



Holiday Extra

Holidays, 2024

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



## Superintendent's Report

Greetings Division Four members,

Here's wishing everyone and their families a safe and Happy Holiday season! Looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible next year.

Best wishes,  
Doug

## Editorial

As the holiday season rapidly approaches like the Mopac Eagle, we can reflect on the fact that for many years the railroads were the main means of travel for families to get "home for the holidays." If I am free around 4:30 pm I tune into Virtual Railfan's live stream of Horseshoe Curve to watch Amtrak's westbound Pennsylvanian round the curve. I then at around 5:11 pm, I switch to their new camera at the Johnstown, PA Amtrak station. At Johnstown, while the train blocks the platform, the train is close enough to the camera you can see inside it. I sometimes wonder how many of the people on that train are going home to families for the holidays.

Happy Chanukah to our Jewish readers and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See you on the 11th!

Russ T. Rale

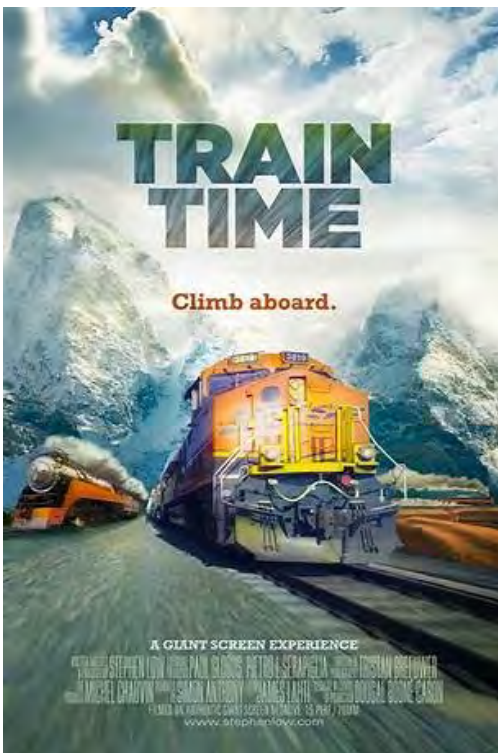
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## Bob Thiele gets a “Super Chief” send-off at the November CenTex Division Meeting!

A bunch of folks pitched in to buy Bob a \$250 Visa gift card as a thank you present for all he has done for CenTex. Cliff Scherer did all the work coordinating this. Near the end of the meeting on 9 November, Cliff presented the gift card to Bob through a “fixed” game of Deals or Duds. Everybody gave Bob a standing ovation.



### TRAIN TIME mini-review.

On Friday Dec. 13th, Shin E. and I went to see *Train Time* at the Bullock History Museum IMAX. It is only 45 minutes long but it was so great that it seemed much longer! The photography is awesome and when the SP GS-4 takes the stage it goes to a whole other level. There are at least two CGI trains in it, a F-unit Super Chief and a GN Northern. While an adult will learn a lot about modern railroading, kids will enjoy the larger than life trains and the meets where the camera is hanging off the train at track level the other train races toward it. There is also a lot of commentary about how fuel efficient moving freight by trains. UP has its Big Boy as a promotion message, now Berkshire Hathaway (BNSF) has *Train Time*. If you haven't seen it yet it leaves the station for the last time on December 31st. I highly recommend it.

-Russ T. Rale



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# BLUES EXPRESS 2025



**2025 LSR CONVENTION**  
**BATON ROUGE, LA**

## **Register and Save the Dates, June 26 – 29, 2025, for the Annual Lone Star Regional Convention**

The 2025 Lone Star Region Convention will be held in Southern Louisiana for the first time in thirty years and you won't want to miss it! There will be layouts and other railroading opportunities you've probably never seen, in a region rich with interesting and exciting sights. (And food!)

**June 26 - 29, 2025**  
**Holiday Inn Baton Rouge South**  
**9900 Airline Highway**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70816**

Visit **[www.BluesExpress2025.com](http://www.BluesExpress2025.com)** to register, make hotel reservations, and see updates on convention activities. Stay tuned to *The Marker Lamp* and the **[www.BluesExpress.com](http://www.BluesExpress.com)** website as more details become available.

**Register today for the Early Bird Discount,  
mark your calendars and plan to attend!**

## AMRS Breakfast with Santa a Huge Success!

December 7th saw the Austin Model Railway Society set up their modular railroad at the Hope Presbyterian Church Gymnasium. All the kids (young and old) had a great time watching the trains. Several train sets were won during the raffle. Bob Thiele was given a custom painted passenger car and a second one was “given” to the layout in honor of Bob.





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## Austin Tinplate Trackers Display in Round Rock.

The Austin Tinplate Trackers have their annual Holiday display set up at The Art Space in Round Rock. It's open through Jan 3. Go to [Tinplate Trackers of Austin Texas](https://www.austintinplatetrackers.com) for more info.





## Dashing Through the Snow!





THE MASTHEAD

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Trains under the tree—Westchester County, NY style! Courtesy: Linda Duffy