



Volume 2, Number 2

Week of July 7, 2024

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



Superintendent's Report

Greetings Cen-Tex Members,

The dog days of summer are upon us and hopefully your layout is in air-conditioned space. The next meeting for the division will be July 13th at the Austin NW Rec center. The meeting will start at 10:00 and as always it will be broadcast live on Zoom. I will send out the link on Thursday the 11th.

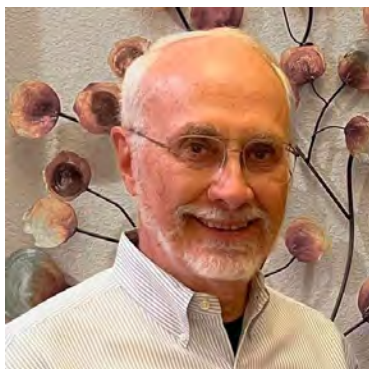
What I would like to do this meeting is to have a series of short presentations demonstrating various forms of modeling. You can show how to kit-bash a building, fine tuning cars and engines, building a tree, or anything that you would like. I have two presentations lined up but would like to have at least three more to round out the presentations. Email me at director@centexnmra.org to let me know your subject. If you have it on a PPT, bring it on a thumb drive and we will run it while you talk.

I am still looking for someone to open their home for a layout tour. It can be in any stage of construction or a finished product, if there is such a thing. Please contact me if you would like to do a presentation or tour.

Remember to bring your projects that you are working on for the show and tell portion of the meeting. Take care and see you a week from Saturday.

Bob

Final Markers: William Richard McCall



William "Bill" Richard McCall AKA "Gramps" passed away on May 28, 2024 in Lakeway, Texas. He was born on June 22, 1946 in Oak Park, Illinois to Robert Francis and Julia Louise (Toren) McCall. He is survived by his wife, Janis Claire (Slater) McCall; his twin daughters, Nicole Elizabeth McCall & Alison Louise (McCall) Gordon; son-in-law, Scott Matthew Gordon; and his grandchildren, Finley McCall Gordon & Charley Claire Gordon.

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Final Markers cont'd

He studied Business Management and earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree at East Texas State University. He was an avid swimmer in college and had a swimming scholarship at Evansville University. He transferred to East Texas State University to be closer to home and met the love of his life Janis there! They got married on October 4, 1969 and then moved to [Little Rock, Arkansas](#). During the Vietnam war he joined the Air Force at Little Rock Air Force Base and he ran the Supply Squadron to provide the airplanes with the parts they needed. After leaving the Air Force he worked as an Account Manager for Banking Software at Fidelity National Information Services. When he retired in 2015 he became "CEO" of Gramps Services where he performed handyman services and worked on light construction projects for many people in the area. He gained all his clients by word of mouth due to his exceptional service and servant's heart.



He was a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather. He was a devoted member of Austin Ridge Bible Church. He loved Jesus and lived that out by serving his friends and family. He was very active in running triathlons most of his life, and his favorite part was always the swim. He had a lifelong passion for working on his model railroad and had a layout in every house he owned. For the last 10 years he spent every summer working with the Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad in [Chama, New Mexico](#) restoring historic trains, specifically the GRAMPS tank car. He loved cars and was always tinkering on his yellow 1975 C3 and red 2003 Z06 Corvettes. He adored all dogs but especially his Coton de Tulear, Jazz. He took every opportunity he could to spend time outdoors with his friends and family taking them to his favorite wineries in the Texas Hill Country. He loved to travel, especially to the beaches in Kauai and to the mountains in Colorado and New Mexico. He loved music especially Jazz and Country. Bill was dearly loved by his friends and family, and will be immeasurably missed.

In lieu of flowers please donate to Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Inc. or Mobile Loaves and Fishes Community First Village.

Live Steam Updates -Russ T. Rale

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)

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UP Big Boy Heartland of America Tour cont'd

- 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 AUSTIN TRAIN SHOW IS COMING DOWN THE TRACKS!

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.



Spotted in the Altoona Railroaders Memorial Museum

In May, our undercover reported spotted the frame of a 4-0-2 steam locomotive being built in the roundhouse of the Railroaders Memorial Museum in Altoona. He was only able to sneak one photo though.



Why I go to Estate Sales -Kit Bilt, reporter

My wife and I like 2 go to estate sales sometimes we get some really good buys and sometimes we just enjoy what the house looks like. A lot of times I add to my military book collection, but every once in a while, there is an estate sale that has model railroad equipment. Most of the time the equipment is Tyco or Model Power quality but every once in there is some good stuff. Case in point is an estate sale that I went to a couple of months ago the gentleman (Mr. Knight) who passed away was, according to the estate sale company, a cryptographer for the CIA, an amateur stargazer and also did some kind of work for the Grateful Dead. He designed board games including some involving race cars, horse racing, and what looked like a very interesting one, cornering the market on oil drilling sites in the Mid-East! He was also a model railroader and had a nice layout in the room under the telescope observatory. The scenery was almost 100% complete.



Yes, he illuminated the steel and slag runners!

The Cen-Tex Eagle

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I was able to pick up a Walthers blast furnace and rolling mill together for \$100. I also got a Broadway Limited PRR H10 Consolidation for \$75. The H10 can pull 20 cars without trying. I picked up some scenery materials and a couple of building kits. I think I saw someone from the division passing by outside the window to the train room but by the time I crawled out from under the layout he had left. The one thing that was a shame was that the whole layout was built on the equivalent of Sievers benchwork and that the estate sale people told me that at the end of the sale they were going to rip the entire layout out, benchwork and all, and throw it in the dumpster.



Some of his cryptography books.



TIMETABLE

DIVISION MEETING

Saturday, July 13, 2024 10:00AM

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, July 20, 2024 9am to 4pm

AMRS Meeting
Hope Presbyterian Church
11512 Olson Dr, Austin

NMRA “Surfliner” National Convention

August 4-11, 2024
Long Beach, California



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

ADVANCED PLANNING

Saturday September 14, 2024

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

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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