



Volume 3 Number 9 Week of January 18, 2026

Newsletter of the CEN-TEX Division 4, Lone Star Region, NMRA
www.centexnmra.org www.Connections2026.com



Superintendent's Report

Greetings Cen-Tex Members,
 We had a nice meeting this month. We are making great progress on the 2026 Convention! We shared some of what has been accomplished 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. If you are interested in volunteering, but don't know what you can or could do, just contact Joe Dumas our volunteer coordinator. As an added bonus, you can earn AP credit for volunteering!
 We had David Nicastro do a presentation on the continuation of his work on his Winter Park project. It was very informative and showed extraordinary attention to detail. We also had Frolin Marek provide an update on his custom desk and some of the unique challenges he has worked around with his shelf layout.
 Steve Jakobs hosted this month's layout tour. Thank you so much Steve!
 Please contact me if you would like to do a presentation or tour now or in the future.
 We submitted Eli Beams for the Division Youth Award. Congratulations Eli!
 The next meeting for the division will be March 14th 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 12th.
 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 14th!

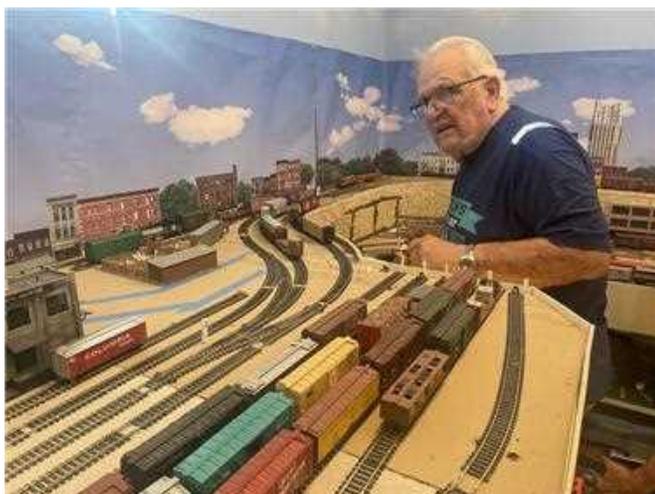
Doug

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Last Runs of the P.H.I.L.—The Pacific Hauling and Industrial Lines



Cindy Sharpnack has graciously opened up Phil's layout for some final operating sessions before it is dismantled.



Russell making sure his train gets into the closet.

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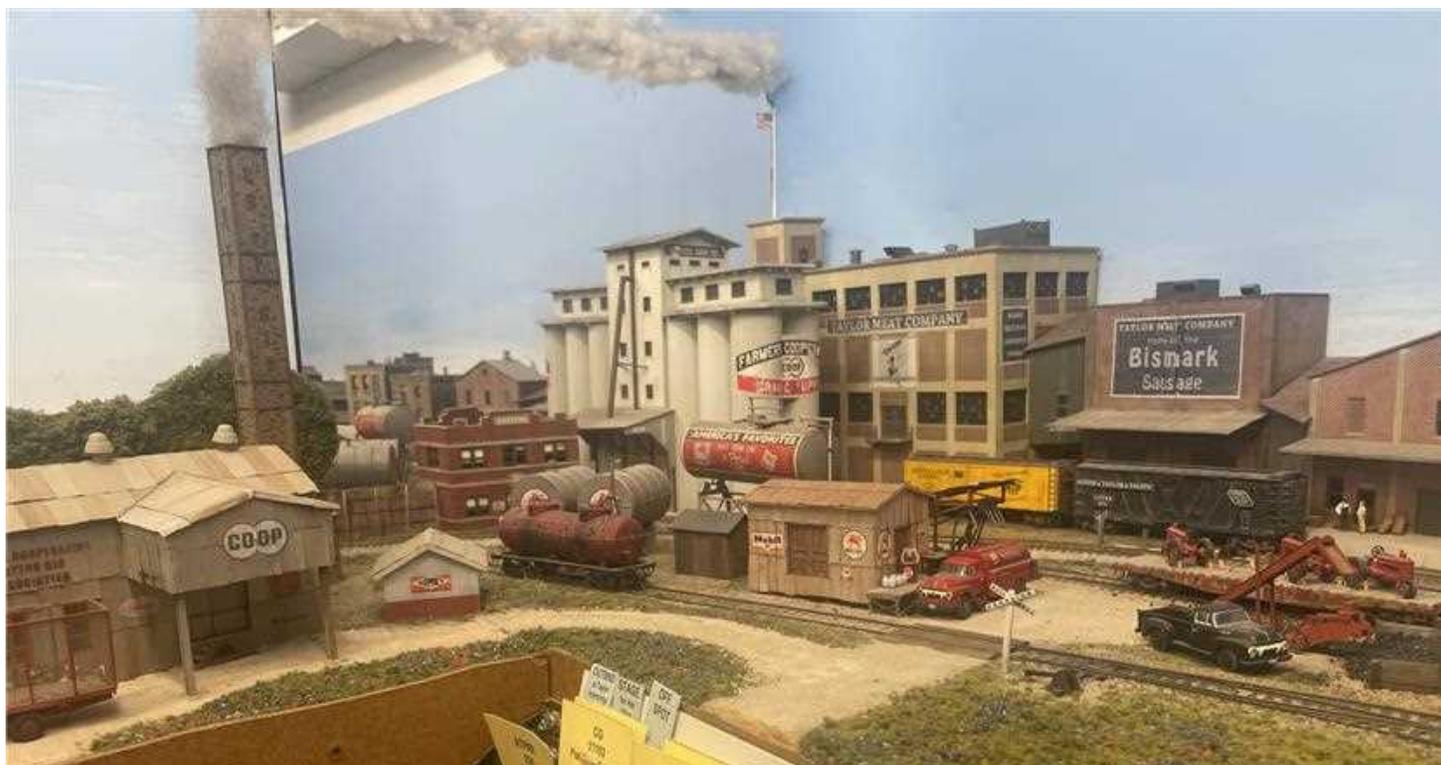
Tour of Steve Jackobs's Layout



▲ A new addition to Steve's train room!

▲ A interesting designed sector plate for staging.

▼ Can you find the mirror?



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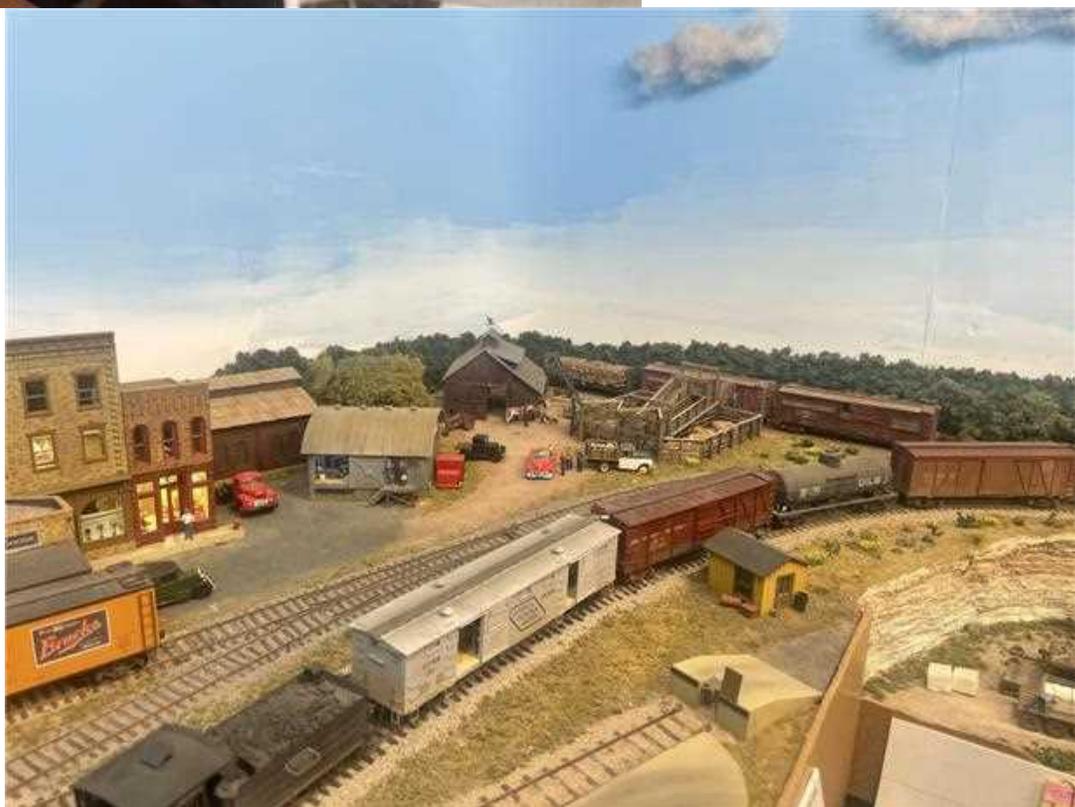
◀ My favorite scene on the layout!



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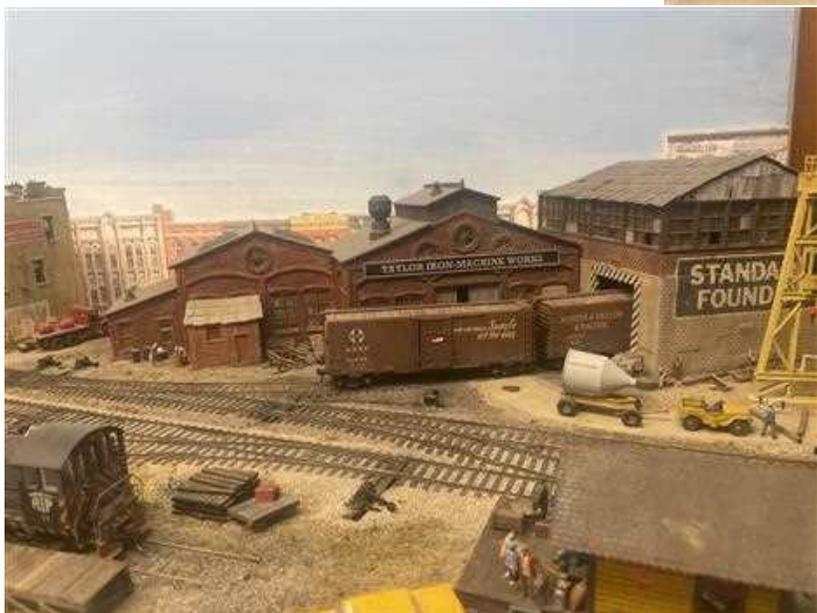
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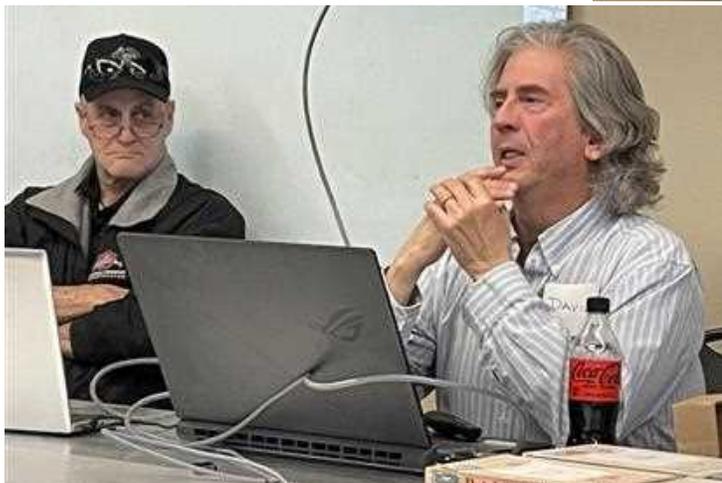
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Meeting Photos



◀ The “usual suspects”, 22 in attendance and 9 Zoomers



◀▲ Dave Nicastro’s clinic on Winter Park Part II

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▲ ▼ Tim continues to finish his dad's stash of kits. By his count he has 43 left!



Operating Session Fun ~ Lou Adler

Great example of suspicious dispatcher planning on the Lone Star & Santa Fe RR. The location is Caldwell where the SP branch line interchanges with the ATSF mainline. The owner is wearing the white shirt; the dispatcher is the guy in a red shirt. Note where the dispatcher has sent the passenger train. I took the photo last November during Jack's Saturday operations. I was handling the SP branch line, so I was innocent of having caused the mess. "I knew nothing!"



AUSTIN MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY HO MODULE CLUB WINTER 2026 SCHEDULE

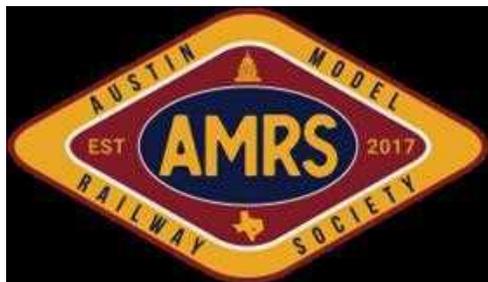


Come visit the Austin Model Railway Society and our 51x24 foot modular, Central-Texas-themed layout.

(Scheduled, but always check www.austinrailway.org the Wednesday before to confirm. Sometimes

Saturday, January 24, 9-4 Date Change!!!	Hope Presbyterian, 11512 Olson Dr, Austin
Saturday, February 21, 9-4	Hope Presbyterian, 11512 Olson Dr, Austin

Sign up on our email list at <https://austinrailway.org/contact-form.html>



DONATE YOUR TYCO!

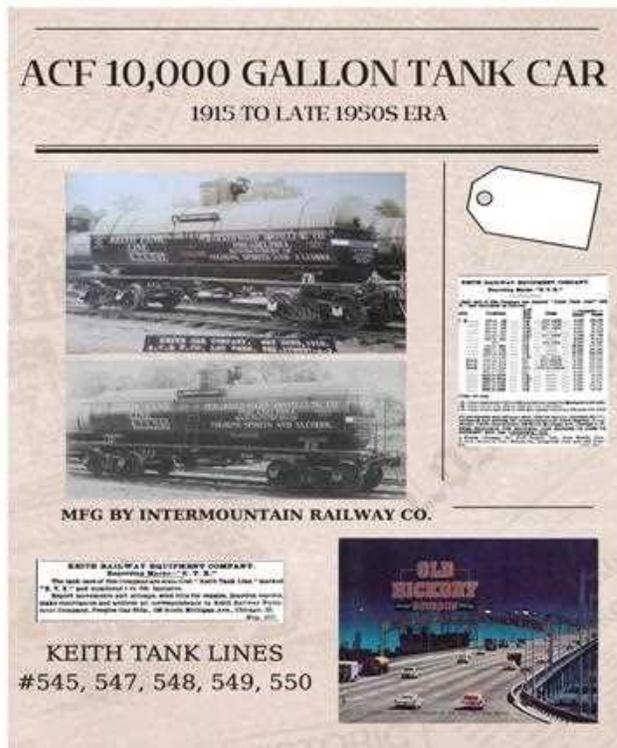


The Austin Model Railway Society is assembling “Starter Train Sets” of donated, pre-2000s components for sale at King’s Hobby and Lionheart Hobbies. The aim is to provide an affordable entry into the hobby.

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

Contact Christopher Chany at secretary@austinrailway.org or Steve Jackobs at president@austinrailway.org for info.
www.austinrailway.org

Schuylkill River MRR limited-edition, HO scale 10,000 Gallon ACF Tank Car



Normal Retail is \$49.99 to \$54.99 each.
If they mention the CODE Div4 we will let them go for \$43.99 plus applicable shipping OR \$199 plus applicable shipping for ALL five road numbers.

Contact info would be:

Brian Good
Schuylkill River MRR Club
215.582.6983

B3good1@verizon.net

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

Train Shows

Amherst Railway Society Railroad
Hobby Show
January 24-25, 2026
West Springfield, MA

Division Meeting

Saturday, March 14, 2026
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?

Saturday, May 9, 2026

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

Ongoing Events

Austin Steam Train www.AustinSteamTrain.org
Temple Railroad and Heritage Museum

ADVANCED PLANNING



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



To give a clinic or host a layout tour, or OP session 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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