CABOOSE

K I B I



T

Z







PROTOTYPE INSPIRATION

- Chasing the Empress—Page 7
- Alabama Bound with Brad Slone—Page 17
 ALSO IN THIS ISSUE
- Module Repairs with Paper Towels—Page 13
- Regional Awards—Page 28

Volume 74, Number 4 4th Quarter 2024

October—November—December

Mid-Continent Region of the National Model Railroad Association

www.mcor-nmra.org

Table of Contents Page	9
Division Locations and Contacts3	
The Head End5	
Larry Diehl	
Editor's Musings6	
Pat Hiatte	
Chasing the Empress7	
<i>Ryan Moats, Doug Harding,</i> John Butchart	Ī
Module Repairs with Paper Towels13	
Robert Simmons	
Alabama Bound17	
Brad Slone	
Lighting Up a Model Ash Pit24	
Larry Holcombe, Steve McKee	
Regional Awards28	
MCoR Members Pike Registry30	
MCoR Regional Club Rosters31	
MCoR Region Resources33	
Master Model Railroaders in <i>italics</i>	

Caboose Kibitzer Staff

EditorPatrick Hiatte							
ckeditors@mcor-nmra.org							
Editor-At-Large Hank Kraichely							
Associate Editors - The Yard Crew							
AP Chairman Craig Drenkow, MI	MR/Marty Vaughn, MMR						
Membership Chairman	Whit Johnson						
Copy Excellence	Robert Simmons						
Associate Editors—	<u>The Road Crew</u>						
Central Missouri Area	Dean Smith, MMR						
Chisholm Trail Division	Phil Alyward						
Cowboy Line Division	Craig Drenkow, MMR						
Eastern Iowa Division							
Fallen Flags Division							
Gateway Division							
Great Midwestern Division							
Indian Nations Division							
Kate Shelley Division							
Kansas Central Division							
Little Rock Area							
Nebraska West-Central Division							
Oklahoma Heartland Division							
Ozark Mountain Area	Pamela MacPhail						
Platte Valley Division							
Turkey Creek Division							
Western Heritage Division							
Western Kansas Division	Robert Simmons						

The Caboose Kibitzer

The Caboose Kibitzer© is the official publication of the Mid-Continent Region (MCoR) of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA). Subscription to the Caboose Kibitzer is free.

All MCoR NMRA members automatically receive electronic distribution by e-mail. Non-NMRA members may request free electronic distribution by going to this web page and subscribing:

Caboose Kibitzer Subscription

Original, non-copyrighted information and material submitted for publication should be addressed to the Editor, but no payment can be made. Guidelines for submittal are available from the Editor at ckeditors@mcor-nmra.org.

All submissions become the property of MCoR whether or not published. The Editor reserves the right to reject information.

Deadline: All items submitted for publication must be received before the dates listed below to be included in the next issue. The Editor will attempt to include the information in the next issue, but there may be a delay because of a backlog.

Content Deadline

Issue	Due Date
First Quarter	December 1
Second Quarter	March 1
Third Quarter	June 1
Fourth Quarter	September 1

The editorial policy of this publication reflects the opinion of the Editor unless otherwise credited, and does not reflect the policy of MCoR-NMRA.

Any item in this publication may be reproduced unless specifically restricted, but proper credit is requested.

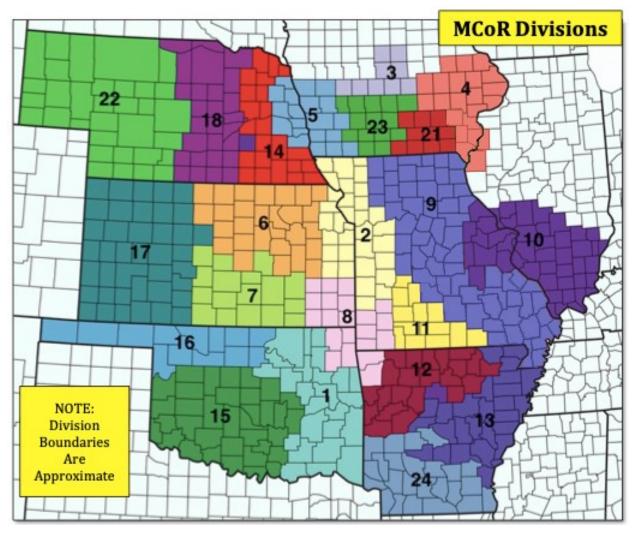
NMRA member E-mail address changes should be directed to the NMRA headquarters at the following link

nmrahq@nmra.org

Application (either online, or printed and mailed in) for NMRA membership may be obtained here:

https://www.nmra.org/member-services

M C O R D I V I S I O N S



Div isio n	Division/Area Name	Director	E-mail	Divis ion	Division/Area Name	Director	E-mail
1	Indian Nations Division	Ray Brunner	dir-2901@mcor-nmra.org	13	Little Rock Area	William Hobbs	dir-2913@mcor-nmra.org
2	Turley Creek Division	Ray Brown	dir-2902@mcor-nmra.org	14	Cowboy Line Division	Craig Drenkow. MMR	dir-2914@mcor-nmra.org
3	Kate Shelley Division		dir-2903@mcor-nmra.org	15	Oklahoma Hartland Division	Kurt Konrath	dir-2915@mcor-nmra.org
4	Eastern Iowa Division	Allen Merta, MMR	dir-2904@mcor-nmra.org	16	Northern Oklahoma Area	_	dir-2916@mcor-nmra.org
5	Western Heritage Division	Rick Stone	dir-2905@mcor-nmra.org	17	Western Kansas Division	Robert Simmons	dir-2917@mcor-nmra.org
6	Kansas Central Division	Larry Tiffany	dir-2906@mcor-nmra.org	18	Platte Valley Division	Jim Wells	dir-2918@mcor-nmra.org
7	Chisholm Trail Division	Phil Aylward	dir-2907@mcor-nmra.org	21	Fallen Flags Division	John Rietveld	dir-2921@mcor-nmra.org
8	Maple Leaf Area	Joseph Giunto	dir-2908@mcor-nmra.org	22	Nebraska West Central Division	Gene Tacey	dir-2922@mcor-nmra.org
9	Central Missouri Area	Dean Smith, MMR	dir-2909@mcor-nmra.org	23	Great Midwestern Division	Doug Harding,MMR	dir-2923@mcor-nmra.org
10	Gateway Division	David Lowell	dir-2910@mcor-nmra.org	24	Southern Arkansas Area	_	dir-2924@mcor-nmra.org
11	Ozark Mountain Area	Pamela MacPhail	dir-2911@mcor-nmra.org				
12	Northern Arkansas Area	Tim Force	dir-2912@mcor-nmra.org				





Note: COVID-19 cancelled many in-person meetings in leu of ZOOM meetings. And now, some Divisions are resuming in-person meetings. Check before showing up...

Division 1: INDIAN NATIONS DIVISION (Tulsa, OK): Meet 4 times a year. Unless otherwise specified, all Indian Nations NMRA meets are held at the new Hardesty Library, 8316 E. 93rd. St. just east of Memorial Rd. in Tulsa, OK. Library opens at 9:00AM and the meetings start at 9:30AM-12:30. Superintendent - Allan Roecker 918-866-5732 or allanroecker@yahoo.com. Web page: www.tulsanmra.org for meeting dates and additional info.

Division 2: TURKEY CREEK DIVISION (Kansas City Area): 4th Tuesday every month at 7:00PM except Dec Holiday Party (Dec 17, 2019), at Lakeview Village, 9000 Park Pl., Eastside Terrace Bldg., Lenexa, KS. For current information: Martin Wade, TurkeyCreekNMRA@gmail.com or the Division Timetable http://www.tc-nmra.org/TC-Calendar.html

Division 4: EASTERN IOWA DIVISION: Bob Perkins, director (dir-2904@mcor-nmra.org

Division 5: WESTERN HERITAGE DIVISION (Omaha, NE/Council Bluffs, IA): 1st Saturday (except January) at 9:00AM in the Sump Memorial Library, 222 N Jefferson St. (2nd & Washington Streets) Papillion, NE (across from Runza). For the latest, up-to-date information visit the WHD web site at:

http://www.whd.mcor-nmra.org or the WHD Facebook page, Western Heritage Division, NMRA.

Division 6: KANSAS CENTRAL DIVISION: 1st Saturday even-numbered months. Meetings start at 1PM. For the next meeting's location and program please email dir-2906@mcor-nmra.org or rkboelling@gmail.com.

Division 7: CHISHOLM TRAIL DIVISION (Wichita, KS): 1st Tuesday each month at the Olivet Baptist Church, 3440 West 13th St, Wichita, KS 67203 (13th Street North & High Street). Gathering-6:45PM; NMRA meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM. Info: Dean Lippincott, email dlippp5a@gmail.com

Division 10: GATEWAY DIVISION (ST. Louis, MO) 3rd Monday each month, 7:00PM. Odd numbered months at Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road at Woods Mill Rd (Hwy 141), Ballwin, MO. Even numbered months at VFW Hall, O'Fallon, IL. Info: http://www.gatewaynmra.org/division.htm

Division 14: COWBOY LINE DIVISION (Norfolk, NE): 3rd Thursday each month, 7:00PM at HyVee East upstairs meeting room. Corner 1st Street and Norfolk Ave. Info: Dennis M. Brandt, MMR, phone 402-992-2415, email dennisbrandt44@gmail.com

Division 15: OKLAHOMA HEARTLAND DIVISION (Oklahoma City, OK): meets in the even months in the Oklahoma City area. Contact OHD Director at <u>dir-2915@mcor-nmra.org</u>. All who are interested in Model railroading are welcome.

Division 17: WESTERN KANSAS DIVISION (Dodge City, KS): Meetings pending a new location. Info: Robert Simmons, Division Director, 620-521-3591(C) or 620-272-0444(H). Facebook page "Western Kansas Division"; e-mail: trainman55@hotmail.com

Division 18: PLATTE VALLEY DIVISION (Hastings, Grand Island, and Kearney, NE): Meet quarterly in members homes on a rotating basis or at sites of interest. New members are always welcome. Info: Jim Wells, Division Director, 402-705-1048 or dir-2918@mcor-nmra.org



The Head End

By Larry Diehl, President MCoR

The last couple of months have been very busy. Top of the list is securing a location and venue for MCoR 2025 Convention. I have pursued several locations with the most promising creating convention joining MCoR with NNGC in St. Louis. There are lots of hurdles and involves some changes in the way we do things, but the positives far outweigh minor alterations. We are 100 attendees vs. 600 to 800 NNGC!

The opportunity will be much expanded clinic subjects, a much larger train show and probably more layouts available for touring! It's not final yet, pray for a favorable vote in the near future.

This is a fantastic opportunity.

We are receiving info on the upcoming 2025 Novi (Detroit) NMRA Convention. They are saying things are changing in this convention. A sincere effort to make the convention more interesting and less costly! (Novi should be less costly than downtown Detroit!).

Fall is upon us. Waving good-bye to the heat will be a blessing. We all have extra chores in the fall with the yard, but the sun is going down earlier and earlier! Maybe a little more modeling time.

Speaking of modeling, we all could work toward AP certificates. We need to show up and show off more in the pages of CK and NMRA magazines, note that page in back of NRMA magazine where it says name and region you get the AP certificate.

Take a few pictures of the model you are building, write a draft of an article, how you did it! Submit to Pat Hiatte our CK Editor, patrickhiatte@gmail.com. He will help you "polish it" for publication. High definition setting on your phone camera usually works well!

Enjoy life, and your grandkids. They are precious ... Model Railroading is also fun!

Sincerely, Larry W. Diehl President MCoR





Editor's Musings By Pat Hiatte

This issue features a couple stories based on the contributors; travesl to seek out trains and rolling stock that are either well beyond their back yards or special events beyond the ordinary run of trains in their neck of the woods.

Travel affords all of us one of those rare opportunities to being a breath of fresh air to our modeling and railfanning. Even travel for other purposes generally yields, to those of us alert to the possibilities, a glimpse of railroading beyond the mundane.

The image at right, for example, was shot from a hotel room in Tokyo after disembarkation from a cruise. It was intended to show the density of Tokyo, but down toward the bottom it includes a Japanese high-speed train on an eight(!) track main line near Shimbashi Stattion. Turning to the right gave a view of a double-track monorail system.

And the traffic density! During a random five-minute period in mid-afternoon well before rush hour, seven trains passed by this window. The passage of the high-speed trains brought to mind a fellow N-scaler whose pride and joy was a Japanese high-speed train the he delighted in running on a modular layout set in North Texas.

The moral of the story: Get out and about, and as you do, keep your eyes and your mind open to the rich modeling possibilities the country and the world have to offer.



Sandy Hiatte photo



Chasing the Empress

By Ryan Moats, MMR—Doug Harding, MMR—John Butchart

As part of the Kansas City Southern/Canadian Pacific merger, May of 2024 saw a transcontinental journey of the Canadian Pacific's Hudson #2816 ("The Empress"). On May 11, the route of this journey started outside of Davenport, Iowa, and ran down the CP/KCS line through Ottumwa, IA to Chillicothe, MO and ending the day in Kansas City.

Doug and John had originally thought to see the Empress while it was in Ottumwa. My goals were somewhat more lofty – I had looked at the route and realized that there was about a 20 mile segment of track that paralleled Missouri State Highway 139 from Newton, MO through Osgood, MO and I was aiming to pace the Empress on this stretch. Fortunately, I managed to persuade John and Doug to join me for the duration.

Our day started by driving down from Indianola to Ottumwa, where we arrived a couple of hours before the Empress was due in. This gave us time to railfan the area (Ottumwa has a CB&Q Hudson on static display by their city offices (Photo 1)).



Photo 1: CB&Q 3001 Static Display

We originally thought to take shots of the Empress as it crossed over the BNSF mainline north of the Ottumwa Amtrak station (Photo 2) but then we decided to take a run over to the CP Ottumwa yard (milepost 302.8) and see if we could catch it as part of its crew change stop.



Photo 2: BNSF/KCS/CP Crossover in Ottumwa

We didn't take the correct route and ended up on the north side of the yard. I figured that if we angled south on some dirt roads, we could find our way to the entrance. Well, we did and we didn't – what we found was an unmarked/unfenced/unsigned back entrance to the yard and the first we realized it, we

were literally on the "wrong side of the tracks". Now, starting one's chase with a trespassing charge is definitely sub-optimal and so we high-tailed it out and back around to the official entrance. Fortunately, Canadian Pacific had opened the yard (photos 3, 4 and 5) and so long as we stayed on the pavement of the parking lot, we could rail fan the arrival. This certainly worked for us and so we settled down to wait the 45 minutes or so for the Empress' arrival.



Photo 3:

CP Ottumwa Yard



Photo 4: Ottumwa Yard looking East



Photo 5: Ottumwa Yard looking West

I used my cell phone to shoot video of the arrival (https://youtu.be/5dYJC2OD-3s) as well as extracting Photo 6 as my favorite frame of the video. During the crew change, we were fortunate to see an opposite direction manifest freight, which Doug was able to capture in Photo 7. After this, we took advantage of the crew change to grab some lunch and set up at our next photo opportunity point.



Photo 6: The Empress at Ottumwa



Photo 7: A Manifest Freight Meeting the Empress at Ottumwa

This was a level crossing at 194th Avenue in Ottumwa a little over 3 miles (as the crow flies) west of Ottumwa yard – this led to my second video (https://youtu.be/Th4s2hzUQBE) and Photo 8 as my favorite frame.



Photo 8: Approaching Level Crossing West of Ottumwa Yard

At this point, we were now behind the Empress and so the chase began. This is when having a three man chase crew shined: I drove, Doug manned the map and radio scanner and John was able to take flying pictures out the window when we had the Empress in sight.

Our next aim was to try and see it passing over the Foster Bridges, but we ran into the other problem of railfanning: being part of the "thundering herd." The tracks run mainly on a southeast/northwest track so chasing involves a lot of back and forth on Iowa's gravel roads, and safety becomes a prime concern (one doesn't want to suddenly find the car one at a full stop and screen by gravel dust). After about half a dozen "near misses" at other crossings (pulling up to the crossing to find the rail fans already packing up), we jumped ahead of the crowd to the bridge on US 136 just outside of Lucerne, MO. This allowed the capture of the third video (https://voutu.be/Idl-eo59fHA) and Photo 9 as my favorite frame.



Photo 9: From US 136 Railroad Bridge

Now began the part of the day that was my main reason for chasing. We were able to get into the stream of vehicles going south on Missouri 139 and were able to pace the Empress! With the amount of traffic, trying to shoot a video from the car just wasn't safe, so Doug and I just enjoyed the experience. It was truly a "bucket list experience" and kudos to Canadian Pacific Kansas City Railroad for the work they've done to improve the quality of the track. Doug has mentioned that most of that track was rated only 40 mph, but while chasing, we found that the Empress was able to run at her rated speed of 50 mph over most of the trackage.

Our last stop was to jump forward to "Chillicothe North" at Milepost 422. Once we arrived, we had a bit of wait, due to the Empress being held while track damage south of where we had set up was inspected (the result was a order for the Empress to hold 25 mph from mile 425 to mile 432). Our patience was rewarded with the final run-by of the day (https://youtu.be/wAeaL50jbMs) and Photo 10.



Photo 10: At Chillicothe North



Photo 11: Ending the Chase at Chillicothe North

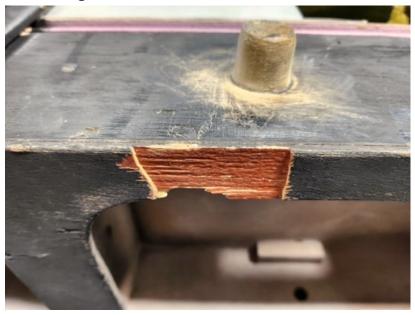
At this point we had been chasing for about 5 hours and it was time to take US 65 north back to Indianola to drop John and Doug off and for me to find my way back to Omaha. All in all, a most enjoyable way to spend a Saturday.



Module Repairs with Paper Towels

By Robert Simmons

One of the facts of life, besides Death and Taxes, is a module will suffer transportation damage sometime during its life.



(Pic 1, left) Having constructed the modules with ¼-inch plywood, when forces create a delamination, it needs to be repaired. One method that is quick and inexpensive is to use what I call "Fiberpaper". It is like fiberglass, only we are not using glass fiber mat, but paper towel.

If you have ever done some fiberglass work on vehicles, on a cleaned surface, you add a layer of resin, then you add strips of fiberglass mat while using a brush or roller to press the mat into the

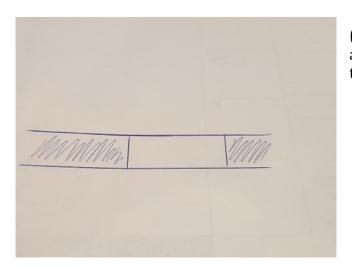
resin while adding more resin on top, making sure the mat is thoroughly saturated with the resin. The down sides of fiberglass are the glass mat is hard to work with, the glass fibers will get into your skin, and the resin is sticky, messy, and hard to clean up. Fortunately, Fiberpaper has none of the negatives.

(Pic 2, right) My preferred tools include a roll of paper towel, a bottle of wood glue, a small plastic pan, and a sponge paint brush (an old regular paint brush will do also).

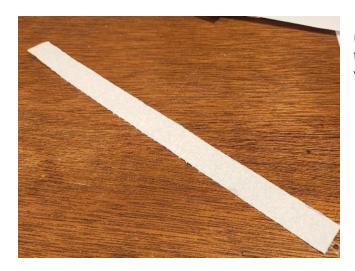
Let us start by adding a small amount of water to the pan, then I use something to place under one side of the pan to lift it up about a ¼-inch, so the water stays on one end. Add about a nickel sized blob of wood glue on the other, dry end. Dip your brush into the water, then glue, and "paint" some glue into the wound. Having cut one sheet of paper towel into strips the width of the wound, start ap-



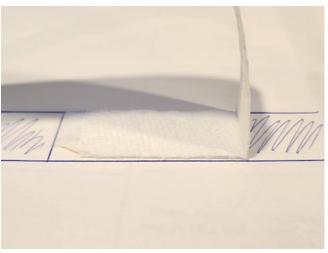
plying the paper towel strip on one side of the wound (I go left to right, but it does not matter).



(Pic 3) Since I did not take photos while making the actual repair, I drew a "wound" on a piece of paper, the open section representing the missing piece.



(Pic 4) I use the paper towels that come in small sections, and here we have a strip (much longer than the wound, or two pieces) ready to go.



(Pic 5) The start of the procedure. We have already applied a layer of wood glue to the wound. We started on the left, gently pressing the strip of towel into the glue until we reached the other side, leaving remnants of the strip sticking out. Then, using the paint brush, lightly dab more glue onto the paper towel making sure it is all saturated (but not dripping).

If the towel shifts while dabbing, just reverse the motion and move it back in place. Don't go too fast, you have plenty of time and be patient. Work the glue and towel until it is where you want, and it is saturated. You will find that if you get one end tacked down with the glue, the rest will not shift as much.



(Pic 6) After the first layer is completed, reverse and lay the strip back the other way.

After the first layer is completed, reverse direction and repeat the process for the next several layers until you have the wound filled to the top and level with the rest of the wood. Since we have added a great deal of glue I recommend letting this dry at least overnight. The next day, I return and add one more layer over the top of the repair beginning before and ending after the wound and can be wider to overlap the outer edge. This will help seal and protect the repair fill.



(Pic 7) This corner took a big hit with the plywood delaminated for several inches. First wood glue was applied to the inside of the delaminated section and was clamped overnight. The repair patch was applied the next day.



(Pic 8) The same corner after the Fiberpaper patch was applied and dried.

The next portion of the repair is to do a light sanding to smooth out any rough surfaces or edges. This is now quite hard, and if you leave little pieces sticking out they can cut. Once all the repair area is smooth, then the last step is painting with a matching color. This is important as the wood glue will lose hardness in the presence of water or moisture (not good for boats). Once sealed with paint, it will be fine. In the case of the WKR layout, we chose flat black paint for all subsurface portions. When done properly, these repairs should last for decades.



(Pic 9) The last step for the repairs is a light sanding and painting to seal the patch from any moisture.



(Pic 10) A different corner with a missing section. The missing piece was repaired (yellow portion) and the next day we applied the outer patch, ready for the final glue application.



(Pic 11) The completed repair after painting.



Alabama Bound

By Brad Slone, MMR

Brad's Travels #4

This adventure found me heading south to the home of Appalachian foothills and rockets, Huntsville, Alabama. Too many, myself included, never realized that the Appalachian range had its beginnings so far south or that Huntsville is the home of Redstone Arsenal, arguably the birthplace of the space program as we know it today.

I will have to admit I am not as knowledgeable on railroad history of the Huntsville area as I have been on some of my other trips, so I'm not going to be able to offer much insight into what the predecessors of the current railroads were, but judging on the amount of preserved equipment in the area, it's safe to say that those in the region that do know take a lot of pride in its rail heritage.

I started my exploration by visiting the North Alabama Railroad Museum located in Chase, Alabama, just north of downtown Huntsville. The museum is located on track remaining from the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway, which once served the community and is parallel to the still active line belonging to the Norfolk Southern. The museum relies on a couple Alco switchers to operate excursions up and down the line as well as an ex-military unit. In addition to the Alco power there was a completely restored box cab that was originally built for Union Carbide. This unit is in top notch condition and allows you to get up close and personal with the motive power that would eventually defeat steam. Along with the locomotives the museum has a nice collection of passenger cars, cabooses and freight equipment in various states of condition and is certainly worth the time to see what they have saved for future generations to enjoy.





A pair of venerable old Alco switcher at the North Alabama Railroad Museum

An ex military Alco road switcher















From the Alabama Railroad Museum I headed back south towards downtown Huntsville and the beautifully preserved depot and roundhouse. Located near downtown in what would have been a hub of activity in the day is the depot museum and roundhouse. Typical of depot preservation, the station has been turned into a museum, however the



roundhouse has been completely renovated as an open space and is used for community gatherings. In addition the turntable leading up to the roundhouse has been restored as a testimony to why the roundhouse existed back in the day.



There are a number of cabooses kept on site with varying lineages, but there are also several other pieces of rolling stock. As is to be expected several have southern heritages, such as a Central of Georgia 40ft boxcar (below right) and a Louisville and Nashville 60ft boxcar (below left).





But for me the most interesting was an unmarked 40ft single sheathed boxcar.



Upon investigation of the trucks, it was found to come from the Minneapolis and St Louis; it has traveled a long way to the land of Dixie.





We are going to shift gears now and move from the past to the present. Southwest of the depot is the headquarters of the Huntsville and Madison County Railroad. From what I can gather the railroad was created in 1984 when the Seaboard System decided to abandon tracks from downtown southward. I'm not sure what industries the railroad serves, but judging from the fact that every car in their small yard was a covered hopper I'd say it's heavily reliant on one major

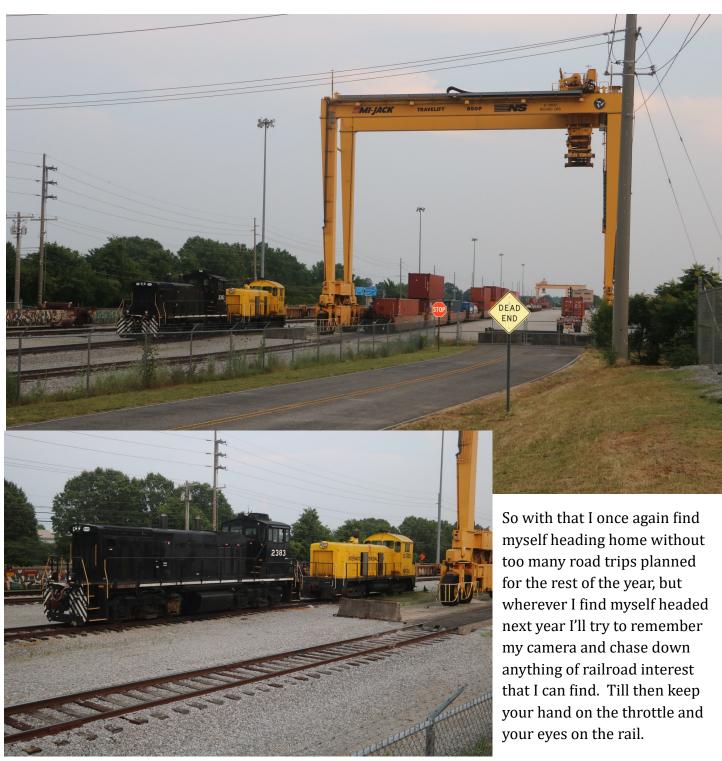
customer. The railroad seems to rely exclusively on GE power and examples of older equipment in the form of a U30B (I think) and newer in a B39-8. Overall the little railroad seemed in good condition and well equipped to handle the local shippers' needs.



After checking out the area's short line I was off to check out some mainline type action at the airport. The airport? Yes, but more on that in a moment! While headed out there I heard the unmistakable sound of a train blowing its horn for a grade crossing, so I rushed to intercept it to see what was on the move and from the sound of the horn it was moving on. I set up in the parking lot of a small industry with a break in the trees so I could get a shot and the opportunity for a shot was all I got. Turns out it was an SD40-2 running long hood forward pulling one boxcar, so there was no shortage of power. I grew up in a time when the SD40-2 was the predominate power found on the mainline. It seemed strange to see one pulling local chores, but nice to see one active none the less.



So on to the airport. You might be wondering why in the world I would bring up an airport when talking about trains; that's because Huntsville has found a very unique way to combine the two in that it has a small-scale intermodal terminal on the airport grounds. For those looking for a compact intermodal operation to model, it doesn't get better than this. *Model Railroader* actually ran an article about it many years ago, so I would suspect it has a lot more operational details than I can provide, but the yard only has six tracks and two unloading gantries. It is also equipped with a pair of EMD switchers, one an SW1500 that looks to be from the Norfolk Southern; the second unit is a bit more of a mystery. But it would be a great example of a compact and modelable operation for a layout.





Lighting Up a Model Ash Pit

By Larry Holcombe

Photos by Steve McKee

After seeing the ash pit on my Cimarron module, Steve McKee decided that he wanted one on his On3 Rio Grande Southern layout. After discussing it for two or three seconds we jumped on the project.

The first order of business was acquiring the needed materials. We started with a Fire! Module from Evan Designs in Fort Collins, CO https://www.evandesigns.com. The Fire! Module is available with several different size LEDs and various voltage configurations. We decided on the 5-19 volts model with 3mm LEDs. We also needed some .75mm fiber optic to simulate the glowing cinders. The fiber is also available from Evan Designs in a sizes from .25mm to 1.5mm. To connect the fiber to the LED we chose some 1/8 inch shrink tubing. Steve already had an ash pit kit so that's the basis and he also had some material for the ashes. If you are modeling in HO scale, Bar Mills https://barmillsmodels.com/product/the-ash-pit-at-cranberry-yard/ has a kit available. In HO scale I recommend using .50mm fiber optics instead of .75mm fiber optics.





When all the materials were at hand, we began assembly. The LEDs are rounded on the end and the fiber needs to have direct contact. We flattened the end of the LED. There is a sufficient amount of plastic above the electronic portion of the LED, so we chucked up a sanding disk in the motor tool and flattened the face of each of the three LEDs.





Here we have sanded the round end to be flat. Once sanded, the plastic had a frosted appearance, seen on the right LED here, which would cause dispersion of the light from the LED.

A felt buffing wheel and some fine rouge were used to polish the end of the LED. The rouge leaves a thin film on the LED and was removed with a soft cloth.



To test the Fire! kit again, it was connected to at 12 VDC power supply. When connecting to the power supply, the polarity matters. If the LEDs don't light, try reversing the leads for proper polarity.



The next step is installing the fiber optics. Each fiber was cut to about four inches long. Use a sharp hobby knife to score the fiber and then snap off the the end of the fiber.

Eighteen #62 holes were drilled randomly in the base of the ash pit to accommodate the fiber. A section of fiber was threaded through each hole leaving the fiber about even with the top of the ash pit.





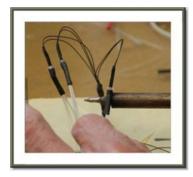
Apply a drop of thick ACC to each fiber on the bottom side. Combining ACC with baking soda instantly creates a hard plastic-like material. This will hold the fiber in place.



Six fibers were randomly selected for attachment to each LED. Gather the fibers into a section of 1/8 inch shrink tubing. The shrink tube is a snug fit on the LED and will hold the fibers. You want the ends of the fibers to be even and touching the LED.

You can use a sharp pair of wire cutters to cut all the fibers in a single bundle to the same length. The actual length doesn't matter as long as they're all even on the end. Then insert the fibers into the shrink tubing.





Use the hot end of a soldering iron to activate the shrink tubing. If you use a lighter or torch, the fiber will turn into a blob and will need to be replaced. A bit of white glue in the shrink tubing will hold them in place. After the glue is set, use a piece of tape to hold the fiber / shrink tube in place. Do not use hot glue as it will also turn your fiber into a blob.

The fibers are standing up in the ash pit ready to receive the ash material.





Testing as you go along will make sure that everything is functioning correctly. Here we have the LEDs working.

We're almost there. Use the ash material of your choice and glue it in just as you would ballast. After the ash material is put in the ashpit, soak the ash in alcohol or wet water followed by dilute white glue or matte medium to secure the ash. Let the glue dry overnight, then use an sprue nipper to cut the fiber flush with the ash.





The last thing to do is to install the finished ash pit into the layout. Here's Steve's ash pit installed at Ridgway on his Rio Grande Southern layout.





Selected from a list of well qualified regional candidates, Jeff received the Gordy Robinson NMRA President's Award for service to his Region. Jeff is a member of Gateway Division in St. Louis and serves the division as well as the region for several activities.



Terry Ross Receives Larry Long Award



MCoR President Larry Diehl presents the 2024 Larry Long Memorial Award to Terry Ross at the Chisholm Trail Division Meeting.

This award is given by the last three recipients, in recognition of Larry Long, who served as President from 1991-1993 and is best known for his Imagineering Clinics done with Pat Harriman.

This award was envisioned to recognize the individual who has contributed to the hobby by encouraging us to remember that Model Railroading is Fun.

It is presented to an individual who is known for doing outstanding and entertaining clinics, doing some of the things that promoted the Imagineering Clinics, or involving member and nonmembers in fun modeling activities.



MCoR Member's Pike Registry

The Pike Registry is a free MCoR member benefit for layout owners that would welcome other NMRA member is visits

ckeditors@mcor-nmra.org

Indian Nations Division



The Deep River Southern Railroad is a freelanced N-scale layout set in 1958. It's located in a room above the garage and is a 2-level layout designed for operations using Car Cards and Waybills. The layout is wired for DC and can accommodate 4

operators. A manual elevator connects the 2 levels. Scenery is about 90% done.

Shortline

The Dogwood and Redbud Shortline is my 7.5"-Dogwood & Redbud gauge backyard railroad that is a 550' loop with numerous bridges-two cross a creek and others are for drainage. A Super Mack, Critter, and

Speeder provide the motive power and are all battery operated. Come by, take look, go for a ride, let's operate.

Dave Salamon (918)607-2793 E-mail: drs rr@vahoo.com



Corn Country Rails is an N-scale layout primary featuring the Rock Island Railroad in the 1950s. The layout depicts a 47 mile stretch of Rock Island's Eastern Iowa single track mainline from

Homestead to Grinnell. The multi-deck layout with a helix measures 15 x 20 feet. Additional staging is in an adjacent room. It was designed for operations using four-cycle waybills, train orders, and a 3:1 fast clock. A typical operating session can keep 6-8 operators busy for about four hours with eight mainline trains, two locals, and several extras worked into the schedule. The layout is powered by an NCE DCC system with both radio and plug-in throttles. The scenery is based on rural farming towns and Iowa countryside in the summer months.

Tony Bowen, MMR - Division Superintendent E-mail: railroadteacher@gmail.com YouTube Channel: Corn Country Rails

Chisholm Trail Division

Union Pacific Through the Rockies

My HO layout is a "freelanced/fictional" version of the Union Pacific in the 60's/70's on the Rio Grande's

Route thru the Rockies. In a 13'x20' room, the layout is two levels connected by a 5 loop helix. The double track mainline is approximately 300 running feet with two small switching yards. NCE DCC supplies the power for the layout. The equipment roster shows UP F-Units, GP 38's and 40's, and UP/RGSD 40-2T's. Freight cars of all types supply the revenue for the line. You will see an occasional passenger train as well. 60% of the layout is landscaped and on the rest has industries/buildings in place—just not completed scenes. Industries served include coal, grain, fuel, and misc. LTL freight loads.

Terry Ross, Sup. E-mail: terryross16@hotmail.com Central Missouri Area

Eastern Iowa Division

Clear Creek and Quicksilver RR

The layout is a 1:20.3 indoor/outdoor layout. Outdoors has landscaping that depicts the Georgetown Loop Devil's Gate high bridge. Indoors is a logging theme railroad with basic benchwork and 250 feet of roadbed and still growing. Three locomotives have been converted to battery power with more planned.

Allen Pollock E-mail: pollocka@mchsi.com

Western Kansas Division

Western Kansas Rails

The WKR is an N-scale, sectional layout housed in its own building (but also transportable) depicting Western Kansas.

The layout measures 18x24 feet and was designed for simple operations to introduce train show spectators to the idea of operations. The third main features two staging yards, three passing sidings, and nine industries to be served powered by Digitrax DCC with radio throttles. The scenery is based on life in Western Kansas with real business names and mostly scratch-built structures, including the signature structure of the Dodge City Pride Ag Co-Op grain elevator that measures nearly 6-feet in length and dominates the skyline. Operating sessions are available.

Robert Simmons - Div. Sup.

E-mail: trainman55@hotmail.com Phone: (620) 521-3591

Little Rock Area



Missouri Pacific RR - McRae Subdivision The fictional subdivision of the MoPac is a shelf type HO model railroad occupying a 14X20 foot room and operating with CVP EasyDCC. The railroad consists of the town of McRae, Arkansas, and the now abandoned

station and the active interchange track (known as Hog Thief Crossing) with the fictional Argenta, St Joe and Northern Railroad. McRae and Hog Thief Crossing account for extensive traffic, especially during strawberry season when huge quantities of strawberries are shipped to all parts of the country. There are 5 lengthy staging tracks to supply 2 daily passenger trains, 4 freights, and 3 locals to keep operators busy running on a fast

David Bogard - Div. Sup. E-mail: mopac55@hotmail.com

Western Heritage Division

freelanced version of the D&RGW Floresta Branch which ran eleven miles west of Crested Butte to a large CF&I Anthracite Mine and



Breaker at Floresta, Colorado. Layout is 14'x24' point to point in On3 which I refer to as 'Poor Man's On3.' I have regularly scheduled operation sessions and welcome new operators.

Bill Grierson, Agent. Omaha, Nebraska, email: wgrierson17@gmail.com

Gateway Division

CB&Q RR-Hannibal Division

The K line, STL--Hannibal & a branch Old Monroe to Mexico, MO are modeled on a DD deck layout 425' of main and a 75' branch in code 83 with DCC controlling 18 trains plus 5 locals & coal & Cattle trains. Featured is a 22' long Cement plant, a quarry 5' W X10'L X 3' D + large foundry & Brick plants. Plus 5 towns with fuel dealers, grain elevators and other small shipper

Hank Kraichely-Div.Sup. to contact:

Email: hkraichely@sbcglobal.net



MCoR Regional Club Rosters

This roster is created for the benefit of members of the MCoR Region. Clubs (NMRA or Non-NMRA) wanting to be listed contact ckeditors@mcor-nmra.org

AR, Bella Vista All Scales

Sugar Creek Model Railroad & Historical Society, Inc.

PO Box #5452, Bella Vista, AR, 72714

Information: http://sugarcreekrailroadclub.com

AR, Conway HO Scale

Central AR Model RR Club

PO Box #1825, Conway, AR, 72033

Contact: Daniel Gladstone (501) 269-3030

AR, Little Rock G, HO, N Scales

Southwest Independent Modular Railroaders 3107 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, AR, 72205

AR, Shannon Hills HO, N, O

Crooked Rails Modular Club

10701 Shannon Hills Dr, Mabelvale AR 72103. Meetings 10AM Saturday. 40' x 18' traveling layout plus HO, N, and O scale at club. Visitors welcome. Contact David Ware (501-664-1923) or Charles Dempsey (510-917-

5790)

IA, Coralville HO Scale

Hawkeye Model Railroad Club

860 Quarry Rd., Coralville, IA 52241. Club entrance SE corner across street from Konami Rest. Meetings: Wednesdays 7-9PM; Visitors welcome; Check website for Saturday Open House. Contact: Tom Persoon, Public Relations Officer, Persoon06@msn.com; (319)-351-0247. Website: https://hawkeyemodelrrclub.com/

Facebook: @HawkeyeModelRailroadClub

IA. Council Bluffs HO Scale

Greater Omaha Society of Model Engineers Contact: Brian Waters, Post Office Box 67, Council Bluffs, IA, 51502; (402) 895-0296 or (402) 491-3692

Information: SOME@TheHistoricalSociety.org

IA. Des Moines HO Scale

Central Iowa Railroad Club

Iowa State Fair Grounds

Contact: David Briely, PO Box #118, Des Moines, IA,

50301 Phone: (515) 266-8899

Information: http://www.facebook.com/

centraliowarailroadclub

Meets: 1st Tuesday each month; Open House: 4th

Friday each month.

IA, Harlan N Scale

Nishna Valley Railroad Society

1303 Eighth Street, Harlan, IA, 51537

IA, Indianola HO Scale

Warren County Modular Railroaders

Transition era. RI and CB&Q

Contact: John Averill. 14910 92nd Lane. Indianola, IA.

50125; (515) 961-3018

Iowa's only 100% NMRA club

IL, Collinsville HO Scale

Columbia Model Railroaders

410 Camelot Drive, Collinsville, IL, 62234

IL, Glen Carbon HO Scale

Metro East Model Railroad Club

180 Summit Avenue, Glen Carbon, IL

Contact: Bill Davis or Bob Gibson

email: memrrc@gMail.com

Information: www.trainweb.org/memrc

Work/run meetings 6:30PM every Thursday at Club House; Business Meetings first Thursday each month.

Visitors always welcome!

IL, Marion HO Scale

Southern Illinois Train Club

PO Box 1633, Marion, IL, 62959

KS, Augusta HO Scale

Augusta Model Railroad Club, 6th & School St.,

7:30. Information: info@augustahorrclub.org

KS, Atchison

North East Kansas Model Railroaders

 $12^{\prime\prime}$ scale, 1440 N. 6th St., Atchison, Sat. 10:00-4:00PM, Sun. 12:00-4:00PM. Information: Otto Wick 913-367-

7536

KS, Cherryvale

Leatherock Hotel, 2nd floor, 420 N. Depot St., Cherryvale, Information: John R. Dhooghe, john@cvmrc.com or

www.cvmrv.com

KS, Cherryvale All Scales

Parsons Model Railroad Engineers

Cherryvale Depot, Cherryvale, KS, 68335

KS, Ellis HO Scale

Kansas Pacific Model Railroad

Ellis Museum, 911 Washington, 10:00AM. Lunch at a restaurant afterward. Information: Tom Robinson,

rrailwav@gbta.net

KS. Frankfort

Frankfort Subdivision

416 W. 1st St., 10:00-3:00PM. Information: Joe McAtee,

joem@bluevallev.net

KS, Dodge City

Western Kansas Rails N-Scale Layout

10594 W. Briarwood Dr., Information: Robert

Simmons, 620-521-3591

KS, Great Bend N, HO, O, G, Standard

Golden Belt Model Railroad Association. Meet first Tuesday of Each Month @ 7:30PM at the First United

Methodist Church, Great Bend. Correspondence to 209 E 6th, Ellinwood, KS68526, Jim Loesch,

KS, Hutchinson N Scale

Kansas Central Model Railroad Club

16 E. 3rd, Hutchinson, 11:00-4:00PM. Information:

www.kansascentralmodelrailroaders.org

KS, Lawrence

Lawrence Model Railroad Club

Bridge Pointe Community Church, 601 W. 20th

Terrace. Information:

www.lawrencemodelrailroadclub.org

KS, Manhattan HO Scale

Manhattan Area Rail Joiners

Contact: Don Clagett, 1223 Pierre Street Manhattan, KS,

66502; (785) 537-7624 email: dClagett@ksu.edu

KS, Olathe HO Scale

MO-KAN Rail Joiners

Contact: Louis Seibel, 1069 North Logan Street, Olathe,

KS, 66061; (913) 393-3495 or (913) 927-6850

eMail: <u>L-seibel@comcast.net</u>

KS, Overland Park O Scale

Kansas City Module "O"

Contact: Jack Ferris, 10334 Ash Street, Overland Park,

KS 66207

eMail: fhs1955@gMail.com

KS, Olathe

Weekend N-gineers

16624 W. 126th St., Olathe, 1:00PM. Information: Ken

Clark, hapheart@swbell.net

KS, Overland Park HO Scale

Kansas City Society of Model Engineers

Contact: John Teeple, President, 9539 Perry Lane,

Overland Park, KS, 66212; (913) 492-4142

email: jsTeep@aol.com

KS, Topeka N Scale

Topeka N-Track Associates

At member's home, 7:00PM. Information: Bob Wright,

785-273-7835

KS, Topeka F/G scale

Northeast Kansas Garden Railway Society (NEKAN-GRS)

1308 SW Caldon Street, Topeka, KS, 66611

KS, Wichita HO Scale

Wichita Model Railroad Club

PO Box #48082, Wichita, KS, 67201

eMail: WCMR1@cs.com

KS. Wichita N Scale

Kansas Area N-Trak

2046 South Elizabeth Street Apartment #1306, Wichita,

KS, 67213

KS, Wichita

Wichita Toy Train Club

130 S Laura, Wichita

KS, Wichita

Wichita Area Garden Railway Society

At member's home, Information: Nancy Marin,

nanmarin@att.net

KS. Wichita All Scales

Wichita Area Model RailRoaders (WAMRR)

4323 West Maple Street Wichita, KS, 67206

Contact: Lionel A. Smith, Jr., (316) 239-1174 or (816)

518-9050: eMail: <u>LionelSmith@hotMail.com</u>

Meets 2nd Thursday each month 11:30AM Spears

Restaurant

MO, Columbia HO Scale

Columbia Area Model Railroaders (100% NMRA)

Missouri United Methodist Church, 204 S Ninth St, or member's homes. Thursday Evenings at 6:30PM.

Facebook: Columbia Area Model Railroaders; Contact:

Marty Oetting, martvoetting@gmail.com

MO, Jefferson City All Scales

Capital City Model Railroaders

PO Box #243, Jefferson City, MO, 65102-0243

Email: pollocka@mchsi.com

MO, Kirkwood HO Scale

Kirkwood Railroad Association

Meets every Thursday 7:00 - 9:00PM

Contact: Rich Velten, 100 North Sappington Road,

Kirkwood, MO, 63122

Email: rmVelten@swbell.net

MO, Kansas City 16" Gauge Park Train

Kansas City Northern Miniature Railroad

NM 60th Street & Waukonis Drive, Kansas City, MO

Contact: W. Ohrnell (816) 746-5663

Information: www.KCNRR.com

Meets 1st Wednesday each month at 7:00pm

MO, Kansas City HO Scale

Greater Kansas City Model Railroad Club

Contact: Walter L. Ohrnell, 6060 NW Waukomis Drive,

Kansas City, MO, 64153 eMail: wOhrnell@kc.rr.com

MO, Kansas City HO Scale

Southern Kansas City Model Railroad Historical Society 8600 Ward Parkway Suite 2030 Kansas City, MO, 64114

Contact: Richard Boone Telephone: (816) 996-1534

eMail: rBoone@traintown-kc.com

Meets 2nd Monday each month 7PM Open house Sat. &

Sun. 12 to 5PM

MO, Kansas City N Scale

Weekend En-gineers

8600 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO, 64114

Contact: Richard Boone: (816) 966-1534

eMail: rBoone@traintown-kc.com

Meets 3rd Sunday at 11:30AM

MO, Kansas City

Kansas City Narrow Gaugers

Members Homes, Information: Dean Windsor,

0n3@worldnet.att.net

MO. Kansas City Standard, G, O, S, HO Marklin,

HO, N, Z Scales and Wooden Trains

Union Station Kansas City Model Railroad Society 30 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO, 64101

Contact: Ted Tschirhart, Telephone: (816) 816-3449

eMail: TedTschi@kc.rr.com

MO, Liberty

Heartland N-Trak Of Greater Kansas City

131 S. Water St., Liberty, MO, 1:00. Information: Bob

Osborn, 816-452-9227

www.lawrencemodelrailroadclub.org

MO, Mexico HO Scale

Mexico Train Works Model Railroad Club

415-B W Jackson Street, Mexico, MO, 65265,

eMail: info@mexicotrains.com,

Website: www.mexicotrains.com,

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/

groups/754983012043978/

Contact: John Johnson, 573-473-4928 or

rphjohn@hotmail.com

MO, North Kansas City N Scale

Missouri Northern Railroad Society, Inc.

PO Box #12591

North Kansas City, MO, 64116 **MO, Odessa HO Scale**

Eastern Jackson County Mainliners Model Railroad Club

"Outlet Mall", Odessa, MO, 64076

Information:

www.EasternJacksonCountyMainlines.com

MO, Saint Louis N Scale

Mississippi Valley N Scalers

1684 Harbor Mill Dr., Fenton, MO, 63026

eMail: <u>mvns@railfan.net</u>

 $Website: \underline{http://mvns.railfan.net}$

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/mvnsrr Featuring NTRAK and T-TRAK modular layouts

displayed at regional shows.

MO, Saint Peters HOn3 Scale

Modular HO Narrow Gauge Society

914 Summer Leaf Drive, Saint Peters, MO, 63376

MO, Savannah G, O, HO Scales

Green Valley Baptist Model Railroad Club 11993 County Road 162, Savannah, MO, 64485

Contact: Nancy Adams (816) 262-0304

eMail: <u>GreenPetticoat@yahoo.com</u> **MO, Springfield HO Scale**

10, Springfield HO Scale Ozark Model Railroad Association

 $424\ West\ Commercial\ Street,\ Spring field,\ MO,\ 65803,$

Info: http://www.omraspringfield.org/contact.html

MO, Webster Groves 2-Rail O Scale (1/4" to the foot)

Big Bend Railroad Club, Inc.

8833 Big Bend Blvd., Webster Groves, MO, 63119

Email: secretary@BigBendRRclub.org
Information: www.bigbendrrclub.org

NE, Freemont All Scales
Nebraska Railroad Museum



Region Resources

Online Division Libraries in the Region



Waiting at the Station

Our NMRA Divisions offer numerous articles and clinic presentations in their online libraries. Check out their offerings here:

Gateway Division http://www.gatewaynmra.org/model-railroad-article-library/

Turkey Creek Division http://www.tc-nmra.org/TC-Library.html

Indian Nations Division http://www.tulsanmra.org and click on "Resources"

Season's Greetings!

