



NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION SPECIAL EDITION, Number 3 August 17, 2024

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

## Farewell to Long Beach!

No battle plan survives contact with the enemy. By Wednesday night, I was pretty tired and could not get up the energy to work on the newsletter. On Friday the grandsons arrived to stay on the Queen Mary and then we took them home and then spent two days driving back to Texas. So here, better late than never, is the wrap up from the convention.

First up on Wednesday was Dennis Drury's clinic on Rail Detector cars. Dennis sderved on a SP car and gave a very interesting talk on the different types of cars, their uses and their operations. After that it was Bob Frankrone of the NMRA magazines *Love Those Loads* series with a clinic appropriately titled *Love Those Loads!* Most of the loaded cars he builds do not see service on his railroads during his op sessions. More on that later. Next up was Bryan Hunell's clinic on reducing resistance in layout wiring. It was very technical but he had a lot of good ideas. The clinics are supposed to be on the NMRA Surfliner website after the convention and this is one I will definitely watch a couple of times. During lunch I made a quick tour of the Celebration of Models room. Once again, there were very few models. The afternoon started with Railway Work Equipment in Operations by Paul Hobbs. Paul has been to the last 35 NMRA conventions. He is from New Zealand! He talked about Work Equipment as a railroad accounting definition that even includes business cars and how to add work equipment to operations. I then went to CTC demystified Part I by Doug Geiger. Doug has a real CTC machine for his layout and talked about the various parts and operations and how to build your own. Stephen Lowe gave a talk on Super Elevation of Trackwork. After dinner, I went to two talks by Bruce Evans, a Fire Chief from Colorado. The first was a look at the Walther's fire house and it's prototype the Des Moines FD HQ building. He then did a clinic on Modeling Emergency Scenes using National Fire Protection Administration guidelines to make your scenes prototypically accurate.

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Cen-Tex Division members at the convention. ►



## Detector car examples



Dennis Drury NMRA Surfliner 2024

◀ World's Smallest Defect Detector Car

Love Those Loads! ▶





## Moving Trains

- "Simon Says"
- Timetable & Train Order (TT&TO)
- Track Warrant
- Centralized Traffic Control (CTC)

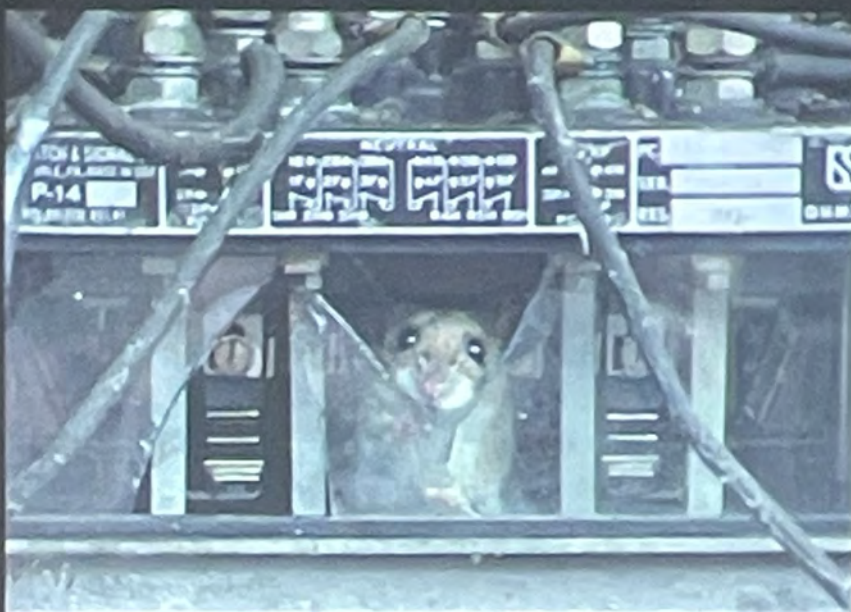
◀ Evolution of moving trains.

## Modeling US&S

- Replica components
- CTCParts.com (Mike Burgett)

Getting Parts to build your own CTC machine▶

## Drawbacks to Using Real Hardware

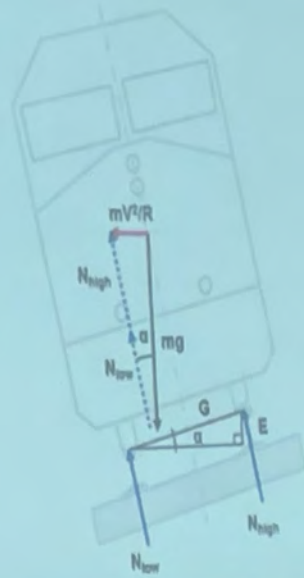


◀ Or you can take one out of a closed dispatcher's office but that has it's own drawbacks!!

# The Cen-Tex Eagle

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## 2. Physics of Superelevated Railway Curves



How to make your own Super Elevated curves. ►

Cork Roadbed  
 Sanding Block with Fine Grit Paper  
 I use 150 Grit or Drywall Paper  
 Digital Level  
 Strip Wood  
 1/16" - 1.5 mm ( N Scale )  
 1/8" - 3.0 mm ( H O Scale )  
 Push Pins  
 Adhesive



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## WALTHERS MODEL

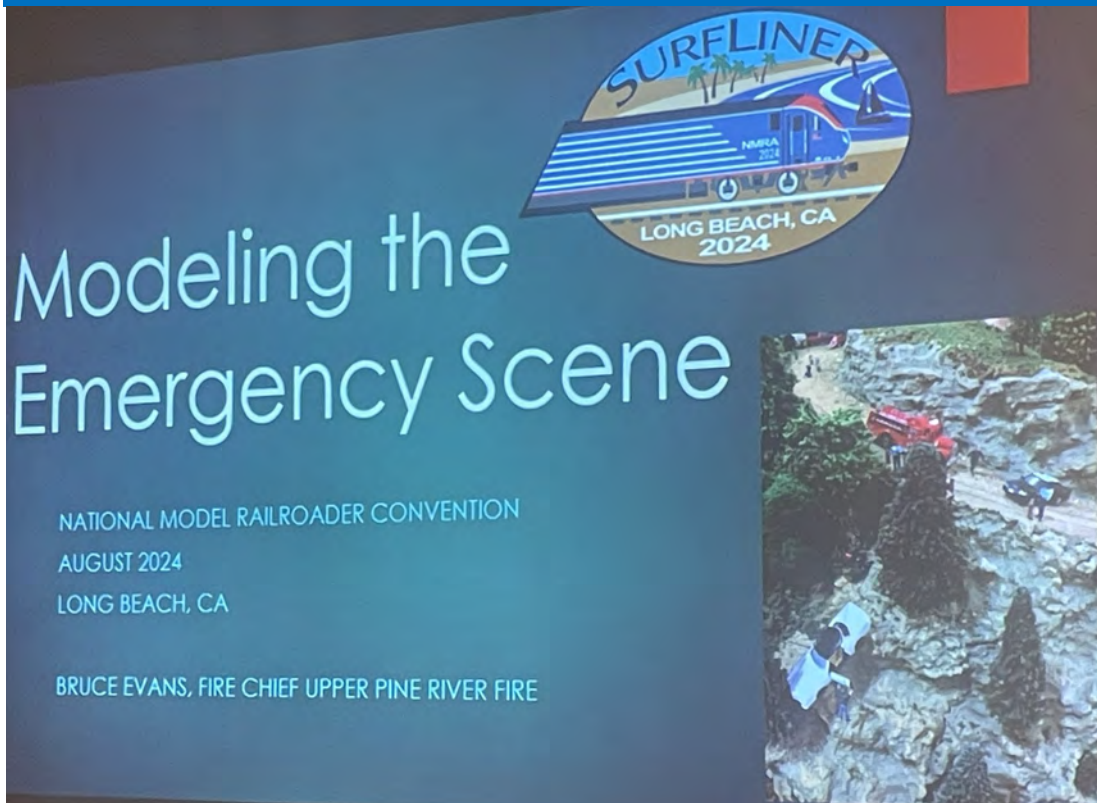
- VERY PROTOTYPICAL
- EXACT REPLICA ORIGINAL CONFIGURATION
- THREE BUILDING KIT



RESTAURANT AND MEETING PLACE  
DES MOINES SOCIAL CLUB

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## Modeling the Emergency Scene

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROADER CONVENTION  
AUGUST 2024  
LONG BEACH, CA

BRUCE EVANS, FIRE CHIEF UPPER PINE RIVER FIRE

## Task Modeling Firefighting

- ▶ An Engine with the Attack Line
- ▶ An Engine with the Supply Line
- ▶ An Engine with a Back Up or Exposure Line
- ▶ A Truck on the Corner on the building or on the Roof
- ▶ A Rescue Company on Stand By or Rescue Mode
- ▶ An Ambulance on scene for medical
- ▶ A Chief Officer On Scene as the Commander

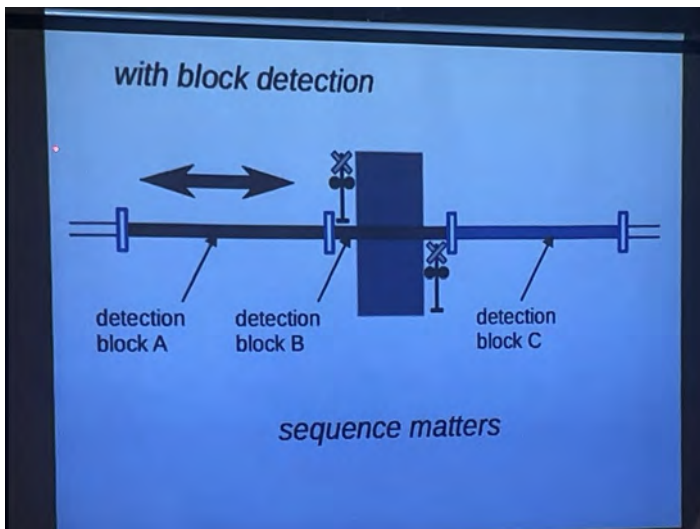


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Thursday morning started off bright and early with John Parsons's clinic on model train detection after that I did a hands on clinic on making background fir trees and then back to see Bob Frankrone's clinic on adding a scene in 15 steps. After lunch, I went to Mark Williams's *Travelling with the Chiefs and the El Capitan*. I then went to Joel Morse's *Developing a Realistic Rolling Stock Fleet for Operations*. He models the NY, O&W and it was very interesting how he came up with what railroads cars should be running on his layout when the O&W only had two years left of life. Steve Stalling's then gave an interesting clinic on *Adding a Forest Fire to Your Layout (Without Burning it Down)*. After dinner it was Bob Frankrone again! This time with Operations on his Louisville & Southern layout and finally in the 9:30 PM death slot, Kevin Spady talked about creating interesting model scenes. HE said there are basically seven layers from bare plywood until you finish the scene.

Friday morning was the beginning of the National Train Show and it was a big disappointment. It took up less than half the space of the AMRS. show at the Palmer Event Center. There were very few manufacturers and not many dealers. There were 5 modular layouts including a Marklin European one. No Lego trains! The grandkids "Spike" and Tie Plate showed up around noon with my wife, Chi ne Rale and we were off to the battleship Iowa and then to spend the night on the Queen Mary. On Saturday, I brought the grandkids to the train show and after pre-purchasing tickets for \$20 or \$25 for each of them it was a huge waste of money. I did not buy anything at the show. I do know Jack Merkel had a small bag of a few things that he found and with that the convention was over.



◀ Block detection

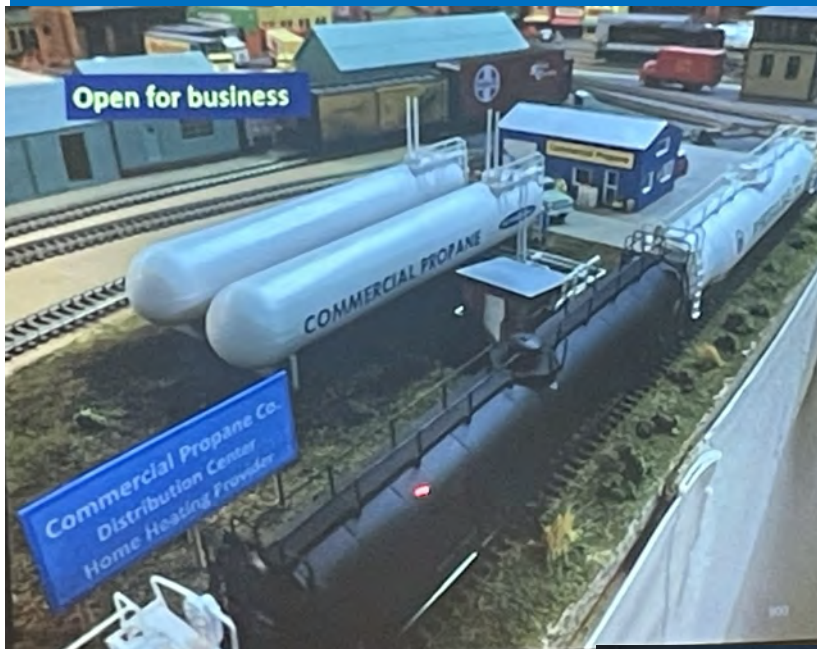


◀ Happy Tree Builders and the Forest ▲

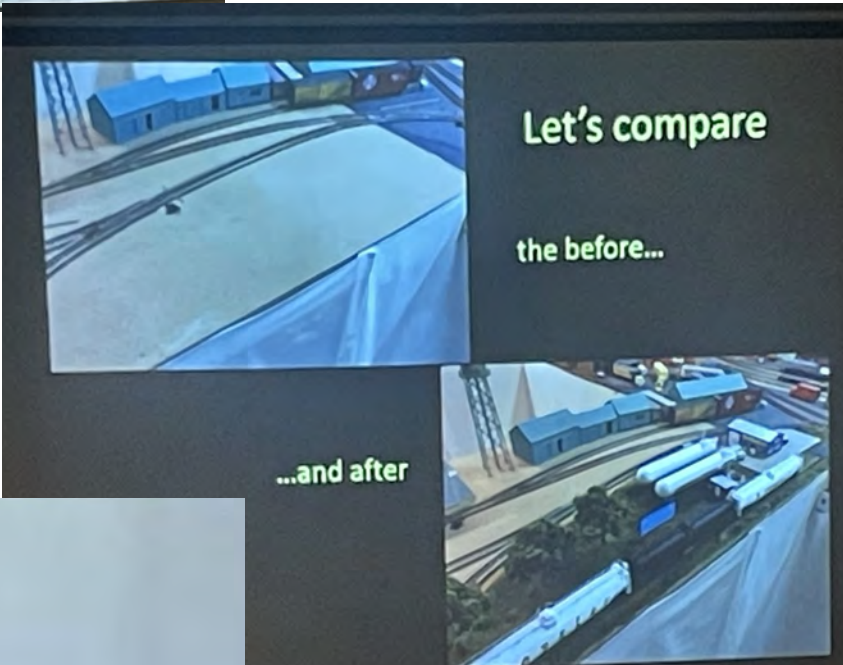


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Building a scene in 15 steps



- SUMMARY OF WHAT WE KNOW:
- PRIMARY RAILROAD COMMODITIES
  - CUSTOMERS FOR EACH TOWN
  - COMMODITIES FOR EACH CUSTOMER
  - NUMBER OF CARLOADS FOR EACH CUSTOMER
- MISSING FLEET INFORMATION:
- FREIGHT CAR TYPES
  - NUMBER OF CARS NEEDED TO SERVICE THE LAYOUT
  - ROAD NAMES OF THE FREIGHT CAR FLEET

◀ Rolling Stock for OPS



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◀ Forest Fire!!

## It's all about the layers!

- Layer 1: Terrain
- Layer 2: Fixed elements
- Layer 3: Grasses
- Layer 4: Understory
- Layer 5: Trees
- Layer 6: Water
- Layer 7: Details

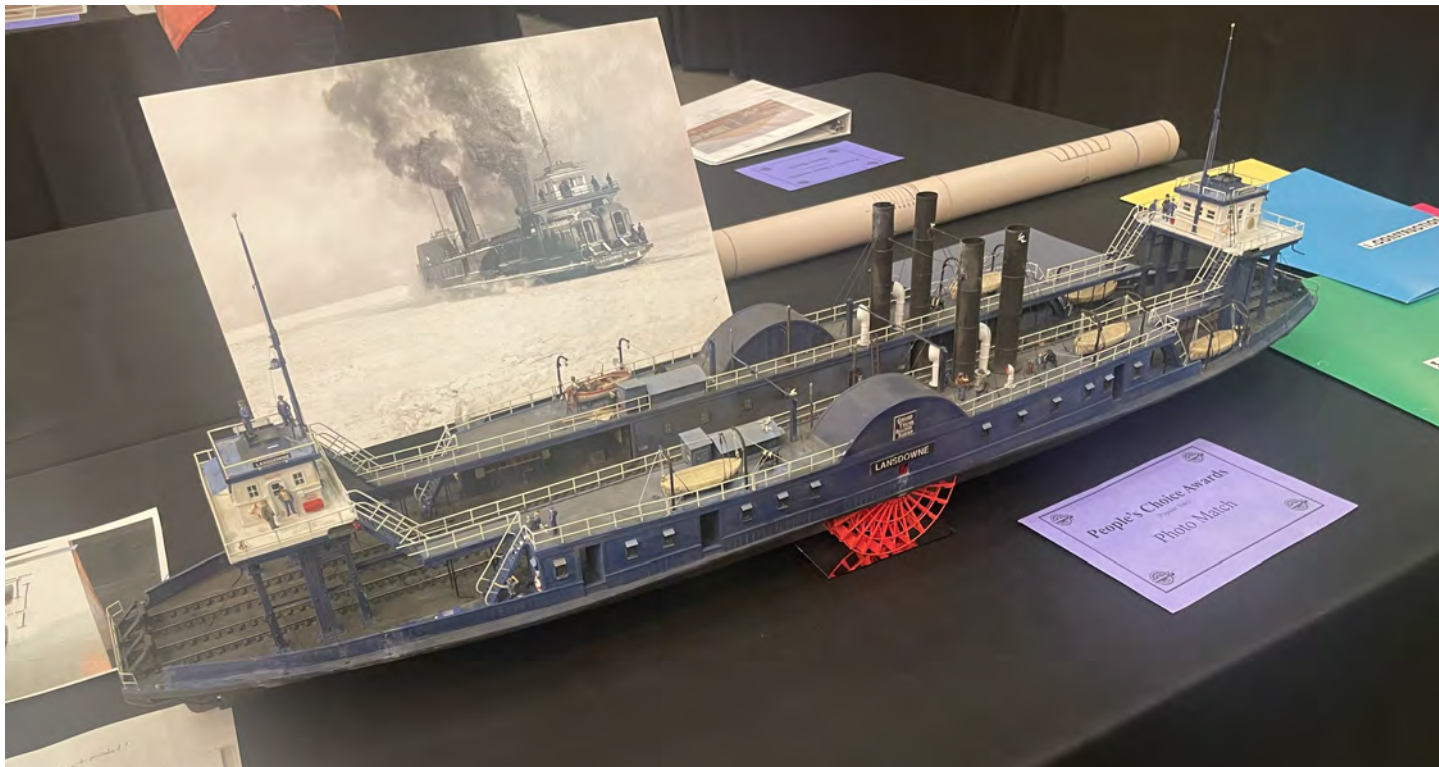
 A digital landscape rendering showing a mountain range, a forest, a barn, and a field, illustrating the layers of a digital environment. The scene is set in a valley with a blue sky and white clouds.

Layers!

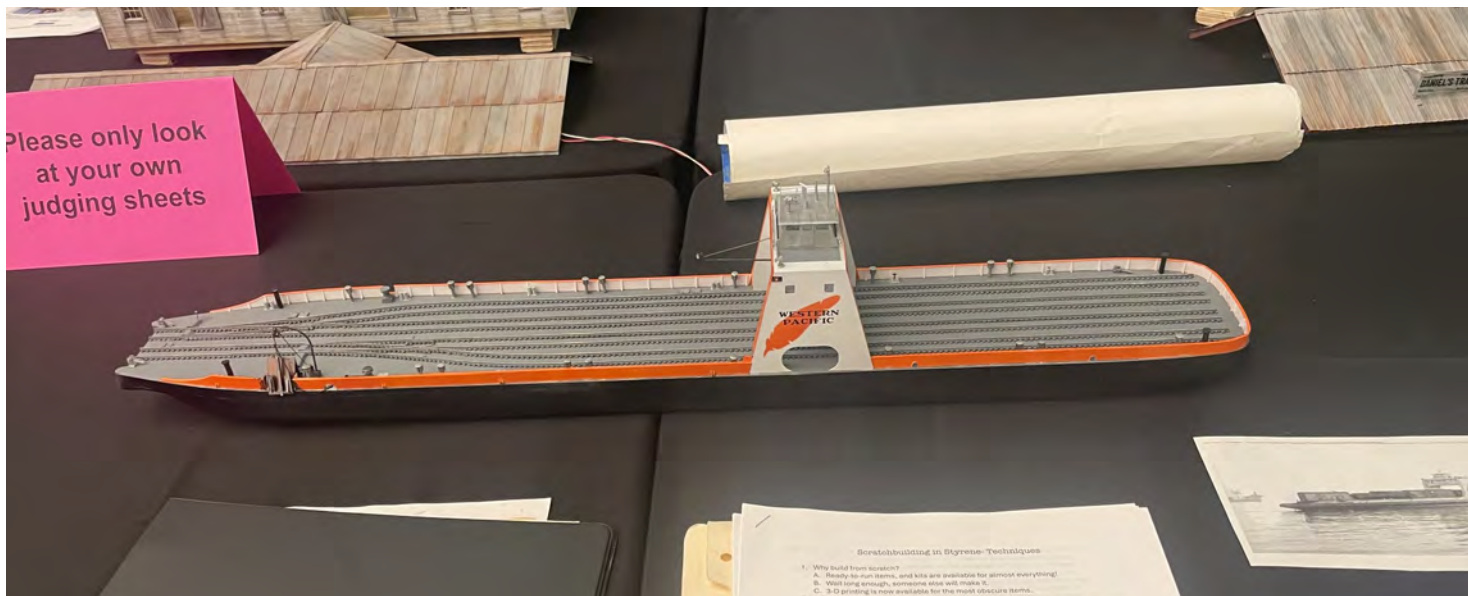
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## The Model Room.



## Car Ferries, old and new



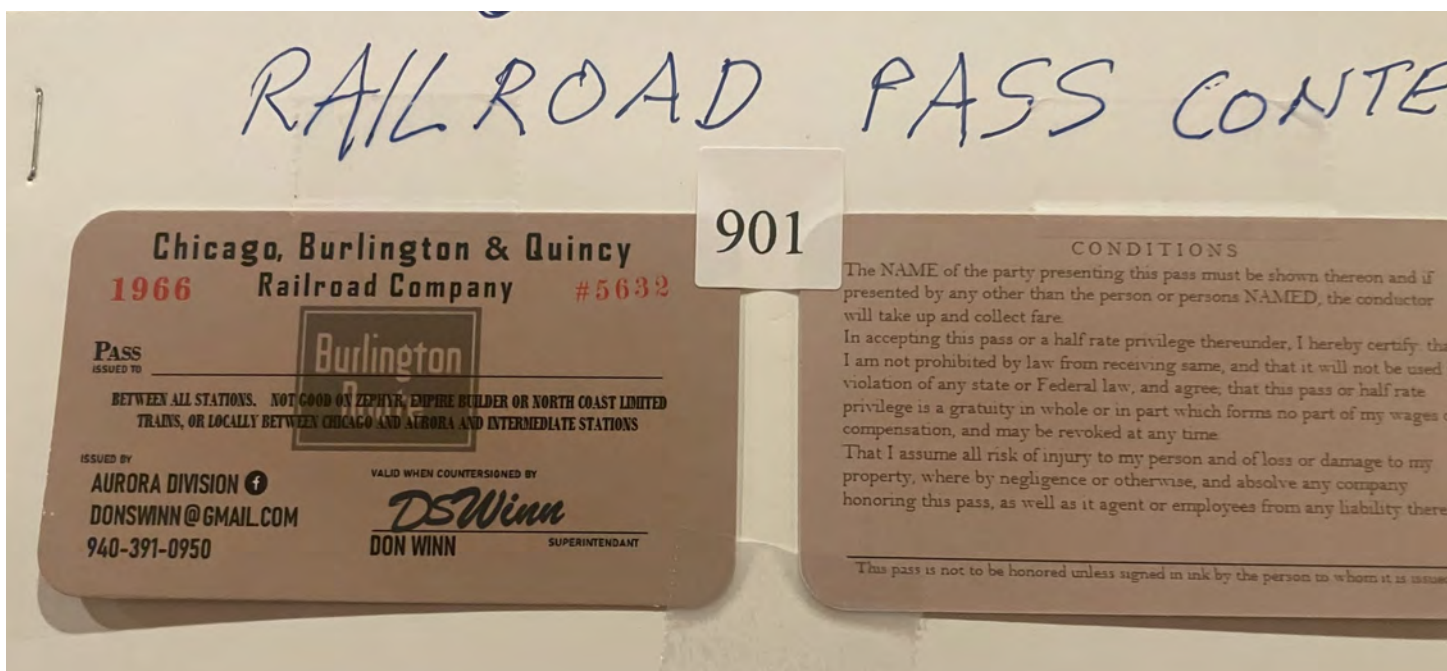


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A nice urban scene



MMR Don Winn's 1st Place Pass



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Two very small motive power models!





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And a very large one!



A Hulett predecessor. Yes the arms actually lifted the buckets out of the barge and into the hoppers!!



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A sawmill that has no water to bring in logs.

A nicely detailed building.





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Judges's Best of Show for the Module contest. It's Z scale!!



# TIMETABLE

## NMRA “Surfliner” National Convention

August 4-11, 2024  
Long Beach, California



## Train Show

Saturday-Sunday, Aug 24-25, 2024  
AMRS Train Show  
Palmer Events Center, Austin

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?

## ADVANCED PLANNING

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??!!!!



# The Cen-Tex Eagle

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## 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

Superintendent: Bob Thiele [director@centexnmra.org](mailto:director@centexnmra.org)

Editor, Publisher, Reporter,

Photographer and Copy Boy: Russ T. Rale [RussTRale@gmail.com](mailto:RussTRale@gmail.com)

Roving Reporter: Kit Bilt