

#### Lone Star Region Call Board

#### The Marker Lamp

The Official Publication of The Lone Star Region of the National Model Railroad Association

#### Volume 60, Number 2

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#### Visit the LSR's web page at: www.lonestarregion.com

The editorial policy of The Marker Lamp, the official publication of The Lone Star Region, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility. The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of The Lone Star Region of The National Model Railroad Association. Articles appearing in The Marker Lamp are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of The Lone Star Region or The National Model Railroad Association. Address all correspondence, news photos and drawings to the editor. All photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, Self-addressed envelope is provided. Correspondence relating to Pike Ads and Dealer Ads should be addressed to Donna Orr, 2625 Rolling Meadows Dr., Rockwall, TX 75087 (972) 722-4769 dlo-rls@sbcglobal.net.

Cover photo by Riley Triggs A view through the barns of the Wimberley, Blanco and Southern of Nick Edwards - one of the tours for the Bluebonnet Limited 2014

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#### President's Message

by Steve Barkley, MMR



Ken Ehlers' Pandora and San Miguel SN3 layout in Tulsa

It's almost time for the LSR Convention. Have you registered? Have you reserved your hotel room? It's not too late to do either. This year's convention will be held at the Wingate by Wyndham & Williamson Conference Center in Round Rock, Texas. The hotel is located just 20 minutes north of downtown Austin on Interstate 35.

The LSR mid-year meeting was held at the hotel. The rooms were comfortable, the complimentary breakfast was good, and there were several restaurants in the immediate area for dinner. The hotel has been renovated since the last LSR convention held there some years ago.

#### 2015 Convention

The 2015 convention will be held in Beaumont. The convention chairman, **George Bohn**, is planning some new features for the event. These include operating sessions on modular layouts at the convention hotel. The LSR Board Meeting will be moved to Wednesday afternoon and the LSR Annual Meeting will be Saturday afternoon. This will allow for an early Sunday morning departure after the convention.

The convention will be at the Holiday Inn Plaza which is located on Interstate 10 on the west side of Beaumont. The hotel has ample space for our convention activities including space for modular layouts. George will have more to say at this year's Annual Meeting.

#### **Incoming Officers**

Congratulations to the newly elected LSR Directors. The election for Division 6 director was the only contested race. The new director, **Kevin Bergman's** margin of victory was one vote. This shows that your vote and participation really do matter.

The incoming Division Directors are:

At large: Chuck Lind, Duane Richardson, and Art

Houston

Division 2: Rod Fredericks Division 4: Peter Kazmir Division 6: Kevin Bergman Division 8: Leslie Bodak **New LSR Secretary** 

Mike Bodak found that holding two jobs did not mesh well with serving as the LSR secretary. He was forced to resign his position. Jeff Palmer, the LSR Web Chair, volunteered to take over the position. He has also committed to run for reelection this coming fall. He was confirmed by the Board this month. Thank you, Jeff, for taking this on! Thank you Mike, as well, for your service as secretary. I enjoyed working with you. It's a shame, but work does seem to interfere at times with Model Railroading!

#### Layout Design and Operations Weekend 2014

The Indian Nations Division of the NMRA hosted this event march 21-23, 2014, in Tulsa. This was in conjunction with the Layout Design and the Operations Special Interest Groups. A number of LSR members attended. Operations sessions on local layouts were held Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday morning. Saturday was filled with clinics.

I had a great time!

One of the layouts was **Ken Ehlers'** *Pandora and San Miguel* SN3 layout. It is based on the southwest portion of the Rio Grande Southern in 1942. Ken says that it is 97% finished but I'm not sure where the unfinished 3% was hiding. Many of you remember Ken from his days in the Houston area.

All of Ken's locomotives and gas electrics use DCC Sound equipped

decoders. Ken sets the sound level on his equipment so that you can hear it at about 3 feet but no further. This keeps the general noise level in his train room at a comfortable level conducive to conversation. When I returned home, I turned down the sound level on my own equipment. It sounds better.

I look forward to seeing you at the convention in Round Rock. **Jack Merkel** has planned a great convention. Don't forget to bring your treasures for the Silent Auction and your models and photographs for the contest room.

Steve Barkley, MMR



The convention is nigh!

By Riley Triggs



It is that time of the year; the annual convention is upon us. A lot of people in central Texas and the region have been working this past year to bring you another quality convention week that celebrates, enhances and connects our railroading community. I do hope you will be able to join us.

As part of that effort, I was lucky enough to recently make a scouting trip down to the Wimberley, Blanco and Southern Railroad of Nick Edwards'.

Nick has an amazing facility for live steam (he let's diesels play there, too) that will be part of the Bluebonnet Limited Convention in a couple of weeks. I thought I'd step aside this month and show you a few photos courtesy of Bob Hornsby to whet your appetite.

Stay tuned to the *Marker Lamp* for convention coverage in the August publication, and come up and say, "hi" to me while you are in town.











Bob Hornsby (l) and Nick Edwards (r) chat in the roundhouse.







#### **Up The Tracks**

By Bill Dryden NMRA & LSR Life Member

Here are upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me, or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA *Scale Rails* and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via e-mail at bdr149@airmail.net. Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the *Marker Lamp* is the middle of the following month.

#### Lone Star Region 63nd Annual Convention (2014)

The Lone Star Region NMRA 63rd Annual Convention will be held in Round Rock, June 4–June 8, 2014. Check the LSR website http://www.lonestarregion.com/convention.shtml Come all!! PARTICIPATE!!!

#### RECURRING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

#### LSR Division 3 - Northeast Texas Division - Garland

South Branch of the Library located at 4845 Broadway Blvd. in Garland, TX. Third Saturday of each month. Occasionally the day or branch changes due to scheduling conflicts so pay close attention to the e-mail meeting notices that go out a week before the meeting. For more information contact Jerry Hoverson at jhoverson@tx.rr.com or check the Division 3 Page on the LSR website

#### Alamo Model Railroad Engineers - San Antonio

The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

#### Houston Area Live Steamers - Houston

HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Peter Bryan at peterb@pdq.net for more information.

#### North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs - Irving

The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the third Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or member clubs.

#### New Braunfels Railroad Museum

Kids Fun Day is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. New Braunfels Railroad Museum, 302 South San Antonio Street, in the 1907 Restored Railroad Depot; New Braunfels, TX. Museum phone (830) 627-2447. Kids of all ages will have the opportunity to run model trains and become a Jr. Engineer. Also among the displays at the Kids Fun Day will be a large US Army Model Garden (G) Scale and Lego Trains. Visit our Steam Engine, Caboose, Dining Car (available for Birthday Parties) and Box Car. There will be other fun, train related activities, additional model trains, train artifacts, our 1907 depot are on display. The Railroad Museum opens at 10:00 am on Saturdays. For field trip scheduling and more information, call Howard Young (210) 542-6121, or visit us at www.nbrrm.org.

#### **EVENTS AND SHOWS**

#### May

8th – 31st 17th – 18th Imagining the Southwest: Art of the Santa Fe. Tuesday – Saturday: 10am - 4pm. Admission: Ages 5-12, \$2.00; 13-59, \$4.00; 60+, \$3.00; Free admission for Active Military with current I.D. Temple Railroad & Heritage Museum, 315 West Avenue B, Temple, TX. For more information, visit http://www.rrhm.org/exhibits/temporary-exhibits

17th – 18th ALL ABOA-A-ARD for Third Annual Jefferson Train Days. Sat. 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. One \$15 Boarding Pass admits visitors to four activities – R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad layout, Historic Jefferson Railway scenic train, Jay Gould's private railroad car and a train show. Jefferson Historical Society & Museum, 223 W. Austin, Jefferson, TX 75657. (903) 665-2775 or http://www.jeffersontraindays.com/ or e-mail JeffersonMuseum@yahoo.com.

#### **Up The Tracks**

By Bill Dryden NMRA & LSR Life Member

#### June

4th – 8th Bluebonnet Limited – Lone Star Region/NMRA 63rd Annual Convention. The Wingate by Wyndham & Williamson Conference Center, 1209 North Interstate Highway 35, Round Rock, TX 78664 For more information, visit http://bluebonnetlimited.com

#### July

14th – 20th 2014 NMRA Cleveland National Convention. Cleveland, OH. For more information: http://www.2014cleveland.org

26th – 27th 2014 SAMRA 12th Summer Family Train Show. Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission price not published. Carmack Event Center, 1948 Austin Highway, San Antonio, TX. For more information: http://samratx.org/.

#### September

6th – 7th Big Texas Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults (17 and older) \$9.00, 16 and under, Scouts in uniform Free. George R. Brown Convention Center, 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX. For more information, email: info@bigtexastrainshow.com.

#### October

11th – 12th First Annual Texas Western Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults \$6, Kids under 12 Free. Forest Hill Civic and Convention Center, 6901 Wichita Street, Forest Hill, TX. For more information: (682) 587-2092 or www.twtrainshow.com or email cao@twmrc.org.

#### November

8th – 9th Ft. Worth Train Show. Sat. 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults \$8, Children 12 and under Free. Amon Carter Exhibit Hall at the Will Rogers Coliseum, 3401 W Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth, TX. For more information, visit http://www.dfwtrainshows.com.

15th – 16th 6th Annual Fall Train Show. Sat. 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults \$7 (18 – up), Children \$2 (5 – 17). New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 S. Castell Ave., New Braunfels, TX. For more information call Jim Edmondson (830) 629-2071 or JEdmondson@satx.rr.com



## Go first class.



## Lone Star Regional Convention June 4-8, 2014

Wingate Hotel and Convention Center Round Rock, Texas http://bluebonnetlimited.com/ **Booooaaarrd!** *Toot!* The 2014 Bluebonnet Limited convention will begin on June 4, 2014 with 4 days of fun, fellowship and learning. It will all be available at the Wingate by Wyndham & Williamson Conference Center in Round Rock, Texas, just north of Austin. Read on to hear more about the exciting activities that are planned!

#### Wimberley, Blanco and Southern Visit

The WB&S is a live steam railroad located in Wimberley. This railroad has a main line of 6,200 feet with 14,000 feet of total track. We will have live steam locomotives and diesel locomotives pulling passenger cars for us to ride. We also will tour their extensive facilities including shops, turntable, train station and yards.

We will visit the railroad in two groups – one group on Thursday and one group on Friday. We will provide buses to transport you between our convention site and the railroad and we will also provide a box lunch for the day.

#### **Prototype Tours**

Paul Angenend has lined up two prototype tours. On Thursday, we will have a bus take us to the LCRA car repair facility in Smithville which maintains over 1,100 gondolas used for the transportation of coal from Wyoming to the Fayette Power Project. We will have the opportunity to tour the facility, observe repair operations and ask questions of LCRA employees.

On Friday, we will have a bus to take us to the Georgetown Railroad which hauls crushed limestone from the facilities of Texas Crushed Stone to points in Texas and Louisiana. The stone moves in unit trains of 40 to 120 railcars via connection with UP and BNSF. We will get to observe the mining and rail operations involved in the loading of the railcars and ask questions about the process from mining to interchange with the Class I carriers.

#### Clinics

Bob Batson has over 60 clinic slots available. Some clinicians already lined up include Mike Barrett, George Bohn, Bob Brindle, B.J. Dorsay, Kennedy Gauger, Frank Houzvicka, Chuck Lind, Terry Nathon, Loren Neufeld, Tom Pearson, and Clarence Zink – with more to come. Topics include module construction, Decoder Pro, reducing derailments, T-trak, mining, turnout construction, trestle construction, European railroads, and more. If you would like to present a clinic, please contact Bob at bobbatson48@gmail.com

#### **Operating Sessions**

Phil Sharpnack has organized nine operating sessions with a total of 82 operating slots available. These railroads range from long runs in full scenery to no scenery but a lot of switching. All are HO Scale except Kim Saign's which is N Scale.

On Wednesday evening, you will be able to choose from four railroads: Chuck Ellis's Great Northwestern & Pacific, Pete Guy's Conundrum & Pacific, Jack Merkel's Lone Star and Santa Fe, or Kim Saign's Burlington Northern.

On Friday afternoon, you can choose from Pete Guy's Conundrum and Pacific or Phil Sharpnack's P.H.I.L. line.



#### The 2014 NMRA Lone Star Region Convention

June 4-8, 2014 • Round Rock, Texas • bluebonnetlimited.com

#### REGISTRATION FORM

Mail registration or register online using PayPal by May 19
Please print clearly and fill out both pages

Name: As snown on			
NMRA membership card			
Name: As you would			
like it on your badge			
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Email Address:			
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:		
NMRA Member Number:	NMRA Exp Date: (mm/dd/yy)		
Home Division:	Home Region: (if not LSR)		
Accompanying Registrants: List names as preferred on badges			
Name:	Name:		
Name:	Name:		

#### REGISTRATION FEES

Primary registrants and accompanying adults (18 and up): **\$85**Accompanying children 6-17 years old: **\$50** 

Register early and save! Registration fees increase by \$10 after April 15

Primary registrant must be a member of the NMRA in good standing. See page 2 for membership options. Children under 6 are free but do not receive banquet tickets.

#### HOTEL RESERVATIONS



#### Wingate by Wyndham & Williamson Conference Center

1209 North Interstate Highway 35, Round Rock, TX 78664 Phone: 512-341-7000 Fax: 512-341-7011

Ask for the Lone Star Region Convention rate CGLSMR

The convention rate is \$90.00 per night for 1 king or 2 double bed room.

Rate includes hot breakfast daily!

Make your reservations directly by phone with the hotel.

NOTE: The convention rate is available between June 2 and June 9 only if booked by May 20, 2014.

#### INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION

- Learn from the best modelers in the region with over 60 clinics from which to choose
- Brush up on your operations skills on the convention switching layout and nine available offsite operating sessions
- Tour the best layouts Central Texas has to offer
- Saturday Awards Banquet and Sunday Breakfast
- Visit local prototype facilities (extra fare)

- Enter your masterpieces in the contest room
- Take a ride on the live steam Wimberley, Blanco & Southern Railroad (extra fare)
- Find that must-have item at the silent auction
- Hear guest speaker Bruce Blalock at the Awards Banquet
- Non-rail activities including tours, shopping & clinics
- Door prizes and raffle

# Going Home with Amtrak

Article and photos by Gert "Speed "Muller



ho would not like to go on a long train trip? Any kind? What if some experienced gentlemen (they've done it before) ask you to join them on an almost-cross-country train trip? Well, if you imagine the North East as just one big forest filled with graduate schools, then Chicago to San Francisco is pretty much cross country!

So, without giving out any names of the experienced gentleman in this write up, thereby protecting the author from all kinds of law suites, as you can imagine, I thought I'd outsmart these wise men by traveling to Chicago the Saturday before our Monday train departure.

They decided to fly into Chicago Monday morning, but who wants to get stuck in some Dallas snow in February and miss your train? This was my first trip on Spirit Airlines and in order to keep the journey "affordable", I did not check a \$30 suitcase and had to squeeze everything into my "personal item", to avoid the other \$25 carry-on fee too. Let's just say, I travel light!

The early arrival gave me the chance to check out the Great Train Story at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry (www.msichicago.org/whats-here/exhibits/thegreat-train-story) since everyone who ever talked to me about



building a humongous train layout said it requires a trip to the Windy City.

Well, not to spoil the fun here, but after seeing Miniature Wunderland in Hamburg, Germany, this layout does not keep you busy for three days in a row. However, when it opened in 1941, it was indeed the biggest in the world, originally 2,340 square feet, and today, the new layout, even 50% bigger. It tells the story of moving freight and passengers between Chicago and Seattle, almost 30 trains moving all together. Three mainlines and many back and forth trains in towns traveling between the industries. Also showing elevated or "L" trains in the downtown Chicago area. There



are buttons visitors can press to do all kinds of things on the layout itself, from falling a tree to moving a container in the inter-model yard, really awesome. They also dim the overhead lights to simulate nightfall every so often, unfortunately not something you can take a picture of, but it is really cool to see all the little farm house lights in the country side with a train running by.

Only when you do the behind-the-scenes-tour and learn that there are no DCC or any computer in use, you have to walk around the layout again to make sure they are telling the truth (OK, really, where would you actually see anything DCC?). They have 48 DC power packs and some sensors and relays (or PLCs) to stop the faster passenger train at red signals to avoid running into the freight train ahead of it.

Also part of the railroad exhibit section in 1:1 scale, is the record breaking 37 foot long American-type 4-4-0 steam engine No. 999, hauling the Empire State Express, to run at 112.5mph through Crittenden, NY on the morning of May 10, 1893. It was the first vehicle ever to surpass 100mph in the world. Compare that to the maximum speed of 79mph we'll be doing in the next few days on Amtrak, and we are in February, 2014. The engine is on display with smaller 70" drivers and not the original 86" drivers that broke the record. The bigger wheels were too slippery on other parts of the railroad.

Then there is the rest of the museum, 400,000



square feet, with even a "stolen" U-505 German submarine buried under the lawn in front of the building. I say "stolen", because I had a funny thought that the Germans might ask for it back one day, there are only 3 or 4 others in the world.

The museum hosts a full size coal mine; an Omnimax theater of the older analog kind, no way to get new film, so go soon; a huge space exhibit that makes you wonder why the shuttle launch with such "tiny" parts, only 184 feet tall versus the 363 feet Saturn-V in the Apollo program; all the weather related things, like a tornado maker for visitors to experiment with; and then a huge bio-department where you can see real chickens hatch. They also exhibit "Body Slices" at



the museum, you can see where all the arteries and veins in a human body goes.



In one of the food places they claim their banana split is still the same as when the building opened for the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. Originally as the Palace of Fine Arts and in 1933 it reopened as the Museum of Science and Industry. (I am no expert here, they had ice cream in 1893?)



Sounds like the animated circus exhibit had to make way for the original train layout, but it was just moved to a smaller part and still impressive to see all the horse drawn carts and animals in motion.

The rest of Chicago was very very cold, low and high points only between -3 and 19 degrees F, so riding the L-trains above or below ground is an easy way to stay warm.

Monday morning I hopped on the local bus service to visit a hobby shop just north west of downtown Chicago. Never saw a bus stop before where you can press a button to The Marker Lamp

get 15 minutes of heat!

The store is actually on North West Highway, but they don't know that highways should have 6 lanes, so stop sign after stop sign the bus swerved between pedestrians in the road who in turn are avoiding the snow and ice on the side walks! Chicagoland hobby store was quite a surprise,



everyone was extremely friendly and very helpful. They had a big variety of stuff for O, HO and N scale. As well as a lot of pre-owned stuff for little money. (But, remember, I only brought a "personal item", not a suitcase.)

The gents from Dallas arrived on time at Midway airport so I took the opportunity to sneak in at a Dunkin' Donuts (old Boston memories) for coffee and a dozen of glazed donuts. As well as a quick trip to the WalMart Neighborhood market not far from Union Station to buy some food, since I had no idea how a cross country trip would feed

Page 12

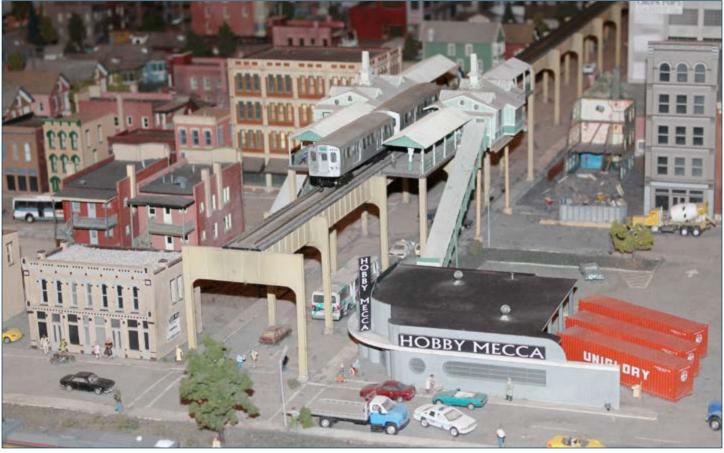
















you, and this African ain't going to die hungry. Then on to the station to walk twice around the whole building before I found a door to let you in, not much marked for entrances and the place is so big under the ground, people enter the station from a blocks away

Wow, that place is huge! But, where are the trains?





Lots of space with plenty of people just sitting around. Asked a few questions and were pointed into a direction to walk for almost 2 blocks towards the waiting lounge. So a quick phone call and the gentlemen are also preparing for the trip food-wise at a restaurant (or was it a bar), right where I asked for directions. So two blocks back again!



Back in the waiting lounge again, we were told that there are some kind of trouble with our train, train number 5. Not clear what the problem is, we know it is pretty icy outside and most trains are delayed because their incoming trains showed up late. But every time one of us goes to ask, a different story to bring back. And every time we go through a discussion on beer or no beer. We don't want to get up and walk and then miss our train, so for almost 3 hours we go through these discussions. Everyone else in the lounge have now figured out that we are the crowd to avoid on the train, but they still enjoyed the fun we are having so much of. One couple asked: "Are all Texans this happy?" (Remember, we have not even had a beer yet!) And then the big question: "Where are you going?" ... to which we all answered: "Home! But via Oakland!"

So, the California Zephyr going west was set up that you leave Chicago at 2pm, see a little bit of Illinois and maybe the beginning of Iowa, and then fall asleep through the flat parts of Iowa, Nebraska and eastern Colorado. You then wake up in Denver and see the glorious Rockies as you go across them as well as Grand Junction. Before Salt Lake City it is time for bed again to sleep through the Salt Lake Desert (or better, the Bonneville Salt Flats) and then most of Nevada. Reno wakes you up and you, once again, enjoy the view of the mountains through the Tahoe National Forest (Truckee, Donner Pass, etc) into Sacramento and through the valley to Oakland, or rather, Emeryville as last stop at 4:10pm, all of two days later. But here we are, stuck in Chicago and just when we had enough sitting around, we all got up to go get a drink, only to be called back as we walk out the door. Announcement: "Train #5 would be leaving shortly." Why did we not get up for that beer at 2:15?

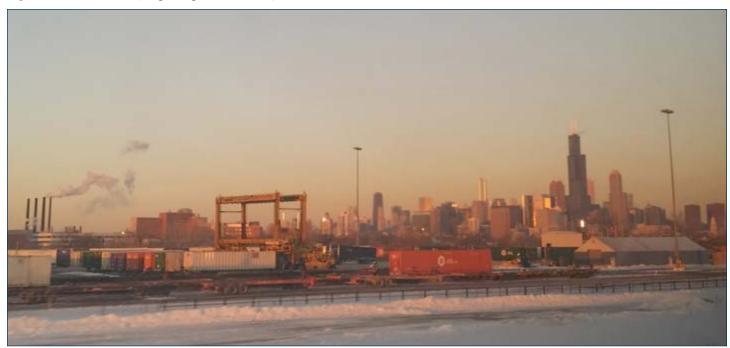
So we saddled up and boarded the train. A few experienced ones still trying to figure out if they want a



roomette at the top or bottom level. Something to do with shaking more at the top than the bottom as the train moves, but it sounded to me more like a reshuffling of rooms to avoid snoring neighbors. So this is where some of the stories came out. The rumor was, that the roomette is too small to get dressed in it, you supposedly need to make sure the hallway is clear and then use the curtain (hanging in the doorway) to cover the part of you that is not in the room. One gentleman was already on a second Amtrak trip years ago, before he found out that the roomette had a door. Sounds like he decided in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom without knowing that his roommate closed the sliding door. Well, I can tell you, those quarters are so small, if you get trapped between the bed and the door, you are in deep trouble! And just imagine the noise you are making.

Slowly the train crawled out of Chicago, stopping often for a frozen turnout or commuter rail with higher priority, and shortly after the city lights vanished, we had no sunlight left. Hey, at least we are moving and we had the whole observation car to ourselves.

To be continued next issue!



### NOW AVAILABLE!

## Color



### Pike and Dealer Ads











Pike and dealer ads are now available in color for the same price! Share your railroad or advertise your business to others while supporting the Lone Star Region.

- Do you have a herald for your railroad?
- Is there a unique feature?
- What is the name of your hotshot freight or crack passenger service?

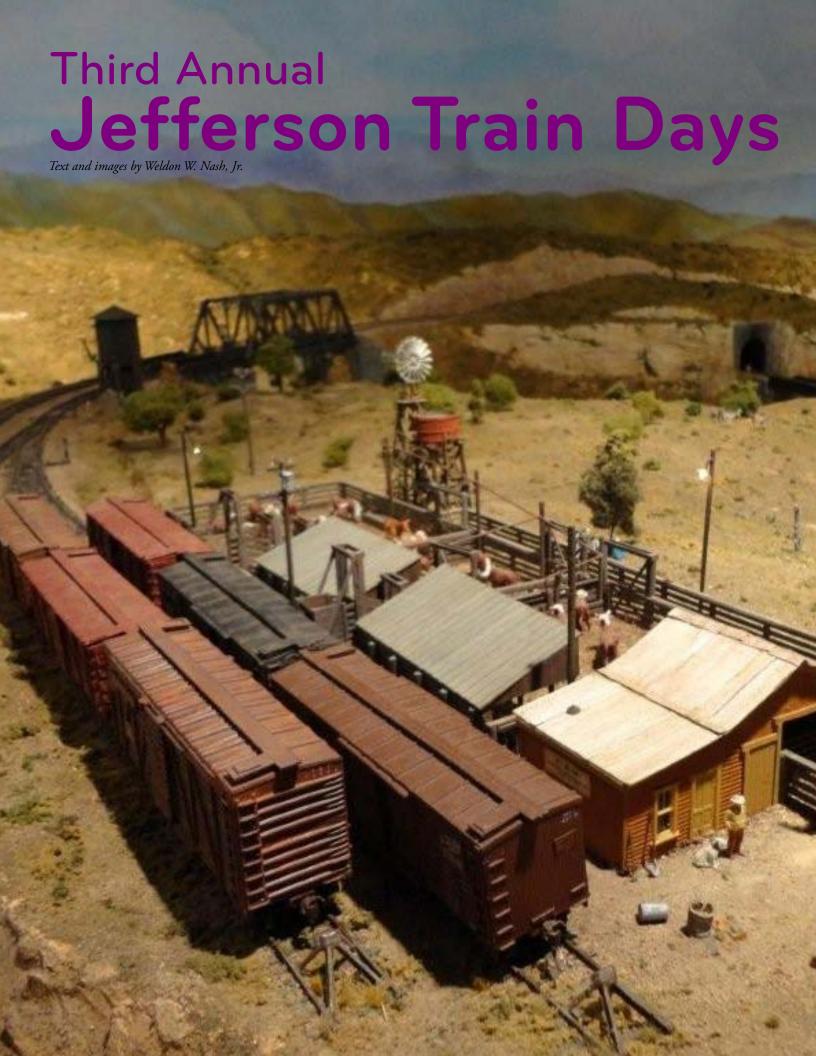
#### Let everyone know about it with a color ad!

Pike ads are \$8 per year and dealer ads are \$20 per year.

Checks should be made out to: LSR NMRA

Then send to: Donna Orr 2625 Rolling Meadows Dr. Rockwall, TX 75087

Ads can then be sent as a JPG file attached to an email to: rileytriggs@gmail.com





A model of the layout building

he Third Annual Jefferson Train Days event on May 17 and 18, 2014 will commemorate the second anniversary of the R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad layout being in its new location at the Jefferson Historical Museum. This year's event will also celebrate Jefferson's railroad history and will include many new and entertaining activities for rail fans and model railroaders alike.

Most people are aware of Jefferson's steamboat legacy but are unaware of its railroad related history. Jefferson's location on the Big Cypress Bayou made the town a desirable river port, and at one time, was the largest inland port in Texas. At the height of the steamboat economy, several visionary leaders of the town realized the future importance of railroads as the Texas and Pacific Railroad (T&P) arrived in Jefferson in 1873. Several prominent business men in Jefferson, including Wm. H. Harrison and Benjamin H. Epperson, promoted building a railroad out of Jefferson to protect the town's commercial trade. The narrow gauge East Line and Red River Railroad was chartered in 1871 to run from Jefferson to Sherman via Greenville and then on to West Texas. The idea was to connect the thriving inland port of Jefferson with Texas counties to the west and north.

The EL & RR tracks reached Leesburg in 1878, Sulphur Springs in 1879 and finally were completed to Greenville in December 1880. Regular service began from Jefferson to Greenville in March 1881, a total distance of 125 miles. In 1881, the EL & RR attracted the attention of our old Jefferson nemesis, Jay Gould, who purchased the entire line and made it a part of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas (MKT or Katy) Railroad. Gould extended the tracks to McKinney in 1882 giving the EL & RR a total length of 155 miles. Also in 1881, the T&P Railroad was acquired by Jay Gould, who had previously gained control of Union Pacific Railroad.

Today, the Union Pacific Railroad comes through Jefferson on the old T&P extension from Marshall to Texarkana and the Kansas City Southern (KCS) Dallas branch from Shreveport comes through Jefferson on the roadbed of the former little narrow gauge railroad from Jefferson. Last year, the city of Jefferson was designated by the Union Pacific Railroad as a "Train Town USA" and was included in the Union Pacific Railroad's Train Town USA Registry. The UP Train Town USA plaque is located at the historic Atalanta rail car on Austin Street, which was once the private car of famed railroad tycoon Jay Gould.



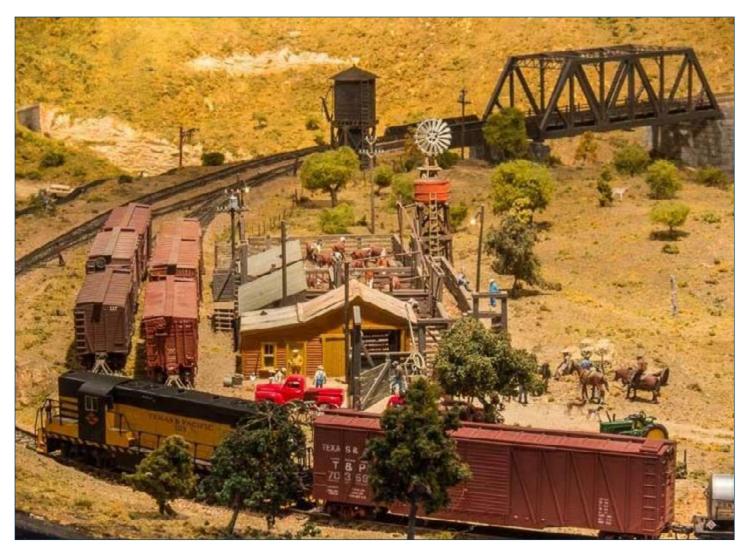
At this year's Train Days event, one Boarding Pass will admit visitors to four venues – a visit to the R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad layout at the Museum, a ride on a narrow gauge scenic train, a tour of Jay Gould's private railroad car Atalanta and admission to a train show that includes several modular model railroad layouts and vendors. At the R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad housed in the replica T&P depot at the Jefferson Historical Society and Museum, visitors will view multiple model trains running on the 193 feet of main line track on this fabulous HO scale model railroad layout. The late R.D. Moses and his friend Jack Luck of Fort Worth spent over 30 years creating and building this superb model railroad that depicts the Texas & Pacific Railway in West Texas in the 1950s. The layout was published in the May 2002 Model Railroader magazine.

The ride on the Historic Jefferson Railway, a narrow gauge scenic train, will meander through the woods

and follow along the Big Cypress Bayou. An added attraction on the train ride this year will be "robberies" and "gunfights" performed by The Lonely West Traveling Gun Show actors in period western costumes. Another new activity this year will be the First Annual Whistle Toot to be held at the Historic Jefferson Railway where you will be able to hear the sounds of authentic train whistles.

At the Jay Gould private railroad car owned and operated by the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club, visitors will be treated to a tour of Gould's lavish and plush quarters that he used when traveling about his vast railroad empire. It is ironic that Gould's private car should end up in the town that he supposedly placed a curse upon.

The Model Train Show at the Transportation Center will be bigger and better than before. There will be several modular model railroads set-up and operating



for visitors to enjoy including model railroads of different scales and time periods. This year, the train show will also include many more commercial vendors of model railroad equipment and supplies and more "swap meet" type of vendors. Another addition to the Train Show will be modeling clinics conducted by experienced and talented modelers. Some of the clinics to be conducted include weathering rolling stock and "kitbashing" and painting model buildings. Attendance to the modeling clinics is included in the admission.

Cost of the admission "Boarding Pass" that includes all four venues is \$15.00 for adults. Children 6 years of age and under are free. Boarding Passes may be purchased at two event locations in Jefferson on the days of the event. All proceeds, after expenses, will benefit the Jefferson Historical Society & Museum and the R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad. For more information: (903) 665-2775; www.jeffersonmuseum.com and www. JeffersonRailway.com.



"My railroad is complete but is not finished" that is what Don will tell you when asked. He started on the GGNR Jan 1, 1981, and 33 plus years later he is still going strong. As you will see in the video of Don's GGNR this is a well thought out model railroad that operates on a regular basis.

#### A Marker Lamp Exclusive Video

Don has a web site where he explains, on the opening, page the plan and how the Railway works. www.donbozman.com

Like many, Don started with Lionel Trains and moved on to N scale in the late 70's where he built modules for an N scale club that he joined in 1978. He won the best module award from Con-Cor at the National Convention that year. Don says that this is where he learned all of the basics for building the layout he has today.

**HO Model Railway** 

Don Bozman's The Great

Text, video and images by Art Houston



Don has been a member of the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club in Houston, Tx. since 1979. Better known as San Jac. He has been the President, Vice President, and Secretary and Treasurer. As president, he led the club to become 100% NMRA membership, and got the club's web page started.

Don is currently active in helping with the model train layout at the children's hospital in Houston. He helps with the operations and maintenance. Don is a great example of not letting problems get in your way when it comes to model trains. He finds a way to get things done no matter how big problems are.

This is a link to a brief story of the GGNR change over to DCC. Friends do make a difference. I was involved in this change over and to quote Don, " I am fixing it so my railway will outlive me." http://www.donbozman.com/DCC%20Conv.html

I hope all will enjoy the video, of a model railway, that has passed the test of time, as has the owner. Don Bozman's *Great* Great Northern Railway.

Video link:

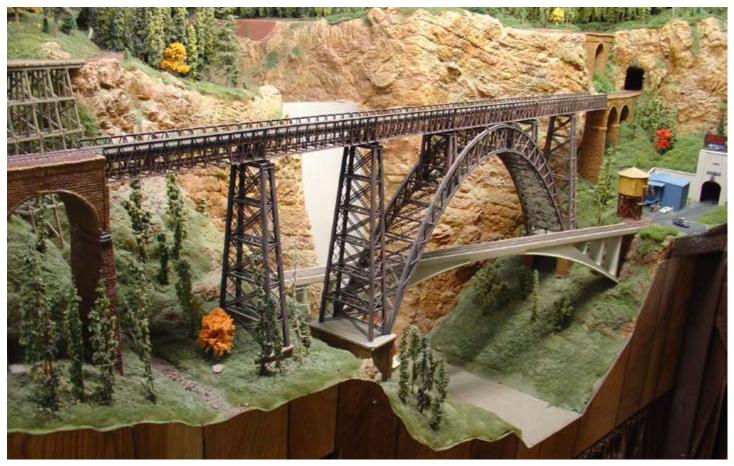
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nngG9hjBGCs

The Marker Lamp Page 23

Great Northern Railway







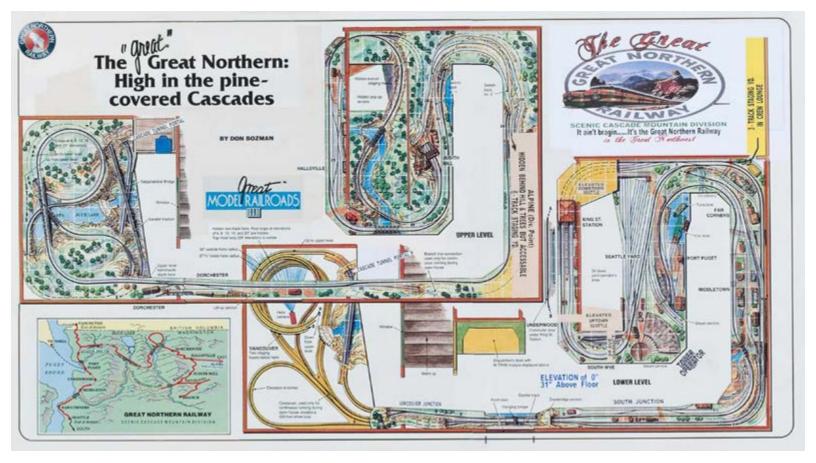








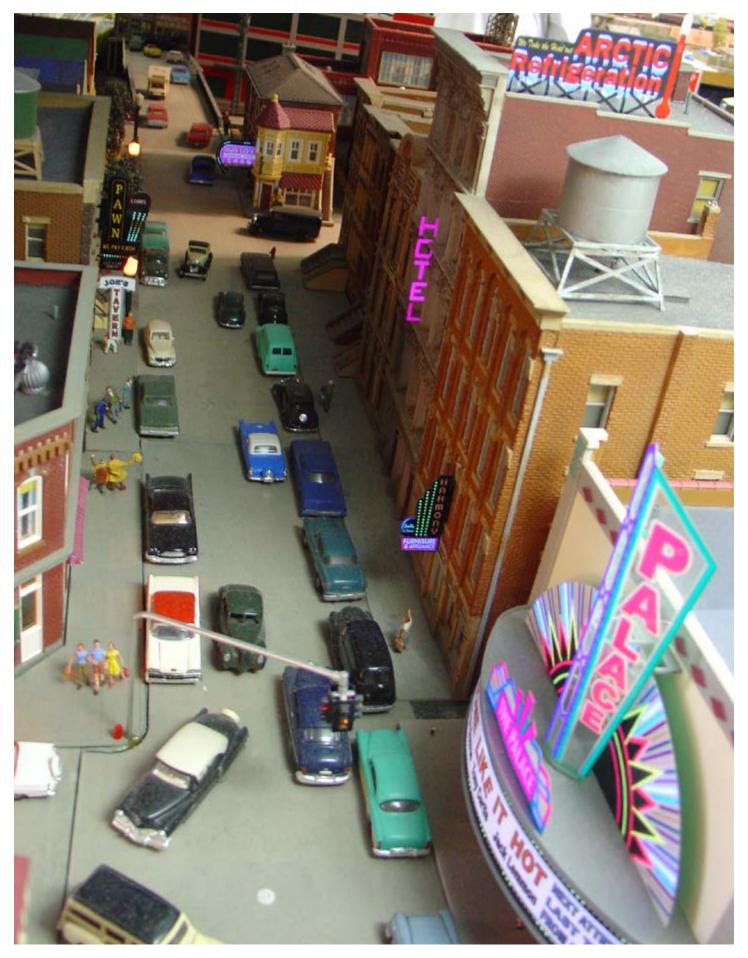




Click for high resolution version on Don's website

They (Great Model Railroads) did not draw the track plan. My original scaled track plan drawing was submitted to MR and they added an overlay with color and artistic scenery details, plus another overlay with text to create the version that was published. Before including the plan on my website, I asked Jim Kelly if I needed permission, and he said no because a drawing of the published version had never existed. He added they probably didn't save the overlays either. Later when the layout changed, I revised the drawing to what you see on my website today. I included their name on my web version as a courtesy for them having published my layout in the first place.

-Don



#### Division 3 Achievement Program Award Winners

Text and photos unless otherwise noted by Gert Muller aka Speed



#### February

The February meeting is always the big one where we introduce all the new members who joined at the train shows in December (Fort Worth) and January (Plano). We also do our special Model Railroading 101 clinics where we set up multiple tables with little groups discussing Planning, Bench work, DCC, Electrical, JMRI, etc. to give everone a chance to see all the facets of the exciting hobby they just stepped into.

Division 3 also presented AP Awards to show the new members that your hard work can get some recognition too, well, at least a certificate, a handshake and an applause!



**Roy Stockard** received a Regional Merit Award for AUTHOR, presented by Jerry Hoverson (aka Loco).



**Brian Lingle** received Regional Merit Awards for CHIEF DISPATCHER and ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER, presented by **Jerry Hoverson**.



Show and Tell had **Cody** and **K.C.** run their back and forth 3 inches (they don't have enough track yet)

#### March

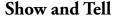


Alex Morrow received a watch from Larry Swigert, just

because he is a cool guy, oops, sorry, no, it was his birthday and every birthday needs a celebration! Don't worry, Alex was just as surprised!



Jerry Hoverson presented to **Larry Swigert** his Regional Merit Award for MOTIVE POWER.



Show and Tell had plenty of structures, almost two tables full. Some more for scoring points than show and tell, but why not show them too?

**Jeff Palmer's** last structure for his AP Award, a bridge, was ready to be "judged."



**Joseph Sorenson** had a Booty Corner, Sokols Furniture Company and the American Seltzer Company







**David Griffith** brought his Silver Plume Bakery to be "judged."



**Skip** brought another scratch built completion next to the Lionel Automatic Gateman, No 145

And then there was also a very, very detailed 1912 Horsedrawn Popcorn Wagon. (Very sorry to have missed the owner, please let me know, I will make sure proper credit is given next issue!)









#### **April**

The April Division 3 meeting was held at a new location, the Schimelpfenig Library in Plano. With access to a kitchen, why not serve coffee and donuts too?

Once again a record for the division, another continuous month in a row with AP Awards!

**Stanley Pirzchalski (Stan)** received the Golden Spike award as well as his Regional Merrit Awards for Structures, Official, Volunteer, Engineering - Civil, Scenery and Electrical, presented by **Jerry Hoverson**, **Larry Swigert** and **David Bartholomew (Bart)**.

Way to go Stan! He is just one award away from MMR! (Talk about doing all the paperwork at once.)



# Chart Stades Chart Stades

**Marc LaChey** received his National Award for Association Volunteer, presented by Jerry Hoverson.



**Roy Stockard** received his National Award for Model Railroad Author and the Regional Merit Award for Dispatcher, presented by Jerry Hoverson.



**Jeff Palmer** received his Regional Merit Award for Structures, most likely setting a record for getting structures "evaluated" and getting the award! Again, presented by Jerry Hoverson.

A Regional Merit Award for Structures (Skip's House) was awarded to **Skip Bynum** in a special ceremony to "celebrate his life" at the meeting. From any kind of scrap wood to a cigar box's cedar divider, Skip could build something AND come up with a story that was amazingly believable. We already miss you, Skip!

#### **Show and Tell**

**Cody** (or does his name tag read Kodi now?) brought a flat car, D&RGW 6000, of course scratch built, since they (he and K.C.) use their own scale.





**Weldon Nash** showed a stock car which are clearly scratch build, from scratch!





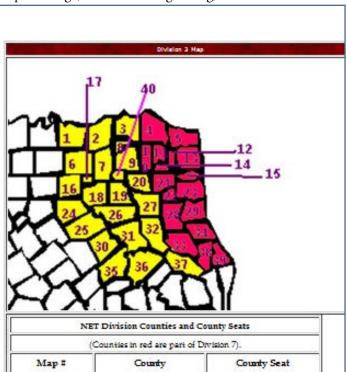
Then **Allen** showed off with a Lego train.



# The Times They are a Changing Part 2

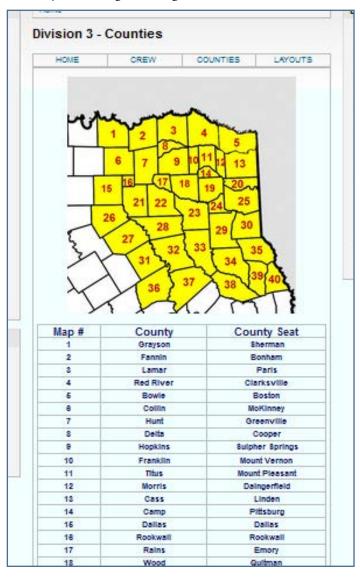
by Jeff Palmer

By now, I hope you have had an opportunity to check out the resources on the new website, www.lonestarregion. com. The transition was made in February with the help of Chris Atkins, the Division 1 Director, and Duane Richardson, one of LSR's Director-at-Large and the previous Webchair. One of the changes that has been noticed, is the map for Division 3. The old website showed a Division 3 map as being (www.lonestarregion.org):



(0	ounties in red are part of	Division 7).		
Map #	County	County Seat		
1	Grayson	Sherman		
2	Fannin	Bonham		
3	Lamar	Paris		
4	Red River	Clarksville		
5	Bowse	Boston		
6	Collin	McKinney		
7	Hunt	Greenville		
	Delta	Cooper		
9	Hopkins	Sulpher Springs		
10	Franklin	Mount Veron		

Upon taking the Web Chair position, I was asked to create a new website. One of the questions I asked was, "Where is the source documentation for the divisions?" This sent me on a research project that has spanned more than a year. After contacting several long time members of the LSR including Eunice Linda, LSR's Secretary – Emeritus, I ended by contacting Jim Long, LSR's Historian. Jim, who



told me he would find the answer, "as all organizational changes have to be published in the *Marker Lamp*." I had searched my *Marker Lamp* magazines, but they only went back to late 2006. Jim searched back to 1986, and in *Marker Lamp* Volume 32, Number 1, the article "Board Approves Eight Divisions for LSR", the 40 counties that make up Division 3 are defined as: "Angelina, Anderson, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Collin, Dallas, Delta, Ellis, Fannin, Franklin, Freestone, Grayson, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Houston, Hunt, Kaufman, Lamar, Len, Marion, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rockwell, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood." Using this information, the new website's Division 3 Map was created (see above).

Before anybody gets upset about the lines that were drawn, there is a paragraph in the same article that states "Individual LSR members who live in counties or parishes of a Division which border another Division shall have the option of membership in either, but not in both. It will be assumed the member is in the Division in which he resides, unless he declares in writing to the LSR Secretary his wish to belong to the adjacent Division. There will be a "cooling" period of five (5) years before the right to switch Divisions again without physically changing residences." Translated, it means nothing has changed but I believe the map is easier to understand, and the process to belong to a different Division is laid out.

For those who asked, it was the 1986 *Marker Lamp* Volume 32, Number 1 article "Board Approves Eight Divisions for LSR" that published the restructuring of the LSR from four (4) Areas to eight (8) Divisions. This article contains the definition of all the counties and parishes for all eight Divisions.



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GENE	RAL OFFICES	2031 S. Blagg Rd	Pahnump.NV	89041	
m	BUNS: 715-751-610	ii ESCAL of	Paptist shoulded re		The Land
Pass				183	TALL
Between	Tonop	pah, NV and Silver	Peak, NV	860	96930
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This quarter's pass is on quality card stock from the *Tonopah & Silver Peak Rail Road* operated by Chandler Apt. Reach him by mail at P. O. Box 5817, Pahrump, NV 89041.

## Pass Exchange Headed by Walter Zahn

The Pass Exchange Program is yet another fun way to connect to other model railroaders through printed ephemera you have created. Railroad passes were distributed by railroads to their employees, associates and partners as well as employees of other railroads for courtesy travel on their system. Many modelers recreate this tradition by printing and distributing passes for their own railways as a way to extend and share their modeling efforts.

#### Here's how it works

Walter Zahn continues to spearhead the Pass Exchange Program for the LSR. To participate in the program, send Walter two of your passes, and in return you will receive a pass and a list of active pass exchangers. Walter will review the passes he receives and share one in each issue of *ML*.

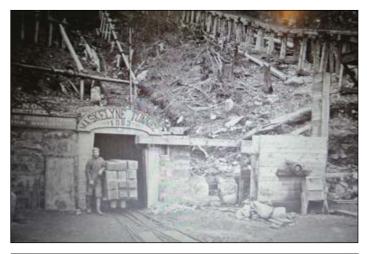
Send passes and any questions or inquiries to:

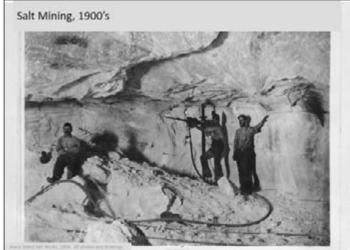
Walter Zahn 3309 Point East Drive Mesquite, Texas 75150-2645

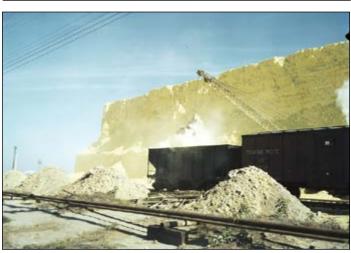
#### A Division 1 Extra

By Kenneth Kaiser photos from Clarence Kirk

The march Division 1 membership meeting had the pleasure of Clarence Kirk presenting a clinic on "Ores of a different color". The presentation dealt with the mining of salt in Avery Island Louisiana, beginning in the late 19th shipping these minerals were thoroughly explained in conjunction with many detailed photographs.















Nominations
By Blake Bogs

First off, I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as the chair of your nominations committee. As chair, I hope to bring in the best volunteers for our organization. We have a great group of volunteers in office right now, but several are ready to move on to new positions. I am asking you to consider running for a position in our organization next year.

Now the question you're probably asking right now is why would I want to volunteer??? That's a great question with a great answer! First, this is a great opportunity to interact and get to know fellow modelers in your community. It allows you to host meetings in your community, judge models for your friends, and play trains all while volunteering for the NMRA.

Who doesn't like having fun playing trains with their friends! Volunteering for our organization is not only a great way to serve in the hobby, it can also lead to other more personal benefits like working toward becoming a Master Model Railroader. Did you know that by volunteering for a position in our organization that you could start receiving volunteer hours for your MMR Volunteer Certificate? And if you run for certain positions, you can receive your MMR Official Certificate.

Volunteering for a position in our organization doesn't require you to model or build a layout. I may be a little biased, but I consider this organization one of the best organizations in which to volunteer. We have some of the nicest, caring individuals who will do anything for you, whether or not it has to do with trains. It just takes a little time and commitment.

So now you're asking... Blake, where do I sign up? Well there are a number of ways to volunteer. First you can go to the Lone Star Region website (you were just on it to access the *Marker Lamp*). Go to the left side of the page and click on the Officers/Departments tab. At the top of the page it has a link that says Interested in running for office...click here. Just click that tab, print the page, and fill it out. Then mail it to:

Blake Bogs Attention: NMRA Nominations Committee 8202 Pine Thistle Ln. Spring, TX 77379

Your second option is to email me at and tell me you are interested. I will make sure we get you the right paperwork.

Your third option is to talk to your Region Director or another official in the NMRA. They will help you get

in touch with either me or my co-chair, George Bohn. My personal number is 713-254-7447. I'm mostly available in the evenings. I'm attending college during the day, but if I'm not in class, I will be happy to talk to you about this amazing opportunity!

Thanks for taking your time to read this and happy modeling!

Blake Bogs Nominations Chair

#### Youth Program Membership

By Bob Mangrum, MMR

The Youth Membership Program is an excellent way for the members of the LSR to bring new and young members into the NMRA and to become involved in what is truly the "world's greatest hobby.

This is the stated objective of the Youth Membership Program as found in Article VI of the LSR bylaws. The program is designed to sponsor up to nine young people with one year memberships in the NMRA. The total number is determined as one nominee for each division and one nominated by the elected officers and directors at large.

These nominees can originate from nominations by individuals who are members of the various divisions, clubs that are located within the divisions, and/or the division director. The proper form and a short sketch explaining why the candidate should be considered, including comments about the young person's interests and activities in model railroading comprise the application. Please refer to the bylaws for more details. If you have questions, please contact me by e-mail at: rmangrum6@hotmail.com Looking forward to announcing more awards for 2014!



#### **Directors' Reports**



Cowcatcher Division 1 by Chris Atkins chris@railroadermodelers.com 214.222.1285 cowcatcherdivision.com



Bayou Division 2 by Rod Fredericks fredericks.rod@gmail.com 225-939-0187

Hi All,

I hope the cool spring weather has you out working on your layouts.

Things are plodding along here in the Cowcatcher Division. I'm happy to report that two of our local clubs and best supporters have new homes. The LMRA club has been renamed the Cowtown Model Railroad Club. They have secured a space in the Handley Community Center at 3024 Forest Ave in eastern Ft. Worth. More information can be found at http://cmrrc.webs.com.

The Texas Western has a new home not far from their old layout in Forest Hill at 6808 Forest Hill Drive. We all had a chance to visit the Texas Western's new home in March when the division had it's regular meeting there. **Clearance Zink** continued his very popular series on mining. This time he focused on salt mining on Avery Island, LA and sulfur mining.

Club members are also planning a train show on October 11-12, 2014 at the Forest Hill civic and Convention Center. More information can be found about the club and train show can be found at http://twmrc.org.

This has been a busy spring for out of town operating weekends. In February a group from Division 1 went to Kansas City for Prairie Rail, then in March we all went to Tulsa for their annual LDSIG/OPSIG weekend. Finally in April, we went to Northeast Arkansas for Hograils.

Division member **Don Winn** and I presented layout designs during Layout Design portion of the SIG weekend in Tulsa. This was a lot of fun to participate in and forced me to draft up a first pass layout design for my new space. I recapped the highlights at the March meeting at the Texas Western. The new layout construction won't begin until the house is finished, which will hopefully be early June.

We will have a meeting on May 17, 2014 at the Texas Western club house. Stay tuned at http://cowcatcherdivision.com for more information.

Hope to see you all there,

Chris

The cold winter (cold at least for the Bayou Division) is gone and one looks forward to mild weather and getting a few things done outside before the hot summer sets in. Not that things outside are going to entirely interfere with model railroading. That just isn't going to happen. But maybe a few plants might get put in the ground, and perhaps (or not) the patio fence that was put off for some three years now, will finally be built. But there is always those long hours after supper to get some things done on the layout or for the club.

However, despite the past cold weather, activities in District 2 have been brisk over the past three months. The Mid-South Model Railroad club has already hosted two of their bi-monthly (February and April) Saturday operating session, as well as holding operating sessions for the Louisiana Rail Run this past February. The latter is an annual event where model railroaders from nearby states operate on layouts in the southeast Louisiana area.

Along with the MSMRRC layout, sessions were run on **Jim Lofland's** and **Bob McNees'** home layouts here in Baton Rouge, **Art Houston's** layout in Houma, and the Crescent City Model Railroad Club in the New Orleans area. Bob McNees and The Crescent City were new additions to the program.

Bob's layout was recently completed, so this was his first formal operating session. It is an excellently done Sn3 Rio Grande Southern layout and it performed well.

The Crescent City club's session was the first formal run in a long time after extensive rebuilding and conversion to DCC, and operated well under JMRI car routing. We're all glade to have these guys back on line.

And as if that was not enough for a three month period, four Division 2 residents traveled to Bentonville, Arkansas to participate in a long weekend of operations at Hog Rails. The Crescent City Model Railroad Club is still actively recruiting new members. Anyone interested in finding information about this club should visit their web site (http://www.ccmrc.com/).

The Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroad in Jackson, LA www.greaterbrrailroaders.com/ continues their activities. This is a great place to visit about an hour drive north of Baton Rouge. They have a number of layouts, and function as a museum. They have inside and outside layouts in just about any scale and gauge from Z to 1:1, and even an authentic old town station, a number of vintage railroad cars, and a steam locomotive. Like our Mid-South Model Railroad Club and the Crescent City Model Railroad Club, all three of these south Louisiana clubs 100% NMRA clubs.

**Art Houston** continues to add new information to his

fantastic website (www.grandepacificmodelrr.org/). There are many video tutorials, layout tours, and links.

Upgrades to the Mid-South layout continues. The seventh (of eight) signal node is nearing completion. Wiring of the last node will start as soon as the rebuilding of the Shreveport area, about 100 sq. ft., is completed. This effort is well under way now. New bench work has been installed and the decks screwed down with most of the roadbed already in. Track laying will start in a few days and we hope to have it up and running for the next bi-monthly operating session the first week June.

On the home front, work continues my Banta Model Works' Rico Mill. This thing is huge. I'm doing the main building roof in wood shake shingles and have just passed the 7,000 mark with maybe only 3,000 more shingles left to go. So I'll be busy for a while yet. And I can't wait to attend the convention this June in Round Rock. Judging from the website, it looks like a fine program is coming together.

On a sad note, we lost an old member of the Bayou Division. After a long illness **Lou Shultz** passed away. He was a founding member of the Crescent City Model Railroad Club. We'll all miss you Lou and the many past Saturday afternoons operating on your B&O Allegany Division.

So that's all for now. Happy Model Railroading.



North East Texas Division 3 by Jerry Hoverson, MMR jhoverson@tx.rr.com 972.540.5315



Normally I use this opportunity to highlight all the fun things the division has done since the last report. Don't get me wrong, we've continued to have a lot of fun with our monthly meetings but I'd like to dedicate this article to one of our own that passed away recently, **Deforest "Skippy" Bynum**, July 3, 1943 – March 15, 2014.

As you can tell from the photo above, Skippy was a regular during our "Show-n-Tell" segment at the meetings and was also a member of the Spring Creek Modular Railroad Club. Skippy always sat on the first row dead center in the room.



Skippy was quiet, and he didn't say much until one meeting, oh, about 2 years ago, I noticed that he had brought in a small model and had it sitting on the table in front of him. I asked him why he didn't put it on the Show-n-Tell table and tell everyone about it. He replied, "I don't like getting up in front of people and talking".

So as the meeting progressed and all the other Show-n-Tell entries had been completed, I walked up right in front of him, picked up his model, and said "Skippy, why don't you tell us about this?" From that day forward, Skip had an entry in the Show-n-Tell every month and entertained us with his stories and they invariably started out with "Well, I was bored so I ....." He was so much a part of the meetings that Larry created a special award for him and we presented it to him one meeting.

Skippy's only family was Division 3, the Spring Creek club and his church. I put out the word to the division about Skippy's passing on a Sunday and by Monday evening we had raised over \$1,400 to go towards his burial and when it was all said and done, the division and the Spring Creek club combined donated over \$3,250 and Skippy was laid to rest. His church put on a very nice memorial service.

I want to thank everyone that contributed, but especially **Marc LaChey** for coordinating everything, **Leo Gregg** for making sure Skippy was not forgotten, **Kenny Collins** for making the arrangements with the funeral home and Kenny Collins and **Danny Cryer** for taking possession of Skip's remains and transporting him to the cemetery.

Everyone's support just proves the adage that we preach "It's not about the trains, it's about the people"

We'll miss you Skippy!





CenTex Division 4 by Jack Merkel ElmerMerk@aol.com 512.355.3289

CenTexNMRA.org



Tom Pearson presenting his DCC Minute at the Division 4 MeetingRR

We held a Division meeting on Saturday February 8 at the Round Rock Library. **Jerry Wilson** presented a clinic titled "Building a Stamp Mill". Jerry's stamp mill is an award winning structure that has a lot of animation – including stamp mills, shaker tables and more. Jerry described how he built everything.

We then had our DCC minute by **Tom Pearson**, our normal show and tell table, social time and Deal or Duds program. After the meeting, we toured **Rod Reames's** Denver Rio Grande & Southern Pacific RR which includes many



Jerry Wilson's and his award winning stamp mill

scratchbuilt well detailed structures by Dick Sowash.

Our next meeting which will be after this goes to press will be on Saturday May 10 at 10:00 am at the Round Rock Library. **David** and **Sam Nicastro** will present a clinic

titled "How to make decals". This clinic will include techniques to make white decals. We will then have our normal DCC minute by Tom Pearson, show and tell table, social time and Deal or Duds program. After the meeting, we will tour **Tom Foreman's** Brushy Creek & Santa Fe RR.

The library is located at 216 E. Main St. in Round Rock. On I-35, exit at RR 620 (Exit 252B) and proceed East on RR 620 for a few blocks to the intersection with Main St.





Rod Reames' DRG & SP RR with Dick Sowash's structures

and continue East on Main St. for another block and half to the library on the left.

We do all communications about our Division 4 meetings via email. If you are not receiving emails about our Division meetings, that means I do not have a valid email address for you. Please send your email address to Elmermerk@aol.com

On the operating front, **David Barrow**, **Pete Guy**, **David Nicastro**, **Edmar Wienskoski**, **Chuck Ellis** and I have had recent operating sessions.

We have continued work on the 2014 LSR Convention which will be held in Round Rock June 4 – 8, 2014. Our web site is now in full operation at www.bluebonnetlimited.com. It contains a lot of information on over 60 clinics, 10 operating sessions, 44 layout tours, 2 prototype tours, live steam tour, non-rail activities, silent auction, contest room, banquet and more.

You can also follow us on twitter @bluebonnet2014

and on face book at bluebonnet limited 2014. We will be adding more information to the web site, so check it often. Hope to see you at the convention!!

This is my final column for the Marker Lamp. It has been my great pleasure to have been the director for Division 4 for the last 4 years. **Peter Kazmir** will be our new Division Director beginning in June. Peter will be a great director for our division. He is the creator of the fabulous Bluebonnet Limited website and he will bring some new ideas to the division.



**Division 5**by Dave Lamberts
DavidWL1944@aol.com
806.792.7244

Dave couldn't file a report this issue. He'll be back next issue.



**Division 6**by Tom Crosthwait
t.crosthwait@sbcglobal.net
210.647.3261

Tom couldn't file a report this issue. He'll be back next issue.



**Division 7**by Don Kimmell elf4kcs@mac.com 318.798.7718

Greetings from North Louisiana where spring is in full bloom, including the pollen!

First off, do not forget to get you Convention registration in. It sure sounds like it will be another great one there in Round Rock, except maybe for the traffic, but should be fun anyway.

Also lets not forget about the upcoming train show in this area:

May 3rd & 4th the Cotton Belt Tyler Tap show, not a big show, but usually a nice selection of vendors who will have that piece you really need. It is pretty easy to get to and parking is FREE! Hope to see you there!

May 10th is National Train Day – visit National-TrainDay.com for more details.

May 17th & 18th – The Third Annual Jefferson Train Days – another small show, but Jefferson is a whole lot of fun...bring the wife and leave some money! Again I hope to see you there!

I am sure some of these show will be over by the time you get to read it, but they are all we have in this area.

Longview's JETTS Show was another success, though the layouts were down this year. I have been told that the gas expense is really starting to hurt some clubs traveling plans. I have also been told that a number of the "convention centers" are in the process of raising the cost to lease. Further putting the squeeze on the local clubs. This is something we have no real control over if we don't attend those shows, so GO to your Local Train Show.

The folks down in Alex, at the Children's Treehouse Center are continuing to have great success with their Junior Engineer program.

The HO layout at the SciPort here in Shreveport is about finished except for the "dirt work". **Tom White** is doing this for them. It is depicting the route through the Canadian Rockies.

That is about it fro around here. Hope to see you in Round Rock in June.

Go play trains!



Texas Gulf Division 8 by Leslie Bodak lbjbodak@gmail.com 281.486.0709

Division 8 had a very busy fall with our annual Fall Open House Tours. This a very exciting time for model railroad enthusiasts and a great way to introduce the hobby to the public. A very special thank you to all who graciously opened their homes to share their layouts and love of the hobby.

Houston has several train shows scheduled in 2014. The San Jacinto Model Railroad Club's 2014 Greater Houston Train Show will be held on Saturday, February 15 at The Stafford Center in Stafford, Texas. There will be a contest room and clinics throughout the day. The Houston Railroad Museum will be having a train show in September. More information will be provided as it becomes available. The Galveston Railroad Museum will hold their annual train show in October. Stay tuned for more information!

In April, Division 8 will be having their annual chili cook-off and meeting. The date has not been set, but it will be held in April at the railroad station in Alvin. Alvin is a great location for railfaning, photo opportunities and spending time with fellow model railroaders.

The Division 8 Clinics begin in May and run through September.

Division 8 is now on Facebook. Like us at Lone Star Region – Division 8

Leslie

#### Treasurer's Membership Report

By Donna Orr, Treasurer

At the beginning of February 2014 the membership was 1086 and at the end of April 2014 the membership was 1073.

Please welcome our new members listed below in their divisions:

Division 1
Mark Wood. Cleburne,TX
George Wisbrock, Arlington,TX
Russell Raybourn, The Colony, TX
Andrew Morris Flower Mound, TX
Luis Acosta, Fort Worth, TX
P J MacKey, Ft Worth, TX
John Hempfling, Wichita Falls, TX
Gary Cunningham, Trophy Club, TX
David Wood, Burleson, TX

Division 2 Paul Henderson, Gretna, LA Kevin Paul, Saint Rose, LA

Division 3 Skip Waters, Dallas, TX James Sumpter, Plano, TX Paul Slay, Lavon, TX Ron Seher, Plano, TX Carlos Samame, Dallas, TX Tim Roberts, Rowlett, TX Bruce Quinney, Plano, TX Klark Perkins, Melissa, TX Jim Manley, Plano, TX Paul Liptak, Irving, TX Keith Hayes, Frisco, TX Thomas Harris, Rockwall, TX Zane Hall, Grand Prairie, TX Jim Fischette, Waxahachie, TX Eric Epstein, Plano, TX David Davis, Plano, TX Miles Capehart, Whitesboro, TX Douglas Buol, Coppell, TX Scott Buffham, Plano, TX David Borrego, Frisco, TX Philip Barnett, Richardson, TX Bob Baldridge, Grand Prairie, TX John Albright, McKinney, TX Douglas Woodward, Plano, TX Samuel Simmons, Ovilla, TX Lupe Gonzales, Rockwall, TX Bill Dodrill, Dallas, TX Joseph Mazzei, Greenville, TX Stephen Brock Plano, TX Division 4 Hal Kuempel, Pflugerville, TX

Roger Ivey, Austin, TX

Charles Etheredge, Austin, TX Robert Williamson, Austin, TX Paul Calmes, Austin, TX

Division 6 Herman Hellman, New Braunfels, TX

Division 7 Randal Camp, Shreveport, LA

Division 8 Frederic Lisowski, Crosby, TX Martin Nieskens, Houston, TX Kevin Mc Gee, Spring, TX Kevin Herkner, Houston, TX

#### **Company Store Report**

By Matthew Latham, Dispatcher Chair

All cars sold out.

Other items available:

Cloth Region Patches \$5.00 each (Only LSR Life – 35 avail.) Auto/Window Region Decal \$ .50 (1 avail.)

N Scale (13 avail.) Nevadun Decals \$2.00 per sheet HO Scale (8 avail.) & N Scale (22 avail.) Daw Cha Southern Decals \$3.00 per sheet

Shipping Please add \$1.00 for patches and decals

Matthew Latham, Dispatcher 2320 Hickory Leaf Lane Flower Mound, TX 75022-4945 972-358-6168 E-mail: mklatham@verizon.net

#### Treasurer's Report

By Donna Orr, Treasurer

For the Fourth Fiscal Quarter of 2013/2014	
Beginning Balance 02/01/2014	
LSR Checking Account	\$ 5,315.82
Vanguard CD Fund	\$20,356.36
Vanguard Convention Fund	\$10,004.22
Acct receivable for 2014 Convention	\$ 2000.00
Total LSR Net Worth	\$ 37,676.40
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth	
Funds Held For Division 4	\$3,246.94
LSR Proceeds	
Vanguard CD Fund Interest	\$ .50
Vanguard Convention Fund Interest	\$.24
Pike Ads	\$ 304.00
NMRA rebate	\$ 974.00
Walter Zhan Donation	\$ 200.00
Total Proceeds	\$1278.74
LSR Disbursements	
Mailing and printing for elections	\$ 1953.82
BOD meeting copying	\$ 84.56
Achievement Program Postage/Copying	\$ 227.41
Total Disbursements	\$ 2265.79
Net Proceeds/ Disbursements	\$ 987.05
Ending Balance 04/30/2014	
LSR Checking Accounts Total	\$4,528.03
Vanguard CD Fund	\$20,356.86
Vanguard Convention Fund	\$10,004.46
Acct receivable for 2014 Convention	\$2,000.00
Total LSR Net Worth	\$36,889.35
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth	
Funds Held For Division 4	\$3,246.94

#### **Last Convention Pitch!**

By Jack Merkel, MMR

Booooaaarrd! Toot! Welcome to the 63rd Lone Star Region annual convention – The Bluebonnet Limited. The convention committee has planned four busy fun filled days for you. We begin with your choice of four operating sessions on Wednesday evening or eight clinics at the conference center.

On Thursday, some will choose to take the bus to the WB&S live steam RR in Wimberly. Others will take the bus to the LCRA Tank Car repair facility in Smithville. And others can choose from 16 clinics at the conference center. Thursday evening, you can choose from 11 layouts to tour in the Central Texas area or choose from 8 additional clinics.

On Friday, some will visit the WB&S RR, others will take the bus to the GRR railroad and we have 16 clinics available. We also have 2 operating sessions available in the afternoon and 4 operating sessions available in the evening plus 8 more clinics.

On Saturday morning, we have 8 clinics to choose from and Saturday afternoon, we have 19 layouts for your touring pleasure. Saturday evening will feature a social hour with some local music and our banquet with Bruce Blalock as our speaker.

On Sunday morning, we have our breakfast and annual meeting. We also have 14 layouts to visit on your way home. We have several non-rail activities including four clinics, two different shopping experiences and a trip to the Umlauf Sculpture Gardens and Museum.

If that is not enough, you can visit the contest room, silent auction, operate on a switching layout at the convention or win some fantastic items including cab rides on the Texas State RR. Be sure to visit our web site at www.bluebonnetlimited.com for the latest information.

So, make your choices, relax, visit with old friends and above all HAVE FUN!

For the committee, Jack Merkel, MMR



The Committee: Front row: Edmar Wienskoski, Paul Angenend, Carol Merkel, Jack Merkel, Phil Sharpnack

Back row, Peter Kazmir, Rod Reames, Mike Barrett, Brian Helms, Gary McClasland, Bob Batson, Tom Pearson, George Zapalac, Russell L. DaMetz, Terry Nathan, Riley Triggs

Not pictured: Kim Saign, Steve Blackson, Chuck Lind, Pete Guy, Bill Dryden

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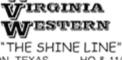
We meet Thursdays 7 to 10<sup>th</sup>M, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month (10 AM to 4 PM). Business meeting, 1<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, Memberships open. From I-40, take the Lakeside exit (#75). Go north on Lakeside 2.2 miles of U. 5. Highway 60. Turn right, go east 3.9 miles east, Turn right on I Ave., look for the yellow building with a red roof. P. O. Box 31105, Amarillo, TX 79120 (806) 335-3333.

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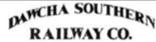
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Deadline for submissions is July 15



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