



Volume 2 Number 9

Week of Jan. 19, 2025

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



Superintendent's Report

Greetings Cen-Tex Members,

First off, I would like to thank everyone for coming out to our January meeting or joining online. I've been told it was one of the larger ones recently. It was great meeting everyone and I'd like to meet even more at the next meeting. I'd also like to thank Joe Leising for coming by and sharing information on the conventions with the Division

We had a good discussion, led by Chris, on what we wanted to do to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the NMRA. The final outcome is still pending, but it seemed the majority were in favor of something to do with ASTA. I'll let everyone know when I get the finalized plans.

We also had a good beginning conversation on the 2026 Regional convention that our division will be hosting. We are going to need a number of volunteers to be able to put on a good convention. I have already heard from a few at the meeting who have said they will assist, and I'd like to hear from anyone who would like to contribute to the success of this. I will be setting up a Zoom call for volunteers within the next week or so to start coordinating.

Frolin Marek shared images and impressions from a scale modeling event. There were a lot of nice models that were present. Yours truly then presented a short clinic of the basics of 3D printing which Cliff has uploaded to the clinic area on the Division website. There were a lot of good questions asked and additional input from some of the other members who also use 3D printing. We wound up the meeting with a wonderful show & tell with Sam Nicastro showing us the beautiful brass engine and tender he worked on, Tim Giraud showed a model that he worked on from his dad, Steve Jackobs showed a model he was designing and printing in 3D, Joel Davidson brought a wonderful example of some signaling lights that he had designed the PC board for and put together, and Michael Strittmatter showed a UP AC44 that he had detailed and wired from a blue box unit. Deals & Duds had 1 Zoom winner and the rest from the room. I sent out the Zoom winner's prize.

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Superintendent's report con't

Joel Davidson was gracious enough to host our layout tour this month. Thanks to Joel, it was impressive to see what you've already accomplished as well as the plan for your "empire"! I am going to start asking now for a couple of short clinics and a layout tour for our next meeting, which will be March 8, 2025.

Until next time,
Doug

January 2025 Meeting a Success!

The year 2025 started off with a bang for the Cen-Tex Division. We had 36 people at the meeting and 5 Zoomers. Some people commented that they have never seen this many people at a meeting.



◀ Superintendent Doug attending his first Cen-Tex meeting!

Joe Leising discussing regional conventions. ▶



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◀ Doug's Clinic on 3D printing.

The "usual suspects" and them some! ▶



Sam Nicastro's Colorado Midland D&RGW K-37 Westside Model Sound speakers in Smokebox! ▼



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◀ Tim's gas station.



Michael S's Athearn Blue Box UP AC44. It came through Austin July-August of last year. ▼▶



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▲ Steve Jakobs in progress Scratcbuilt-3D printed Texas-Mexican Railway 4 axle rigid frame switcher.



◀ Joel's Position Light driver

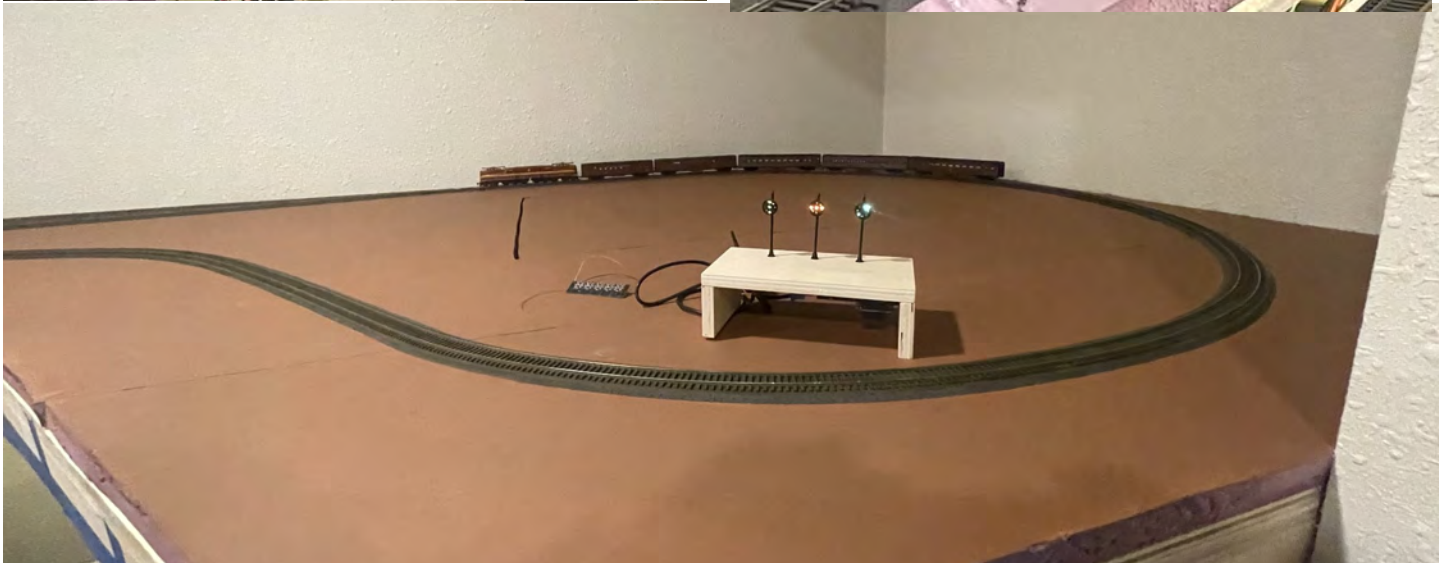
Joel Davidson's Layout Tour



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Joel's layout is just getting started but from the looks of the track plan it is a winner. Two levels and a standard gauge track just below the ceiling. He has a full woodshop up on the second floor.

Cen-tex members admiring the 1T hoist ▶ to lift tools up to the second floor through the trap door in the floor. ▼



An ingenious way to keep track what switches turn on what!▶





NMRA 90th —Russ T. Rale

At the recent Cen-Tex meeting a discussion was led by Chris Chany about what we should do as a division to celebrate the NMRA's 90th Anniversary. It was decided that we would do something that involves the Austin Steam Train Association. Chris will be looking to get more information in time for the March meeting.



Registration Is Open At

www.BluesExpress2025.com

**For the LSR Annual
Regional Convention
June 26 - 28, 2025
Model Railroad Clinics**

**Layout Visits
Operating Sessions
... and more.**

**Early Bird Discounted Registration Now Available.
Register Today !**

Hosted By The LSR Bayou Division

LSR Convention

Join us for this this year's annual Lone Star Region convention. Hosted by the LSR Bayou Division, the Blues Express 2025 convention will take place in Baton Rouge, LA, on June 26th, 27th, and 28th, 2025. This will be the first time in over thirty-years since we have had a regional convention in the Bayou Division, which provides the opportunity to visit and operate on layouts that you may not have experienced before.

The Blues Express 2025 convention clinic schedule will feature clinicians from three different NMRA regions, some traveling as far away as six-hundred miles to present to the members of the Lone Star Region. Clinics will include topics that have never before been presented at a LSR convention.

The Non-Rail schedule will include fun-filled activities that will appeal to both Rails and Non-Rails. Ask your medical questions to a licensed medical professional, or learn the insights of playing poker from a professional poker player that has participated in national poker tournaments. Other activities will include touring iconic Baton Rouge attractions, as well as other fun activities at the convention hotel.

The Blues Express 2025 convention will take place at the Holiday Inn Baton Rouge South. Overnight accommodations and convention meeting rooms are all under one roof, for convenient access. Hotel amenities include an on-site restaurant, lounge, room service, exercise facility, and swimming pool. Hotel reservations at the conventions group rate can be made at the www.BluesExpress2025.com website, by selecting "Book Hotel Rooms".

The city of Baton Rouge has a rich and diverse history, and the hotel's group convention rate is available starting on Wednesday, June 25th and including on Sunday, June 29th, allowing for time to enjoy both the Blues Express 2025 convention and Baton Rouge. Simply change the arrival/departures dates at the top of the hotel page and make time to experience the many splendors that Baton Rouge has to offer.

Come to reunite with old friends, and to make new ones. NMRA members and non members are all invited to attend. The Early Bird Registration discount is currently available at www.BluesExpress2025.com. Book today to enjoy the savings! Then periodically check-back to learn about convention activities as they are finalized.

See you in Baton Rouge at the Blues Express 2025 LSR Annual Regional Convention.

www.BluesExpress2025.com

Cincinnati Division 7's limited-edition, HO scale N&W HC-46 ACF 2-BAY COVERED HOPPER



Dear NMRA LSR Division Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, Directors, News-Letter Editors, Web Masters, Facebook Managers and members in-general.

I last reached out to you in the Fall of 2022.

I am getting in touch with you once again with a request to publicize and promote Cincinnati Division 7's limited-edition, HO scale, N&W HC-46 ACF 2-Bay Covered Hopper cars that we have for sale. This car is unique in that it is a repaint scheme with patched-out data.

The following link provides details about it as well as pricing, shipping and ordering information.

<https://division7mid-centralregionnmra.godaddysites.com/car-projects>

It would be greatly appreciated if you would make your membership aware of this limited-edition freight car by publicizing it in your Region's and/or Division's web page, newsletter or email blast.

We thank you in advance for your support!

Paul Maciulewicz
NMRA; MCR; Cincinnati Division 7
Car Projects Chairman

Start Planning Now!



The 90th NMRA National Model Railroad Convention,

STATION No. VI

July 14-19, 2025 – Novi, Michigan

hosted by the North Central Region of the NMRA

TIMETABLE

Train Show

Saturday-Sunday January 25-26, 2025
Amherst Railway Society Railroad
Hobby Show

Division Meeting

Saturday March 8, 2025
Centex Division Meeting 10 AM
Austin Parks and Recreation
Northwest Rec Center
2913 Northland Drive, Austin

Agenda;
Clinics How about giving one?
LSR Convention 2026
Show and tell
Deals and Duds
Lunch
Layout tour – How about yours?

Train Show

Division Meeting

Saturday May 10, 2025
Centex Division Meeting 10 AM
Austin Parks and Recreation
Northwest Rec Center
2913 Northland Drive, Austin

ADVANCED PLANNING

Division Meeting

Saturday May 10, 2025
Centex Division Meeting 10 AM
Austin Parks and Recreation
Northwest Rec Center
2913 Northland Drive, Austin

LSR Region Convention

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

NMRA National Convention

July 14-19, 2025
Novi, MI

Ongoing Events

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

Temple Railroad and Heritage Museum
Tuesday—Saturday 10am to 4pm

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 Doug'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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