



Spring Break 2025 Special Edition

Week of Mar. 21, 2025

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

## Spring Break 2025 Special Edition



# AMRS Display at Bob Bullock State History Museum a Huge Success!

On Thursday, March 13, members of the Austin Model Railway Society gathered at the Bullock to set up their modular railroad for “Spring Break: Trains at the Bullock.” Along with the Austin Tin-Plate Trackers Lionel Modular layout both railroads filled the Austin Room of the museum. The AMRS layout was open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Kids ( and adults) were given a chance to run trains on the layout. Recruiting efforts for the AMRS and NMRA Cen-Tex Division were also conducted and there is a good possibility that we may see some new faces at our meetings! The museum quoted attendance numbers for the display at 582 on Friday, 431 on Saturday, and 350 as of 2:30 PM on Sunday. The museum staff were extremely helpful with setup, take down and during the display especially Kimberly and Christin.

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# The Cen-Tex Eagle

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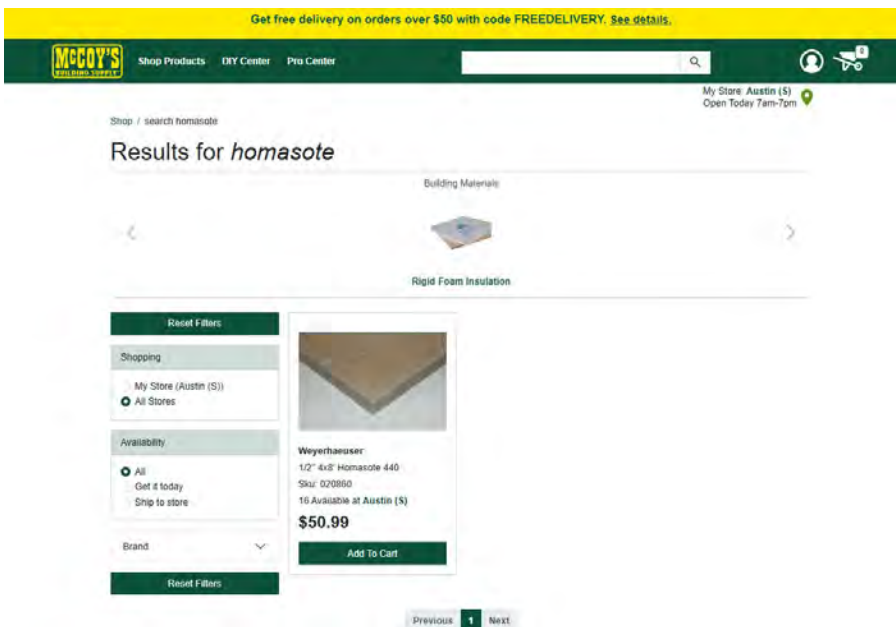
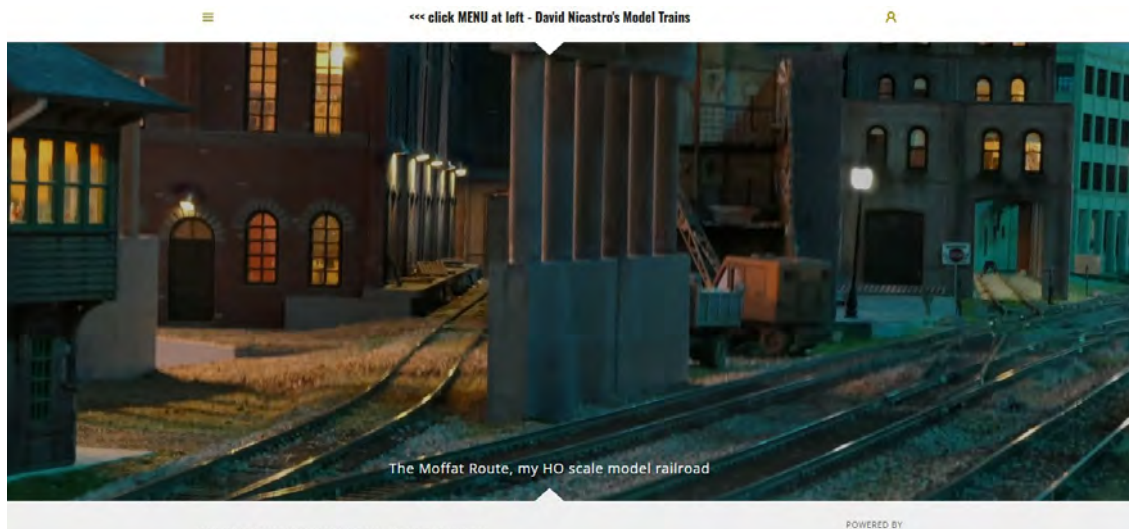
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Updates that didn't make the press deadline of the last issue:

Dave Nicastro's website for The Moffat Route is: [Nicastrotrains.com](http://Nicastrotrains.com)



While we were at Phil's layout, there was a discussion on where to purchase Homasote. It is also available in Georgetown and San Marcos



**Registration Is Open At**

**[www.BluesExpress2025.com](http://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**

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## HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

Announcing information you should know for the upcoming Blues Express LSR Convention and WHY you should attend.

The time is upon us to start registration for the Blues Express in Baton Rouge, June 26-29, 2025. This is Thursday through Sunday and will be filled with fun and educational activities for both model railroaders and for their families. The convention will be in a region that has a bounty of interesting scenic and historical sites and is in the heart of Cajun food country.

Registration is now open for the convention at the convention website: <https://bluesexpress2025.com/>.

This site is where you'll get registered for the convention, show you the clinics available, book your hotel rooms and explain to you a whole slew of other things available at the convention. Did I mention the Cajun food?

The Early Bird Registration and discounted hotel rate will end on May 15, 2025. You shouldn't wait for that date. Get in early because for some activities there is limited space available.

Over the coming months, I'll be sending out information via emails to you about the clinics and what makes our LSR conventions clinics so special.

Let me start with a Make and Take clinic presented by LSR's own Achievement Program (AP) chairman Duane Richardson, MMR. Duane will be leading this clinic where you will be building a speeder shed. This class has limited seats as the room will only accommodate 18 people. You will need to furnish your own tools (but the list is pretty basic) and purchase the shed components (but they're available in N, HO, S, and O scale and the fee is pretty small). All the details are on the clinic page at <https://bluesexpress2025.com/make-take/>.

If you don't know who Duane is, let me introduce you to him: Duane is a lifelong modeler with too many accomplishments for me to even list in a short email. He is MMR #391 and along with his father, MMR #345, became the first father-and-son MMRs. Duane is our region's AP Chairman and is always eager to help with a tip or trick to help you "become a better modeler". He has presented clinics locally, regionally and nationally on topics too numerous to mention, but are always detail-oriented and relevant for any modeler, for any scale.

How about a clinic on **weathering a diesel locomotive**? Or **track planning a layout**? These two clinics will be presented by Walt Liles. He has been a member since 2003 of the Piedmont Division of the Southeast Region (SER) of the NMRA. He is currently serving as Director of Operations and is a past Superintendent, Director of Operations, and Director. Walt has served as the Secretary with the SER for 2 terms and was the Chairperson for the SER 2023 Cartersville Express Convention. He is a member of the North Atlanta Rail Barons and the Tri-State Model Railroaders.

First, Walt will be presenting a clinic on weathering a diesel locomotive covering a certain look with diesels. This includes where to look for key details in weathering a diesel locomotive and looking at the effects of weathering with different colors of locomotives. Walt will use many different weathering products and techniques to make that new locomotive look aged and used. This is a fun clinic to learn some techniques about weathering applications.

Secondly, Walt will have a clinic covering layout design that will go over track planning including different aspects of the track, grades, space limitations and fitting specific industries into your layout. He will be discussing different elements of track and why we do certain things on our layouts. Just like the prototype we need certain items on our model layouts just like the railroads.

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This is a very informative clinic that will help you plan expansion to your current layout of aid you with your next layout.

These are just two of the presenters and three informative clinics that you can see at the Blues Express. But wait! There's more!!! Look for more emails coming soon to highlight more of the activities, clinics, and things to do at the Blues Express. By the way, did I mention the Cajun Food? Please register today and come enjoy the fun or as the Cajuns say: "Laissez les bons temps rouler"... Let the Good Times Roll!

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](http://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 25<sup>th</sup> and including on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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](http://www.BluesExpress2025.com)**

Eric Smith  
Blues Express  
Publicity Chairman

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



The Cincinnati Division 7's limited-edition car is a HO scale, N&W HC-46 ACF 2-Bay Covered Hopper cars . 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

# Still Available

**Start Planning Now!**



**The 90th NMRA National Model Railroad Convention,  
STATION No. VI**

July 14-19, 2025 – Novi, Michigan

The convention is being hosted by the NORTH CENTRAL REGION of the NMRA. Our goal is for [A Convention Like No Other](#). We are planning a great week of model and prototype railroading, just for YOU!

This convention is open to ALL model railroaders! You do not have to be an NMRA member to attend!

Come and join us for the MAXIMUM model railroad FUN!

LOCATION

[Convention HQ is the Sheraton Hotel  
21111 Haggerty Road, Novi, MI 48375](#)

Website: [2025 NMRA National Convention – Station No. VI – hosted by the North Central Region of the NMRA](#)



# TIMETABLE

## Train Show

April 12-13, 2025  
New Braunfels Train Show  
Civic Center,

## Division Meeting

Saturday May 10, 2025

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

### Agenda;

Clinic: How about giving one?  
LSR Convention 2026  
Show and tell  
Deals and Duds  
Lunch  
Layout tour: How about yours?



To give a clinic or host a layout tour!

## ADVANCED PLANNING

### LSR Region Convention

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

### Division Meeting

Saturday July 12, 2025

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

### NMRA National Convention

July 14-19, 2025  
Novi, MI

Real Advanced Planning!

### LSR Region Convention

June, 2026  
Hosted by the Cen-Tex Division 4 of the  
LSR!  
Hey that's us!

### 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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