



Volume 1, Number 9

Week of 14, 2024

Newsletter of the CEN-TEX Division 4, Lone Star Region, NMRA

Superintendent's Report



Greetings Division Four members,

With a new year comes new options for enjoying the hobby and the information that is introduced at the meetings. Past clinics from meetings are being installed in the topics/clinics section on the division website, [NMRA Lone Star Region Division 4 – Central Texas – Model Railroading in Central Texas \(centexnmra.org\)](http://centexnmra.org). In the future the Zoom meetings will be edited and posted on the website for viewing. Meeting Wrap-up newsletters will be out to the membership in a timely manner. A list of buildings for the shelf layout with possible kits to use is listed. Pick a project and let me know. I will send relevant information and material to you. Paul Calmes's, Cliff Scherer's and Brian Helms's information will be included with this newsletter. Bill Middlemass's and Joel Davidson's presentations will follow shortly. Enjoy the new year.

Sincerely yours,
Bob

January Meeting is in the Books!

By Superintendent Bob-

The division meeting turned out to be a bonus day with a bunch of short presentations on a variety of subjects. Paul Calmes started off with an intro to building rolling stock with resin kits. He focused on the types of kits, how each type affects the way you go about the build and the degree of difficulty each one presents. I was impressed how he has divided the construction of resin kits into sections, and I look forward to more episodes in the coming year.

Brian Helms gave an informative talk on weathering with oil and acrylic based paints and the use of pan pastel powders. His goal was to weather a car in fifteen minutes and make it look real. He talked about his personal preference of color

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January Meeting continued

choice and some of his techniques. He included the list of paints and powders that he used.

Bill Middlemass did a presentation on the use of servos to control his turnouts. As he will have over 200 turnouts on his layout, he needs to interconnect them to function in the easiest manner. One of the best takeaways from Bill's layout will be the use of LCC in the running of the layout. He is experimenting and refining different ideas and products to use. The members take away will be how to incorporate LCC in their own layout and what products work. Bill will put together a short PPT explaining the material used and the theory behind the build.

Cliff Scherer presented the attendees with some work that he has done for the shelf layout. Using plans from Santa Fe, he built a culvert using foam as the material of choice. He explained the advantages of using foam and how to use a table hot wire cutter to shape the parts. He also explained how to glue up the project and paint it. Cliff was the first person to try building a fast tracks switch which is my goal of introducing new ideas and products. He did have some mistakes from the technique but that was the one thing I wanted to introduce to the members that: Learning is through trial and error which will help the next effort be more successful.



Superintendent Bob's discussion of the G&CT layout

Paul Calme's Informative talk on resin freight car building.





Brian Helms discusses freight car weathering when you have a large fleet of cars to be weathered.

Some of Brian's freight cars.

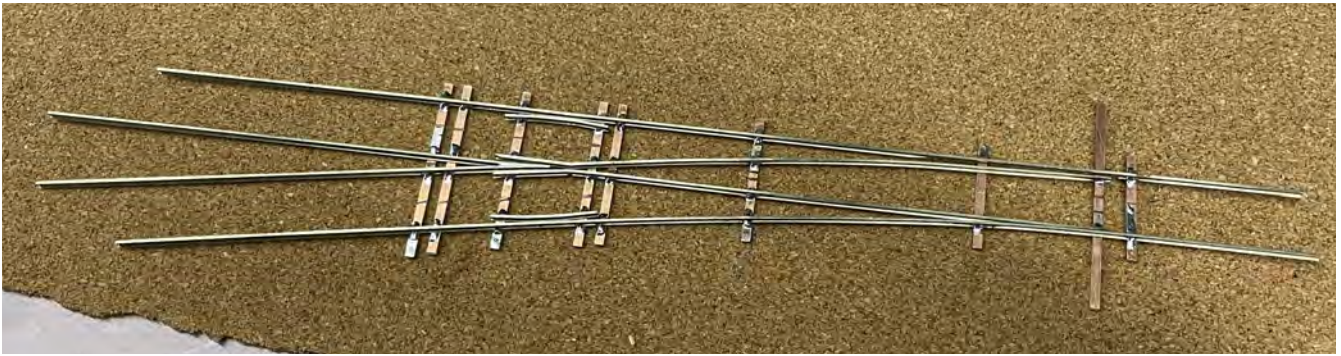




Bill Middlemass explaining the wiring for his huge model railroad that he is building. PowerPoint clinic to come in the future.

Cliff holding a concrete culvert he made from foam using a Proxxon Table Hot Wire Cutter.



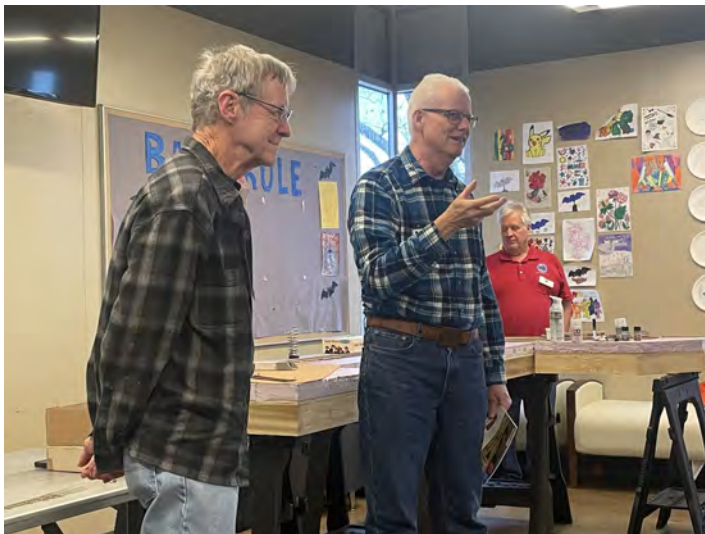


Cliff's first try at building a Fast Tracks turnout (switch).

Meeting Notes

-Russ T. Rale

Our meeting had 27 attendees and 6 zoomers. The City of Austin had moved in some nice comfy chairs and sofas into the room so people who were there early had some comfy seats. Donn Winn wrote an article about Lift-up layout entries for *Model Railroader* that was published in the January 2023 issue. Since he didn't have or need a lift up he asked George Zapalac if he needed one. George agreed and Don told him that if MR published it he would split the proceeds with him. At Saturday's meeting Don "paid off" George. An unanswered question from the meeting was who let a 1/87 scale dive bomber attack the Goldweight and Centex?



George about to get paid off by Don.



Dive bomber damage on the G&CT. I think it's an easy repair!

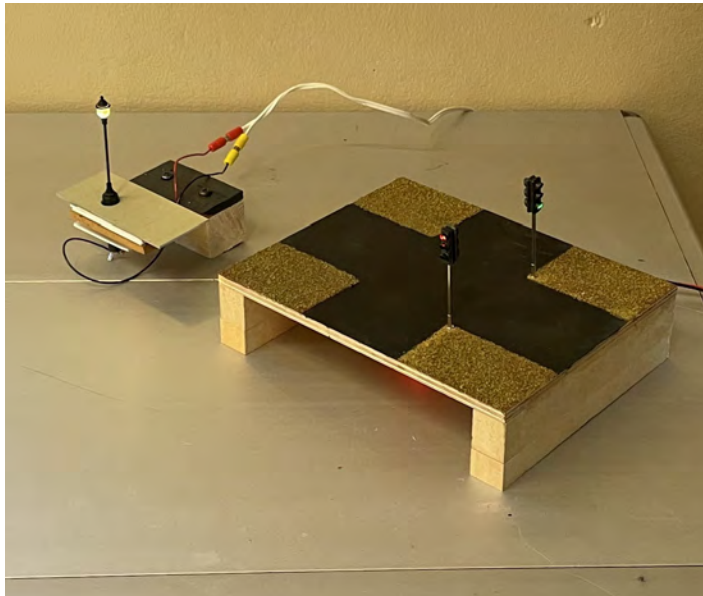
Show and Tell



Don Winn showed his small station with detailed interior.

Joel displayed his working traffic light using an Arduino controller. If anyone is interested in building their own talk to Joel. Steve showed how he used speaker plugs to make removable streetlights for the AMRS layout. That might be another RMC article! (Hint hint)





A close-up shot of the street light and traffic light.

Steve also brought in a working “derail” using Caboose Industries ground throws. He built two types an above the rail and a below the rail. They are going to be used to keep cars parked on hills from rolling away. Maybe another article (hint, hint)



Finally to complete his Master Builder Structures he need to show that he had built one more scratch built structure. He brought in this open air shed for Jack to approve.



WHERE THE EAGLE MEETS THE CHIEF
THE 2024 NMRA LONE STAR REGION CONVENTION
HOUSTON/PASADENA, TEXAS

LSR Convention

February 15 -17, 2024

Web Site For Registration & Hotel Live

<http://www.turbotrains.com/2024lonestar/>

The Lone Star Region 2024 Convention will be held at the Pasadena Convention Center. It will be held in conjunction with the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club train show on Saturday February 17. All convention attendees will get FREE admission to the train show and by showing your convention badge you will be able to get in 1 hour before the general public.

We will have all of the normal convention activities, Contest Room, Operations, Layout Tours and plenty of activities for the spouses.

The registration will be \$80.00 for the primary registration and \$50.00 for spouse and children. All registrations include a BBQ Dinner on Saturday night and admission to the train show. Please go to the website www.turbotrains.com/2024lonestar

We have secured a special rate at the LaQuinta on Sam Houston Parkway at a guaranteed rate of \$87.00 per night for a King Room or Double Queen room. To get the special rate you need to email Michelle at lq53239tx@gmail.com giving her your phone number and that it is for the **LSR Convention**. Michelle will call you back to book the room. If folks reserve through Michelle the rate could drop to \$75.00 per night is over 15 rooms are booked so please book early.

Goldweight and Cen-Tex Layout Update

We are looking for a herald for the Goldweight and Cen-Tex. Send your ideas to Bob. We also need volunteers to build the structures for the layout. Some of the structures will be kit-built, others kit-bashed and the rest scratch-built. If you are looking to complete your Master Model Railroader Mas-

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Passenger and freight station, have pictures and plans.	Stock yard
Small grain house	Cotton warehouse have pictures.
Several backdrop store buildings - have pictures	Goldthwaite oil mill – Cliff claimed.
Cotton seed gin have pictures.	Magnolia petroleum co.
Turntable – Tim claimed.	

Build-
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quirements. Here is a list of buildings that need to be built. Review the list and select one you would like to try. No experience required; this is a learning process. Contact Bob to reserve your choice.



Austin Model Railway Society Update

This Saturday's meeting has been postponed one week due to the church needing the room. Meeting is now the 27th. Same Bat Time, Same Bat location.

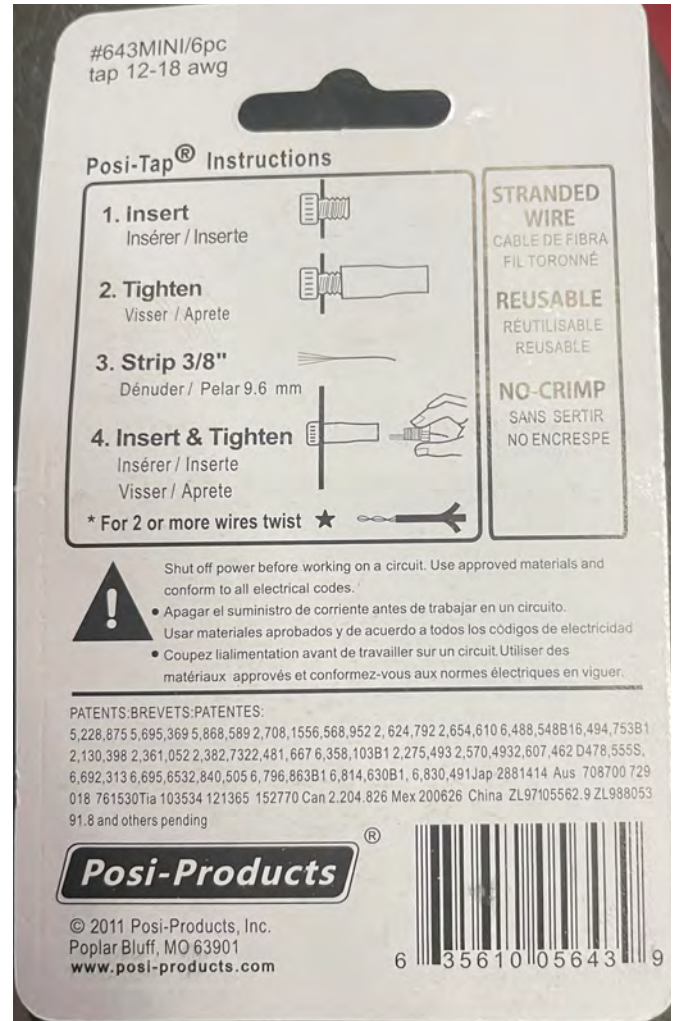
In lieu of the meeting on **January 20**, you are all invited to attend a viewing of the IMAX film *Train Time* on Saturday, January 20, 2024 11AM at the *Bullock History Museum Theater 1800 Congress Ave. Austin*

For more information about this film, see <https://www.thestoryoftexas.com/visit/calendar/imax/train-time-202401> . You can buy tickets at the theater for \$7 - \$9, depending on your age, or purchase them online for an additional \$3 charge. Underground parking is available on-site with an entry off 18th

St. Parking is normally \$15, but if you tell the attendant you're with the Austin Model Railway Society, the fee will be waived for this weekend only. Thanks to AMRS member Mi-



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Macrail's operating deraill you need a skewer to flip it into place.

TIMETABLE

TRAIN SHOW

Saturday-Sunday, January 20th - 21st, 2024,
Plano, TX

Plano Center. Hours 10am-5pm Saturday,
10am-4pm Sunday. 2000 East Spring
Creek Pkwy, Plano

LSR Convention

February 15-17 2024

TRAIN SHOWS

Saturday, February 17, 2024
San Jacinto Model RR Club

Saturday, and Sunday February 24-25, 2024
San Antonio Model RR Association

DIVISION MEETING

Saturday, March 9, 2024 10:00AM

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

Program:

Clinic-need a volunteer
Goldweight and Central Layout update
Show and Tell
Deals or Duds
Lunch
Train Time in IMAX or
Layout Tour (need a Volunteer)

TRAIN SHOW

Saturday-Sunday, April 20-21 2024

The New Braunfels Railroad Museum Train
Show

New Braunfels Civic Center
375 South Castell Avenue
New Braunfels, Texas 78130

DIVISION MEETING

Saturday May 11, 2024

Centex Division Meeting

Austin Parks and Recreation
Northwest Rec Center
2913 Northland Drive, Austin

Program:

Clinic-need a volunteer
Goldweight and Central Layout update
Show and Tell
Deals or Duds
Lunch
Layout Tour (need a Volunteer)

ADVANCED PLANNING

Saturday, July 13, 2024 10:00AM

Centex Division Meeting

NMRA “Surfliner” National Convention

August 4-11, 2024
Long Beach, California

Saturday-Sunday, Aug 24-25, 2024

AMRS Train Show

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

THE MASTHEAD

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