nose.

In 1970 post merger it was renumbered as **BN 1911**.



Later, the Burlington Northern rebuilt the unit as a **GP9B** cableless booster and renumbered it to **BN 602**. After the Santa Fe merger it was renumbered again as **BNSF 1702**.



(Left) Northern Pacific GP9 326.

# Real Deal



(Above) The Right Co-Op Association 101 was built in 1958 for **Norfolk Southern** as an EMD GP9 high nose numbered **519**. In its later operational life, the loco was unique for being rebuilt with a **Caterpillar** diesel engine instead of the original EMD 567

(Right) The RCA 101 is coupled with a short string of cars at the loading facility. Just to the right of the loading spout is the loading control room extended out from the silos. From there they can control the grain discharge as well as the twin locos by remote control.





**"Have you ever noticed how many towns  
are named after their water tower?"**



**The Next Gen Social Network**

Follow the **Western Kansas Division**, NMRA on **MeWe**  
<https://mewe.com/westernkansasdiv/feed>

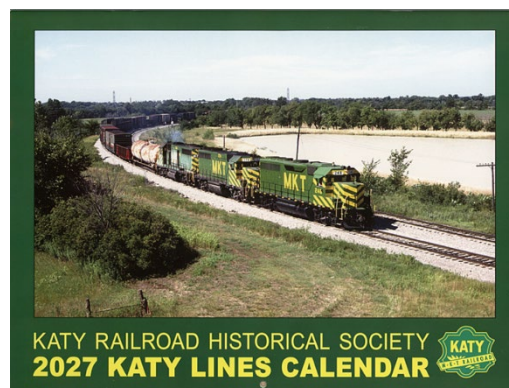


The **Katy Railroad Historical Society** was formed in Parsons, Kansas with a nucleus of 43 charter members. The purpose of the society is to bring together people who have a common interest in the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, known to many as the Katy. Also to increase the enjoyment of their interest through activities including group trips to points on the railroad, photographic excursions, photo, slide, and video shows, meetings, discussions, and other undertakings of a fundamentally social nature.

## Katy Flyer Membership

**\$34** /One Year

- ✓ 4 Issues of the *Katy Flyer* Magazine
- ✓ NO Annual Member Directory



KRHS Katy Flyer Magazines and Calendars feature many rare and historic photographs of the Katy Railroad that are great for collecting and researching.

**Click here for the KRHS website:**

**<https://katyrailroad.org/>**



"Model Train Media is built by hobbyists, for hobbyists. I personally run and fund this platform, and I want everyone to feel welcome and supported here. Thank you for being part of our fast-growing community — we're here to help you enjoy your model train journey to the fullest."



# OSCAR

Founder



## Mid-Continent Region, NMRA

Group

✓ Organizer

Public

Train Shows, discussions and activities of the Mid-Continent Region, part of the National Model Railroad Association

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then follow the activities of the **Mid-Continent Region,**  
**NMRA****

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**Free-mo** was developed with the idea that a set of standards focusing mainly on module endplates would enable faithful modeling of prototype trackplans 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.

## Welcome to Southern Kansas Free-mo!



## Southern Kansas Free-mo

Private group · 190 members



Click here for the SKFM Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/275439299189284/>



## 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.



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PS-2 2 Bay Covered Hopper Car  
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Anniversary” #2000**

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### Testimonials

Hands down the best model train store I have found yet. The selection and service make it well worth the four hour round trip. I made my third visit today and they spent a lot of time helping me track down a particular car I have seen at work, as well as entertaining my children with the running display model on the counter. I will definitely be back.

Rated 5 out of 5 stars ★★★★★

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



#### RMC RECEIVING YARD

### WRP Welcomes Nick Stewart to Staff of Railroad Model Craftsman

WRP is pleased to announce that Nick Stewart will be joining the full-time staff of Railroad Model Craftsman as an Associate Editor.



#### RMC EXTRA BOARD

### Modeling the 'Empress of Agincourt' in HO Scale

Kitbashing a one-of-a-kind Canadian Pacific MLW RSD-17 diesel locomotive from a Broadway Limited HO scale model.



#### RMC EXTRA BOARD

### Two Days on the Canadian Pacific Boundary Sub

Modeling a scenic British Columbia mountain crossing on Canadian Pacific's Boundary Subdivision in HO scale.



#### RMC PRODUCT REVIEWS

### Athearn Genesis 2.0 GE Dash 9-44CW Locomotives

This fourth production, now at retailers, adds Arizona & California and QNS&L to the roster alongside new BNSF, CN, NS, and UP variations

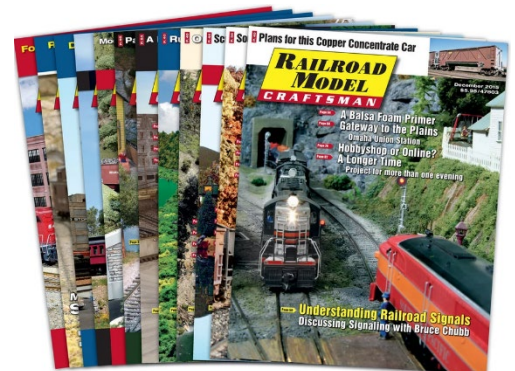


#### RMC PRODUCT REVIEWS

### ScaleTrains Rivet Counter Burlington Northern and Norfolk & Western GP40s

ScaleTrains' latest release of EMD GP40 locomotives is now available as part of its premium-level "Rivet Counter" line in a multitude of production phases.

Since 1933, *Railroad Model Craftsman* brings you the best in scale model railroading every month! In each issue you'll enjoy beautiful layout tours, detailed scratchbuilding and detailing features, the latest news and in-depth product reviews, exact scale drawings, construction tips, and techniques, and more. Stop dreaming and start building!



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**INSTRUCTIONS SAID TO TEST RUN  
IN A BARREL BEFORE INSTALLING  
ON BOAT. NOT SURE WHY.**



# WKR Update



(Left) The WKR Track Crew is still working on track buckling issues. In an effort to alleviate expansion pressure on the rails, we resorted to cutting a slice out of each rail at different points on a straight section of track.

(Right) To fill the gaps we cut small strips of 0.040 styrene which is just under the width of the Dremel cutoff disk.



(Left) using superglue, a short piece was glued in place in the gaps.

(Below) This is how it looks after the styrene is trimmed to shape. This should allow for any future expansion.



# WKR Update

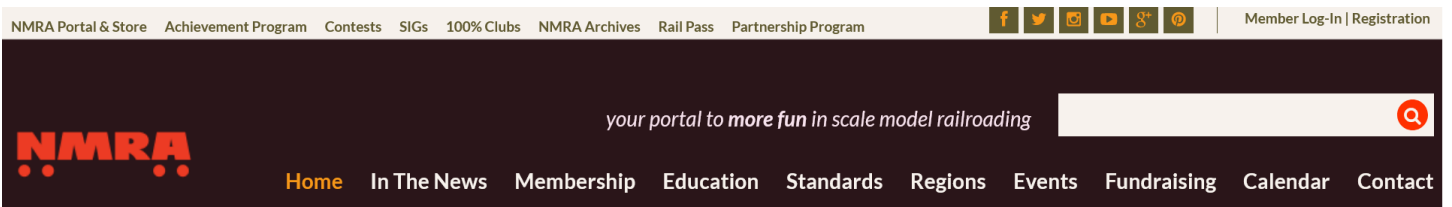


**NRail** is celebrating **50-years** of the Newsletter with a Special Run Railroad Post Office Car.

Limited Edition done by Lowell Smith exclusively for NRail. Features knuckle couplers, free-wheeling trucks, metal wheels, crisp graphics, and a sharp paint scheme! There are two unique cars-1976 and 2026. One to commemorate the start of the NTRAK Newsletter in 1976 and one to commemorate the 50th anniversary of what is now the NRail Newsletter in 2026.



**They are a limited edition, and more than half have been sold already, so, click here to get yours: <https://nrail.org/Sys/Store/Products/420752>**



Click here for the NMRA National website: <https://www.nmra.org/>

Click here for the Mid-Continent Region, NMRA website: <https://www.mcor-nmra.org/>



**MCoR On Social Media!**

In addition to our [Facebook Group](#), there is also a [Social Media](#) page. Please send links to share there!

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September 2026

HAVING FUN WITH TRAINS  
SEPTEMBER 2026 | FREE

# MRH

MODEL RAILROAD HOBBYIST

**ALSO:**

- Build your own auto-reverser board
- Rapido's Santa Fe CF7
- Working with four-cycle waybills
- Model trees, Ken Patterson style
- ... and more inside!

**Denny Turani ...**

## Modeling the SP Burbank Branch

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**Publisher's Musings: Having fun with trains?**  
JOE FUGATE



**MRH Website this month: Aisle width pinch points, ...**  
Compiled by JOE FUGATE



**Let's talk ops: Working with four-cycle waybills**  
JOE FUGATE



**What's Neat: How to model trees, Ken-style, ...**  
KEN PATTERSON



**Electrical Impulses: Build your own auto-reverser**  
TERRY CHAMBERLAIN



**Southern Pacific's Burbank Branch**  
DENNY TURANI



**First Look: Rapido's Santa Fe CF7**  
JAMES REGIER



**Savvy Modeler online: Switching a small shunting layout**  
Compiled by the MRH STAFF



**September 2026 news and events**  
JEFF SHULTZ and RICHARD BALE

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The **Friends of the Burlington Northern Railroad (FOBNR)** historical society was chartered to gather, preserve, and share information about the history and the current operations of the Burlington Northern Railroad. The group is interested in studying the history of the Burlington Northern Railroad. 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 currently a 30+ page all-color publication and will grow even larger as the society grows and more members contribute more information.



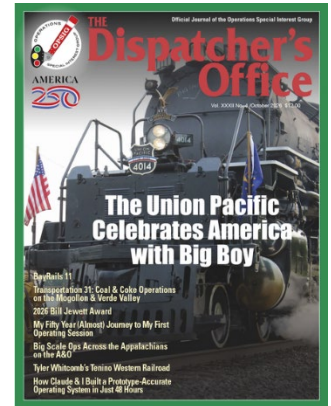
Don't forget to order your 2027 FOBNR calendar.

Click here for the FOBNR website: <https://fobnr.org/>



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 part of the national rail transportation network, serving shippers and consignees throughout the nation. We also discuss 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. In addition, the OPSIG web site serves as a clearinghouse for publicizing regional operating events and meetings, where layouts are open for guest operations.



## Operations SIG

4.6K followers • 6 following

The principal purpose of the Operations Special Interest Group (OpSIG) is to discuss operating model

■ Nonprofit organization



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We also have a [Facebook page](#) and send out the *Second Section* email newsletter on a regular basis.

# The OPSIG Achievement Program



## Membership

As part of your yearly membership, you'll receive four quarterly issues of *The Dispatcher's Office*, our operations-focused publication. *The Dispatcher's Office* is available as either a digital download or a mailed printed copy. As a print subscriber, you'll also get access to the digital copy. In addition, all members have complete access to 30+ years of our digital back catalog at no additional charge as long as they remain members of the OpSIG.

Operations add so much to any model railroad layout, find out more on the OPSIG website: <https://www.opsig.org/>

**Somebody stole my  
identity and then sent  
it back with a... \$100  
and a note that said...  
"so sorry man, hope  
things work out."**





# WELCOME!

## 2027 NMRA National Convention

We are excited to welcome you to the **2027 NMRA National Convention: Puget Sound Express (PSX)**! The convention will take place August 10-15, 2027 in Tacoma, Washington.

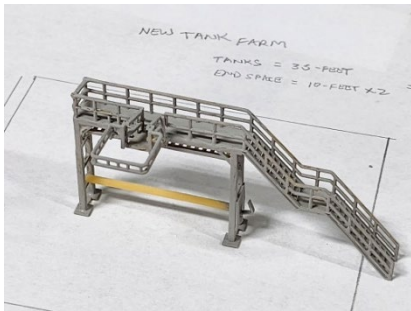
For the latest information, visit our website at [2027.nmra.org](https://www.nmra.org). You can also join the **PSX 2027 Facebook Group** to follow convention updates, connect with other attendees, and join the conversation as we prepare for Tacoma.

Register now <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/2027-nmra-convention-puget/>

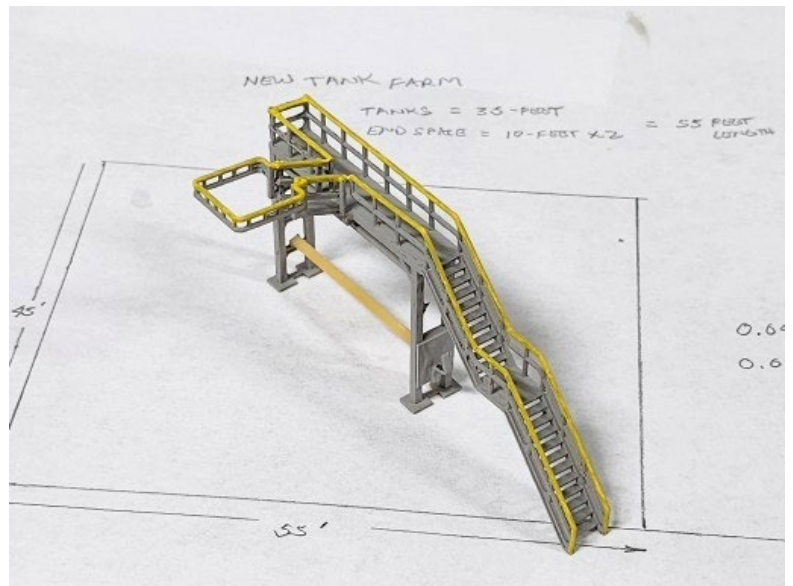
# WKR Project Update

Last month we left off with the addition of the hose rack added to the stairs.

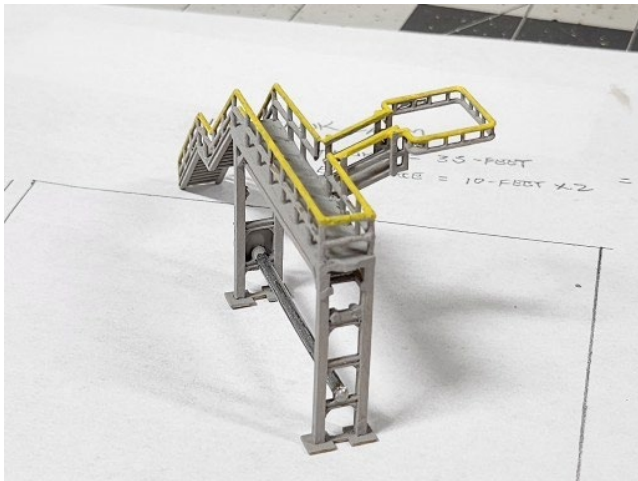
(Right) Using a scrap piece of 0.020-inch styrene as a backing we mounted the bent staple in place on the rack.



(Left) Continuing on we painted the entire stairs a medium grey. We did not paint the tube along the bottom as we are not using it, and it will be removed.



(Right & Below) Once the grey paint was dry, we brush painted the top hand rails "safety yellow."



(Right) After realizing we needed the unloading platform to be removable, but we had already glued the concrete pad in place, we used 0.020 styrene cut to the same dimensions as the pad. We were ready to mount the platform to the base, so it was positioned over the pad and held in place with masking tape.

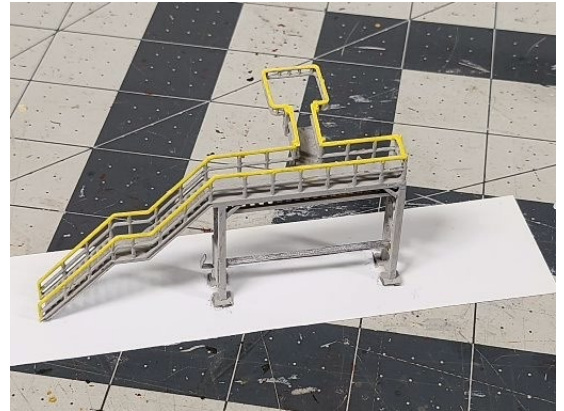


# WKR Project Update



(Left) We placed the tank car in its unloading spot and glued the loading platform to the new base with superglue.

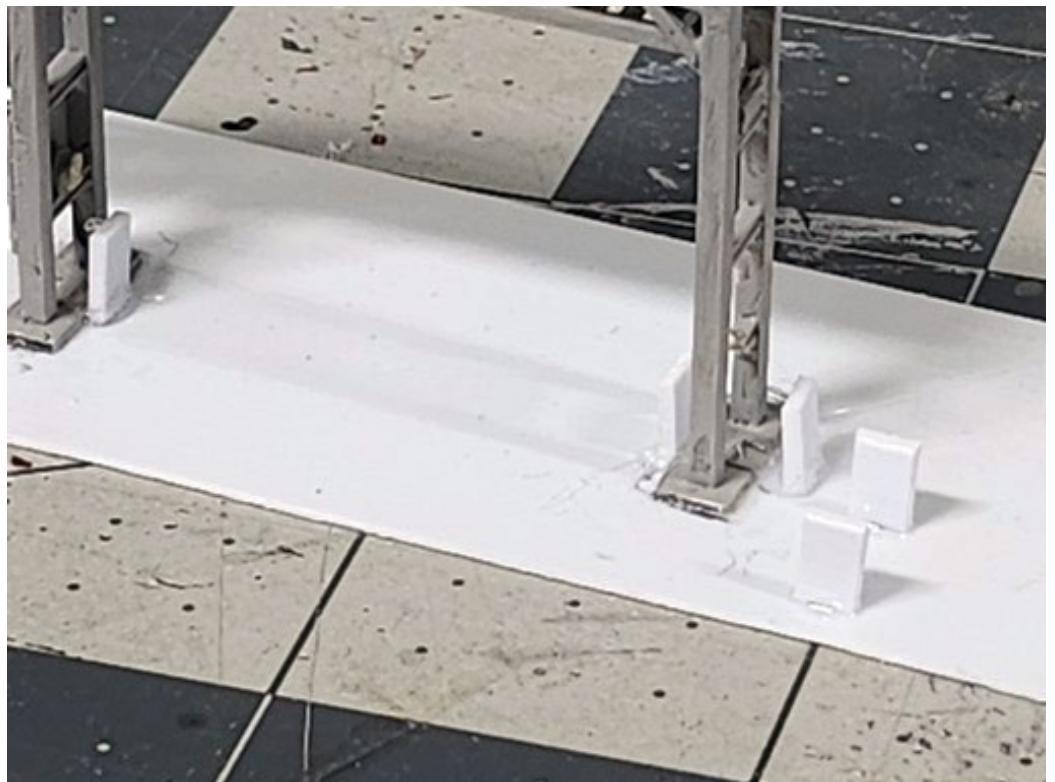
(Right) Now the loading platform is attached to the new concrete pad,



(Left & Below) We wanted to closely match the diameter of the pipes that came with the stairs and dived into the aluminum rod cabinet for some 1/16-inch rod that is close enough.



(Right) We knew where the pipe needed to run and that it must clear the top of the containment wall, so we made some pipe supports from 0.040 styrene and glued them in place.



# WKR Project Update

(Right) A sharpie was used to place a dot where the first bend is needed, then using needle nose pliers the first bend was completed.

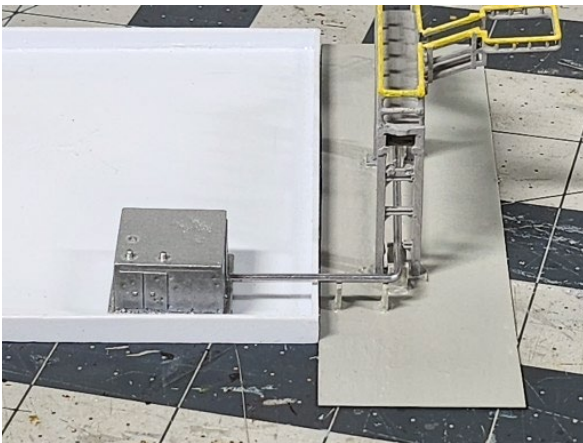


(Left) Using the same concrete color as the concrete pads, the new, removable pad was painted before the piping goes in.

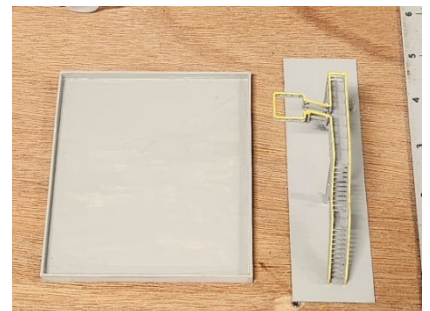


(Right) The completed pipe is test fitted to the stairs and supports.

(Below) Test fitting the containment pit and where the pump house will be located.



(Right) The containment pit was also painted a concrete color.



(Left) Needing to make fittings and valves, we took some aluminum tubing just large enough to slide over the rod and started cutting small sections.

# WKR Project Update



(Left) Three pieces of tubing were cut; on the left is the hose junction, near the elbow will be a shutoff valve, and the final one a fitting to the pump house.

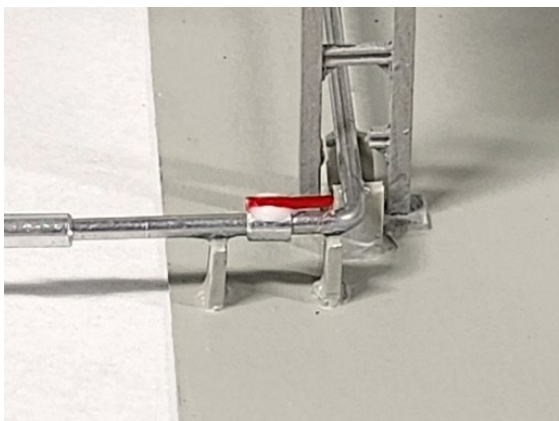
(Right) The tubing pieces were glued in place with superglue, then the pipe was glued in place on the stairs and supports also with superglue.



(Left) A short piece of electrical wire was bent to represent the unloading hose coiled on the rack. A short piece from the pipe was then bent down to ground level, bent to the right to reach the rack area and bent back to the rack, then looped in an oval pattern. The exposed wire is painted silver to be the fitting.



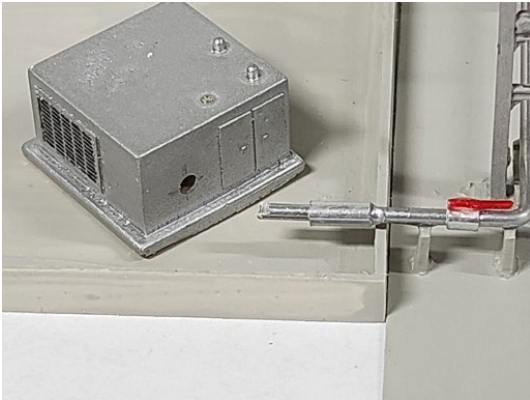
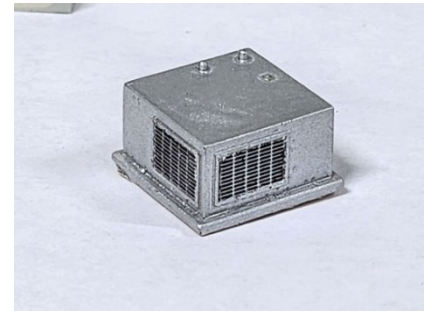
(Right) With the wire painted flat black and a small section of the same aluminum tubing glued over the wire, the unloading hose is glued to the hose rack.



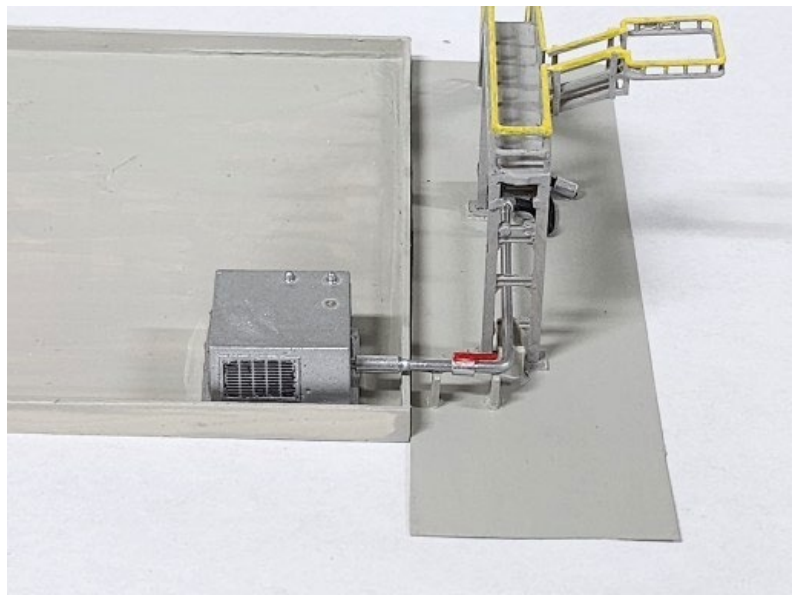
(Left) a short piece of Bell Telephone wire painted red is glued to the top of the shut off ball valve.

# WKR Project Update

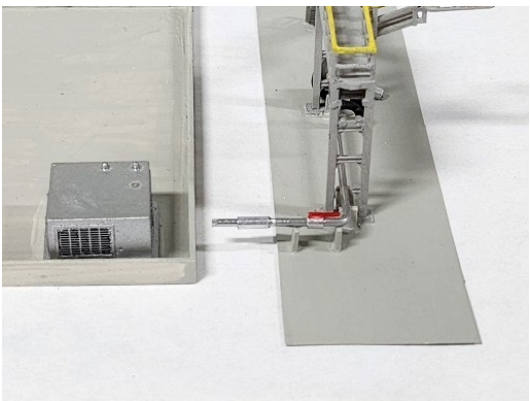
(Right) Searching our scenery cabinet failed to produce a pump house, but we did locate a large roof air conditioner unit that would work well. It is a resin casting we purchased years ago and came painted silver. We added some black wash to the grills to open them up a bit.



(Left) Placing the containment pit in position we determined the point where the pipe will enter and marked it. On a drill press, we bored a 1/16-inch hole.

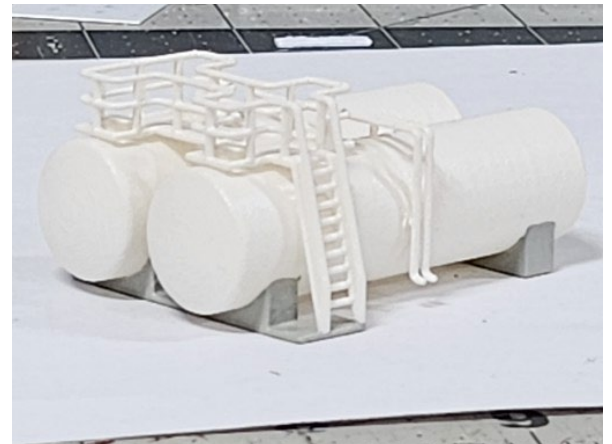


(Right) With the two pieces aligned, the pump house was glued in place in the containment pit.

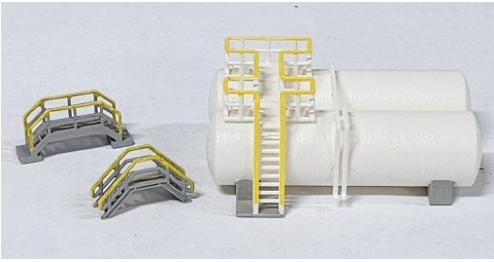


(Left) Since both the unloading rack and containment pit must be removable, the aluminum rod is NOT glued into the pump house.

(Right) Turning out attention to the 3D printed storage tanks, we first painted the tanks with flat white. Next, the footer supports were painted the same concrete color. The tanks came with four feed lines, but we only needed two, so we carefully removed the two outer lines leaving the two center lines.

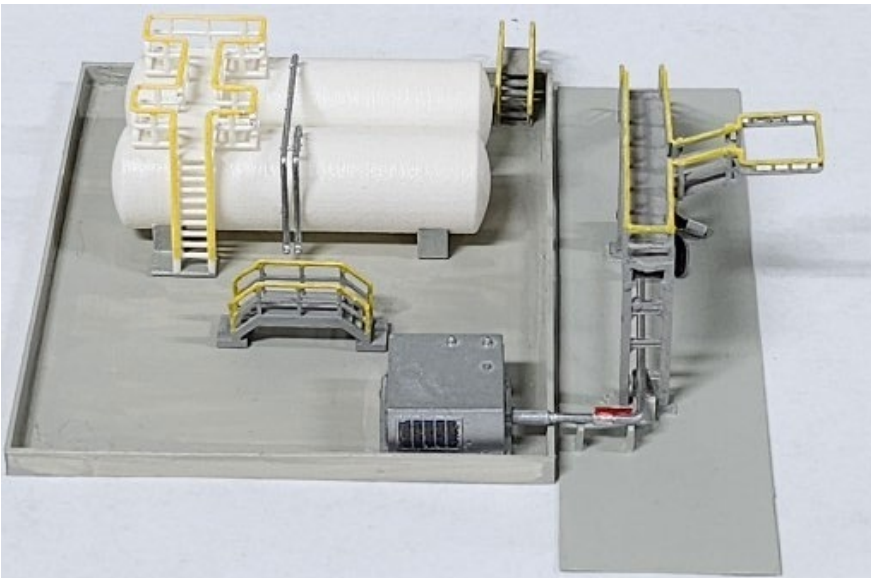
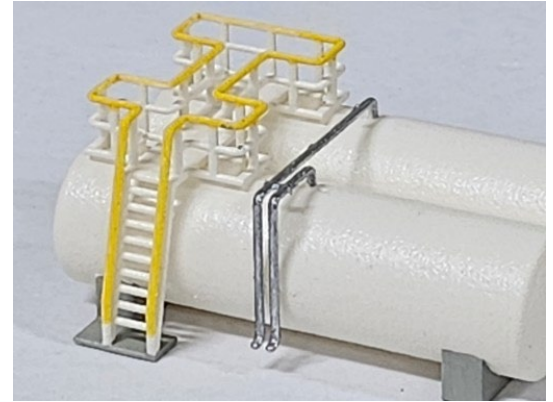


# WKR Project Update



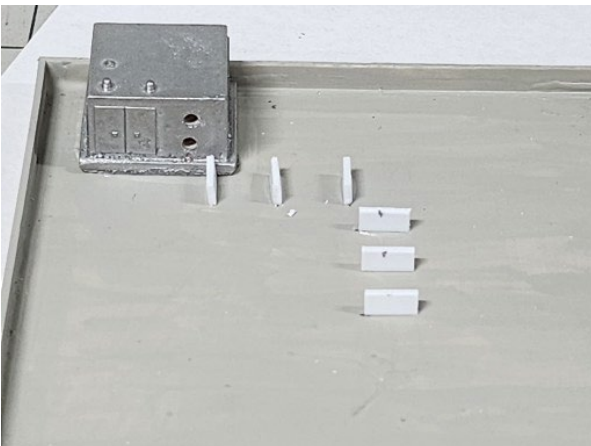
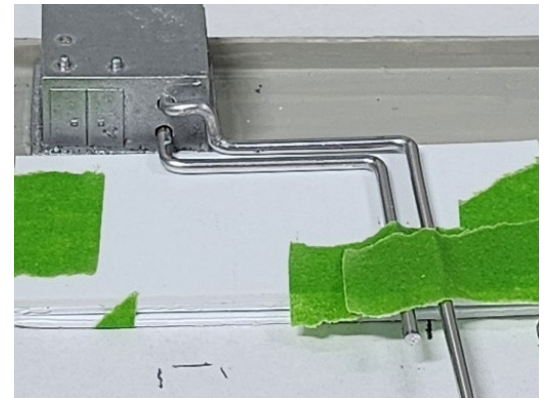
(Left) Detail painting commenced on the two sets of stairs, the shorter set for crossing piping on the ground and the taller set for crossing the containment wall were painted grey with yellow hand rails. The hand rails on the tank access ladder were also painted yellow.

(Right) A closer look at the storage tanks with the footer supports and ladder base painter grey, the hand rails painted yellow and the filler pipes painted “aluminum.”



(Left) Test fitting the components of the containment pit next to the unloading rack.

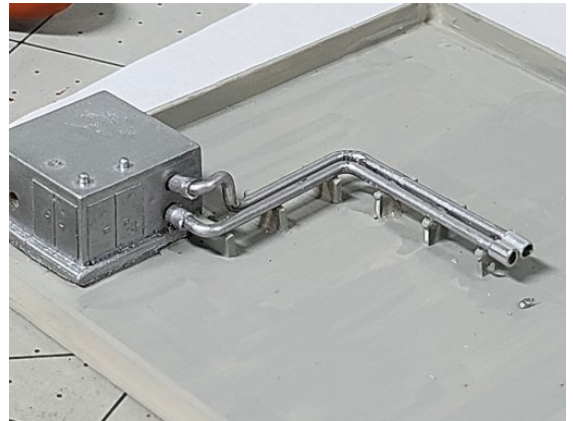
(Right) We used a scrap piece of paper inserted in the containment pit to sketch the line runs from the pump house to the tanks and the first two lines were bent to shape.



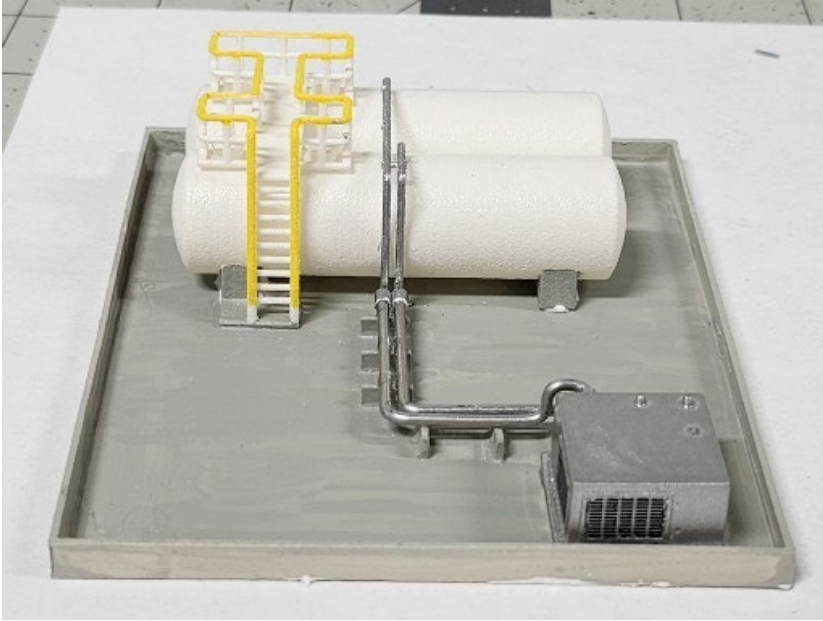
(Left) Using the drill press, we drilled two holes in the pump house for the lines, then measured how high the pipes could be and still clear the bottom of the crossing stairs. Small pieces of 0.040 styrene were cut and glued in place and painted concrete color.

# WKR Project Update

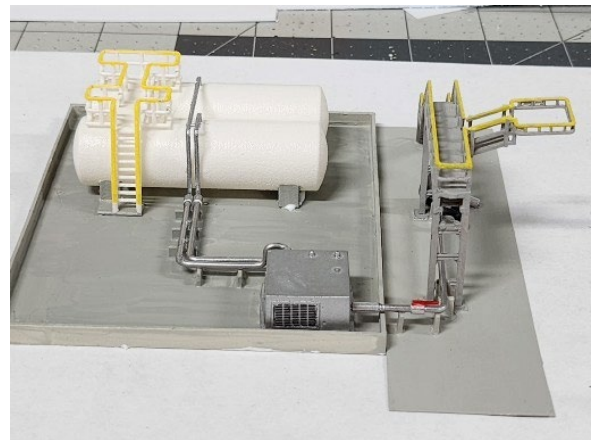
(Right) The two feed pipes connected to the pump house and glued to the supports.



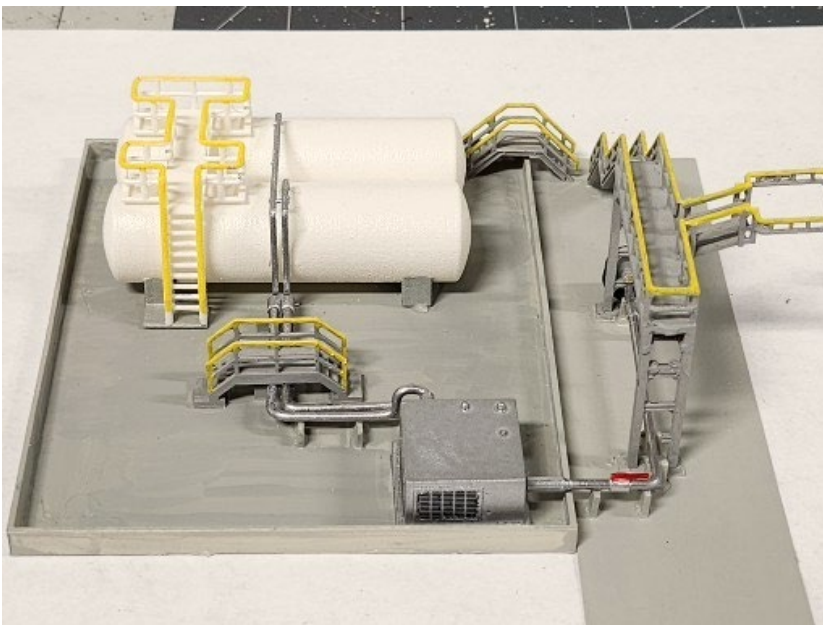
(Left) With the pipes in place, we glued the storage tanks to the pipes and the containment pit.



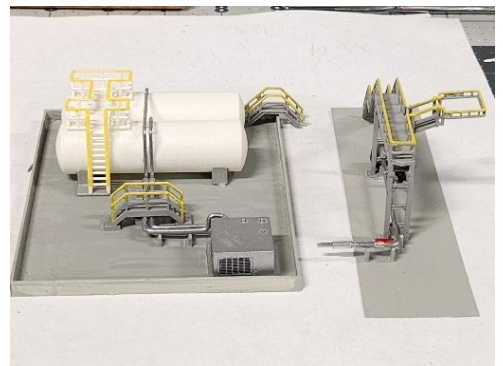
(Right) The containment pit attached to the unloading platform to test the fit and finish.



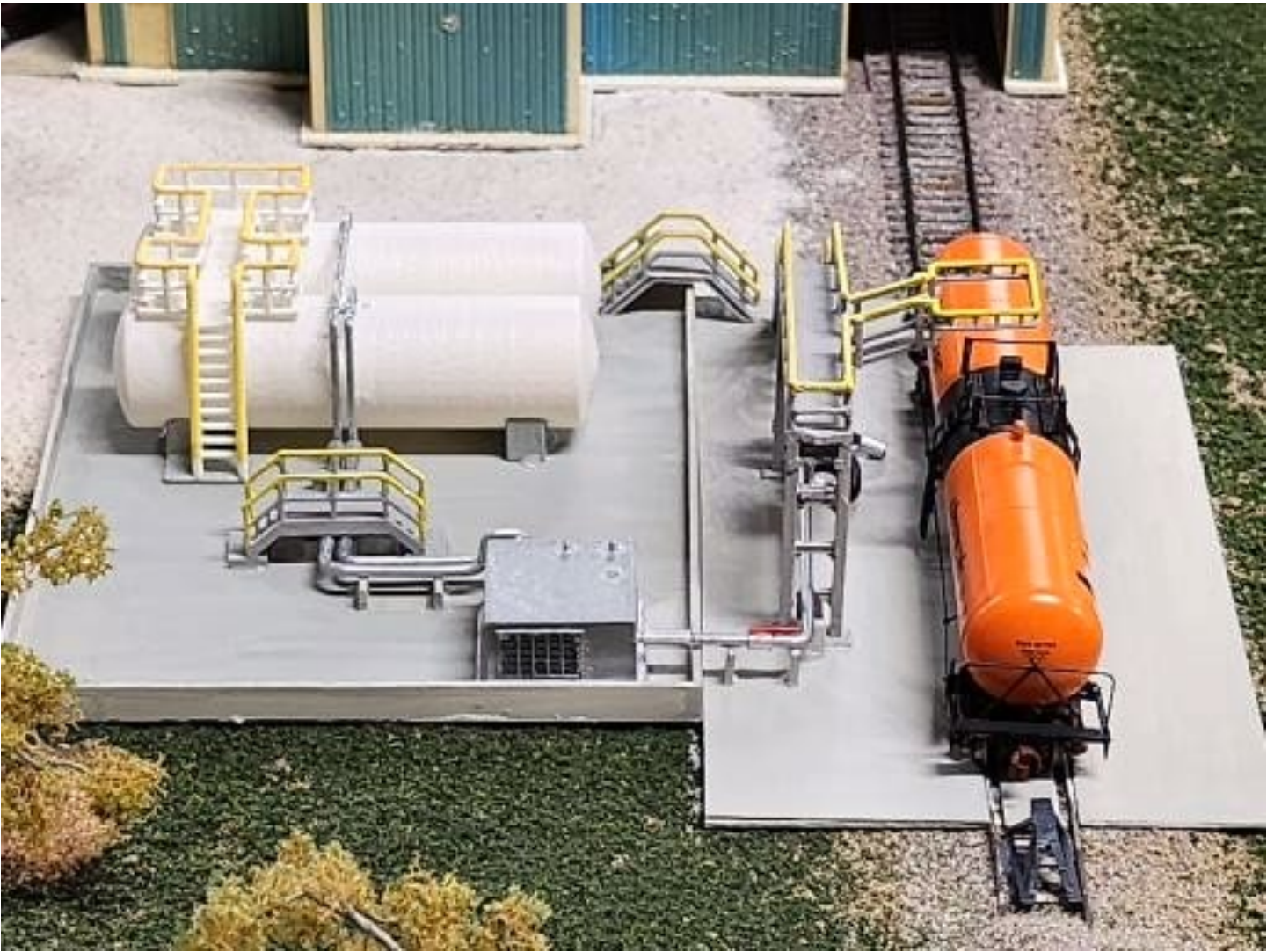
(Left) We added the stairs crossing the pipes and the taller stairs near the end platform of the unloading rack stairs.



(Right) Testing that the two pieces can be easily separated and rejoined.



# WKR Project Update



(Above) Test fitting the two pieces on the scene.



(Left) The final construction step was to do some internet searching for chemicals used in plastic injection molding, then searched for placards for this chemical. Then we also searched for potential hazardous materials warnings.

The placards and warning signs were inserted into a MS Word document, sized to scale, and printed. After carefully cutting them out, Tacky Glue was used to adhere them to the styrene.

# WKR Project Update



(This Page) Several views of the nearly completed scene transformation.



# WKR Project Update

## Fantastic Plastics Scene: Epilog



(Left) At the driveway entrance we had a garden with twin flag poles displaying the American flag and the Kansas State flag. Apparently during a train show someone took exception to the American flag and ripped it off bending the flag pole in the process.



(Right) We replaced both flag poles and added new flags, Old Glory for America and the Kansas State flag, each one slightly larger than the previous flags.



(Left) Still feeling the upgrade bug, we moved to the other side of the plant where we took the two individual tanks, constructed a containment pit, mounted the tanks, then ran piping and a set of stairs. This new assembly must also be removable for transport, so it was crafted as a separate item.

This concludes the Scenery upgrade to the Fantastic Plastics plant scene on corner section 13 of the Western Kansas Rails N-scale layout.

# WHITERIVER PRODUCTIONS

Here's the latest from White River Productions! From new books and magazine features to upcoming events, here's what's happening across our railroad publishing family.

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## News and Announcements

The logo for Railfan & Railroad features the words "RAILFAN" and "& RAILROAD" in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The ampersand is stylized and larger than the other characters.The logo for Railroad Model Craftsman features the words "RAILROAD" and "MODEL" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with "CRAFTSMAN" in a smaller, red, sans-serif font below them. The entire logo is set against a yellow background with a red border.

**White River Productions adds pages to its two flagship publications,  
*Railfan & Railroad* and *Railroad Model Craftsman*!**

Thanks to growing support from subscribers and advertisers, White River Productions has announced two of the hobby's leading monthly magazines are getting even bigger. Beginning with the June issue, ***Railroad Model Craftsman*** increased to 108 pages on a permanent basis. For the November, December, and January issues, RMC will grow to 116 pages to make room for even more modeling content during the busy winter holiday season. Sister publication ***Railfan & Railroad*** will increase to 92 pages beginning with the January 2027 issue. Best of all, these added pages come with no increase in cover price.

The additional pages will allow both magazines to present more of the in-depth features, outstanding photography, timely news, and regular departments readers look forward to each month. The larger issues provide greater flexibility to showcase new contributors, broaden subject coverage, and give deserving stories the space they need. The expansion also reflects strong support from across the railroad enthusiast and model railroad industries. Advertisers increasingly recognize *Railroad Model Craftsman* and *Railfan & Railroad* as trusted places to reach active, engaged audiences, while readers are responding to the depth, variety, and quality of the content in each issue. Together, that growing support is helping both magazines deliver even more value each month.

White River Productions continues its investment in high-quality print magazines and the communities they serve. Strong reader loyalty, growing subscriptions, and increased advertiser participation have made it possible to deliver more content while maintaining current cover prices and subscription rates. Get on board and enjoy these great publications delivered to your door each month!

# INSIDE TRACK

**BNSF**  
RAILWAY



**Summer stories and news from Kansas**

## Tracks that helped build America

For more than 175 years, BNSF and its predecessor railroads have been part of the moments that shaped our nation's growth. As the country entered new eras and faced new challenges, railroads remained a vital link between communities and the opportunities ahead.

“Few institutions are woven into the American story quite like the railroad,” said BNSF President and CEO Katie Farmer. “From opening the West to powering the nation’s supply chain, BNSF and our 400+ predecessor lines have helped move the goods that feed, clothe, supply, and strengthen communities across the country.”



BNSF is proud of the history that brought us here and the opportunity to carry that legacy forward!



# **Modeling Tips From Arizona Rock & Mineral Ballast**

## **Photographing a model railroad**

A great model railroad deserves great photographs. You do not need expensive equipment to capture realistic images—just careful lighting, a steady camera, and the right viewing angle.

### **Start at Track Level**

Hold the camera low, close to the height of the locomotive or freight cars. This creates the feeling that the viewer is standing beside a real railroad. Avoid taking every photograph from above, since overhead views can make the layout look smaller and more like a model.

### **Use Soft, Even Lighting**

Turn on the layout lights and add a lamp near the scene when necessary. Avoid pointing a harsh light directly at the train because it may create strong shadows or bright reflections. A piece of white paper placed near the scene can help reflect light into darker areas.

### **Keep the Camera Steady**

Use a tripod, phone stand, or stable object to prevent blurry photographs. Clean the camera lens before starting, tap the main subject to set the focus, and use the camera's timer so pressing the button does not shake the image.

Before taking the final photograph, check the background for tools, wires, containers, and unfinished scenery. A little cleanup and careful framing can make your model railroad appear much larger and more realistic.



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[BabylonBee.com](https://www.babylonbee.com)**

# **Blithering Idiot Of A Husband Arranges Throw Pillows In Wrong Order**



# Date Book

## October

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>      **Topeka Model Railroaders 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Train Show/Swap Meet**      **Topeka, KS.**  
Sat & Sun      Great Overland Station  
<https://trainshows.net/event/2013/topeka-model-railroaders-5th-annual-train-show-and-swap-meet>

## November

14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>      **49<sup>th</sup> Annual OKC Train Show**      **Oklahoma City, OK.**  
Sat & Sun      <https://www.okctrainshow.com/>

## December

11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>      **Lawrence Model Railroad Club Holiday Train Show**      **Lawrence, KS**  
**Fri & Sat**      <https://trainshows.net/event/1909/lawrence-model-railroad-club-holiday-train-show>

12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>      **Festival of Trains**      **Wichita, KS.**  
Sat & Sun      <https://www.festoftrains.com/>

## January 2027

## February

6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>      **Wichita Train Show & Swap Meet**      **Wichita, KS.**  
Sat & Sun      Cessna Activity Center  
<https://trainshows.net/event/2085/wichita-train-show-and-swap-meet>

# Topeka Model Railroaders 5th Annual Train Show & Swap Meet

Organized by Topeka Model Railroaders

**October 3-4, 2026**

**Hours:** Sat: 9am-4pm, Sun: 9am-3pm

Great Overland Station

Topeka, Kansas, USA





# OKC Train Show 2026 Bigger, Better, and Back at the Bennett Event Center!

November 14th-15th 2026

The 2026 OKC Train Show will be at the Bennett Event Center, Oklahoma State Fairgrounds.

3101 Gordon Cooper Blvd,  
Oklahoma City, OK 73107

**Click here for the details:**

**<https://www.okctrainshow.com/>**

# **Lawrence Model Railroad Club Holiday Train Show**

**Organized by Lawrence Model Railroad Club**

**December 11-12, 2026**

**Hours:** Fri: 4pm-8pm, Sat: 9am-3pm

Douglas County Fairgrounds, Building 21

Lawrence, Kansas, USA



<https://trainshow.net/event/1909/lawrence-model-railroad-club-holiday-train-show>



## The *Main Line*

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Robert A. Simmons, Division Superintendent / Director

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