



## The Cen-Tex Eagle is THREE! Third Anniversary issue.

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### Superintendent's Report

Hi Folks,

It's that time again. We had our last meeting before the LSR Convention. We brought everyone up to date on the convention preparations and I have to say, the committee has done a wonderful job pulling this together on such an abbreviated schedule. We have:

1. 40+ clinics scheduled
2. a couple of interesting (and free) prototype tours
3. 3 special guests
4. 30+ layouts to tour
5. A number of operating sessions, including 2 at the convention site
6. A selection of non-rail functions
7. And much more!

We hope to see many of you at the convention next month. If you are coming, and are willing to judge contest entries (no experience needed), please let the registration desk know when you check in.

## Superintendent's Report, cont.

We had both John Larson and Frolin Marek give presentations this month. John presented on 3D printing and some of his successes and trials. Frolin presented on operating sessions in Kansas City.

Both presentations were interesting, informative and a little humorous. We had a number of folks show some of their projects for our show and tell section and there is some great work happening in our division! We then had the usual Deals or Duds giveaway.

Our layout tour this month was at Tim Giraud's.

If you wish to present a clinic or host a layout tour in the future, please let me know.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Saturday July 11th at our normal location. As usual, it will also be live on Zoom with the link sent out on Thursday July 9th .

Take care,  
 Doug

## There's still time to register!!!!



**The Lone Star Region NMRA Convention  
 is returning to Austin!**

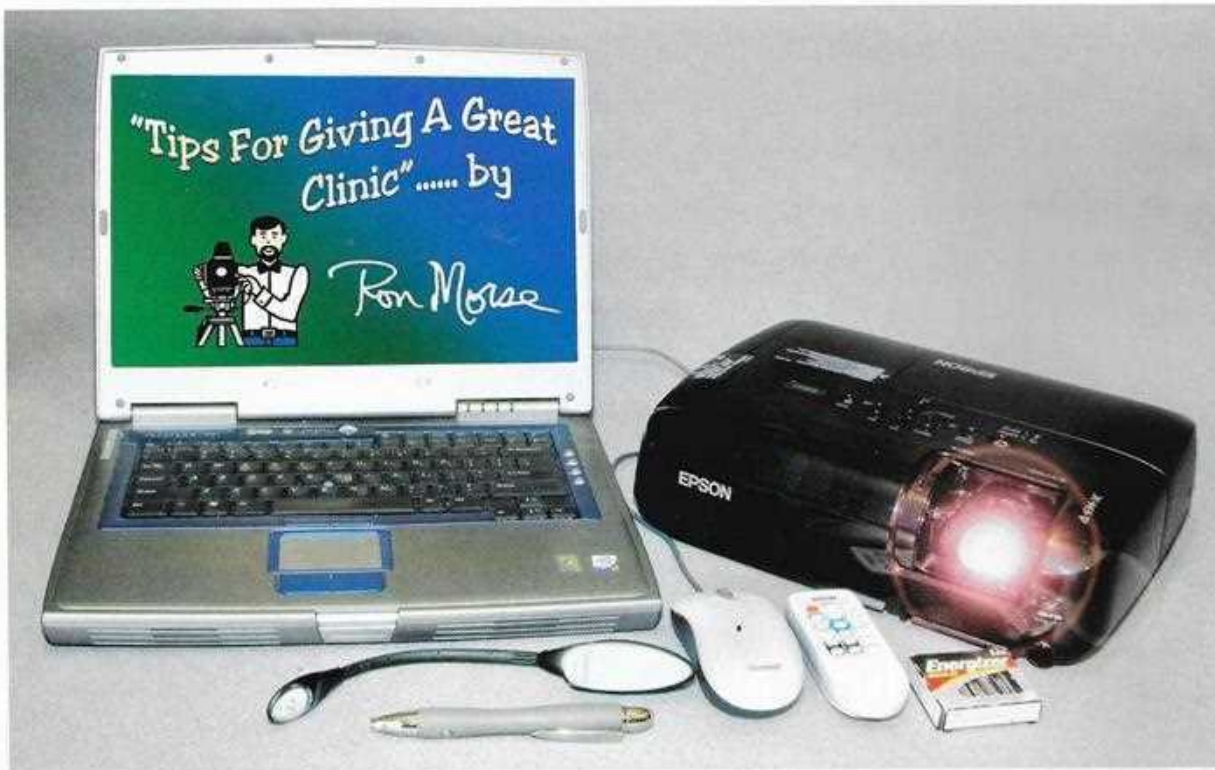
**June 18-21, 2026**  
*at the*  
**Wyndham Garden Austin**  
**3401 South Interstate 35 • Austin, TX 78741**

Dozens of Clinics • Operating Sessions • Layout Tour  
 Special Guest Clinicians and Keynote Speaker  
 Huge Contest Room • Silent Auction • Raffle • Great Location

**Come join the fun - you don't have to be an NMRA member**

**Register Today!**  
[Connections2026.com](http://Connections2026.com)

The following article is reprinted from *Scale Rails*, Volume 76, Number 10, Issue 831, June 2010 pp. 32-35 in the hope that those who might be giving a clinic at the LSR Convention this June can find some pointers.



Above: "Tools of the trade" for doing a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation. Left to right: Laptop computer, clip on LED reading light, laser pointer, external mouse (optional), remote for digital projector, and spare batteries for the remote.

Over the past 25 years, I have attended and given hundreds of clinics or classes. Some of those clinics were excellent and some were very bad. So the question is: What makes a clinic good or bad? I don't claim to have all the answers, but I believe I can share some observations that will help you improve the quality of the next clinic you are asked to give.

First, if you have been asked to give a clinic, it is usually because someone believes you have some skill or ability that should be shared with others. Assuming this is true, you are already well on your way to giving a good clinic. Each of us has certain skills in which we excel. Hopefully, the clinic you have agreed to teach will tap into one of your stronger areas.

Once the topic of your clinic has been determined, you are ready to proceed to the next step. The most important aspect of teaching any class or clinic is proper preparation. On too many occasions I have heard clinicians get up before a group and announce that they have not had the time to prepare for their clinic, so they are just going to "wing it." Almost without exception these clinics turn out to be a bad experience for both the clinician and the students. *Don't fall into this pitfall.* If you agree to do a clinic, make sure there is enough advance

time available to do proper preparation. Then be sure you spend the necessary time preparing. If you feel you can't spend the proper preparation time, then don't agree to do the clinic! If there is one golden rule of teaching it is this: "BE PREPARED."

### Preparing For the Clinic

Rule #1: Be sure you don't forget any of your props. I can't begin to tell you how many times I have attended a clinic where the clinician has announced that they have *forgotten* critical items needed for their presentation. When I teach a class on scenery, I have to take along more than 70 items. If I try to do this from memory, I will probably forget some critical items. I will never forget a time years ago when I was teaching classes on gold panning. Part of the program was done with slides. Would you believe I forgot the slides? Have you ever tried to do a slide show without slides? Ever since that day, I have made extensive check-off lists that list *every* item I need to take along. I double-check this list just before I go out the door to do the clinic. If you plan on using a dry erase board, be sure the clinic room has one available. In addition, you should take along your own

dry erase markers because invariably there will be none available in the clinic room or they will be dried up. (You might want to even consider taking some dry erase cleaner along because some boards are filthy.) If you are doing a hands-on clinic that is messy, be sure to take along a plastic drop cloth and a roll of paper towels. Spilling a bottle of paint on the carpet in a clinic room can put a real damper on things!

Rule #2: Make and use an outline. Many clinicians just bounce around and

*Below: If you will be using a "white board" or dry erase board, I find it is good to take along your own markers, eraser, and even some dry erase board cleaner.*



# The Prepared Clinician



chase "rabbit trails," apologizing the whole time for being disorganized. On the other hand, *don't* just stand and read pages of typewritten notes — this is very boring. Consider preparing your clinic by creating a "story board." A story board will help you visualize your presentation and will also help you organize your thoughts. The simplest way to create a story board is by using index cards on which you can record your key points and then lay them out on a table

and rearrange them until you are satisfied with the flow. A story board will help you identify where your presentation is lacking in substance or flow.

Rule #3: Ask your host what your clinic time parameters are, then do several "dry runs" of the clinic to be sure you can match your appointed time slot. Numerous times I have been slated to follow someone doing a clinic that is running 30 to 45 minutes past their allotted time. This is not only in-

considerate, but it can also throw the entire clinic or meeting schedule off track. Start and stop on time! If it's within my power, I start clinics no later than five minutes after the posted start time. Leave your clinic attendees wanting more rather than saying, "Boy, I thought he would never quit."

Rule #4: Prepare a lot of show and tell or visual aid items that relate to your clinic. These really help the students to understand what you are talking about.

Rule #5: Some clubs or model railroad meets will pay to have handouts copied. Even if you have to pay for these, I believe they make any clinic more valuable because it supplies the students with specific information that they can take home with them. Obviously, with today's computer programs, putting together a great handout is not the ordeal it once was.

Rule #6: Audio Visual Systems:

**Slide Projectors** — Not many people use slides and slide projectors these days. However, if you do, here are a few items you need to consider:

- Do you have a spare bulb for your projector?
- Do you have a *long*, good quality, grounded drop cord with you?
- What about the screen?
- Can the room be made dark enough to show slides? When I was on the slide show circuit doing programs on ghost towns and scenic areas of the West, I carried along some sheets of black plastic and two-inch masking tape to black out windows.



Above: Cords...all types of cords. Drop cord, computer power supply, power cord for projector, VGA, and USB cables for the projector. Also shown is masking tape, which is used to tape down cords to keep people from tripping over them.

- Does the projector have a long remote cord or will you need someone to help run the projector? You should also use tape to secure drop cords to the floor to prevent trips and falls. Many years ago, I was nearly sued because a person tripped over an extension cord I was using!

- Some type of pointer is also a must.

#### Microsoft PowerPoint Presentations

— In today's high-tech world, Microsoft PowerPoint presentations are now the norm. However, there are some additional things to consider with PowerPoint presentations:

- If you don't have your own laptop computer and digital projector, you will be at the mercy of the group supplying one or both of them. This can be a *big* problem! In many cases, I have found that the group supplying the projector and/or laptop knows little to nothing about setting the system up. In addition, I have found that most supplied

digital projectors have not been tweaked to do a good job with photos. I remember doing one railroad travelogue program where the supplied projector was so bright that all the blue skies in my photos were white!

- Another common problem is getting the laptop computer to communicate with the projector. I did one program where the people had to wait over 20 minutes for us to figure out the compatibility setting between my laptop and the projector. Some of this problem has been improved with the newer "plug and play" projectors.

- Beware of using specialty fonts unless you are using your own laptop computer because unless the laptop you are using has your specialty fonts loaded in its fonts folder, PowerPoint will default to something other than what you intended. A safe bet is to stay with standard fonts like Arial and Times New Roman. Another way to get around the font issue is to convert your presentation to a "Package for CD" CD. This creates a self-extracting Microsoft PowerPoint file on a CD that will allow you the option to "embed" your specialty fonts. This CD can then run on a computer that does *not* even have Microsoft PowerPoint on it. Even though I now have my own laptop computer and digital projector, I take along my presentation on a CD as well just in case I need to load it onto a different laptop.

- Be sure you have a *long*, good quality, grounded drop cord with several plug-ins with you.

- What about the screen? Are they supplying it or are you bringing it?

- Does the laptop computer/projector have a remote or will you need someone to help run the laptop?

- You should also use tape to secure drop cords to the floor to prevent trips and falls.

- Will there be sufficient table space for the computer and the projector?

- Some type of laser pointer is also a must. Some projectors come with remotes that also have laser pointers built in.

- Based on the above...When it is possible, make every effort to test-run your presentation at least 30 minutes before the crowd arrives.

- Most of the new "Multimedia Digital Projectors" are bright enough that you don't have to have all the lights out in the room. However, having most of the lights out is still my preference for maximum impact. This does bring up another problem that I have seen people struggle to deal with...the lights go out in the whole room because the

room is not set up where just a few lights can be left on...consequently, the clinician can't read his notes! To remedy this problem, I carry a miniature LED book reading lamp in my projector bag, and then if I'm going to use notes, I have them on a clipboard with the light attached *before* the lights go out.



Above: A clipboard with your notes, a CD and/or a flash drive with your presentation. The LED reading light, which can be used either for the laptop computer keyboard or your notes if you have the lights out for a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation.

- Another mistake I have seen with PowerPoint presentations is when every slide is nothing but solid text — *boring*. With today's digital world and digital cameras, you need at least 75 percent of your slides to contain either graphics or photos. The idea is to show on the screen in large pictures the things too small to be seen otherwise.

- Image resolution for PowerPoint photos — Photos for PowerPoint presentations only need to be a maximum of 120ppi at an image size of 10 inches in its longest direction. Yes, you can use bigger files, but most current projectors will only project at a maximum image size 880x600 in SVGA or 1024x768 in XGA or 1280x800 in WXGA. The only problem with bigger photo files is they may cause older slower laptop computers to bog down and run really slow.

- If you're supplying your own laptop and projector, make sure your checklist of items to take along includes *all* the necessary connecting cords and cables and that you have your clinic preloaded.

Rule #7: If you really want to do your best, go to the library and check out a book on effective public speaking and follow the principles given.

#### Doing the Clinic

Rule #1: Be there ahead of time by at least 30 to 45 minutes. This will give you time to haul in your equipment and props



Above: Take along some bottled water in case you get a dry mouth or a "frog in your throat." Also shown are some breath mints for when you are talking to people after the clinic.

and to find the clinic room you have been assigned.

Rule #2: Stand up, speak up, then shut up! Be enthusiastic about what you are teaching. Be warm and friendly. If you have a soft voice, practice speaking up. Nothing is worse than being on the back row and the speaker is speaking so softly that you can only catch every third word. When you're through, *shut up*, even if you haven't filled all your allotted time. Conversely, *do not go*

past your allotted time. On the other hand, don't drag out your clinic just to fill time!

Rule #3: When possible, combine both audio visual and hands-on demonstrations.

Rule #4: Don't let people from the floor take control of your clinic. On one occasion, a number of us were at a National Convention attending a clinic. The clinician announced that if anyone from the audience had questions or input as he went along to please not be afraid to interject. There were so many people from the floor interjecting comments that he totally lost control of his clinic and a number of people got up and walked out in disgust. Remember, *you* are the one who was asked to do the clinic, and *you* are the one we want to hear. Ask your clinic attendees to hold their questions and comments until the end and if time permits you will address them at that time. If someone interrupts with an observation, try to dismiss it quickly or you will lose control. When someone interrupts, try the following statement, "Thank you for your observation/question but in the interest of maintaining continuity and a time schedule I would like to hold questions until the end."

Rule #5: Avoid telling people, "This is easy, anyone can do it." Remember, different things are easy or hard for different people. Just because you find the technique easy doesn't mean that everyone else will find it easy. Rather, just tell the students that you are going to show them some techniques

that you have found useful in your modeling work. Emphasize that in most cases there are numerous ways to do a particular thing. Emphasize that you are there to share with them some techniques that have worked for you.

Rule #6: If your mouth tends to get dry when you speak, you may want to have a bottle of water handy. As a side note, you should *not* use ice water because it can be counterproductive. Also, it is a good idea to



Above: If you do quite a few clinics, you might want to consider purchasing some type of folding hand truck. Used copy paper boxes are great for hauling your clinic props. Assorted Bungee cords are great for securing your clinic load.

have a breath mint on hand to pop in your mouth at the close of your presentation.

Rule #7: In my case, standing for long periods of time can be difficult. If I sit in a regular chair while doing the clinic, many people won't be able to see or hear me. Consequently, I bring my own wooden stool to sit on.

Rule #8: For some clinics, you will be carrying in a ton of stuff (for me to do a live scenery clinic requires seven boxes of clinic stuff). Therefore, having a collapsible two- or four-wheel hand truck is an invaluable tool. Don't forget some Bungee-type tie down straps. Empty copy paper boxes make great stackable containers for hauling props. In addition, don't be bashful about soliciting the help of others in getting your stuff to the clinic room. Be sure and tell them exactly what time you need them and where to meet you.

Rule #9: If you are using a laser pointer, remote or reading light that requires batteries, bringing a spare set along is a great idea.

Yes, I have given you a *lot* of stuff to consider when giving a clinic. But if you will apply these principles, I can guarantee the next clinic you give will be a winner. 🏆



# May 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting Wrap-up



“The usual suspects”



John talks about 3D printing



Frolin’s OPS weekend



Michael’s 3D prints



Bob’s Campbell Coaling Tower



Brian is “growing his own” super tree sea foam



John’s N Scale Gondola’s for the Zilker Zephyr



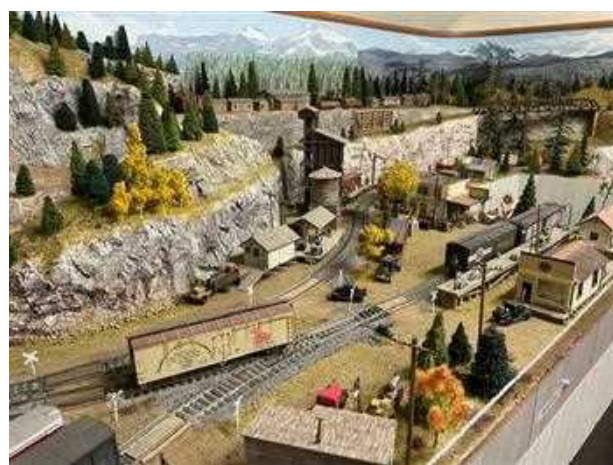
Sam’s N Scale Portland and Western SD-7



Wayne’s Australian RY Trestle

## Tim's Goose Creek and Sour Lake and Western RR







## Russ T. Rale's Trip to the PRRT&HS meeting in Gettysburg PA.

Rusty took a trip to Pennsylvania for the PRRT&HS meeting and saw lots of prototype and model railroading.

### Frederick County Society of Model Engineers

Located inside a C&O horse car at the Walkersville Southern Railroad. The HO layout is 56 feet long and has DCC.



The following 3 layouts are all scale O and are all within 5 miles of each other.  
Tim Rasinski's Blackfork Road



Typical Pennsylvania Farm



Mail Pouch Tobacco Farm



Company Town



Gettysburg Observation Tower and re-enactors

### Rich Randall's Milwaukee Road



Cementipede



Dome car is crowded today



Engine Terminal



Bridge with catenary

### Ken Kime's Western Maryland Dutch Line



Mountain Farm



Fall Colors



Farmhouse near the tunnel



Town Park



"The door to hell" Western Maryland legend

## Cumberland Valley Model Railroad Club

The Club has its own building and has operating trains in every single scale. Trains are everywhere from garden railroad gauges hanging from the ceiling to T gauge (not TT) in a small cabinet. Below are photos of both the 3 rail O scale and HO layouts.



Notice the operating trolley bus





Corn Maze



Scale model of the original Nathan's  
in Coney Island NYC

### PRRT&HS Model Room



Gus Minardi's awesome collection of PRR Gondolas with loads.



Bruce Smith's passenger cars

Kirk Fisher 's Towers



Cale Leiphart's Lego Trains



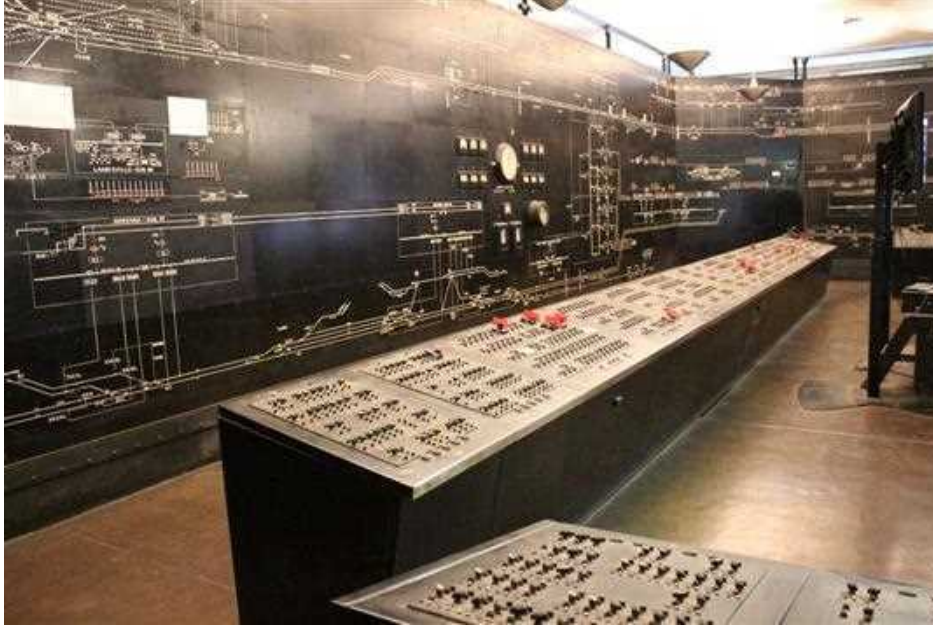
Northeast Corridor Historical Society Layout

## Real Trains



▲ Where is Russ T Rale? Answer next issue

## Where is Russ T. Rale?



In The Eagle Vol 3 number 12 we asked: Where is Russ T. Rale?

The answer: The PRR Power Director's Office in Harrisburg PA.

In 1915, the Pennsylvania Railroad began electrifying the eastern portion of its railroad, realizing faster travel times, cost savings, and less pollution over the standard steam locomotives of the time. Much of the electricity used by the PRR was generated by the Safe Harbor Hydroelectric Dam on the Susquehanna River.

Harrisburg (and Enola, just across the Susquehanna River) marked the western terminus of the PRR's electrification project. The Power Director's Office, located on the second floor of the PRR station in Harrisburg, once controlled the electrical power in the overhead catenary system on the Main Line from Harrisburg, PA to Frazer, PA (near Philadelphia), the Trenton Line to a point near Morrisville, PA, and the low grade freight lines from Enola, PA to Safe Harbor and Parkesburg, PA.

The Power Director's Office was transferred to Penn Central in 1968 and to Amtrak in 1971. In May of 2022, the Harrisburg Chapter NRHS signed a lease agreement with Amtrak to preserve and restore the Power Director's Office. The organization's volunteers are now working to restore the equipment to operating condition, in order to make the PDO a fully interactive, hands-on experience for visitors.

# A Tale of Logos

At the PRRT@HS meeting in Gettysburg in May someone dropped off a box of railroad and model railroad magazines with a free sign on them. Looking through the magazines, I found a NMRA Scale Rails magazine from June 2010. On the cover it mentioned one of the articles inside called “The Prepared Clinician” by Ron Morse, MMR. Since I’m giving two clinics at the LSR Convention in June, I figured I would take the magazine and see what good advice Ron had about giving clinics. A scan of his article is included in this newsletter.

While going through the magazine, there on the cover is the NMRA logo. Figure 1. Inside, on page 9 is one of the NMRA’s 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary logos. Figure 2. On page 12 there is the other NMRA 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo. Figure 3, Of course my joy at seeing these “heritage” logos was tempered when I got page 17 and saw Figure 4. Throughout the rest of the magazine other parts of Figure 4 are printed with the wording “It’s coming this July”.

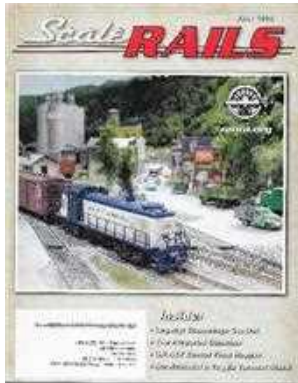


Figure 1

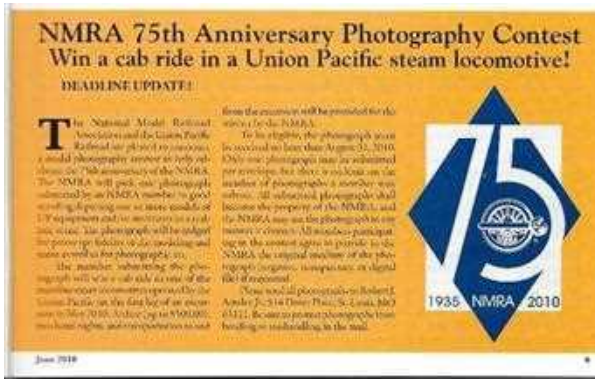


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



I will let the reader decide?

# Austin Model Railway Society HO Module Club Spring 2026 Schedule



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

(Scheduled, but always check <a href="http://www.austinrailway.org">www.austinrailway.org</a> the Wednesday before to confirm. Sometimes the church needs their hall for an unplanned event such as a funeral.)	
Saturday, May 16, 9-4	Hope Presbyterian, 11512 Olson Dr, Austin
Thurs-Sun, June 18-21	Lone Star Region NMRA Convention Wyndham Garden Hotel 3401 S I-35 Frontage Road

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



# Donate your Tyco!



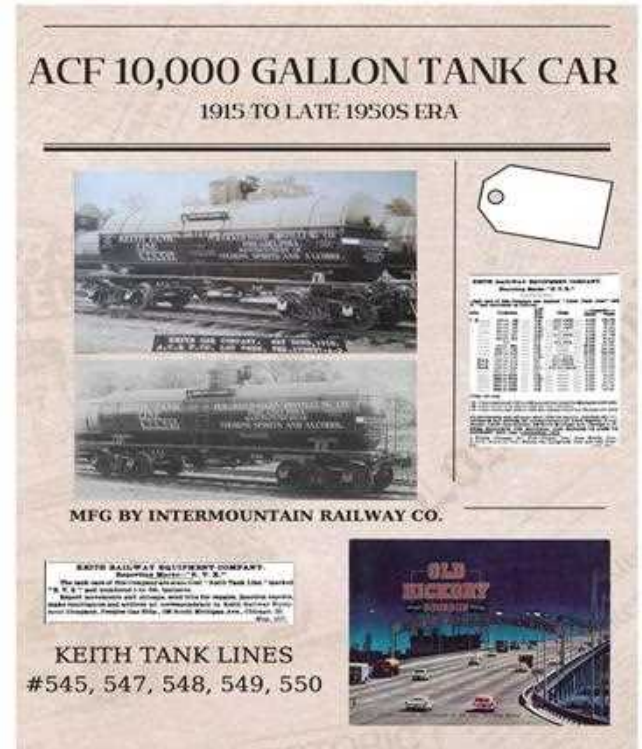
The Austin Model Railway Society is assembling “Starter Train Sets” of donated, pre-2000s components for sale at King’s Hobby and Lionheart Hobbies. The aim is to provide an affordable entry into the hobby.

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](mailto:secretary@austinrailway.org)  
or Steve Jackobs at [president@austinrailway.org](mailto:president@austinrailway.org) for info.**

**[www.austinrailway.org](http://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](mailto: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 Show

June 13-14, 2026 10-5 Sat, 10-4 Sun  
Tyler Area Train Show  
Whitehouse, TX

## LSR Convention

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

## Train Show

June 24-26, 2026 10-5 Fri, Sat  
10-4 Sun  
East Texas & Gulf Summer Train Show  
Port Arthur. TX

## NMRA Division Meeting

Saturday, July 11, 2026

Centex Division Meeting 10 AM

Agenda:

- Clinic: How about giving one?
- LSR Convention 2026 Wrap-up
- Show and tell
- Deals and Duds
- Lunch
- Layout tour: How about yours?

## Ongoing Events

Austin Steam Train [www.AustinSteamTrain.org](http://www.AustinSteamTrain.org)

Temple Railroad and Heritage Museum

## 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

Superintendent: Doug Taylor [director@centexnmra.org](mailto:director@centexnmra.org) or [TXdoug@gmail.com](mailto:TXdoug@gmail.com)

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[RussTRale@gmail.com](mailto:RussTRale@gmail.com)

Roving Reporter: Kit Built

A note about the format of this issue of the Eagle. Microsoft has stated that this fall Publisher, which was used to produce the Eagle, is being discontinued. This is the first attempt producing it in Word. The Editor apologizes for any glitches that may appear. Thank you for your continued support.

