

Caboose

Kibitzer



VOLUME 67, ISSUE 2
2ND QUARTER 2017
APRIL • MAY • JUNE

The Official Newsletter of the *Mid-Continent Region* of the **NMRA**

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Submissions

The *Caboose Kibitzer* welcomes articles, photographs, and other model railroad or railroad-related contributions. Contact the editor for more information.

Advertising

All advertising inquiries should be directed to the Advertising Manager.

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Any NMRA Member that resides within the Mid-Continent Region is a member.

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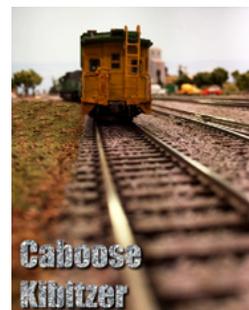
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Front Cover

Taken elsewhere in Wichita (KS) yards acting as a "switching-buffer" on March 13, 2017, by Dr. Alan A. Aagaard. Please refer to the story on page 16 of the previous issue of the *Caboose Kibitzer*.



Back Cover

Taken in Augusta, KS at the *Augusta Model Railroad Club* (HO-scale) during the *Chisholm Trail Division NMRA Layout Tour* held on February 18, 2017.

HEAD END

NOTES FROM PRESIDENT HANK KRAICHELY

Now, the spring is already here, I love the season changes. Now all of you outdoor railroaders can begin to repair washouts and level the track. My wife and I had a garden railway for 15 years. When spring



rolled around I headed to the backyard to assess the damage the railroad suffered from freezing, thawing, ice, snow, and just like the prototypes, I found washouts, track separations, and dead leaves of all types.

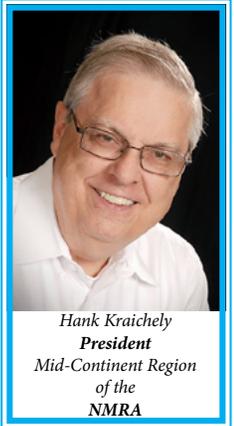
The first step was a general cleanup of the track and garden, then on to the roadbed and track. Out came a bucket of ¼" limestone, a garden spade, and a 4-foot level. Each year would find 3 to 4 feet of track completely under mined. Scoop after scoop of limestone and limestone dust were placed on and around the track. Finally, the 4-foot level was moved up and down the track to check for both low and high spots. I then used a torpedo level to check the level of the two parallel rails.

These experiences, took me outside again, but it made me feel closer to the prototype? I was not using a spoon, or a paint brush to lay or repair bal-

last, I was using real tools to spread pounds of ballast. I felt closer to the MOW folks who work outside in all types of weather.

Railroading in any scale is both an enjoyable and a learning experience!

Last quarter I recounted working at the Museum of Transportation's Christmas Train Display and the children and parents/grandparents who came to see the displays and relive old memories from their own childhood. Seeing the children's fascination with the trains and



Hank Kraichely
President
Mid-Continent
Region
of the
NMRA



the adult's happiness seeing the excited children it made think about the parents who grew up without a train under the tree or a Father and Son small layout. I know my interest in trains grew from the Lionel train set over 60 years ago, how could today's children using an iPad or a laptop grow up to be model railroaders in the future?

From this concern, regarding the future of model railroading, grew the concept of the ½ day basic

training session for parents. It is designed to equip the parent/grandparent with basic knowledge on the use of foam insulation board, attaching the

from passive activities like texting, playing electronic games, or just sitting in front of the TV. The likelihood of a parent building a layout with their teen



Photo by Alan A. Aagaard

today is very low. What if there were a place that the teen could spend 7 hours a day 5 days a week and model railroading was made available to him/her at their school?

track, basic wiring, and some techniques to create scenery. Finally, some suggestions on simple maintenance like cleaning the track and locomotive wheels. A poorly running railroad will result in a child losing interest and a railroad leaning against the wall gathering dust.

I am excited to report that my home Division, Gateway, has endorsed the concept and formed a committee to implement this concept plus generate other ideas to grow our hobby.

I was thinking of our hobby's future. A jump from age 6 or 8 to an adult with model railroad interest is too much to expect in today's world of electronic communications and entertainment. What if we had an interim step like the teen years. A lasting experience here could plant the seed that will sprout when this teen, is out of school, working, and is married with a family.

Now this young parent looks for an activity that they might do with their child plus change their focus

Why not start a high school model railroad club? I began to think about the concept and develop a plan that could be offered first to my home Division, I will need their support both with finance and manpower. Once these things are in place I can present the plan to a High School Staff. Hopefully they will support a survey of the student body to determine interest plus help recruit a Teacher who could become the club monitor.

In this first effort, I would like to provide the club with the initial materials to build a small expandable layout and the rail equipment required to run the layout. I will ask the Division for volunteers who can provide technical expertise and mentor the teens and the club monitor. This should only be required until the club is up and running. I hope the Division will provide financial support, plus obtain donations of equipment from hobby shops and individuals.

I hope to put the various parts of the plan together this summer. This plan would include estimates

of material needs and associated cost, we will need one or more hobby willing to support the concept, some donations of equipment and several NMRA volunteers to implement the program. The big step then will be to meet with the High School and obtain agreement of the concept and to do the student interest survey. If we obtain positive results, we can implement the club concept during the fall semester.

Assuming this effort is successful, a manual documenting the steps, successful and not, taken to implement a high school model railroad club will be sent to the MCoR Directors, NMRA Region Presidents plus NMRA National Staff.

Please let me know what your Divisions are doing to educate children and adults, that Model Railroad-

ing is both enjoyable/fun for children. Plus, model railroading provides an opportunity to learn skills like planning and constructing a layout. The layout construction requires the design, electrical wiring, simple carpentry, and then the use of imagination to create their rail empire.

I look forward to seeing you in Ames, IA in May, Whit Johnson and members of the Thousand Lakes Region have put together a great convention! You will have many very interesting and useful clinics, a tour of a deep mine (bet you never did that before), a model contest, a tour of fine layout and one or more operating sessions. OH! don't forget a fun night at the annual banquet.

All this and more are included in your registration fee.

Hank Kraichely
President
Mid-Continent Region of NMRA

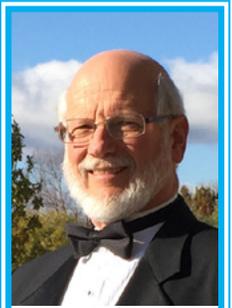


NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This issue is incredibly late due to my body. Yes, it's all my fault. I had some of it done prior to my back surgery (thanks to those who responded in a timely manner), and then I had approximagely 2-3 weeks after surgery when I was drugged and experi-
encing recovery pains. So here it is now 20 days late and coming to you less "polished" than normal.

Please accept my "professional and personal" apologies.

I'm Sorry



ALAN A. AAGAARD
Editor
of both the
"Caboose Kibitzer" and
"Trails, Rails, & Tails"
of the
Chisholm Trail Division
of NMRA



PRODUCT REVIEW

Any company wishing to submit products for review may do so by providing samples to be discussed to the address below. Submitted products will not be returned.

Please send products to:

Dr. Alan A. Aagaard
Post Office Box #8339
Munger Station
Wichita, KS. 67208-8339

Not necessarily a "product review",

but this is a "Vendor Review"

While reCooperating from my first of two back surgeries, I was also celebrated a "Major Milestone" of a birthday - and decided to "treat myself" to a structure. So far, so good...until I began the OnLine "check-out" procedure and encountered "techno-issues" ~ finally, after several attempts, I gave up and picked up the phone...Left a VoiceMail message, and "Lo and Behold" they actually returned my call; resolved the issues; took my order; and just yesterday I received my order in EXCELLENT condition. So it is with Great compliments I extend a "rave review" to Deb & Ben of

DEBENLLC Publications & Products

910 Millvale Place
Lawrenceville, GA. 30044

Phone: (770) 666-8100
<http://www.debenllc.com/>

The Great Plains Joint Line

Mid-Continent Region (MCoR) of the NMRA

2017 Convention

The Thousand Lakes Region (TLR) is joining forces with the Mid-Continent Region (MCoR) for a combined convention this Spring in Ames, Iowa from May 18th through the 21st. The joint convention will allow both regions to see what other areas do and meet some new people. The convention will be held at the "Quality Inn and Suites" in Ames, IA just off I-35. The tentative schedule is below.



slots assigned for the tour to keep everyone busy. The feature event will be riding the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad Friday afternoon. This will be from Boone, IA to the old coal mining town of Fraser and back, approximately 10 miles, and will take about 1 hour forty-five minutes. The



Registration starts Thursday at noon and there will be some layout tours that evening. The contest room will be open to accept entries, and we may have an Op-Session - more on that on registration day.



power is still undetermined, but will be either a Chinese QJ 2-8-2 steamer, Alco RS-1 diesel of mixed heritage or ex-CN



Friday will start with a tour of a limestone mine. Groups will be determined when you register and time slots assigned at that point. There will be a mandatory safety briefing prior to getting aboard the bus and heading to the mine. There will be some clinics going around the

FP9A. Rolling stock will consist of ex-Lackawanna and Rock Island coaches, an open-air car and ex-RI caboose. The museum has quite a collection to look at as well.

The non-rail event will be Friday morning and touring Reiman Gardens. According to their website, it is "Situated on a 17-acre site, the year-round attraction features

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distinct gardens both indoors and outdoors on a 17-acre campus, a Conservatory with seasonal displays, a 2,500-square-foot Butterfly Wing with emergence cases, a Gift Shop, and beauty for all to enjoy and share.” There may also be a tour of Iowa State University.

Saturday will have clinics all day, a train show (open to the public) and the board meetings. Check out the preliminary clinic schedule below. The train show will have around 70 tables for a variety of vendors and run from 9am to 4pm.



Sunday will wrap up with a few more clinics in the morning, layout tours and the train show continuing.

As usual, there will be a contest area and the categories (so far) are steam locomotive, diesel/OMP locomotive, traction, passenger car, freight car, caboose, non-revenue car, structure, display, railroad pass and photos (black and white model, black and white prototype, color model and color prototype). There will also be a switching contest, so you can try your hand at either brakeman or conductor puzzles and compete for time or fewest moves. For those that don't to compete, there will be a modeler's showcase to display your work.

The event will be topped off by the Annual Awards Banquet and regional annual meetings. These will be held at the hotel and include a buffet dinner, door prizes, contest prizes and region presentations.

Plan ahead and get your registration in now!

Registration is \$90 per person and includes the convention, banquet, train show and non-rail event. A separate banquet fee for spouses is not available. The form is in this issue of the Caboose Kibitzer, or online at the MCoR website (www.MCoR-NMRA.org) to sign up, then contact the “Quality Inn and Suite” for reservations!



Ask for the “Convention Rate” - this can NOT be done OnLine.

NOTE: there will be an additional fee for the busses that will be based on the number of attendees. It is anticipated that this will range from \$10-\$30. You will be sent this information after you register.

Clinic Schedule (so far)

- “**Creating Realistic and Enjoyable Passenger Operations**” by *Drake Hokanson*
- “**Grade Crossings**” by *Fred Heaton, MMR*
- “**Custom Decals for Model RR**” by *Dave Roeder, MMR*
- “**Evaluation and Documentation**” by *Ryan Moats, MMR*
- “**Computers in Model Railroading**” by *Dr. John Bate*
- “**Scratch-building Board-by-board, and More**” by *Mike Engler*
- “**Bridges**” by *John Hotvet, MMR*
- “**Meet the President**” by *Charlie Getz, President, NMRA*



Conference Facility

Quality Inn & Suites:

Starlite Village Conference Center
2601 East 13th Street
Ames, IA 50010 - 8606
Telephone: (515) 232-9260 or
(800) 903-0009
FAX: (515) 232-9260

<https://www.choicehotels.com/iowa/ames/quality-inn-hotels/ia102/>

Situated on the East side of Ames, IA, with easy access to Interstate-35 and Highway 30, the Quality Inn provides all meeting and lodging requirements under one roof.



Becoming a Master Model Railroader (MMR)

The Engineering and Operation Courses

by David Heinsohn (not an MMR)

Welcome back to another installment in this series on becoming a Master Model Railroader. In keeping with the theme of the first episode, welcome to our model railroading banquet. This time around, I'm going to look at a course you've probably taken several bites out of just to run some trains. That course is "The Engineering and Operations" course. To see how it fits in the full banquet go to

<http://www.nmra.org/categories>

The three entrees for this course are:

- Model Railroad Engineer - Civil,
- Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical, and
- Chief Dispatcher.

The Civil Engineering course is about laying track. The Electrical Engineer course is about wiring track and other aspects of layout. Finally, the Chief Dispatcher is about playing with, aka running, trains!!! Remember you need to eat at least one entrée from this course, but you don't have to eat all of them.

=====

So, let's take a closer look at **Civil Engineering**. This link covers all the requirements,

<http://www.nmra.org/civil>.

At the bottom of the OnLine page there's a PDF checklist to track your progress. Also included is the judging form so you'll know what the judges will be looking for as they evaluate your trackwork. I'm not going to copy the entire checklist here, but I will copy the portion applicable to the part of the AP I'm talking about as we go along.

Before we go any further I'll show you the banquet table, err layout, I'm using for this AP along with Electrical. It's **Empton**, a 4' x 8' layout I started before I had a clue that a 4' x 8' island layout took up LOTS of room. It's in N-scale. I think I'll be able to sample all the layout specific courses from this banquet table, learning lots along the way that I can apply to the larger around the walls layout to follow.

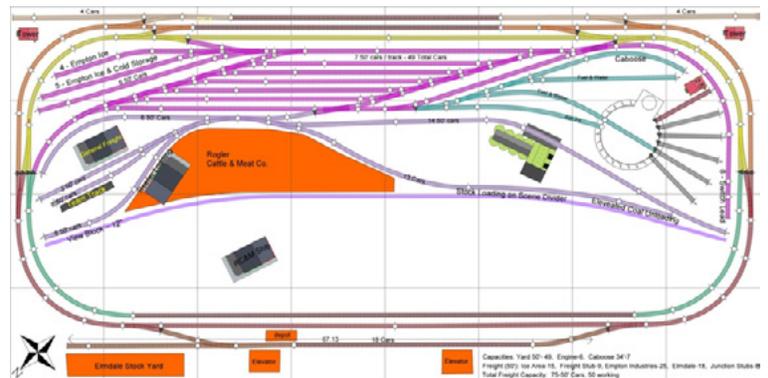


Figure 1: **Empton** 4' x 8' layout

(Editor's comment: I am showing the author the respect of entering the graphic where he had requested it be placed, but when shrinking it so much it becomes very difficult to read, hence it will appear larger on the next page for clarity)

Let's start with step one of the requirements. It says "make a drawing". Then it spends lots of time/words telling you not to over eat on this course. In other words don't make this AP any harder than it has to be. It needs to be a scale drawing. You can do that with manual drafting tools, or a computer aided layout program. Don't have a layout program, no problem, ask a buddy, or use a free one. Why a scale drawing? So you don't try to put 3' 180 degree radius curve on a four foot wide board. My drawing of **Empton** was done using Anyrail™, paid edition. The drawing/plan must include: Terminal facilities, either passenger or freight. This is a way for your railway to make money. You don't even have to build

the drafting program. So that requirement is met. If you're doing the drawing manually, you'll need to keep a record of your track requirements, either on the main drawing or in a separate sheet.

The next step of the requirements is more meat and potatoes. Let's build some track work. We need to build 25 feet of track in Z, N, or TT-scale, 50 feet in HO or S-scale, or 75 linear feet in O-scale or 100 linear feet in F or G-scale.. It has to be ballasted, profiled and show drainage. This is NOT all mainline, just 25 feet of track (in my N-scale example). The two mainline loops in *Empton* easily exceed 25 feet of track. But wait there's more! The track work must include at least six features from a long list. You do not have to do the entire list. Here's the list from the checklist .pdf for your consideration:

<http://www.nmra.org/sites/default/files/2006-rv-mrec.pdf>

What does **Empton** have?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passing siding | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passing siding A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spur | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spur B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crossover | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crossover C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reversing Loop | <input type="checkbox"/> Reversing Loop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wye | <input type="checkbox"/> Wye |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Simple Ladder | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Simple Ladder D |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compound Ladder | <input type="checkbox"/> Compound Ladder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turntable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Turntable E |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer Table | <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer Table |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Super Elevation | <input type="checkbox"/> Super Elevation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Simple Overhead Wire | <input type="checkbox"/> Simple Overhead Wire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Compound Overhead Wire | <input type="checkbox"/> Compound Overhead Wire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scale Track | <input type="checkbox"/> Scale Track |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cog Railway Track | <input type="checkbox"/> Cog Railway Track |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coal Dump Track | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coal Dump Track * F |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ash Pit | <input type="checkbox"/> Ash Pit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service Pit Track | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Pit Track |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade Elevation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade Elevation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

* Coal Dump Track (the industry at the far right just above the "View Block"/scenic divider **G** will be a coal dealer with an elevated dump track.) So, I've got enough and need no more. I could also have done super elevation on any of the mainline curves, an ash pit, or a service pit. It's not too hard to get those six elements into your track plan.

Step three is the dreaded Merit Judging! Oh, No! Vegetables! Well it's not really that bad. You have to scratch build three items from a list. You can't use commercial frogs, but you can use commercial building jigs. These do not need to be part of the drawing above, nor a part of any layout. They just have to be demonstrated to operate a loco under it's own power through all routes. If your layout doesn't have three from the list, build them on a board and use clip leads to power the track for demonstration purposes. Here's the list:

- Turnout (Point or Stub)
- Crossover
- Double Crossover
- Single Slip Switch
- Double Slip Switch
- Crossing
- Gauntlet Track
- Gauntlet Turnout
- Dual Gauge Turnout
- Gauge Separation Turnout
- Double Junction Turnout
- Three-Way Turnout
- Spring Switch in overhead wire
- Operating Switch in overhead wire

Empton will end up with a mix of hand laid and factory track and turnouts. The double slip switches, the three way turnout, and several of the conventional turnouts will be hand laid. A turnout, crossover and crossing would be common track work on many layouts.

Step four is really a bit redundant. It's a reminder that the three items built in step three for merit judging must be merit judged to a score of 87.5 points or 70%, and a reminder that nothing else needs to be merit judged, it just has to work.

Step five says you have to submit a Statement of Qualification form. Gee, this is what tells the AP chair that we've eaten this serving of this course. It looks a lot like the Record and Validation form with room for more information

about the builder and places for the AP chair to sign off on it.

Burp! That wasn't too bad. You've probably done lots of it in getting pretty much any layout that doesn't use snap track to work so you can run trains.

=====

Now, let's take a look at the other engineering AP, **Electrical**. The link to the detailed requirements are found here:

<http://www.nmra.org/electrical>.

Like the Civil AP it links to the Statement of Qualification and the Record and Validation (aka checklist) forms are available as .pdfs at the bottom of the page. I will continue to reference the *Empton* layout above as we go through this.

Notice right off the bat that this set of requirements are lettered rather than numbered. Don't let that fool you as we nibble away at this AP.

SECTION A is really pretty obvious, wire a layout! OK, they're more specific than that. Do notice that it doesn't have to be YOUR layout; it can be a club layout, etc. You just have to do the electrical work. The wiring has to provide "simultaneous and independent control of two mainline trains... ." For DC there must be five blocks. For DCC "Gaps, and switches to maintain polarity, phase, if needed, and trouble shooting." There has to be a mainline passing siding, a way to turn power, a three or more track yard with switch lead, tracks to store unused motive power, and, what a surprise, there has to be a power supply with circuit breaker. You do not have to build the power supply!

Let's take a look at *Empton*. It was originally designed for DC with the colors representing power blocks, even with DCC it will have the necessary aspects to control

polarity, etc. As discussed in the **Civil AP**, there are two mainline passing sidings. The turntable takes care of reversing motive power. It has a six track switching yard with a switch lead wrapping around behind the roundhouse. All of the garden tracks (*Tracks around the turntable, not going into a round house. The drawing does not show the round house.*) on the turntable will be switched to shut them off so locos can be stored without drawing power or making noise. In my case, the Digitrax power supply has a circuit breaker. So, all of the requirements of Step A are met by *Empton*.

Garden Tracks usually refer to tracks accessible from the turntable, but outside the roundhouse with no roof overhead. Often used for RIPs, wheel storage, or engines and equipment too long or high to be parked indoors.

A. (1.) Construct and Demonstrate satisfactory operation of an electrical control system on a Model Railroad capable of simultaneous and independent control of two mainline trains in either direction, and containing at least:

- DC Power (with 5 blocks controlled independently)
- DCC/TMCC/Other Power (with gaps, Switches, Phase for troubleshooting)
- One Passing Siding
- One Reverse loop
- Wye
- Turntable
- Transfer Table
- Facilities for storing of at least two unused motive power units
- One yard with a minimum of three tracks and a switching lead independent of mainline
- One power supply with protective devices (short Indicator and/or Circuit Breaker) to ensure safe operation.

What does **Empton** have?

A. (1.) Construct and Demonstrate satisfactory operation of an electrical control system on a Model Railroad capable of simultaneous and independent control of two mainline trains in either direction, and containing at least:

- DC Power (with 5 blocks controlled independently)
- DCC/TMCC/Other Power (with gaps, Switches, Phase for troubleshooting)
- One Passing Siding
- One Reverse loop **H**
- Wye
- Turntable
- Transfer Table
- Facilities for storing of at least two unused motive power units **I**
- One yard with a minimum of three tracks and a switching lead independent of mainline
- One power supply with protective devices (short Indicator and/or Circuit Breaker) to ensure safe operation.

SECTION B specifies things we have to wire and make operational. We have to demonstrate at least three (3) from the list:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turnout | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Turnout |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crossing | <input type="checkbox"/> Crossing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crossover | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crossover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Double Crossover | <input type="checkbox"/> Double Crossover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Slip Switch | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single Slip Switch J |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gauge Separation Turnout | <input type="checkbox"/> Gauge Separation Turnout |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Double Junction Turnout | <input type="checkbox"/> Double Junction Turnout |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Three way Turnout | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Three way Turnout |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gauntlet Turnout | <input type="checkbox"/> Gauntlet Turnout |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Switch | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Switch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Operating Switch in overhead wire | <input type="checkbox"/> Operating Switch in overhead wire |

What does **Empton** have?

You do not need to scratch build anything for this step. Wire up simple commercial turnout and the Turnout requirement is met! Additionally, this is about getting trains to run on the track, NOT about controlling the turnouts, etc. You can use all manual throws and meet this requirement.

When the track is laid and operational in **Empton**, four of the above, (turnout, crossover, double slip, and three way turnout) will be included (not appearing on drawing) so **Empton** meets the requirement. **J**

=====

SECTION C says we have to wire and demonstrate electrical operation of at least three (3) items from a list of 23 items. I'll not repeat the entire list here as each one includes descriptions. With 23 to choose from I should be able to find at least three I can do on **Empton**. It looks like I'll have an Engine terminal with the required minimum of five tracks, an electronic throttle with inertia..., a DCC throttle buss, an under layout sound system. That's four and I only need three! The sound system is already installed. By the time the DCC system is fully functional the throttle bus and electronic throttles will be complete. The hardest one will be the turntable, etc. but I need that for the civil AP anyway. You may use other items from the list. OH! Installing a DDC decoder in a locomotive is on the list. It can't be a plug and play installation though. I'll bet lots of you have done that several times.

There is some text at the bottom of Section C reminding us not to make this harder than it needs to be.

SECTION D says we have to draw a schematic drawing of the railroad in SECTION A. This does NOT have to be a computer drawing, it can be hand drawn. This schematic only needs to show the track power and control circuitry. And portions of the drawing that are duplicated, like powering frogs, need not be repeated in detail. Use a box for the duplicates! (*To use frog power as an example, If I were doing frog power by use of a double-pole double-throw switch, I'd need to show in detail how to wire the switch just once, then in all other cases I could put a box labeled "Frog Power" on the drawing in lieu of the detailed drawing.*)

SECTION E requires us to submit a schematic diagram for each of the three items from B and C (totalling six (6) items). You're not showing each component of each box or circuit board, rather how to wire and interconnect the boxes and boards. As the requirements remind us, it'd be a good idea to have this type of drawing available anyway to aid in trouble shooting.

Like the last section in the **Civil AP** and all others, for that matter, **SECTION F** says we have to fill out a Statement of Qualification (SOQ) form to show the AP Chair what we've done. It even lists all the stuff that needs to accompany the SOQ.

Burp again! You've probably noticed that the **Civil** and **Electrical AP's** are closely related. I decided to do both of them at the same time, and to make sure that **Empton** met all the requirements for both. Since we have to earn seven AP's total from only four categories this looks like a good place to pick up two from one category.

=====

There's one more menu item available for this course, **Chief Dispatcher**. While Civil and Electrical Engineer AP's are a bit like Prime Rib and Tenderloin, both really good ways to enjoy beef, **Chief Dispatcher** is more like Lobster. Not everyone likes seafood, but, those of us that do really enjoy it. The qualifications can be found here:

<http://www.nmra.org/dispatcher>.

The first thing to notice about this AP is that it **REQUIRES** us to play with trains! And they don't have to be our trains! Maybe I should calm down, I think I'm dribbling the drawn butter down my shirt as I take on this lobster. Step A of this one is to play with trains for 50 hours. They can be our trains, someone else's layout's trains or a club layout. We can be Engineers, Yardmasters, Hostlers, Towermen, or Dispatchers.

We have to do at least ten hours in each of three of those categories. And, one ten hour block must be Dispatcher.

There's a log sheet form at the bottom of the above link, so print it out, even if you don't think you'll really work on this one. Take it with you to any operations sessions you might attend and have it signed by the owner or superintendent of the railroad before you leave the session.

How can you get 50 hours? Actually, that's easier than it sounds. Attend our regional convention, there are sometimes ops sessions scheduled in conjunction with that convention. My first ever ops session was at the last St Louis MidCoR Convention. Attend the national convention. There are always operating sessions at national, usually at least three or more nights. You need not be a member of the OpsSIG (Operations Special Interest Group) to participate in convention ops sessions. One of the really great things about convention ops sessions is that they know there will be new operators so most owners ensure plenty of helpers around the layout. Another option is to attend ops weekends. Here in MidCoR, Tulsa and St Louis have weekends every couple of years. Closer to home, see if there are ops groups in your area. If so, let some of the owners know you're interested. Don't be surprised if a long established ops group is closed, layouts can only handle so many operators. But, don't be afraid to ask. And look for clubs that have operating sessions. I've belonged to two of those. [It's a sad day when the mall your club is located in gets bulldozed!]

In many respects the hardest part of the 50 hours is the ten hours as Dispatcher. The good news is that as a supervisor signs your log sheet a few times they'll start asking what else you need to finish up. They'll start to be excited that someone is actually working on this AP. That's a good time to mention that you'll need to spend some time as "dispatch-

er". On some layouts that'll be a matter of taking a deep breath and just jumping in; on others, there will be a real training period before you dispatch as a solo. Both can be fun. One final note on the Dispatcher part of the 50 hours. There is no specific type of dispatching required.

The last bit of **Chief Dispatcher** is more of a mental challenge. Four steps all based on the same operating layout.

1. Draw a schematic showing distances.
2. Develop a timetable for the layout.
3. Draw an operating train chart/graph showing at least one meet.
4. Develop an operating system for the layout.

All of this can be for one of the layouts used in the 50 hours, your own layout, a friends or one you're planning. A group of you can also work together on these steps.

Like every AP the last step is to fill out the Statement of Qualification and submit it.

=====

That's it for this course. I hope you've enjoyed the flavors of model railroading offered. For more reading on these APs or any of the others check out the articles listed here:

<http://www.nmra.org/masters-articles-updated-2009>.

Jim Wanlass, MMR, started a series "My Quest for Master Model Railroader" in the NMRA Magazine after I started writing this series. Check out his articles in this year's magazines.

Next time we'll take a look at the MMR Banquet course called **Service to the Hobby** and see what tasty treats await us in this part of our model railroading banquet.



Figure 2
Civil Engineer:
A hand laid curved turnout ready to install



Figure 3
Civil Engineer:
Using a layout jig to build a three way turnout

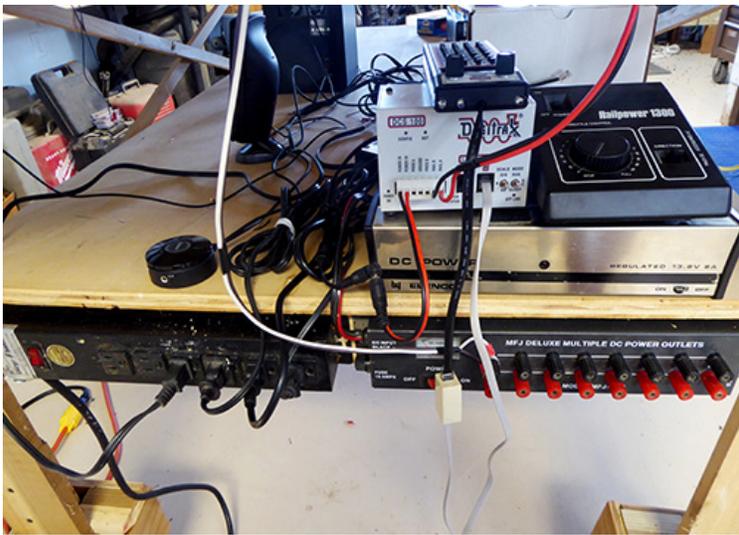


Figure 4
 Electrical Engineer:
 120VAC, 13.8VDC, Accessary buss, and DCC buss
 power control with ambient speakers in the background.

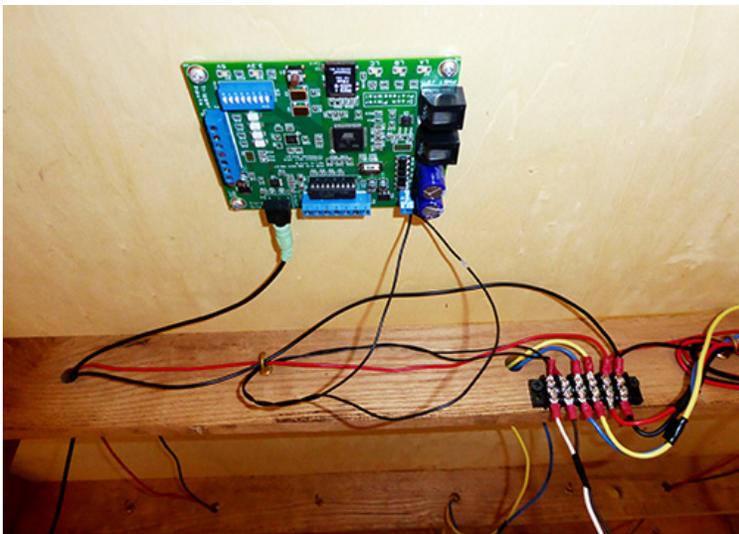


Figure 5
 Electrical Engineer:
 The circuit board for controlling ambient sounds.

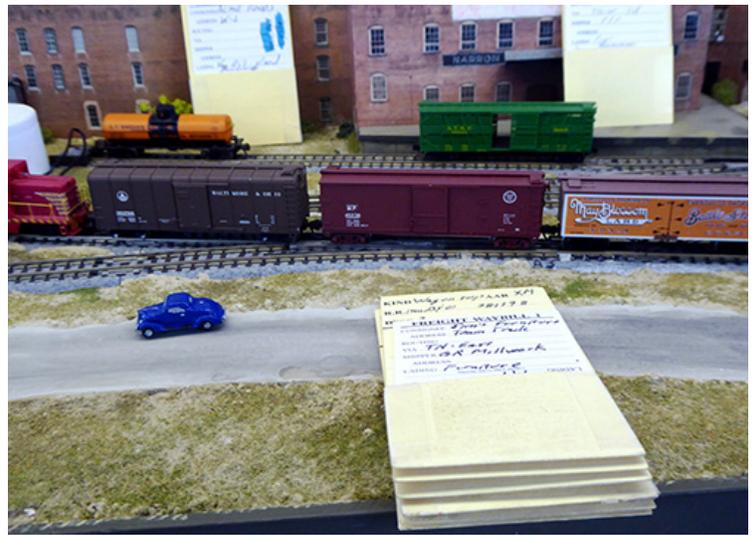


Figure 6
 Chief Dispatcher:
 The car cards and way bills used
 to control car movement on Timenook™.



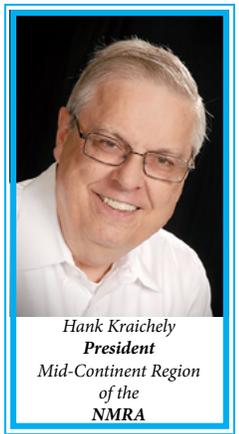
DAVID HEINSOHN
 SUPERINTENDENT,
 Kansas Central Division
 of the
 NMRA

*In future in-
 stallments of this series from David,
 there will be an attempt at “Service
 to the Hobby”*

“ACHIEVEMENT”

NEWS FLASH

This **just in** from our MCoR President
Henry Kraichely



I have attached a eMail from Steven August, the RAC Director, with a great idea a award for a outstanding contributor to their Division. National would like to recognize one individual who has contributed above and beyond to his/her Division in each Region.

I would like for **everyone** to look at their home Divisions to determine if they identify an outstanding member who has been contributing to their Division success for sometime. If you identify a person you feel qualifies please send me their name and a briefly submitted short write up. I think a number of recommendations will come in, so I am forming a committee (the officers) to review and select the winner.

I think this is a great idea and will let **MCoR** recognize a outstanding member of their Division,

Thank you for your help,

Hank



> **From:** S P August <spaugust@outlook.com>
> **Date:** March 23, 2017 at 7:09:28 PM CDT
> **To:** several personal eMail accounts, Henry Karichely <hkraichely@sbcglobal.net>, plus several other personal eMail accounts
> **Subject:** NMRA Presidents Award

>

> Hi, Region President!

>

>

>

> This year **National** NMRA is instituting a new award called “**The NMRA President’s Award for Service to the Division.**” It will be awarded by the NMRA President to one individual in each Region who has done outstanding, “beyond-the-call-of-duty” work to make his or her local Division effective, engaging, and welcoming to members.

>

> You probably know the type of individual we’re talking about. This is a person who’s been a Division newsletter editor forever, or has served in several officer positions in his or her Division, or has helped set up the annual train show for decades. These are the people who make Divisions work, who make them interesting and engaging and fun for members.

>

>

> We’re not talking about people who’ve served your Region – you probably have your own award for those folks. We’re not talking about people who go out and promote the NMRA to non-members. We’re talking about people who put their nose to the grindstone and work hard in their Division...and who normally never get recognized for all their hard work.

>

>

>
>
> The idea is that the national NMRA Board members and officers nominate one person from their home Region. However, there is no officer or Board member residing in your Region, so we're asking you for help to name an individual who you think is deserving of this award.

>
>
> Please send the name of that individual, plus a 2 or 3 sentence description of why that person deserves the award, to Vice President Gerry Leone at vpprojects@nmra.org no later than April 20. If we don't hear from you by then, no one in your Region will receive the award. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out.

>
>
> But I'm sure there are very hard working members in your Region who are very deserving of the national recognition we plan to give them. So please help us by April 20!

>
>
>
> Thanks,



> National Model Railroad Association

>
> NMRA RAC Director
>
> Telephone - 864-209-1357
>
> Cell Phone - 704-907-7232

WHEAT GROWERS HOTEL

by

CRAIG DRENKOW

Kimball, Nebraska used to be a railroad town. If you are modeling a modern railroad town, this might be a scene on your layout. The Wheat Growers Hotel was built in 1918. In the late 1920s, there were an average of 26 passenger trains each day that went through this area. It was built to handle travelers on the railroad. This building was built with a grand ballroom in the basement and 86 guest rooms. It was the best hotel between Denver and Omaha at the time it was built.



Lt. Colonel Dwight D. Eisenhower stayed there in 1919 when his Transcontinental Motor Convoy was stopped by excessive mud. (He didn't arrive by train so it doesn't count). During the "Blizzard of 1949", the Union Pacific Streamliner was stopped by another train, and after three days the passengers were carried to the Wheat Growers Hotel and stayed there, with the dining car crew and train staff helping to cook and take care of the passengers.

The Wheat Growers fell on hard times in later years and closed in 1988. It is currently listed for sale. As you can see from this picture, it is not in the best shape. The Union Pacific Mainline through Nebraska to North Platte, NE is on the other side of the street from this building. There is a track Maintenance facility next to the track where the former station was located.



Just down the street from the Wheat Growers Hotel is this Underpass. This road is the old Highway 71, which is now bypassed around the city. This underpass flooded frequently closing the highway



during heavy summer rainstorms.

This may look familiar if you look at the Walthers underpass kit.



OZARKS MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION'S (OMRA)

39th Annual Train Show

Springfield, MO



The attendance was great with some 2,000 adults and children participating this past Marh 11, 2017. Emphasis was placed on promoting the event to families and many hands on activities were available for children from operating the Simulator to setting out and spotting cars on a switching layout manned by members of the Central High School Key Club. There were a dozen operating layouts, the Kiddie Train and 173 vendor tables.



During the OMRA's 39th Annual Train Show the Roark Valley Modular Club layout was shut down so a blind attendee could "see" the railroad.



The OMRA had its Modular layout operating during the 39th annual Train Show March 11 in Springfield, MO.

Shirts of all types and sizes were available during the OMRA's 39th Annual Train Show in Springfield.



Mike Landis, KY3 reporter, shared video and slides about the Frisco's final days of passenger service (during the OMRA's 39th Annual Train Show, Springfield, MO 2017) marks the 50th anniversary of the last passenger train through Springfield, MO.

Some 2,000 adults and children attended the OMRA's 39th Annual Train Show ~ one day event.



Ron Williams MMR was interviewed by the local evening news team which was most influential in bringing out the crowds. Watch the interview onLine at <http://www.ozarkfirst.com/entertainment/32nd-annual-train-meet-this-weekend>

Thanks to the station for several of the screen snapshots located throughout this article.

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The shopping was brisk during the OMRA 39th Annual Train Show, Springfield, MO. Lynn Hart, MMR and his son, Jeff, took a breather.



The Kiddie Train was a popular feature during the OMRA 39th Annual Train Show in Springfield, MO this past March 11th.

Joplin's Modular HO layout got a lot of attention during the OMRA 39th Annual Train Show.





Joplin's "Balloon Man" was very popular during the OMRA 39th Annual Train Show in Springfield, MO.

Kids were fascinated with the little switching layout during the OMRA's 39th Annual Train Show



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One of the youth members of the OMRA explains a feature on the club's layout.

Kids got to spot and pick up cars on the OMRA switching layout. Members of the Central High School Key Club monitored the layout.



Lines were long throughout the day during

the OMRA's 39th Annual Train Show March 11, Springfield, MO.

Again, due to the wonderful coverage by the Television Station.



tales from the road

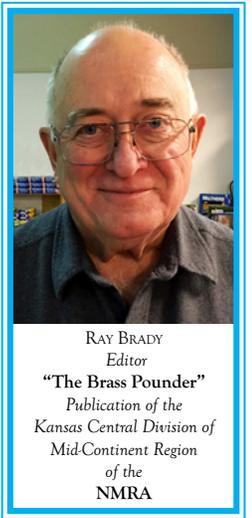


Hate to show such carnage, but derailments happen. Haven't heard the cause, but I suspect it was cold weather related. We had about three or four nights of below-zero weather on those days, and the track gage may have gotten messed up ($D = L \times \text{Alpha} \times \text{DeltaT}$). Or maybe a cracked/broken wheel aggravated by the cold.

I also have a 45 second video of the drive-by on old US 40 that parallels the track/wreck that has been uploaded to YouTube

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

Attached are the cropped pictures as published in The Brass Pounder. If you want the original to do some different photo shopping, I can send them. Each original is 2.2 meg file size, so they are much too large for the CK, but if you want them, I can send them. (*Ed: Thanks, able to PhotoShop 'em and provide nice clear images here for our readership.*)





piques in progress --- upDates...

You asked for layout photos so here are a few from my Frisco Springfield Division. Over all space is 34 x 40 which includes the Frisco's Kansas Avenue yard, 20 table top staging tracks for Memphis, St. Louis, Kansas City, Wichita, Tulsa, Ft. Smith and others plus five switching zones. A crew of 12 is needed for a full operating session.

Many of the industries represented are either demolished or no longer in business so I say I am preserving local history in my basement.

My operating system is RailCommand. There are approximately 117 locomotives and nearly 600 freight cars on the layout. Track is a combination of Shinahora and Atlas turnouts along with Railcraft and Atlas track. No idea how many feet of track there is. Let me know if you need more details.

Ron Williams MMR



A train headed for Zone 4 passes by the scratchbuilt Coulter Oil Co in Zone 5. Coulter was located in Carthage MO.

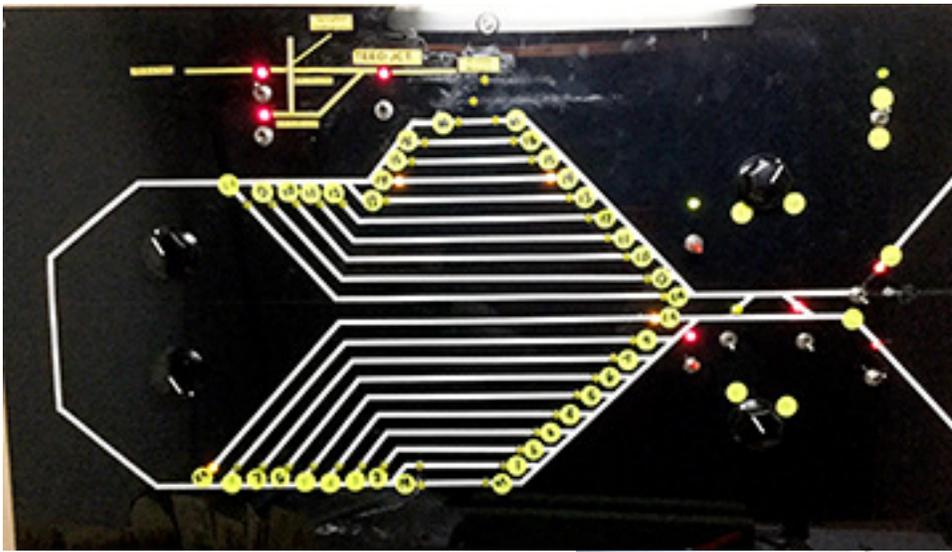
The 20 table top tracks in staging hold trains from all points on the Frisco compass. The center two tracks are for Zone 4.



A diode matrix at both ends of the yard control switches to the 16 bowl tracks.

The service track in the Kansas Avenue Yard.





The dispatcher panel controls trains in and out of staging.

Zone 3 is a popular job for operators.



Springfield Underground is represented in Zone 2.



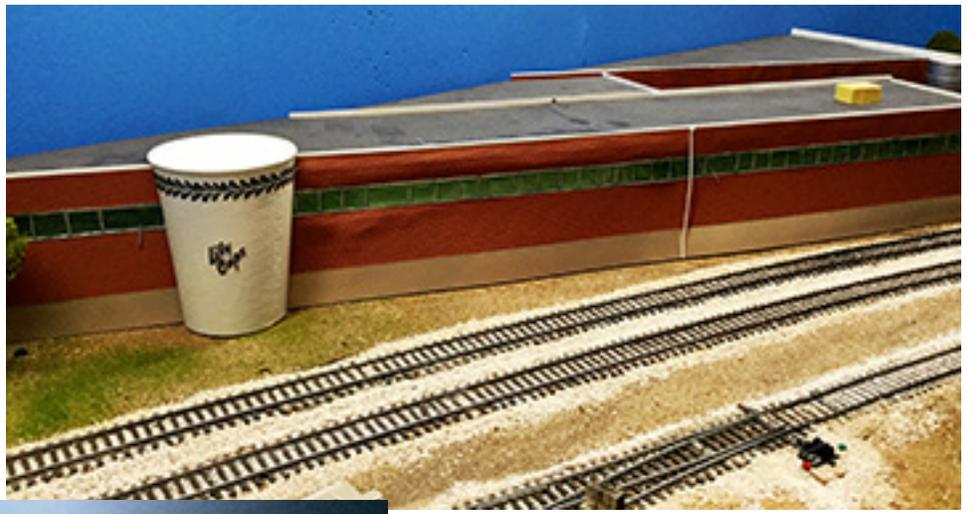
The Zone 1 switcher has finished its work and awaits the Yardmaster's instructions before returning.

Locomotives scheduled for maintenance at the yet modeled Diesel Shop. The Hostler's Pit is visible in this view.



The Frisco's Kansas Avenue Yard after the last session.

The famous cup entrance is represented on this former Springfield industry.



Lily Tulip plant in Zone 1 is busy on my layout but is no longer in business today.

McLeod Flooring and Kraft Cheese plant are in Zone 4.



Zone1's Meyer Milling shipped flour all over the world before selling to MFA who operated a Feed Mill in the 1970's. Only the cement silos of the original industry remain today.



.....
.....
Henry Kraichely

2:56 PM (19 hours ago)

**to Officers, Staff, BOD
MCoR Management Team:**

Every year the President presents the Kenny Johns award to a member in recognition of outstanding service to the Mid-Continent Region and to the Hobby of the of Model Railroading.

I need your help to look at each of your Divisions/Areas for a person(s) who would be deserving of this special award. Please send the name(s) and a brief summary for your selection. I would like to have your suggestions by April 22, 2017.

Thank you for your help, see you in Ames.

Hank

Election of MCoR Officers...

MCoR - PRESIDENT

Henry "Hank" Kraichely

St. Louis area

My name is **Hank Kraichely**. I have been a model railroader since I was a teenager and I was lucky enough to have the Burlington railroad run behind my house in Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO. After I was married and the children were still young, we had the usual train around the Christmas tree. As they grew older, I had more time and income to support my hobby but I lacked the knowledge and skills to create the layout that I saw in the hobby press.

In 1985, I joined the **NMRA** and attended my first national convention. This happened to be the 50th anniversary year of the **NMRA**. For the first time I learned about drywall screws and "L" girders and my plans grew! I joined the St. Charles Model Railroad Club and later found the Gandy Dancers, a "round-robin" group, closer to home.

In 1994, I attended a meeting of other **NMRA** members after receiving a postcard from John Hardy regarding the formation of a Division. This was the beginning of the Gateway Division.

Since that time, I have held two Gateway Division offices: I was assistant Superintendent for two years and Superintendent for a total of seven years. In addition, I was Division Director for two years, chaired five Fall Meets, was the outside activities chairman for the 2001 National Convention in St. Louis and chaired the 2012 MCoR Regional Convention in St. Louis. I also served **NMRA** National for 11-1/2 years as an **NMRA** Bulletin Advertising Manager.

In 2005, I was honored to receive the "Larry Long Award Memorial" for outstanding service and dedication as Division volunteer of the year.

Presently, I am serving my second year Mid-Continent Region President.

I was honored to be asked to run for a second term as President of the MCoR region and I am asking for your support.

My current focus is to involve children and their parents in model trains for 5-9 year olds and model railroading for kids 10 and above.



The MCoR Board and I are searching for ways to bring youth and their families into the hobby thereby insuring a bright future for our great hobby and the **NMRA**.



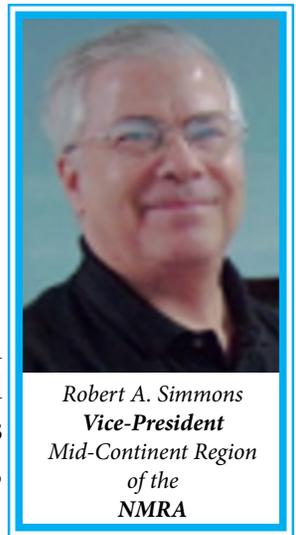
MCoR - VICE PRESIDENT

Robert A. Simmons

Garden City, Kansas

Career Background:

I was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri and in 1975, began a 27-year career in Radio Broadcasting in Fulton, Missouri. Now retired, I began as a DJ, and worked my way across the Midwest, and up the ranks from Program Director to Operations Manager, to Sales Manager, to finish my career as General Manager in Garden City, Kansas. I also spent 10-years selling modular homes in Garden City.



Modeling Background:

My Father started me in model railroading in 1962, with a Lionel HO-scale train set, and I have been an active modeler ever since, as time and money allowed. In 1994, I joined the local Boot Hill Model Railroad Club, and helped construct the Clubs N-scale, N-Trak layout. In 2008, I was voted in to the Vice-President position of the Club, a position I have held ever since.

Also in 2008, I discovered the **NMRA**, became a member, and since the Division was inactive, I was appointed the Division Director, a position which I have also held since. Since joining the NMRA, I have tried to promote the hobby as much as possible, promote the **NMRA** in general, and the Western Kansas Division specifically. Each month, I publish a electronic newsletter for the Division entitled “The Main Line”, which I send to anyone who requests a copy. Realizing a need to change recruitment tactics, I created a website for the Western Kansas Division, which you can view at wkd-nmra.org. I am also working on a Division FaceBook™ page, and a Twitter™ account.

Since my retirement in 2010, I have embarked on the Achievement Program, earning certificates in Model Railroad Engineer-Civil, Model Railroad Engineer-Electrical, Master Builder-Scenery, Master Builder-Structures, and Association Official.

For a couple of years, I have contributed to the **Caboose Kibitzer**, and have offered several photos and articles for publication.

As we have all grown older, most of my fellow local club members have opted to leave N-scale to build small On30 layouts, but I am currently constructing my own, sectional, N-scale layout measuring 18-feet by 24-feet, to replace my older N-Trak layout. I have also purchased a former ambulance to transport the layout to train shows around the area. Besides my “Western Kansas Rails” traveling layout, I also work on my home N-scale layout which is designed for operations and DCC control, and assist anyone else who needs help on their layout



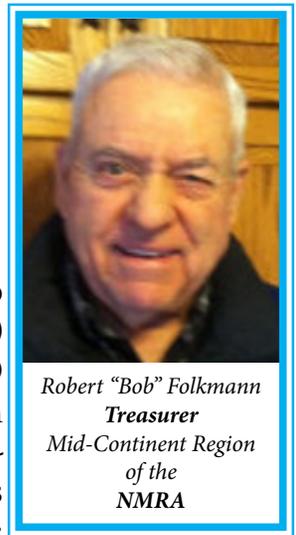
I would be honored to serve MCoR as Vice President.

MCoR - TREASURER

Robert "Bob" Folkmann

Ames, Iowa

Bob has been interested in railroads since an early age, the result of having grown up next to the railroad tracks that ran by his house. His first train was a Lionel (of course) at the age of nine which led to several layouts over the years. Bob currently has an HO layout at home and a G-scale that runs at Christmas time. Bob is also involved with large scale models in 1.5 inch to one foot size or one eighth of full size. He has a locomotive and twelve freight cars in this size that he operates at several live steam clubs where he is a member. Bob has also volunteered with the 30" gauge railroad that has two steam locomotives at the Omaha Zoo where he learned to actually run a steam locomotive.



Bob was employed at the Iowa DOT as an Engineer in the Rail Division. Bob administered the Federal and State funds used to upgrade many of the branch lines in Iowa as well as the economic development funds used to build new rail spurs. He was also an FRA qualified track inspector and spent much time walking and high-railing the railroads in Iowa. The experience was invaluable and very educational.

Bob is involved with the **NMRA** locally with the Kate Shelley Division of which he is a charter member and has served as Paymaster, Superintendent, and Division Director. Bob has also served as chair several times for the annual meet. Bob was honored by the Mid-Continent Region with the "Larry Long Memorial Award" in 2006.

Bob is very active in the Boy Scouts where he currently serves as Unit Commissioner in the local District. He has also been heavily involved with the Railroading Merit Badge and served on the National Jamboree Railroading Staff at three National Jamborees. Bob was chair for an event in Boone, Iowa in 2002 & 2011, where over 950 Boy Scouts earned the Railroading Merit Badge and was co-chair again for the 'Iowa Railroad Camporee' in 2015, where another 1000 boys earned the Badge. Bob is currently serving as Scouting Coordinator for the Mid-Continent Region, an appointed position.

Bob's goal is to promote the hobby and share in the love of railroading which is a great hobby. Bob is currently serving as the MCoR Treasurer since 2013 and would like to continue in that position. Bob was treasurer for his home church for ten years after retiring from the Iowa DOT. Bob would like to continue serving as an officer with MCoR which is an excellent opportunity to promote the hobby and to be involved with people that share the same enthusiasm. Serving two terms as Division Director and now two years as Region Treasurer has been very beneficial to becoming familiar with the workings of the Region and the direction taken by the region board. Bob would be honored to continue serving on the Region Board as Treasurer.



MCoR - SECRETARY

Brad Slone, MMR

Dixon, Missouri

I am currently serving as the MCoR Secretary, appointed by the President as a mid-term replacement. I have been active in the Mid Continent Region for many years and was proud to receive my **Master Model Railroader** certificate in 2010. I have been an active modeler since receiving my first Tyco train set at the age of five. Although I am a fan of many Midwestern railroads the Frisco has always been the railroad I have chosen to model. Early on I modeled the 2nd generation diesel era, however, upon watching the numerous runs of the 1522, I decided to back date to the early 1940s. I reside with my wife and son in the central Missouri community of Dixon. Currently, I am employed by the US Army Corps of Engineers where I have been fortunate enough to be certified as a Department of Defense railroad track inspector. Among other duties I have inspected the replacement of seven railroad bridges. I have enjoyed the time I have spent as the South Central Missouri area director and feel there is a lot more I can give to the region. I worked intently on development of the regional meet in Jefferson City, June, 2015. I have made many clinic presentations including regional meets. I believe the region should be active in recruiting new members as well as introducing the public to the hobby. I feel that the opportunity to serve in an officers position as a great honor and not one to be taken lightly. If elected I will do my best to humbly serve the MCoR membership in the tradition of past presidents and to help promote the World's Greatest Hobby.



*Brad Slone, MMR
Secretary
Mid-Continent Region
of the
NMRA*



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Caboose Kibitzer
2nd Quarter 2017

14TH ANNUAL KCNG NARROW GAUGE MEET

An invitation to all Narrow Gaugers (and all other model railroaders, too!),

The Kansas City Area Narrow Gaugers (KCNG) will host their 14th Annual Narrow Gauge Meet on Saturday, June 24, 2017

The meet will be held at a different location this year...not far from the previous location. This year we will be at the Lackman Branch of the Johnson County Library at 15345 West 87th Street Pkwy (Lenexa, KS). To get there, take the 87th Street exit west from I-35 to Antioch (about 2 ½ miles), go west past Lackman Road and then turn left at Allman Road. This will take you into the library parking lot.

The fun will begin at 9:00am with registration and socializing. We will have clinics in the morning. A lunch will be provided near noon. A "Show-and-Tell" session will be held after lunch. Please bring something to display and share with the group. We will then have model railroad layouts available to visit during the afternoon. Meet activities will wind down at about 5:00pm.

Planned layouts will include:

- Ray Brown: HOn3 Turn of the Century D&RG- Lots of new scenery and structures.
- Ron Morse (MMR): HO/HOn30 Forks Creek & Central RR- Plus many excellent dioramas.
- Other(s) To Be Determined...

Planned clinics will include:

- Lind Wickersham: Building & Finishing Structures.
- Others ?
- Possibly a round of Mini-Clinics

Cost: \$10.00 (includes morning donuts/coffee and lunch).

Advance registrations are required by June 20, 2017, so that we can plan for lunch. Mail registration with your check to:

Larry Alfred
14633 S. Chalet Drive
Olathe, KS 66062

Make checks payable to Larry Alfred

For any of you coming in from out of town on Friday night, please consider joining us for barbeque at Jack Stack restaurant. Contact me for details.

It should be a great day to share narrow gauge modeling and conversation. You are all invited to participate!! eMail me off line (captlalfred@gmail.com) if you have questions. Hope to see you on June 24.



Alan:

I have attached an ad I received from the Editors of the OP Sig magazine. It is promoting a new book written about Model Railroad Operations. Since many of our members are in operating groups I think we should place this ad in second quarter if possible, if not then the 3rd quarter issue.

Alan, you have done so much at the last minute make this change only if won't require too much effort.

Thank you for your help,

Hank K.



I have attached an ad I received from the Editors of the OP Sig magazine. It is promoting a new book written about Model Railroad Operations. Since many of our members are in operating groups I think we should place this ad in second quarter if possible, if not then the 3rd quarter issue.

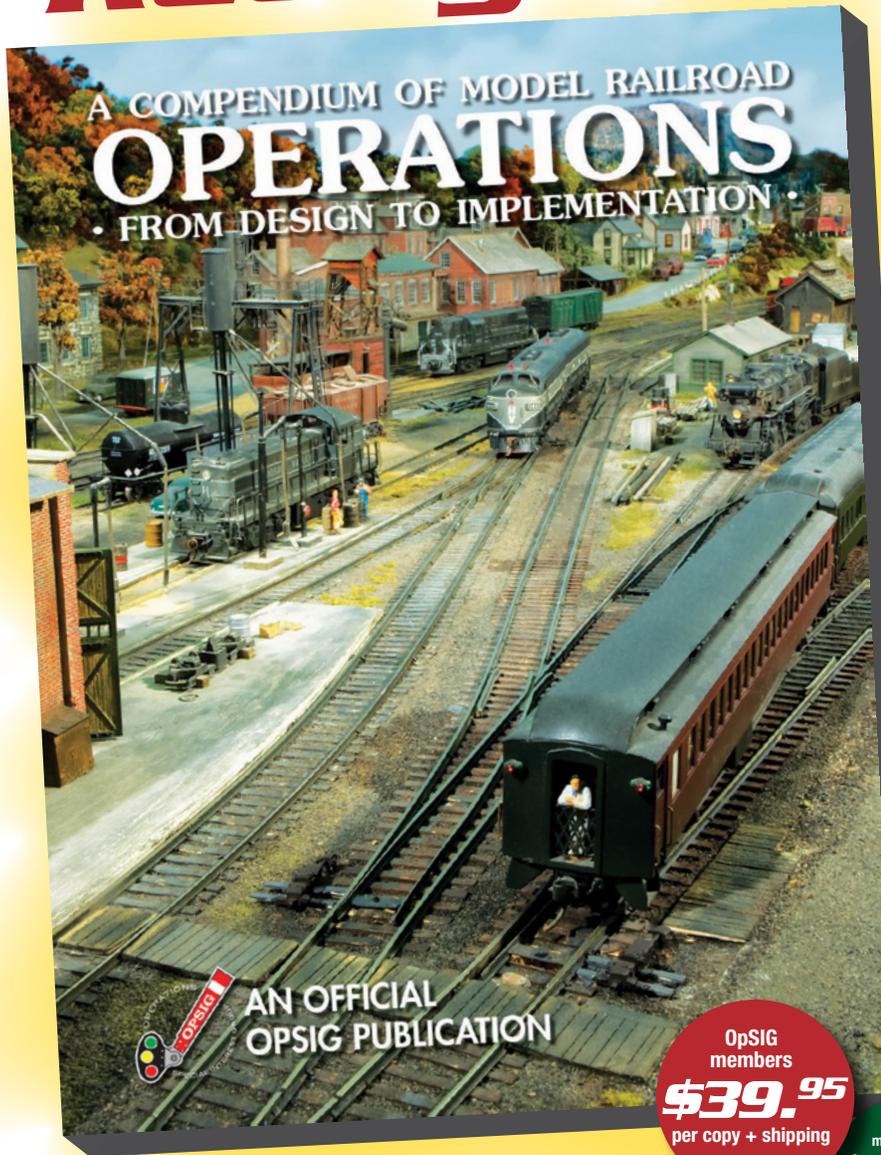
(Ed: this just in at time to publish...from Henry Kraichely, President of Mid-Continent Reigion of NMRA)

OPSIG has published a new book on Model Railroad Operations. It will be available for shipment in mid-April. All profits go to OPSIG, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Please place this announcement in your next newsletter.

**Thank you,
Steve Benezra, Phil Monat editors.**

Dispatcher to OpSIG Publication No. 2, you're ...

Ready to Roll!



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Caboose Kibitzer
2nd Quarter 2017

Calendar of Events

April, 2017

1st • Greater Tulsa Train Show (Tulsa, OK)

Bixby Community Center • 211 North Cabaniss Avenue (Bixby, OK)

9:00am - 3:00pm

Admission: \$4/Adult; Kids under 12 free

Learn more from: Bob Pope (405) 250-8449

1st • TW Train Worx 5th Layout Festival (Dallas, TX)

2808 McGowan Street

10:00am - 5:00pm

Admission: \$10/person; \$20/family • part of proceeds benefit Ronald McDonald House

Learn more from: Dorcie Farkash (214) 634-2965

6th - 8th • 32nd Sn3 Symposium (St. Louis, MO)

St. Louis Airport Marriott Hotel

Learn more at:

<http://www.2017sn3symposium.com/>

12th & 13th • 20th Annual Train Show (Nebraska West-Central Division, NMRA) (North Platte, NE)

Sat & Sun • D & N Event Center • 501 East Walker Road

May, 2017

6th • 6th Annual Model Train & RR Memorabilia Show (Marcelline, MO)

Walsworth Community Center • 124 East Ritchie Road

9:00am - 4:00pm

Learn more from: Dennis VanDyke • (660) 734-2195

FaceBook™: Walsworth Community Center

20th • Train Collectors Association (TCA) 40th Annual Spring Train Show

Garden Ridge Community Center • 9500 Municipal Parkway

10:30am - 4:00pm

Admission: Adults \$6.00; Family \$9.00

Learn more from: Pat Halpin • (210) 661-4238

PatHalpin@aol.com

18th - 21st • Mid-Continent (MCoR) / Thousand Lakes Regions Convention (NMRA) (Ames, IA)

Quality Inn • I-35 & 13th Street • Ames, IA 50010-

(515) 232-9260

(800) 903-0009

Thursday - Sunday •

Learn more from: Whit Johnson

1117 East 16th Street South

Newton, IA 50208-

ConventionStaff@MCoR-NMRA.org

June, 2017

3rd - 4th • **Second Annual Center of the Nation Model Train Expo** (Hutchinson, KS)

Sunflower North Building • Kansas State Fairgrounds

Saturday ~ 9:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday ~ 9:00am - 3:00pm

Vendors Wanted

Learn more from: Don Phillips (620) 662-5906
1508 West 17th
Hutchinson, KS 67501-

3rd - 4th • **NE - NE-IA Railroaders 46th Annual Train & Toy Show** (Omaha, NE)

Ralston Arena • 7300 Q Street

9:00am - 4:00pm

Admission: \$6.00; under 12 free

Vendors Wanted

Learn more from: Bob Schaffer (402) 253-8885, or
Ron Bond (402) 292-3392
VonSuzBond@cox.net

10th & 11th • **“TrainFest 2017”** (Enid, OK)

Oakwood Mall • 4125 West Owen K. Garriott (HWY 412)

Saturday ~ 9:00am - 3:00pm

Sunday ~ 10:00am - 3:00pm

Admission: \$5.00 adults; \$3.00 Children (3-12); Under 3 are free with accompanying adult

Sponsored by the Cherokee Strip Model Railroad Association

Learn more from: Randy L. Lutz (580) 478-2631

RandyLutz01@gmail.com

<https://FaceBook.com/groups/1023938987672308>

21st - 25th • **Annual Convention of the Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society** (Tulsa, OK)

<http://atsfr.org/>

<http://sfrhms.org/conventions/>

July, 2017

1st & 2nd • **Train Show & Open House** (Spring Creek Model Trains) •

Sat & Sun • 304 East Bryson Avenue (Drescher, NE)

10th - 15th • **National Garden Railway Convention** (Tulsa, OK)

<http://www.thinktulsa17.com/>

July 30th - August 6th • **National Model Railroad Association (NMRA)**

The Rosen Plaza Hotel (Orlando, FL)

<http://nmra2017.org/>



August, 2017

August 4th - 6th • National Train Show

Orange County Convention Center (Orlando, FL)

<http://nmra2017.org/NationalTrainShow.aspx>

<http://www.nationaltrainshow.org/2017/ntsorlando.html>

30th - September 2nd • 37th National Narrow Gauge Convention (Denver, CO)

Wednesday - Saturday • Marriott Denver Tech Center Hotel

Learn more at:

<http://37nngc.com/index.html>



September, 2017

16th • 20th Annual Wichita Area Garden Railway Society Home Layout Tour (Wichita, KS)

10:00am - 4:00pm

Admission: FREE

Learn more from: Herb Reeves, President
ReeveHa@aol.com

<https://www.FaceBook.com/WichitaAreaGardenRailroadSociety>

23rd & 24th • Model Train Show (Wichita, KS)

Cessna Activity Center • 2744 George Washington Blvd

Learn more at:

<http://www.WichitaToyTrainClub.org>

October, 2017

November, 2017

4th & 5th • Ark City Model Train Show (Arkansas City, KS)

Agriculture Business Bldg. • 712 West Washington

Learn more at:

<http://www.WichitaToyTrainMuseum.org>

December, 2017

January, 2018

February, 2018

3rd & 4th • The Wichita Train Show & Swap Meet (Wichita, KS)

Cessna Activity Center • 2744 George Washington Blvd.

Saturday ~ 9:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday ~ 11:00am - 4:00pm

Admission: \$8/Adult for both days; Children 10 and under are free with paid adult

Vendors Wanted

Learn more from: Phil Aylward (316) 259-5190

Aylward2@cox.net

<https://www.BestTrainShow.com>

March, 2018

April, 2018

May, 2018

June, 2018

July, 2018

- 2018 National Garden Railway Convention (Atlanta, GA)

August, 2018

The NMRA 2018 National Convention
Kansas City, Missouri, August 5-12, 2018

NMRA • 2018 Kansas City (Kansas City, MO)
<http://www.kc2018.org/>

<http://kc2018.org/>



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Caboose Kibitzer
2nd Quarter 2017

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Plan to visit these upcoming:

National Narrow Gauge Conventions:

2018 - 38th • Twin Cities • Minneapolis, MN
<http://nngc-2018.com/>

2019 - 39th • Sacramento, CA

2020 - 40th • St. Louis/St. Charles, MO

2021 - 40st • Hickory, NC

Plan to visit these upcoming:

National Garden Railway Conventions:

2018 National Garden Railway Convention (Atlanta, GA)

http://www.ggrs.info/Georgia_Garden_Railway_Society/NGRC_2018.html

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Caboose Kibitzer
2nd Quarter 2017

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SWITCH LIST

FIRST QUARTER - 2017

SWITCH LIST - First Quarter 2017

The Switch List contains all known Mid-Continent Region, NMRA, train shows and Division meetings. It also lists all known club shows and swap meets in the Mid-Continent Region (IA, IL, MO, AR, NE, KS, and OK). To list your event information please

eMail: alan.a.aagaard@GMail.com

or

“Snail-Mail” your Information:

Alan A. Aagaard, Editor

Post Office Box #8339

Munger Station

Wichita, KS 67208-8339

To subscribe, or unSubscribe, to The Switch List please send an eMail to the above link. Look for us on the MCoR web site:

 www.MCoR-NMRA.org

Please put me in your newsletter



DIVISION MEETINGS *(alphabetically)*

Chisholm Trail Division ----- (Wichita, KS)

Meets the 1st Tuesday of every month at

Olivet Baptist Church

3440 West 13th Street North • Wichita, KS 67203-4560
(13th Street North & High Street)

- Begin gathering ----- 6:45pm
- NMRA meeting & program(s) ----- 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Information: Alan A. Aagaard, Division Editor

eMail: alan.a.aagaard@GMail.com

Cowboy Line Division ----- (Norfolk, NE)

Meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at

HyVee East, upstairs meeting room.

Corner of 1st Street and Norfolk Avenue

Information: Dennis M. Brandt

Telephone (402) 992-2415

eMail: DennisBrandt44@GMail.com

Eastern Iowa Division ----- (Iowa City, IA)

For other division activities check out our website monthly at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/easterniowadivision/>

or the division's Facebook™ page at: Eastern Iowa Division

Information: Tom Persoon, Superintendent

eMail: PersoonT06@msn.com

Gateway Division ----- (St. Louis, MO)

Meets the 3rd Monday each month at 7:00pm.

Odd numbered months at:

Trinity Lutheran Church

14088 Clayton Road at Woods Mill Road
(Hwy 141), Ballwin, MO

Even numbered months:

VFW Hall ----- O'Fallon, IL

Information:

<http://www.gatewaynmra.org/division.htm>

Indian Nations Division ----- (Tulsa, OK)

Meets at the new *Hardesty Library*

8316 East 93rd Street

(just east of Memorial Road in Tulsa, OK.)

The library opens at 9:00am and the meetings start at 9:30am

Information found on our web page:

www.tulsanmra.org

Contact: Dave Salamon, Superintendent

Telephone: (918) 272-5512

eMail: drs_rr@yahoo.com

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2nd Quarter 2017

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Kansas Central Division----- (Elmdale, KS)

Meets the 1st Saturday of even numbered months
meeting starts at 1pm

For the full schedule check the MCoR website or

Contact: David Heinsohn

eMail: kd0r@fhrd.net.

Kate Shelley Division----- (Ames, IA)

Meets the 4th Thursday of every month

(*except November which we meet the 3rd week and*

~~December~~ have

at the Ames Public Library

515 Douglas Avenue • Ames, Iowa

- Business meeting starts at 6:00pm and
- Social gathering at 7:00pm (anything railroad goes)

Contact Kate Shelley Division through the NMRA web site

Oklahoma Heartland Division----- (OKC, OK)

Meets in the even numbered months in the Oklahoma City area. All who are interested in Model Railroading are welcome.

Information:

www.okcnmra.org

Platte Valley Division----(Hastings, Grand Island, & Kearney, NE)

Meets quarterly in members' homes on a rotating basis or at sites of interest.

New members are always welcome.

Information: Todd L. Petersen, Division Director

Telephone: (308) 832-2200 or

eMail: todd@gtmc.net

Turkey Creek Division----- (Shawnee, KS)

Meets 4th Monday of every month at 7:00pm at

Hocker Grove Middle School

10400 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, KS 66203-2895

Information check the Division Timetable:

<http://www.tc-nmra.org/TC-Calendar.html>

Contact: Louis Seibel

Telephone: (913) 393-3495

or (913) 927-6850

eMail: L-seibel@comcast.net

Western Heritage Division----(Omaha, NE/Council Bluffs, IA)

Meets on the 1st Saturday (*except June and December*)

at 9:00am at the Sump Library

2nd & Washington Streets in Papillion (across from Runza).

Information visit the division web page:

<http://www.whd.mcor-nmra.org>

for more information and a map

Western Kansas Division----- (Garden City, KS)

Meets every Tuesday evening -----6:30pm to 9:00pm

4091/2 North Main Street

(second floor above "Stage" department store, rear

6 layouts on display (1-O27, 2-HO, 3-N)

Operating sessions available

Contact: Robert Simmons, Division Director

Telephone: (620) 521-3591 (C) or

(620) 272-0444 (H)

eMail: trainman55@hotmail.com

Facebook™ page "Western Kansas Division"

Information: Western Kansas Division website:

<http://www.wkd-nmra.org>

MONTHLY NEWS AT A GLANCE:

Saturday, April 30, 2016

Quad Chapter Meeting----- (Wichita hosting)

More information at a later date

DIVISIONS:

Kate Shelley ----- (Ames, IA)

Meets Every Tuesday @ 6:00pm

515 Douglas Avenue

Contact Kate Shelley Division through the NMRA web site

Western Kansas

Meets 6:30pm - 9:00pm

409½ North Main Street

Information: Robert Simmons,

eMail: train-man55@hotmail.com

MODEL RAILROAD CLUBS:

Wichita Toy Train Club (Wichita, KS)
 130 South Laura Street
 Saturday 10:00am - 5:00pm
 Sunday 1:00pm - 5:00pm
 \$5.00 adult, children up to 12 free

Weekend N'gineers (Olathe, KS)
 16624 West 126th Street
 Every Sunday 1:00pm
 Information: Ken Clark
 eMail: hap-heart@swbell.net

Mid Kansas Model Railroaders (McPherson, KS)
 1130 West Kansas Avenue
 Every Sunday 2:00pm - 5:00pm
 Information: John Snell
 eMail: jSnell@cox.net

Garden City Model Train (Garden City, KS)
 408 North Main Street (back entrance)
 Every Tuesday 6:30pm
 Information: Robert Simmons
 eMail: trainman55@hotmail.com

Ozarks Model Railroad Association (Springfield, MO)
 424 West Commercial Street
 Every Tuesday 7:00pm
 Information: Ron Williams
 eMail: rWilliams3129@gmail.com

Tulsa Garden Railroad Club (Tulsa, OK)
 Freewill Baptist Church
 1190 North Mingo Road
 Information:
 info@TulsaRailroadClub.org

Mexico Train Works Model RR Club (Mexico MO)
 8 West Jackson Street
 Meets every Wednesday (except at major holidays)
 at 7:00pm

Information:
 www.mexicotrains.com
 Contact: John Johnson, President
 eMail: info@MexicoTrains.com
 Telephone: (573) 581-8013

Greater Kansas City Model Railroad Club (Kansas City, MO)
 6060 NW Waukomis Drive
 Meets every other Wednesday at 7:00pm
 Information: J. D. Spicher
 eMail: jdSpicher@aol.com
 or
 W. L. Ohrnell
 eMail: wOhrnell@sbcglobal.net

Kansas City Society of Model Engineers (Kansas City,)
 Meets every Wednesday 7:00pm - 9:00pm
 Information: Steven Boeck,
 eMail: sjBoeck@att.net

North East Kansas Model Railroaders (,)
HO gauge
 Meets every Saturday at 7:00pm
 Information: Otto Wick
 Telephone: (913) 367-7536
 or
 Steve Schaefer
 Telephone: (913) 367-6202

Boothill Model Railroad (, KS)
 Meets every Saturday 1:00pm
 Information: Robert Simmons
 eMail: trainman55@hotmail.com

Heartland N-Trak of Greater Kansas City (Liberty, MO)
 131 South Water Street
 Meets every Saturday 11:00am - 3:00pm
 Information: Dick Cooper
 eMail: nScale05@gmail.com

North East Kansas Model Railroaders (Atchafalaya, MO)
 12" scale
 1440 North 6th Street
 Meets every 2nd and 4th
 Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm
 Sunday 12:00pm - 4:00pm
 Information: Otto Wick
 Telephone: (913) 367-7536
 or
 Steve Schaefer
 Telephone: (913) 367-6202

Cherry Valley Model Railroad Club (Cherryvale, KS)
 Leatherock Hotel Center
 420 North Depot Street
 Meets at 1:00pm
 Information: John Dhooghe
 eMail: john@cvmrc.com
 and visit our website
 www.cvmrc.com
 Dates of our Sunday meetings on our main page

GARDEN RAILROAD CLUBS

Northeast Kansas (at member's layout)
 Contact: Tedy Bellos
 peTedy@everestkc.net

MCoREGION CLUB ROSTER

16" Gauge Park Train-----(Kansas City, MO)
Kansas City Northern Miniature Railroad
NM 60th Street & Waukonis Drive
Kansas City, MO

Meets 1st Wednesday
each month at 7:00pm

Contact: W. Ohrnell
Telephone: (816) 746-5663
Information: www.KCNRR.com

F/G scale----- (Topeka, KS)
Northeast Kansas Garden Railway Society
(NEKAN-GRS)
1308 SW Caldon Street
Topeka, KS 66611-2412

G scale----- (Olathe, KS)
Kansas City Garden Railroad Society
"Mall of the Great Plain"
Olathe, KS 66061
Open Thursday & Friday ----- 7-9 pm
Saturday & Sunday ----- Mall Hours
Contact: David Roberts
24595 Hedge Lane
Paola, KS 66071-5444
Information:
gScaleFun@hotmail.com
and
<http://www.kcgrs.com>
or
Telephone: (913) 406-3400

2-Rail O Scale (1/4" to the foot)-(Webster Groves, MO)
Big Bend Railroad Club, Inc.
8833 Big Bend Blvd.
Webster Groves, MO 63119-3731
Information:
www.bigbendrclub.org
Facebook™
secretary@BigBendRRclub.org

O Scale----- (Jefferson City, MO)
Capital City Model Railroaders
PO Box #3243
Jefferson City, MO 65102-3243

O Scale----- (Overland Park, KS)
Kansas City Module "O"
Contact: Jack Ferris, Secretary/Treasurer
10334 Ash Street
Overland Park, KS 66207-3910
fhs1955@gmail.com

HO Scale----- (Des Moines, IA)
Central Iowa Railroad Club
Iowa State Fair Grounds
Contact: David Briely
PO Box #118
Des Moines, IA 50301-0118
Telephone: (515) 266-8899
Meets: 1st Tuesday each month
Open House: 4th-Friday each month
Information:
<http://www.facebook.com/centraliowarailroadclub>

HO Scale----- (Conway, AR)
Central AR Model RR Club
PO Box #1825
Conway, AR 72033-1825
Contact: Daniel Gladstone
Telephone: (501) 269-3030
Information:
<http://www.ARtrains.org>

HO Scale----- (Collinsville, IL)
Columbia Model Railroaders
410 Camelot Drive
Collinsville, IL 62234-4715

HO Scale----- (Odessa, MO)
Eastern Jackson County Mainliners
Model Railroad Club
"Outlet Mall"
Odessa, MO 64076-
Information:
www.EasternJacksonCountyMainlines.com

HO Scale----- (Kansas City, MO)
Greater Kansas City Model Railroad Club
Contact: Walter L. Ohrnell, President
6060 NW Waukomis Drive
Kansas City, MO 64153-
eMail: wOhrnell@kc.rr.com

HO Scale----- (Council Bluffs, IA)
Greater Omaha Society of Model Engineers
Contact: Brian Wiaters
Post Office Box 67
Council Bluffs, IA 51502-0067
Telephone: (402) 895-0296
or (402) 491-3692
Information:
SOME@TheHistoricalSociety.org

HO Scale----- (Overland Park, KS)
Kansas City Society of Model Engineers
Contact: John Teeple, President
9539 Perry Lane
Overland Park, KS 66212-5153
Telephone: (913) 492-4142
eMail: jsTeep@aol.com

HO Scale _____ (Kirkwood, MO)
Kirkwood Railroad Association
Meets every Thursday 7:00 - 9:00pm
Contact: Rich Velten, Treasurer
100 North Sappington Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122-4845
rmVelten@swbell.net
Information:
<http://www.krara-stl.org>

HO Scale _____ (Manhattan, KS)
Manhattan Area Rail Joiners
Contact: Don Clagett
1223 Pierre Street
Manhattan, KS 66502-4331
eMail: dClagett@ksu.edu
Telephone: (785) 537-7624

HO₃ Scale _____ (Saint Peters, MO)
Modular HO Narrow Gauge Society
914 Summer Leaf Drive
Saint Peters, MO 63376-7065

HO Scale _____ (Olathe, KS)
MO-KAN Rail Joiners
Contact: Louis Seibel
1069 North Logan Street
Olathe, KS 66061-6321
Telephone: (913) 393-3495
or (913) 927-6850
eMail: L-seibel@comcast.net

N Scale _____ (Wichita, KS)
Kansas Area N-Trak
2046 South Elizabeth Street
Apartment #1306
Wichita, KS 67213-3427

N Scale _____ (Harlan, IA)
Nishna Valley Railroad Society
1303 Eighth Street
Harlan, IA 51537-1640

HO Scale _____ (Marion, IL)
Southern Illinois Train Club
PO Box 1633
Marion, IL 62959-7833

HO Scale _____ (Kansas City, MO)
*Southern Kansas City Model
Railroad Historical Society*
Meets 2nd Monday each month 7pm
Open house Sat. & Sun. 12 to 5pm
8600 Ward Parkway • Suite 2030
Kansas City, MO 64114-2643
Contact: Richard Boone
Telephone: (816) 996-1534
eMail: rBoone@traintown-kc.com
Information:
<http://www.traintown-KC.com>

HO Scale _____ (Bella Vista, AR)
*Sugar Creek Model Railroad &
Historical Society, Inc.*
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Bella Vista, AR 72714-5452

HO Scale _____ (Indianola, IA)
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Wichita, KS 67201-8082
eMail: WCMR1@cs.com

HO Scale _____ (Glen Carbon, IL)
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Work/run meetings _____ 6:30pm
every Thursday at Club House -
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each month.
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Contact: Bill Davis or Bob Gibson
eMail: memrrc@gmail.com
Information:
www.trainweb.org/memrc

N Scale _____ (Hutchinson, KS)
Kansas Central Model Railroad Club
Contact: Charles Moll
3106 Tulane Place
Hutchinson KS 67502-2481
eMail: c.Moll@sbcglobal.net
Telephone: (620) 663-8167

N Scale _____ (Fenton, MO)
Mississippi Valley N Scalers
20 Apostle Court
Fenton, MO 63026-
eMail: mvns@railfan.net
Information:
<http://mvns.railfan.net>

N Scale _____ (North Kansas City, MO)
Missouri Northern Railroad Society, Inc.
PO Box #12591
North Kansas City, MO 64116-2591

N Scale _____ (Oklahoma City, OK)
Oklahoma N-Rail
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eMail: info@oknrail.org
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Telephone: (816) 966-1534
eMail: rBoone@traintown-kc.com
Information:
www.traintown-kc.com

N Scale _____ (Hastings, NE)
Tri-City Model Railroad Association
607 South Shore Drive
Hastings, NE 68901-2609

HO Scale _____ (Springfield, MO)
Ozark Model Railroad Association
424 West Commercial Street
Springfield, MO 65803-2650

N Scale _____ (Springfield, MO)
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603 South Smokyhill Avenue
Oakley, KS 67748-2321

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Little Rock, AR 72205-5832

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Telephone: (816) 816-3449
eMail: TedTschi@kc.rr.com



You will locate the invoice for the Caboose Kibitzer on the very next page.

I have changed some prices on the cost of ads to give a better price for vendors to advertise for a year and half. For the last 2 issues of 2016, and all of 2017. They will be getting a half a year free.

That also applies to the pike ads and NMRA Dealer ads.

Louis O. Seibel
Advertising Manager
Caboose Kibitzer
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Olathe, KS 66061-6321
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(C) (913) 927-6850



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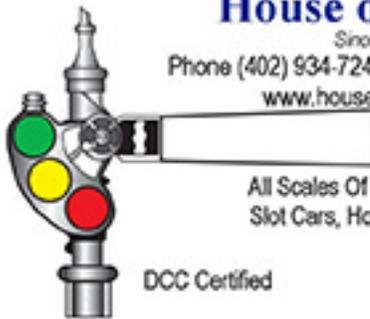
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2nd Quarter 2017

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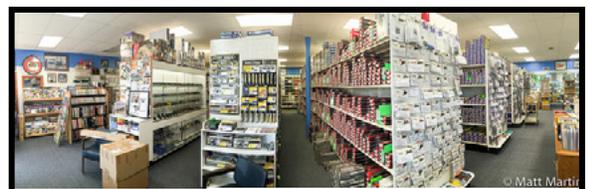



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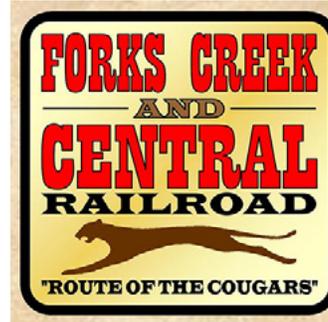
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Continued on page 26

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Please pass the above link to anyone who may be interested in the Rock Island. Back issues available. E-mail updates appreciated. Stories and smaller articles welcome. Send to Editor Tom Brugman, tbrug@aol.com.

Dave Engle; RIRocket@att.net, Kansas City, clerk-helper

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August, 2017

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<http://nmra2017.org/NationalTrainShow.aspx>

<http://www.nationaltrainshow.org/2017/ntsorlando.html>

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