



Volume 2 Number 11

Week of Mar. 9, 2025

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



Superintendent's Report

Greetings Division 4 Members,

We had another great meeting with a large turnout, thanks to everyone for attending. If you missed the meeting, we missed you!

Cliff spoke about the raffle layout team rebuilding the South Plains layout, which was used at the Austin Train show last year, and they plan to use it again this year. They are open to any members coming out to help on that project starting in May.

We have made some progress on the 2026 Division Convention, with many volunteers, but still need to find help for a few positions and come up with a name and theme for the convention. As far as theme and/or name goes, Wayne discussed the history of railroading in America, mentioning that the first commercial railway opened in 1826 in Massachusetts. In 1853, the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos, & Colorado Railway became the first operating railroad in Texas and only the second west of the Mississippi River. The Houston & Texas Central Railway delivered rail service to Austin and was chartered on March 11, 1848, as the Galveston and Red River Railway and became active in 1855. It first arrived in Austin on Christmas Day 1871. This very short history lesson is to spur some creative juices going to suggest names and/or themes that not only can tie into railroading in America, but also to the LSR. Please email me any and all ideas. I've already received a couple and would like to get a few more and then we can vote on it as a Division.

We also have a potential location for the convention, the Wyndham Garden Inn in South Austin, which is a full-service hotel with a restaurant and lounge, and offers multiple meeting rooms. A few of us visited the location to assess its suitability. The team also briefly discussed food and beverage options. There will be a Zoom meeting on Thursday, March 20th at 7:00 pm to discuss the venue options and process any other updates on the convention. The convention dates are tentatively set for June 18-20, with the group needing to confirm booking details and

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obtain board approval.

Additionally, registration for the 2025 Lone Star Region Convention is now open, with early bird discounts available for the next two months. Book early and SAVE!!

David Nicasro presented a clinic on 17 Ways NOT to make snow. He highlighted his efforts to create realistic snow scenes on his layout. He discussed various techniques and products he experimented with to achieve different snow effects, including using powdered marble, snow pastes, and glitter. He highlighted the challenges of creating realistic icicles and snow-covered trees, and shared his successful methods. He also described how he weathered vehicles and created a snow plow scene to add realism. Throughout the process, he aimed to recreate specific prototype scenes, including the Winter Park depot and a tunnel scene.

We then moved on to the show and tell portion of the meeting. Chris Chany showcased models he built of oil tanks and the hand-built turnouts he was making, explaining the process of building the turnouts and the challenges he faced. He also mentioned his plans to build more turnouts in the future. Steve Jackobs discussed his ongoing project of building a 1939 Texas Mexican Railroad locomotive, detailing the challenges and improvements made in the design process. Chris Palermo showcased a newly acquired plaster kit from Downtown Deco, which he plans to customize and add LEDs for lighting effects. Michael Strittmatter shared some of his modern freight cars and his experience with applying contemporary graffiti and tagging on freight cars, using real-life photographs as inspiration. Robin Stevens presented a budget-friendly 009/HOn30 locomotive, built using a Dapple Kitmaster kit, a 3D print and a Kato N gauge chassis. John Urban brought some freight car kits he owns from the work of Gordon Varney from the 1930s. He also showed an O gauge passenger car he had recently acquired.

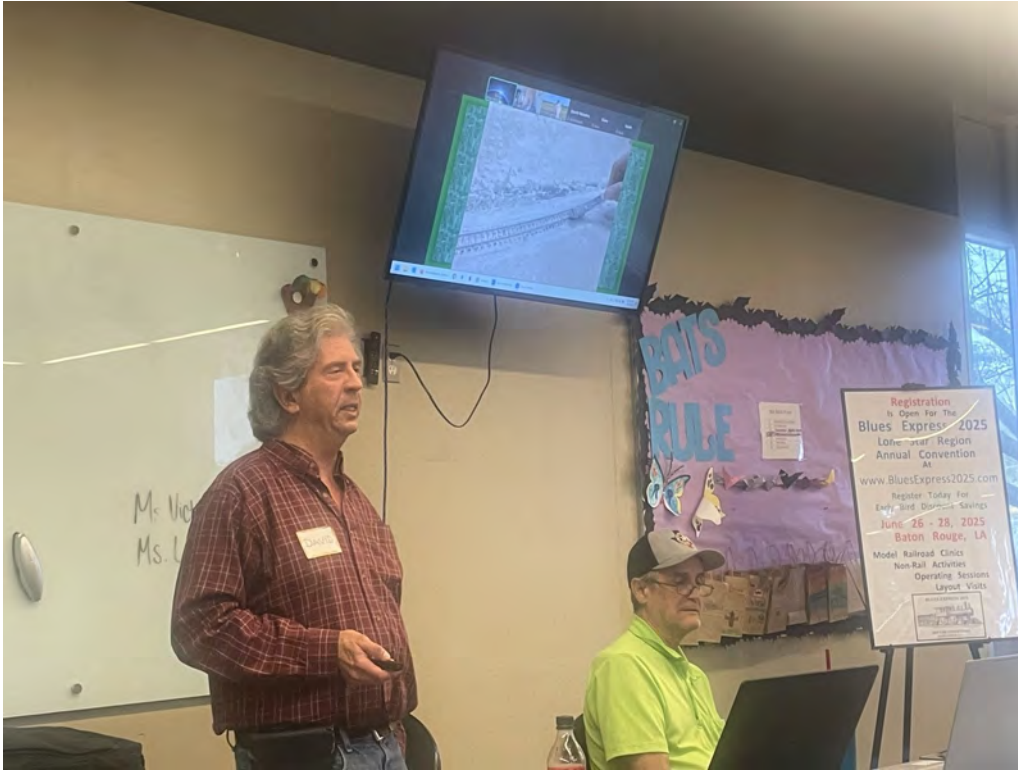
Then we had the deals and duds, surprisingly everyone who won was in attendance. We then adjourned the meeting with some going to Phil Sharpnack's for a layout tour after lunch and some going with me to assess the Wyndham venue. Sorry for being so long winded this month, but we did have a lot going on. I hope to see even more of you at our May 10th meeting! Until next time.....

Doug



90 nmra
1935 ————— 2025
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

Meeting Photos



Dave Nicastro explaining how NOT to make snow ▲

Robin Stevens HOn30 Locomotive ► ▼



The Cen-Tex Eagle

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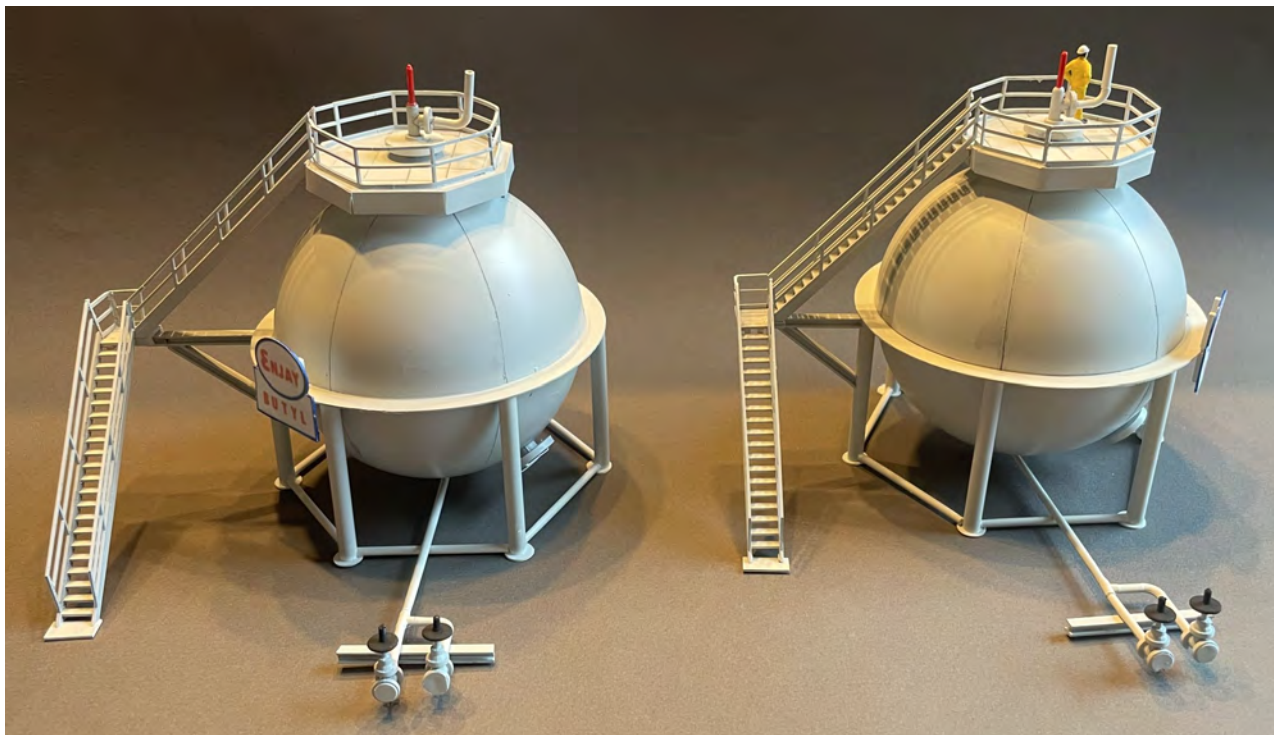
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Left one is finished, the right one shows the different components used to build them

Chris Chany's Enjoy Butyl Spherical Tanks

The finished product



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The "Train Doctor" John Urban displayed Gordon Varney's photo printed sides from the 1930's. An idea that is coming back.



John also brought this nice O scale Pullman

The usual suspects (photo credit : Tom Weaver)



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Michael Strittmatter's Modern freight cars.



Sorry Chris and Steve, I did not get any photos of your models!

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Phil Sharpnack's railroad:
The Pacific Hauling and Industrial Lines, "the P.H.I.L."





Visit
The Museum

Discover
Texas History Online

Education
Programs and Resources

Get Involved
Membership and Support

About
The Bullock Museum



SPRING BREAK: TRAINS AT THE BULLOCK

March 14–16, 2025 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Explore the world of trains over Spring Break at the Bullock Museum.

Event Details

Hear train whistles blow and axles grind as Tinsplate Trackers of Austin and the Austin Model Railway Society's miniature locomotives chug along tiny rails set in intricate scenes.

The model train display and demonstrations are free with Museum admission and will be on view daily from Friday, March 14th through Monday, March 17th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

About the Partners

The Tinsplate Trackers of Austin, Texas is a 3-rail O-Gauge Model Train Club located in the Austin area. The club participates in a number of model railroading activities and events in Central Texas.

Austin Model Railway Society is an HO scale model railroad club located in the Austin area. They welcome all who share a love for trains to visit or become a member. Their 51x24 foot modular layout features the Austin area.



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

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 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

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

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

Ongoing Events

Austin Steam Train

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

Temple Railroad and Heritage Museum

Tuesday—Saturday 10am to 4pm

Train Display

AMRS and Austin Tinplate Trackers Display at
the Bullock Museum.

Friday-Sunday March 14-16, 2025

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!

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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HAPPY 75th BIRTHDAY!



On March 8, 1950, the first Microbus rolled off the assembly line making future hippies happy!