



Volume 2 Number 12

Week of May 4, 2025

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

Russ T. Rale visits SAMRA! Photo essay page 3



Superintendent's Report

Greetings Division 4 Members,

The weather is getting nice and warm, I hope everyone is able to get out and enjoy it. Maybe do a little railfanning? The next meeting for the division will be May 10th at the Austin NW Rec center. The meeting will start at 10:00 and as always it will be broadcast live on Zoom. I will send out the link on Thursday the 8th .

We have had a couple of good meetings on the 2026 Convention and had a few more folks step up to help make it a success for all of us. However, there is still room for more to volunteer. We will be sharing some of what we have done so far at the meeting. Please keep in mind that the Regional Convention is a benefit for the entire Division.

We still need someone for a clinic this month, so if you are interested, please let me know ASAP. David Shannon has volunteered his layout for a tour. Please contact me if you would like to do a presentation or tour now or in the future.

Remember to bring your projects that you are working on for the show and tell portion of the meeting. Take care and I hope to see you all on the 10th!

Doug

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WANTED

The CenTex Division is building a new test track to bring to the Austin Train Show.

We are in need of the following items:

N-gauge flex track piece

Two (2) N-gauge re-railers

Eight N-gauge rail joiners

Two (2) HO-gauge re-railers

Three feet of American Flyer track with rail joiners

Three feet of S-gauge track with rail joiners

Three feet of Lionel track with rail joiners

Three feet of O-gauge track with rail joiners

Lionel type power pack

American Flyer Power Pack

AMRS is supplying DC and DCC power packs

If you have any of the above in your stash, please bring them to the May Centex meeting.

THANK YOU!!

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SAMRA

Your editor went to the New Braunfels Train Show on Sunday, April 20th. A few of the normal vendors were not there and turnout was light. I heard that it was crowded on Saturday. I did get some circus wagons at the museums table. In talking to one of the vendors, he suggested that while I was down this far I should go see SAMRA. He said it was only about 10 minutes down the road. I went outside and convinced my wife, Chi Ne, to make the trip. It was about 1/2 hour down the road because of a huge construction project right near the exit.

Going inside the building we were met by two club members Alan Vincent and Phil Rawlins. Our tour guide was to be Alan who asked if we wanted the all inclusive \$1.37 tour. We said yes. We were treated to an in-depth look at the railroad. It was very enjoyable. The modeling is superb and it was worth the trip. The photo essay follows the route of our tour of the layout.



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John Lowrance gives a clinic on fitting this gas station into the small space.



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▼ San Antonio Station



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▲ Pearl Brewing, camouflages the corner nicely.

◀ Anyone interested in a *Secondhand Lion*



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▲▼ The industrial area with the new Port area being built in the background.



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▲ An industry from Gil Freitag's layout



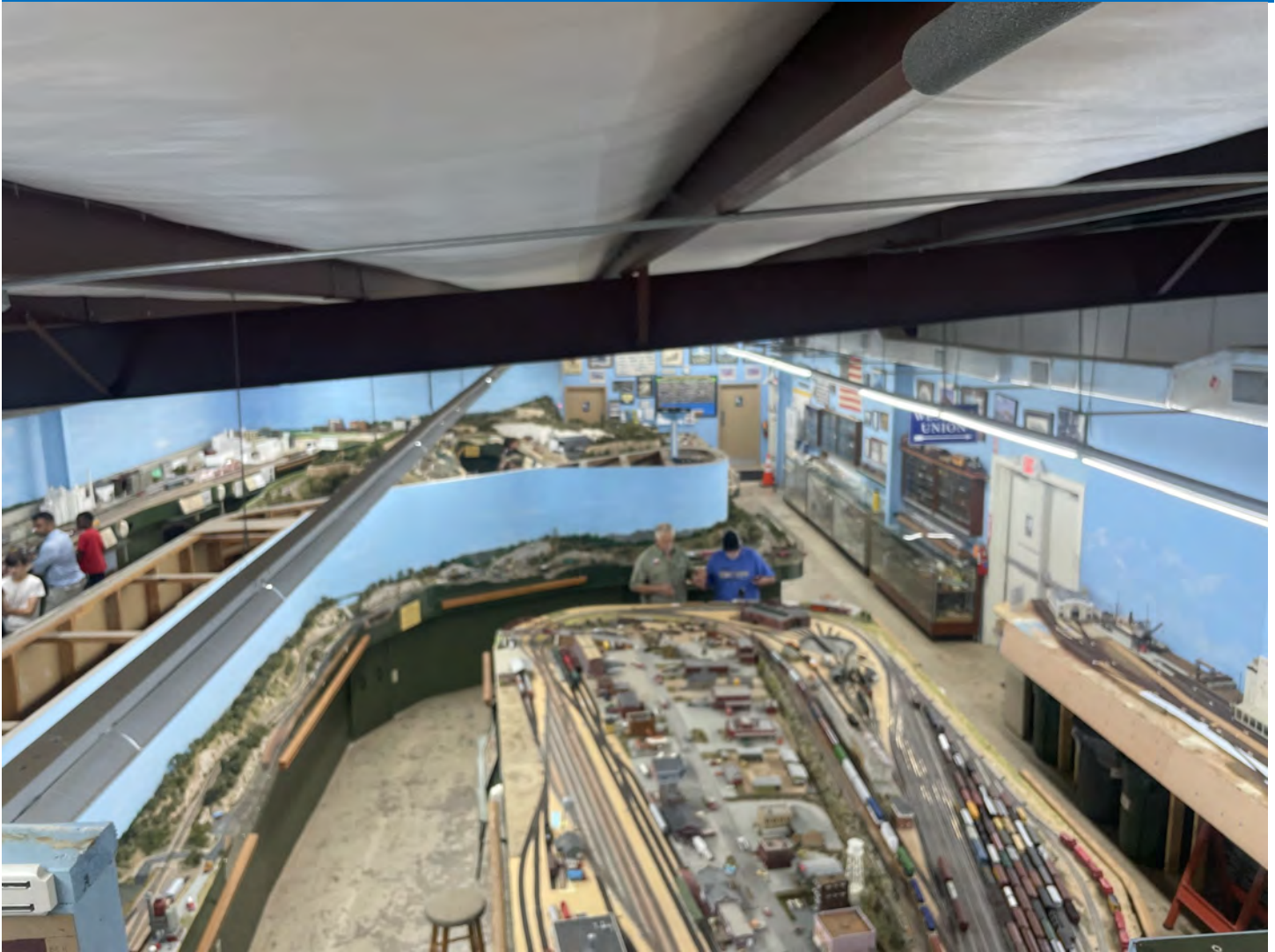
John Lawrence's version of the PRR
Strafford Station



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▲ View from the dispatcher's office



Time is running out!

The Lone Star Region Blues Express 2025 Convention is getting closer by the day. Early Bird Registration Deadline closing May 15, 2025.

It's getting down to crunch time for reduced registration. Registration is now open for the convention at the convention website: <https://bluesexpress2025.com/>

This site will help you see the register 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.

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.

Do not miss out, register today before the Early Bird discounted registration rate ends. Limited hotel rooms are still available at the groups discounted rate.

A few seats are still available for the limited attendance Katy Speeder Shed Make-n-Take Clinic and the 3D Design for Railroad Modeling clinics.

Time is running out, register today at <https://bluesexpress2025.com/>

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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 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

NMRA National Convention

July 14-19, 2025

Novi, MI

For details see page 14

2025 National N scale convention

June 24-29, 2025

Overland Park, KS

Advanced Planning

Cotton Belt Railroad Symposium

August 2, 2025

Texas A&M Commerce-Commerce TX

Austin Area Train Show

August 23-24, 2025

Palmer Events Center

Austin, TX

National Narrow Gauge Convention

September 3-6, 2025

Collinsville, IL

TCA LSR Div Toy Train & Swap Meet

September 6, 2025

McKinney, TX

Division Meeting

Saturday, September 13, 2025

Centex Division Meeting 10 AM

Austin Parks and Recreation

Northwest Rec Center

2913 Northland Drive, Austin

TCA LSR Div Gulf Coast Chapter Toy Train & Swap Meet

September 20, 2025

Seabrook, TX

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: David Shannon

LSR Region Convention

June 26 - 29, 2025

Holiday Inn Baton Rouge South

9900 Airline Highway

Baton Rouge, LA 70816

For details see pgs. 10-12

Division Meeting

Saturday, July 12, 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?

TIMETABLE

Temple Model Train Show
September 20-21, 2025
Temple, TX

Plano Train Show
September 27-28, 2025
Plano, TX

Galveston County Model Railroad Club's
Annual Train Festival
October 4, 2025
Texas City, TX

New Braunfels Model Train Show
October 25-26, 2025
New Braunfels, TX

LSR Division Convention
Hosted by Division 4 CenTex
June 2026

Ongoing Events

Austin Steam Train

Make Reservations - Austin Steam Train Association

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



To give a clinic or host a layout tour!



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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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