



Volume 1, Number 11

Week of March 17, 2024

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

Superintendent's Report



Greetings Division Four members,
 I enjoyed seeing everyone at the meeting or those who joined online. I am happy with the response I received from the members who volunteered to build structures for the Goldweight and Cen-Tex layout. At the May meeting we should have the buildings in place and scenery well under way. I am going to spend the next week remaking the PowerPoint presentation on the layout and include details for each phase of construction. Speaking of PowerPoint and clinics, check out the Division website **Centexnmra.org** for new material. Cliff Scherer is working hard to convert the meeting presentations into videos which will be available on the Centex website here: <https://www.centexnmra.org/meetings-clinics/>
 Enjoy the spring and get modeling before the Summer honey-do's stack up.
 Sincerely yours,
 Bob

Happy Saint Patrick's Day



Inside This Issue

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT	1
Meeting Wrap –up	2
Gil Freitag Hall of Fame nomination	4
AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN UPDATE	4
Zilker Eagle Update	5
Live Steam Tours UP Big Boy	5
LIVE STEAM TOURS CP HUDSON	6
Suppliers and Resources	6
National Train	7
TIMETABLE	8
CALL FOR THE MASTHEAD	9

Meeting Notes

-Bob, Photos by Tom Weaver

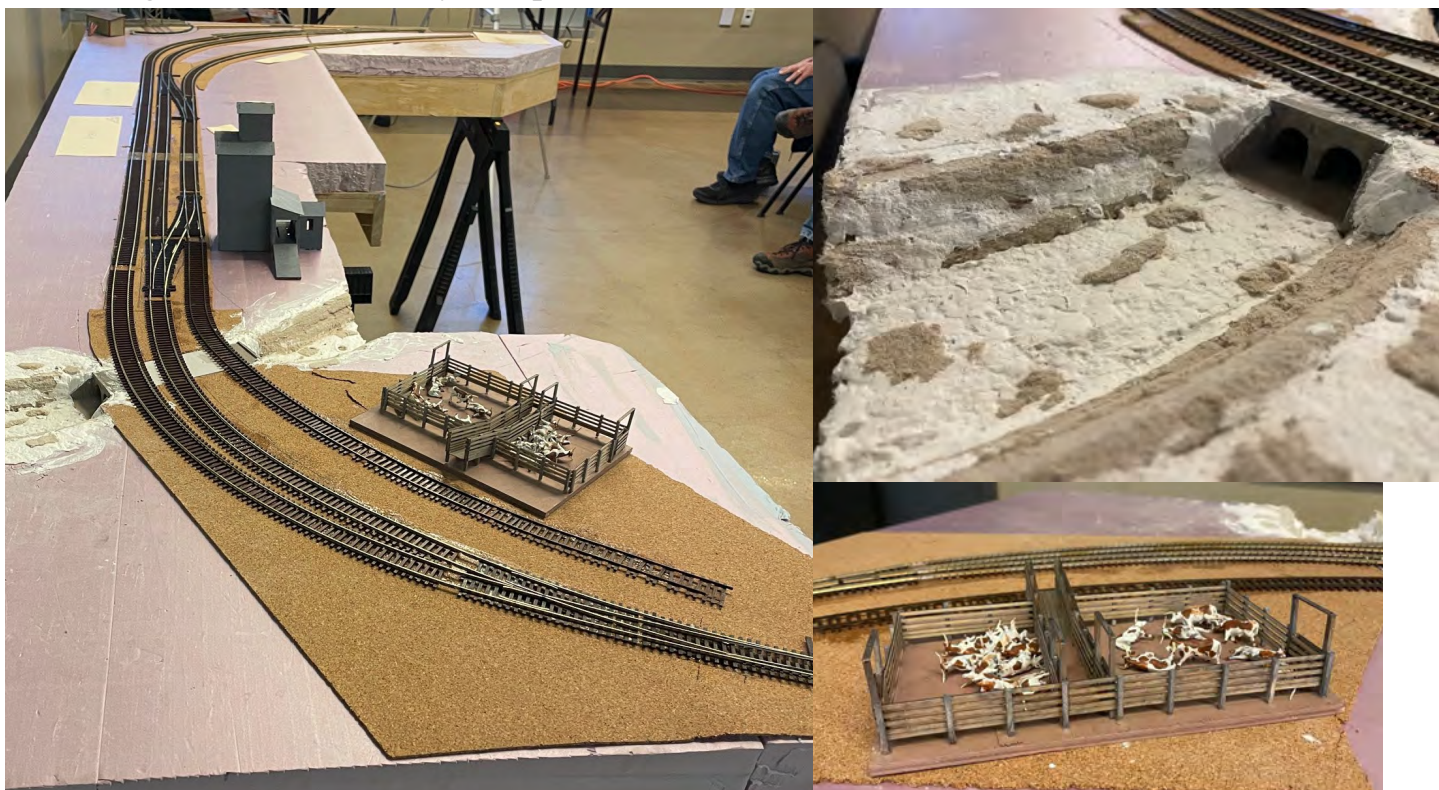


The Usual Suspects, No “comfy chairs” this time. We had 25 members present and 5 online. Bill Middlemass gave a great clinic on building a helix with a new product that is on the market.

Diane Jacobs’s Layout

Here are the dimensions of Diane Jacobs’s room which members at the meeting asked for. . 217” x 189” (of the latter it’s 144” to the door frame). There are 3 doorways into the room which I need to keep open so available size of the room 144” x 127”, if I move the tv and the chairs out. The window is along the 150” wall. It starts 18” from corner and is 21” high, 76” wide. Let’s think outside the box and come up with some configurations that could hug the wall or with peninsula.

Goldweight and Cen-Tex Layout update



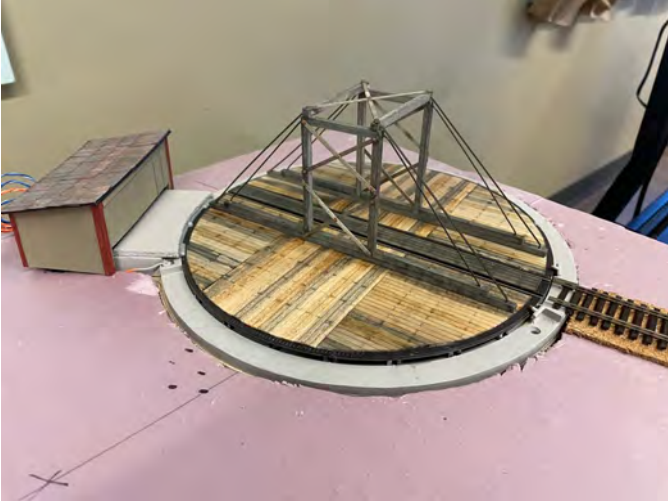
Overview

Top: Nice looking stream bed by Bob.
Bottom: The Stockyard by Jerry Wilson. Jerry those cows don’t look very healthy. :)

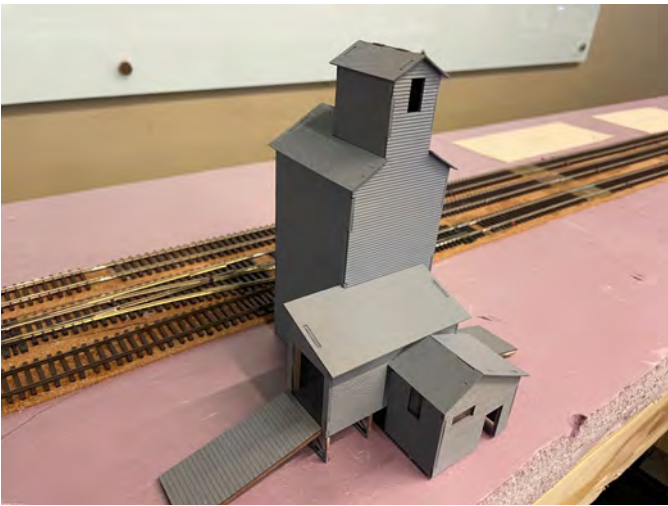
The Cen-Tex Eagle

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Tim's Turntable



Top: Grain Elevator by John Larson
Right: Overview of the stream bed and Cliff's concrete culvert.



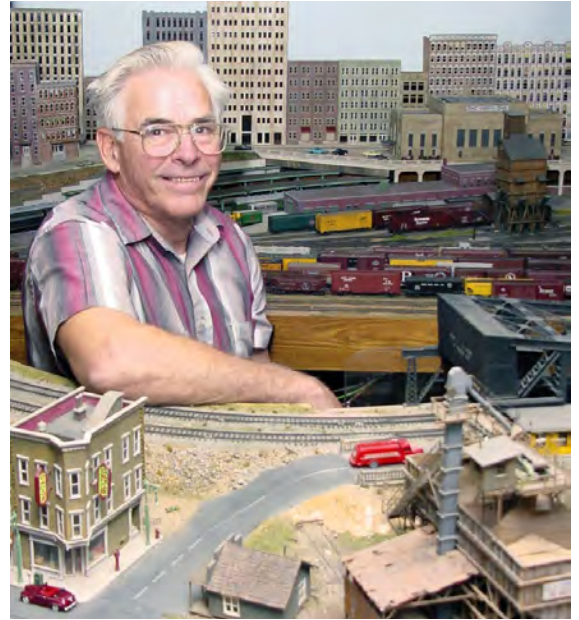
A message from Lone Star Region Member Peter B.

Gentlemen,
My friend Gil Freitag has been nominated for the April Model Railroader Hall of Fame. Please send to LSR DIV 4 and AMRS members to vote for Gil. (If they want)
Thank you very much,
On behalf of Virginia and Gil Freitag
Peter B.

Here is the link for Gil's nomination:

<https://www.trains.com/mrr/model-railroader-hall-of-fame-april-nominees/>

The first group of honorees will be inducted in December 2024.



Austin Steam Train News

-Bob

Austin Steam Train has produced a video that is playing on YouTube and goes through the history of 786 and the plans for its future. It is an entertaining watch and I hope they achieve their goal. You can view the video from the Austin Steam Train Association about the restoration of steam engine #786 at this link;

https://youtu.be/Q9C6lInwhO8?si=Tgn8rX7wm_Z3oOn1



Zilker Eagle Locomotive Returns

-Riley Triggs

After several years and many problems to solve, the Zilker park train is up and running. The Zilker Eagle is now hiring for train engineer and staff positions. Email jobs@zilkertrain.org to apply.



February 2024 Update

It's time for your February update as we continue our efforts to restore the Zilker Eagle mini train, and this time, we have a very special update for you: We are happy to report that the Zilker Eagle locomotive has arrived at Zilker Park! The locomotive was transported from Lufkin, TX and arrived in Austin this afternoon. The locomotive is fitted with air brakes and exterior lights, and all controls are inside the cab, which is an added safety feature. Our team is working hard to get the train up and running as quickly and safely as possible, and once testing is complete, we will share more about our plans for opening to the public. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or Angela Osborn, APF VP of Marketing & Development, at any time to talk more.

Colin Wallis
Chief Executive Officer
 Austin Parks Foundation

Live Steam Updates

-Russ T. Rale

UP Big Boy will travel to Texas

Union Pacific has announced that the Big Boy will be touring this summer with stops in DFW and Houston. The schedule has not been finalized yet.



Canadian Pacific 2816

Canadian Pacific has issued a press release for an April through June tour of Royal Hudson, The Empress 2816.

“Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) is pleased to announce the schedule dates for its historic Final Spike Anniversary Steam Tour, which will kick off April 24 at the company’s global headquarters in Calgary, Alta. and culminate June 4 in Mexico City. The tour will bring the story of CPKC’s uniquely North American railway history and compelling future to life for rail fans and visitors as it travels across CPKC’s network.



“Our combination on April 14, 2023, brought together two railroads with long and proud histories that together created the first and only railroad network connecting North America,” said Keith Creel, CPKC President and CEO. “This special cross-continental journey of the 2816 steam locomotive serves as a reminder of our past and a celebration of our future. We

are excited to share this extraordinary experience with communities across our network as we mark the one-year anniversary of our CPKC journey. The Final Spike Anniversary Steam Tour will be the first ever steam-powered passenger train in North America to traverse Canada, the U.S. and Mexico in a single trip.”

The Empress 2816, a 4-6-4 Hudson-type steam locomotive built in 1930, will make 11 stops between Calgary and Mexico City:

Calgary, Alta. | April 24

Moose Jaw, Sask. | April 28

Minot, N.D. | April 30

St. Paul, Minn. | May 3

Franklin Park, Ill. | May 8

Davenport, Iowa | May 10

Kansas City, Mo. | May 18

Shreveport, La. | May 24

Laredo, Texas | May 28

Monterrey, Mexico | May 31

Mexico City, Mexico | June 4

Public events will be held in multiple cities across the network, kicking off in Calgary on April 24. Steam tour events will be held in Moose Jaw, Minot, St. Paul, Franklin Park, Davenport, Kansas City, Shreveport, and Laredo. At these stops, the public will have the opportunity to see the 2816 up close, learn more about the locomotive and CPKC’s history and enjoy the Puffer Belly Express mini-train, a quarter scale steam locomotive model. In Mexico City, the 2816 will be spotted for public display.

For more information and to view the full schedule, visit <https://www.cpkcr.com/en/community/final-spike-steam-train>

Suppliers and Resources

Ballast distributor – Gostur sowing seed dispenser 7.99 Amazon

Circuit board ties – American Tie and Timber, gap master sales@americantieandtimber.com

NATIONAL TRAIN DAY “TRIPLE HEADER”

Saturday, May 11, 2024

9-4 PM



ROCKDALE I&GN DEPOT

11 Main St.
Rockdale, TX 76567
512-446-2020
rockdalehistoricalsociety@gmail.com
<https://www.rockdaledepotmuseum.org/>



HEARNE DEPOT

130 W. 9th St.
Hearne, TX 77859
806-790-4659
www.hearnedepot.org



MILAM COUNTY RAILROAD MUSEUM

110 W. 1ST ST.
Cameron, TX 76520
254-697-7055
www.mcrm-otc.org
jlanson@milamcounty.net

TRIPLE HEADER NATIONAL TRAIN DAY FAMILY FUN

The Rockdale I&GN Depot, Hearne Depot and the Milam County Railroad Museum in Cameron would like to invite everyone to our celebration of National Train Day. National Train Day marks the anniversary of the establishment of the Golden Spike in Promontory, Utah, at the Promontory summit.

Each museum will be hosting their own celebrations throughout the day. You will be able to purchase as many \$5 tickets as you want at the first museum you visit. Have the tickets punched at each museum and then deposit your ticket into the last museum in a box for a chance for a \$100 gift certificate.

Each museum will be awarding a \$100 gift certificate. You might win the prize from the last museum you visit! **You must visit all three museums and have tickets punched at each museum to be eligible.**

There will be family fun and food at all three museums.



TIMETABLE

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 National Train Day!

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

Program:

Opening discussion
Clinic(s) Need a Volunteer(s)
Goldweight and Central Shelf Layout
update
Show and Tell
Deals or Duds
Lunch
Layout Tour possibly Bill Middle-
mass's

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
Palmer Events Center

Saturday September 14, 2024
Centex Division Meeting 10 AM
Austin Parks and Recreation
Northwest Rec Center
2913 Northland Drive, Austin

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 Masthead.

Thanks.

Russ T. Rale

THE MASTHEAD

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