



Volume 2, Number 3

Week of July 21, 2024

Newsletter of the CEN-TEX Division 4, Lone Star Region, NMRA
www.centexnmra.org



Superintendent's Report

Greeting Division Four Members,

On Saturday the 13th, we had an enjoyable meeting with a great turnout. We took a break from the shelf layout and turned our focus to the structures and techniques that go into building a scene. First off was Cliff Scherer demonstrating building a structure with pink Styrofoam. He explained how you use the foam cutting table to create the shape, size and thickness that you need. He then demonstrated the various ways to carve the form into a stone facia using some basic tools. He finished off by explaining how he painted and weathered the building. When you looked at the finished product you would swear that building walls were made of hydrocal. He has also made a culvert for the layout using the same material and techniques. The startup has a cost of a cutting table but after that, making structures is very inexpensive and easy to build. He has given me ideas to make the soldier bricks for the G&CT passenger station.

Up next was yours truly with a power point showing my railfanning trip to New Mexico. I traveled along the BNSF Transcom, spent a day riding the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic railroad and watching the Santa Fe 2926, 4-8-4, under steam. The C&TSRR is a great ride that has a high plateau and works its way into the mountains. It is amazing how the surveyors found a route through the mountains. The staff is very friendly, and you can roam the facilities before departure. When I arrived in Albuquerque, I was able to watch the 2926 move under its own power from the work facility to downtown rail yard. They moved it on the turntable track and gave tours inside the cab.

A demonstration of how to make roads using matt board was presented showing finished examples of both asphalt and concrete. The method of construction and techniques for weathering will be uploaded to the clinic portion of the division website.

For the past couple of weeks, the scenic division of the AMRS has been working out of my woodshop to get the modules ready for the train show. Numerous techniques for laying ballast have been discussed with the pros continued pg. 2

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Superintendent's Report continued



and cons of each weighed. I am going to ask several of the crew to each write a description of their technique along with a few pictures. I will create a power point for the membership to review. Lately there have been several articles on ballasting in the model railroad press, and I will reference them.

We discussed the upcoming road trip for Union Pacific Big Boy traveling through Texas. Houston and Fort Worth are two cities that the 4014 will visit. Houston will see the 4014

on October 6 and Fort Worth on October 10 and 11. Hopefully we can travel to a point on the route and see it pass. As the trip draws closer, UP will update the website and more details will be posted. Once we have the route, we can plan a group trip to see the locomotive.

Lately, we have had a problem finding volunteers to open their layout for a tour. The tour of Bill Middlemass layout is going to be scheduled for the meeting in January so that the second level is up and running. Your layout can be in any stage of completion, if there is such a thing. I remember going to see Chuck Ellis's when the only thing done was the benchwork and track. I could see the potential in what the layout would develop into and that has stayed in my memory for almost thirty years. Don't let an unfinished layout keep you from showing it off. (Opening a layout for a tour for a division meet gets you 3 Time Units for the MMR Volunteer certificate -Russ T. Rale)

This is for all those who attend the meeting via Zoom. You also can win the Big Prizes in Deals and Duds. Each zoom attendee has a ticket placed in the bowl for the drawing along with the in-person attendees. This time two Zoom attendees won, and I am shipping the prizes to them. So, stay with us to the end.



The "Super" speaks!
Cliff still doesn't seem to like what is going on with the computer. ►

◀ Bob takes a beverage break while Cliff does his IT work.



YOU CAN SEE THE HEADLIGHT!

THE AUSTIN TRAIN SHOW HAS ALMOST PULLED INTO THE PALMER EVENTS CENTER STATION!

All are invited to this year's Austin Train Show, which will be held on Saturday and Sunday August 24-25 at the Palmer Events Center in the heart of Austin, Texas (at 900 Barton Springs Road). Enjoy over 25,000 square feet of railroading fun for the whole family. The show will be open Saturday from 10am to 5pm and Sunday from 10am to 4pm. Admission is \$8 online (starting later this month) and \$10 at the door, and includes both days. As always children 12 and under are FREE with an adult. The show will have clinics, an area layout tour, hundreds of vendor tables, the Kiddie Express ride, and operating model railroads from across Texas in multiple scales – including the ever-popular Lego layout. This the 51st year for a train show in Austin and it is expected to continue to grow in size and popularity. Vendor tables are still available if anyone is interested. For more information please visit <https://austintrainshow.org> or contact Peter Kazmir at info@austintrainshow.org.



UP Big Boy coming to Texas this fall!

UP Big Boy will travel to Texas Heartland of America Tour

Big Boy No. 4014 will depart on the "Heartland of America Tour" on Thursday, Aug. 29 from Cheyenne, Wyoming, and travel across nine additional states: Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas. The eight-week tour concludes in late October. No. 4014 will be on display in the following locations:

- Sunday, Sept. 8: **Rochelle, Illinois** (Chicago metro area)
- Sunday, Oct. 6: **Houston, Texas**
- Thursday/Friday, Oct. 10-11: **Fort Worth, Texas**

Additional route details with additional whistle stops, display locations and times will be shared closer to the tour. In all, Big Boy No. 4014 will visit 14 states in 2024, including five states during this summer's "Westward Bound" tour from Wyoming to California.



The Cen-Tex Eagle

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THIS YEAR'S HALLMARK LIONEL ORNAMENTS—Kit Bilt roving reporter



Just announced this weekend, Hallmark's Lionel series of ornaments goes modern. Uncle Pete fans should be happy! The mini-ornaments feature New York Central and in what I believe is a first we have a Lionel accessory. The bridge has a working light, too bad it doesn't open or close. The only one that interests me is the bridge

TIMETABLE

NMRA “Surfliner” National Convention

August 4-11, 2024
Long Beach, California



Russ T. Rale will be there! I know Jack will be there! If you are going let Russ know!

Saturday, August 17, 2024 9am to 4pm
AMRS Meeting
Hope Presbyterian Church
11512 Olson Dr, Austin

Train Show prep meeting!

Train Show

Saturday-Sunday, Aug 24-25, 2024
AMRS Train Show
Palmer Events Center, Austin
See story on page 3.

ADVANCED PLANNING

Saturday September 14, 2024
Centex Division Meeting 10 AM
Austin Parks and Recreation
Northwest Rec Center
2913 Northland Drive, Austin

Program:

Opening discussion
Clinic(s) Need a Volunteer(s)
Goldweight and Central Shelf Layout update
Show and Tell
Deals or Duds
Lunch
Layout Tour: How about yours?

Saturday-Sunday September 21-22, 2024
42nd Annual Temple Train Show and
2nd Annual RPM Meet

Saturday November 9, 2024
Centex Division Meeting 10 AM
Austin Parks and Recreation
Northwest Rec Center
2913 Northland Drive, Austin

Ongoing Events

Austin Steam Train
[Make Reservations - Austin Steam Train Association](#)

Temple Railroad and Heritage Museum
Tuesday—Saturday 10Am to 4Pm

2025-NMRA 90th Anniversary!

So guys, what are we going to do for the NMRA's 90th anniversary??!!!!

Call for articles

The goal for the Eagle is to be published approximately the week before our bi-monthly meetings (with a follow-up edition shortly after) with the hope of lightening some of Bob's work. In order to do that we need your help. If you have a favorite tip, something from the good old days of Model Railroading, went to a hobby shop out of town that was awesome or just want to show some picture of your layout, please contact me at the email address in the Masthead.

Thanks.

Russ T. Rale

THE MASTHEAD

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