

Trails, Rails, & Tales



September-October 2020

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The Official Newsletter of the Chisholm Trail Division of the **NMRA**

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

BY PHIL AYLWARD

I hope this finds you all well.

The WICHITA TRAIN SHOW & SWAP MEET FOR 2021 Feb. 6th & 7th is a go. It is time to put a group together and try to round up some clinics. Have talked to Cessna Activity Center and as of now they have hand sanitizer and require wearing a mask.

I received this from the Toy Train Museum about their show:

By now some of you have heard that our organization has canceled our annual train show held at the Cessna Activity Center in Wichita. This was a difficult decision but one that had to be done for financial reasons. Revenue for vendor tables was less than 50% and admission projections were questionable. All this has to do with the pandemic. The Wichita Toy Train Club also was dealing with 14 weeks when our museum was forced to close due to the pandemic. Taking a possible loss on a full blown train show was just not an option. We are very sorry to disappoint our many vendors, exhibitors and patrons that have supported us over the years. So we quickly came up with an alternate plan.

What we are going to do is put on a much smaller event at our Toy Train Museum in Wichita. We do have operating layouts to view and we have invited several of our vendors that have supported us over many years. The admission charge is \$7 which is the regular charge at the museum. We hope that you will consider coming to the event. These are difficult times dealing with COVID-19 and this is our way to try and fill the gap where so many train shows / events were canceled this year. I have attached a flyer for the event. Information is also on the club's website: <http://www.wichitatomytrainmuseum.org/home-page.html>

–Phil

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It is sent to members of the Chisholm Trail Division of NMRA

DIRECTOR

Philip Aylward

aylward1@cox.net

SUPERINTENDENT

Dean Lippincott

DLippP5a@gmail.com

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Ron Werak

rwerak@dosks.com

PAST SUPERINTENDENT

Rob Neises

jgr_racing@yahoo.com

PAYMASTER/TREASURER

Gene Bowers

gene9366@icloud.com

CLERK/SECRETARY

Randy Stucky

rita.stucky@wesleymc.com

WEBMASTER

[http://ctd-mcor-nmra.tripod.com/
ctd-mcor-nmra.html](http://ctd-mcor-nmra.tripod.com/ctd-mcor-nmra.html)

Rob Neises

jgr_racing@yahoo.com

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

BY DEAN LIPPINCOTT

Hello to you all my friends,

I hope this update finds you all well. I can't figure out where the last two months went. I have been very busy but have found a little time to work on the railroad. I have about 30+ feet of roadbed and track down. I guess that's something. I also have gone back to school not only to keep my brain exercised but to get myself up to speed on the latest in autocad. I'm taking Computer Aided Design (autocad) 2021 (part 1) at Hutchinson Community College. My goal is to eventually take Part 2, 3D Drafting and Architectural Design. Wish me luck!

Something I learned from my instructor the other day is that Autodesk (producers of autocad) offer a CAD program designed for the hobbyist and it is FREE!!! Fusion 360 is a program for designing 2D and 3D drawings. Did I say it's

FREE!!! With this program you can design a building, a rail car or whatever with its actual dimensions and then save to the scale you are modeling, print it off and then you have a template to work with. PERFECT FOR SCRATCHBUILDERS. You can use the 3D program to design whatever you need, a detail part or an entire structure and print it 3D on a 3D printer. Maybe you might be interested in this program are afraid. LOL. I can help. For those interested we could have classes together and I could teach the basics. Would be a great time!

Remember to go to our Facebook page and ask to join. We are still having our ZOOM meetings. Click on the link on I will be sending out to each of you and join in the fun.

Stay safe!!! I miss you all.

–Dean

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

BY JIM MARLETT

In this issue of Trails, Rails, and Tales, Alan Aagaard finishes up his scratch built work caboose. This thing looks like it was a real kick to design and build.

John Kraft tells us about his exploration of former Denver & Rio Grande Western's Tennessee Pass line. Though it hasn't been used for years, the Union Pacific has kept it just in case. Now a company is trying to buy it from the Union Pacific to use as a short cut for shipping Utah crude oil and to haul grain. It's a complex matter and who

knows what will happen, but it has stirred interest in the dormant line. John's short article has a link to his blog, which has many more photos and much more information about his and Julie's exploration of the line. He also has a link to another web album that goes much deeper into Tennessee Pass. If you aren't a regular reader of John's blog, you are missing something good. I would encourage you to take a look.

Ron Werak sent a few pictures of an interesting meet in Wellington. I would be curious to know

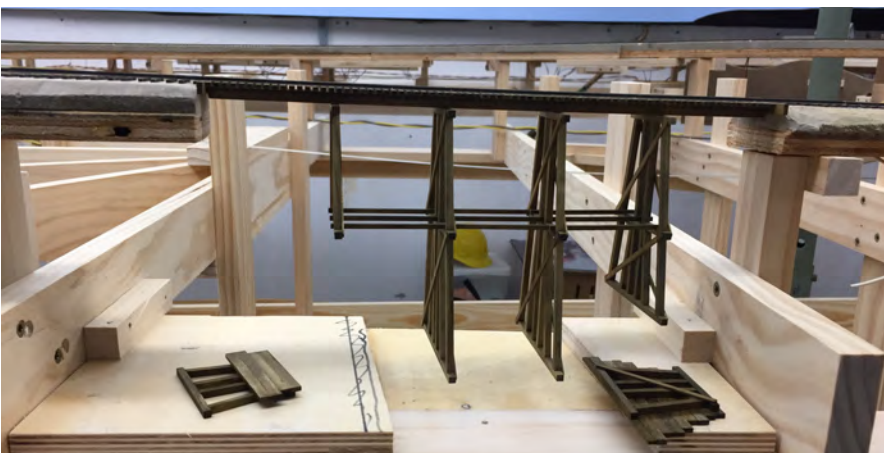
more about the Canadian Pacific locomotive that was part of the power.

The schedule of events is still a mess. I'm afraid that until the Coronavirus pandemic is under control, any scheduled event is subject to cancellation or a change in format. A typical example is the National Narrow Gauge Convention. After being cancelled entirely, it was resurrected as a three Saturday on-line version. By the time this is sent out, there should still be the final Saturday's activity. There is no charge and it is open to everyone through Zoom. If you miss it, the clinics and layout tours will be on YouTube for at least a little while. The details are on the 2020 National Narrow Gauge Convention web page. <https://40nngc.com/>

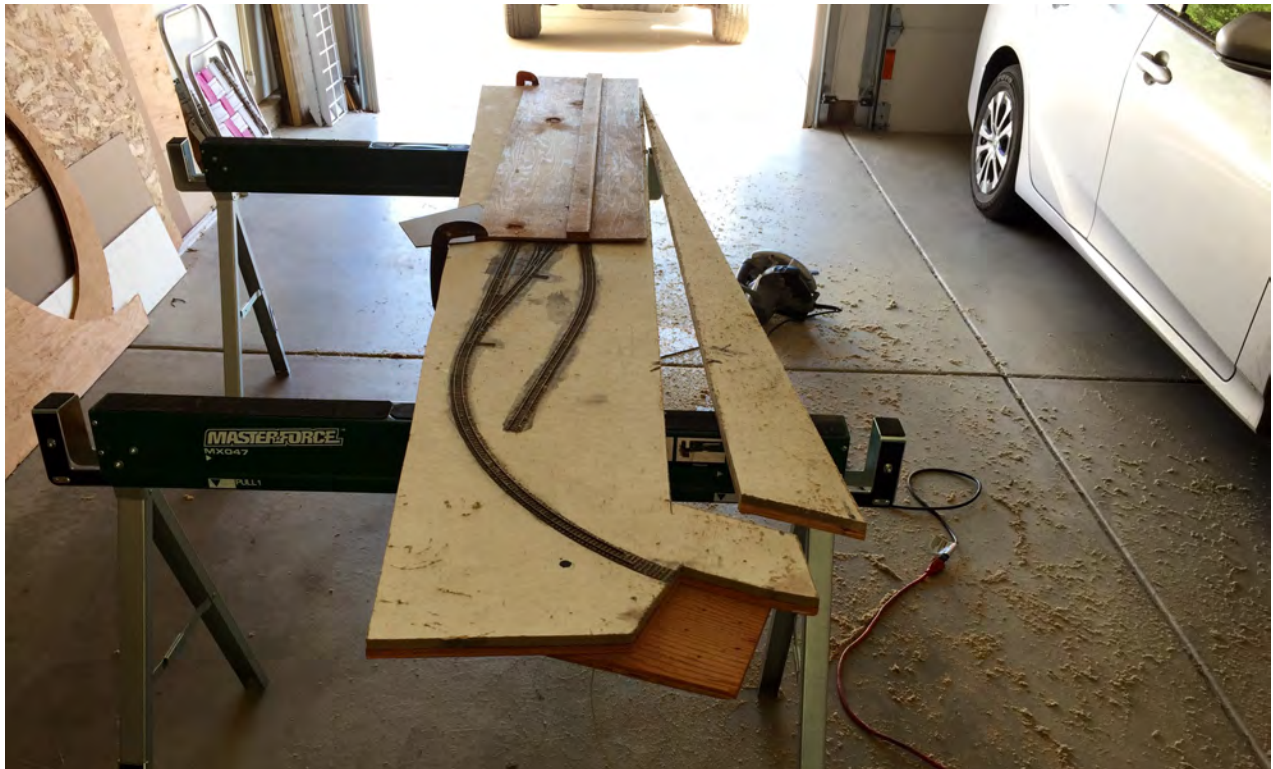
On my own home front, progress continues on the HOn3 San Juan Southern. More track has been laid, a trestle is under construction, and work has begun on the next town. The town's yard is another existing part of my old railroad, but like my other pre-existing portions, the switches and wiring all need to be revised for dcc control. Also, I'll have to make some extensions to the main line and create a passing siding since this was originally on the tail of a switchback. Now it will be a through station and will need a passing siding to accommodate longer trains. Then, when it is in its final location and functional, I will connect it to the rest of the railroad.

Elsewhere, however, there was a big disappointment. My original switching layout, built in the early 1970s, has always been a section of the San Juan Southern. I have moved it four times and added scenery and every move I have been able to fit it in somehow. I thought I was going to do that this time, too. Unfortunately, it has been stored eight years in my current basement and has now weathered floods and grandkids. When we finally lifted it into place and started looking closely, I discovered the years had not been kind to it. The biggest issue was the accumulation of humps and bumps where the Homasote had come unglued. Those areas were not going to be easily repaired. Also, years ago I weathered the rail with a chemical blackening solution after spiking it in place. It was easy to do and looked nice for a while, but I discovered I couldn't rinse it off the ties and ballast no matter what I tried. The blackening solution kept on working and over the years the spikes rusted, the ties rotted, and a white efflorescence appeared in places near the track. I finally decided that the only sensible thing to do was to salvage the rail and toss the rest. It breaks my heart, but sometimes it's just best to start over. If you want to see a more complete description and more pictures, it is on the Chisholm Trail Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/693114411520959>

— Jim



The trestle is still under construction. Here it is unfinished just hanging in place until I've quit messing around with other construction nearby.



Work began on the next section salvaged from my old layout. I sawed off a piece to make it fit the space on the new layout. The piece of plywood covering part of the track is a saw guide I made years ago. Hardboard scraps are holding the guide up to prevent damaging the track.



Pulling up spikes as I sadly dismantle the original section of my layout that I started almost 50 years ago.

ON30 SCRATCH BUILT WORK CABOOSE — PART III

BY ALAN AAGAARD

(As a reminder, Alan has been scratch building a work caboose made primarily from coffee stirring sticks as his social isolation project. For his progress leading up to this stage and many of his techniques, check the May-June and July-August editions of Trails, Rails, and Tails.)



I'm thinking of using "Micro Engineering Company's Rail Weathering (blackening) Solution" on the grab irons (I'm open for opinions). I made them from .020" Brass Rod then curved/formed around one of my medication bottles. The roof-walk was scale 2" x 4" lumber.



Tar-paper roofing is weathered paper grocery sacks. Rolled up canvas material to create shade while working at the work benches was weathered with acrylic paints.



Notice window shades on the muddy/dirty and broken windows (one on each side). Stirrup steps were “rusted” using AK Interactive “Crusted Rust Deposits” plus AK Corrosion Texture.

Here are more pictures of the caboose to show some of the details of the finished model.





TENNESSEE PASS

BY JOHN KRAFT

I've enjoyed speculation with fellow rail fans as to what might be happening with efforts to reopen the closed Tennessee Pass line thru Colorado. That got Julie and I wondering about the condition of the current infrastructure so we took a road trip to find out.

I posted the results of our trip on my blog:

<http://traversingthetrails.blogspot.com/2020/08/tennessee-pass-rail-fanning.html>

It was a great day of rail fanning and we learned a lot about the route and condition of the track and signal system. I had hoped we could hike the rails from Red Cliff back to the Eagle Mine but severe vandalism has resulted in lots of 'No Trespassing' signs and fines from law enforcement if caught. I did include a link to a YouTube video in the blog showing others making that hike. It would be quite a place to model.

A more detailed photo essay of the Tennessee Pass can be found at this link:

https://issuu.com/coloradorailfan/docs/tpass_summer_2015/15

This fellow did a really good job of documenting the entire route.





SEEN IN WELLINGTON

BY RON WERAK

One day after I was done working in the yard office, we had a train meet with a crew change and some foreign power.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

INCLUDES NON-NMRA EVENTS

RECURRING EVENTS

Please check the listed recurring events to find out if they have been cancelled or not due to COVID-19.

Chisholm Trail Division of NMRA Monthly Meeting. Every first Tuesday of the month. Gather at 6:45PM. Olivet Baptist Church, 3440 W. 13th St., Wichita, KS (13th & High) <http://ctd-mcor-nmra.tripod.com/ctd-mcor-nmra.html>

Please note: Chisholm Trail Division is conducting Zoom meetings on the internet until further notice. Members will be apprised of the details and be receive meeting notices by email.

Kansas Central Division of NMRA. Every second Saturday of even numbered months at 1:00PM. Locations vary. Contact information is here: http://www.mcor-nmra.org/Divisions/Kansas_Central_Division/

Kansas Central Model Railroaders Business Meeting. (Not the same as Kansas Central Division of NMRA) Every second Saturday from 11:00AM-Noon. 16 East 3rd Ave, Hutchinson, KS <http://www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org>

Wichita Area Model Railroaders Luncheon. Every second Thursday at 11:30AM. Spears Restaurant and Pie Shop, 4323 W. Maple, Wichita, KS (Not meeting due to COVID-19)

Any of the following events are subject to cancellation and some listed in the last edition have been cancelled. Unless otherwise noted, the organizers have not cancelled at press time. Check websites for updates.

SEPTEMBER 2020

Cancelled. September 26-27 – Wichita Toy Train Club Show. Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd, Wichita, KS. Saturday from 9AM-5PM. Sunday from 11AM-3PM. <http://www.wichitatomytrainmuseum.org/club-shows-1.html>

OCTOBER 2020

October 10 – Greater Tulsa Area Train Show. Bixby Community Center, 211 N Cabaniss Ave, Bixby, OK. Sponsored by the Toy Train Operating Society Sooner Division. <http://www.ttos-soonerdiv.org/division-events.html>

No longer appears on Fair Park Schedule for October. October 16-18 – OKC Model Railroad Expo. Oklahoma State Fairgrounds, Oklahoma City, OK. <https://statefairparkokc.com/events/466/details>

FEBRUARY 2021

February 6-7 – The Wichita Train Show & Swap Meet. Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd., Wichita, KS. Saturday from 9AM-5PM. Sunday from 11AM-4PM. Sponsored in part by Chisholm Trail Division NMRA. <https://besttrainshow.com/>

EDITOR'S NOTE: I am not listing events scheduled for November and December in this newsletter because of the likelihood of cancellation. I will include them in the next newsletter if they are still scheduled.