



Final Markers Phil Sharpnack April 30, 1949 - August 18, 2025



It is with great sadness that we must report the passing of Phil Sharpnack. Phil built several versions of his home layout, the Pacific Hauling & Industrial Lines (P.H.I.L.) based on the Santa Fe in the Southwest. He was an active member of the Austin Model Railway Society and the Cen-Tex Division of the LSR and helped with the Austin Train Show and multiple LSR conventions. He loved to operate and hosted numerous fun sessions and layout tours on his

own layout while also participating in sessions on many other layouts. Phil was known for his sense of humor, which was always light-hearted and never cruel, and particularly enjoyed the community and comradery of Model Railroading. He should also be remembered for his generosity and willingness to volunteer his time to help others. Phil was often accompanied by his wife Cindy who was very supportive of his hobby.

Visitation will be Tuesday September 2 from 6-8pm at Ramsey Funeral Home, at 5600 Williams Drive in Georgetown, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association at <https://www.heart.org>.

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Superintendent's Report



Greetings Cen-Tex Members,
Unfortunately, as posted above, we had to say goodbye to Phil Sharpnack this month. Our thoughts are with his wife Cindy and the family.

It appears that the AMRS had another great train show this year, congratulations to all of the volunteers who made it happen. Great things can happen when dedicated people put their minds to the task.

The next meeting for the division will be September 13th at the Austin NW Rec center. The meeting will start at 10:00 and as

Superintendent's Report continued

always it will be broadcast live on Zoom. I will send out the link on Thursday the 11th .

We are making good progress on the 2026 Convention and will open up Early Bird registration at the meeting. We will also be sharing some what we have done so far at the meeting. Please keep in mind that the Regional Convention is a benefit for the entire Division and we still have room for more volunteers. As an added bonus, you can earn AP credit for volunteering!

We have Lou Adler who will be doing a presentation on "Creating Time" this meeting. We also will have Chris Palermo going over some things from the National Convention. We do not have anyone who has volunteered for a layout tour for this month, any takers? 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 13th !

Doug

Remembrances of Phil.

Phil was the first and a regular operator on my railroad for 25 years. He was a great operator and a great friend. ~Jack Merkel

He was a long time, well respected member of NMRA Div 4 and of the AMRS. I operated on his layout a few times and he was truly a great guy. ~Cliff Scherer

I am very sadden to hear about Phil. I enjoyed his company and it was always a pleasure to talk to him. In my early years as director, he was there to help me in any way he could. I know we will miss him, "to be immortal you are remembered by others". Phil is immortal in my heart. ~Bob Thiele

I remember when I first started coming to Division meetings when I first moved to Texas. Phil used to give a DCC minute. I still use the handout from "Important CVs and what they do" ~Chris Chany aka Russ T. Rale

Cindy Shrapnack emailed to say: Thank you to all of you who have worked/played with Phil over the years. He really enjoyed the companionship and the times he spent with all of his "train" friends!

The Cen-Tex Division, NMRA and the Train Show South Plains Hands-On Layout and the NMRA Test Track ~Cliff Scherer

The Austin Train Show was a great success last weekend, bringing in nearly 2500 adults plus hundreds of kids. At the Show, the NMRA/AMRS hosted the South Plains Switching Layout for kids to “Run the Trains”, and we also had a complete Test Track setup for train show attendees to test equipment that they bought at the show or brought from home.



The South Plains layout provided over 150 kids and several adults with time on the throttle, running switching moves in South Plains and Industry yard. In addition to the kids, the parents were also introduced to the hobby. Several folks expressed interest in learning more about modelling and joining our group. Many thanks to those who made the South Plains Hands-On layout possible! Getting the layout refurbished for the show included: Joe Dumas, Tim Giraud, Mike Barrett, John Larson, Jerry Wilson, Jim Williams, Doug Taylor and Cliff Scherer.

The volunteers helping the kids at the show had the most fun including Joe Dumas, Cliff Scherer, Carroll Scherer, Jim Williams, Joel Davidson, Steve Jackobs, Brian Helms, Doug Taylor, James Greene, and Chuck Marling.

The NMRA Test Track was new this year, thanks to the woodworking and track laying skills of Chris Chany. Chris created a great test track capable of handling both DC and DCC engines. He incorporated N, HO, S, O 3-rail and O 2-rail track so the major track gauges were all covered. Many thanks to Chris and Doug Taylor for manning the test track throughout the show!

Complete Story with more photos next month!

DONATE YOUR TYCO!



The Austin Model Railway Society is assembling “Starter Train Sets” of donated, pre-2000s components for sale at King’s Hobby and Lionheart Hobbies. The aim is to provide an affordable entry into the hobby.

Consider donating any out-of-date, Tyco-quality rolling stock and engines – old X2f couplers, pizza cutter wheels, truck-mounted couplers, etc.

Contact George Zapalac at secretary@austinrailway.org or Steve Jackobs at president@austinrailway.org for info.
www.austinrailway.org



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

TIMETABLE

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

Agenda;

Clinic: Lou Adler "Creating Time"
LSR Convention 2026
Show and tell
Deals and Duds
Lunch
Layout tour: How about yours?

TCA LSR Div Gulf Coast Chapter Toy
Train & Swap Meet
September 20, 2025
Seabrook, TX

43rd Annual Temple Model Train Show
September 20-21, 2025
Frank Mayborn Center
Temple, Texas

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

ADVANCED PLANNING

Division Meeting

Saturday, November 8, 2025

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

LSR Convention
Hosted by Division 4 CenTex
www.Connections2026.com
Wyndham Garden Inn, June 18-20,
2026
Volunteer Now!

TIMETABLE

Ongoing Events

Austin Steam Train

Check their website for operations.
www.AustinSteamTrain.org

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



To give a clinic or host a layout tour and
volunteer for the convention!

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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