



## 372

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### Have a Suggestion Or a Story Idea?

Contact: The STAR Editor at,  
galvinart@att.net

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#modeltrains

#texaswesternmodelrrclub

## A Tour of the San Diego Model Railroad Museum

One of the very few benefits of traveling on business, is getting to see different railroads, visiting railroad museums, and on the rare occasion, a model railroad layout. A few weeks ago I had the fortune to visit the San Diego Model Railroad Museum. The museum is located in the historic Balboa Park area of San Diego, California and was founded in 1982. At 27,000 square feet, it is the largest indoor model train layout in the United States. The exhibit consists of five layouts, two O-gauge, two HO, and one N-scale. There are four Clubs that own and operate the layouts. The San Diego Model RR Association Club has 110 members and operates the 2-rail, O-gauge Cabrillo & Southwestern and the HO-scale San Diego & Arizona Eastern Railroad layouts. The La Mesa Club has 100 members and operates the HO-scale Tehachapi Pass layout. The San Diego 3-Railers operate a toy train gallery and the San Diego Society of N-Scale operate the Pacific Desert Lines layout.



( Above: La Mesa Club - Tehachapi Pass )

( Continued on Page 3... )

# From The Business Car

**T**he sound of locomotive's running on our layout is indeed music to the ears. There has been a huge amount of work getting to this point and we owe several members of our club a lot of thank you's for making this happen. When I look at how much work has been done, the work left doesn't seem quite so monumental now. Yes, there is a LOT of things to do, but now the foundation, the beginning has been accomplished. Now we add yards, structures, scenery, and lighting as we progress toward making this the premier layout we know it can be.



As more and more power districts are connected we will be able to run further around the layout and eventually we will have the entire section up and running. This layout will have a master wiring book and color coded buss wires so that when problems do crop up, and they will, we can quickly and easily track down the issue to be remedied. We will no doubt make adjustments to the color coding system as we progress because it is a dynamic process and we do not have anyone to copy. Soon we will have power below for structure lighting and we can tap into it so our layout

comes to life. The overall ambient lighting will come soon, and I believe will be the lighting solution we want to see with the ability to use color to represent different day parts.



The Texas Western Train Show is on track and we have sold all of the tables in the large room plus some in the side room as well. We need to sell more, so if you know a dealer that hasn't signed up yet, please encourage them to come to our show. We have also secured Care Flite's support, and they will be bringing a helicopter to the show so visitors can see inside. I believe we will also have their ambulance and a Forest Hill fire truck also.

I will be traveling till September 10th and will miss seeing all my friends at the club. Please continue and direct any questions to Clarence or Jay as I believe they are most up to date on recent changes and additions.



Darrell Cowles

## The STAR

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2017

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( Continued from Page 1... )

I spoke with a member of the La Mesa Club and he gave me the highlights of their layout. It is based on the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroad from Bakersfield through Tehachapi Pass to Mojave, California in the 1950's and includes the famous Tehachapi Loop. According to Wikipedia, the model is unique for its size and geographic fidelity. Thousands of photographs of the prototype were used to closely model the details of the actual area with nearly curve for curve and switch for switch accuracy. They operate trains at the prototypical speed of 23 mph. At this speed, it takes a train nearly two hours to leave Bakersfield, transit to Mojave, and return to Bakersfield - impressive.

I spent about an hour and a half roaming the building watching trains. As I was standing watching the HO-scale San Diego & Arizona Eastern Railroad layout, one of their members (Alan) stopped near me and I asked him a few questions about the layout. I told him I was visiting from the Texas Western Model Railroad Club and he invited me into the inner sanctum of the exhibit. I was like a kid in a candy store!!!



( Above Photo's: San Diego & Arizona Eastern Railroad )

( Continued on Page 5... )

September  
Business Meeting  
Thurs. Sept. 7,  
@ 7 PM  
at  
The Clubhouse



Shop at  
AmazonSmile

and Amazon will make  
a donation to:

Texas Western  
Model Railroad  
Club

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)  
Then select Texas Western  
Model Railroad Club as the  
non-profit you'd like to help.

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price  
of your eligible purchases back to  
the club.

## The Railway Express Car

*We hold these truths to be self-evident...*

*that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

In my recent articles it has been my pleasure to share with you our visits to locations around the world and happily share our experiences with railroad memorabilia. Such is not the case today. My wife and I have strolled the main street, Las Ramblas, of Barcelona and the very street in Charlottesville where the recent horrific automobile incident took place. It is difficult for me to understand how much hatred it takes for a human being to carry out such monstrous acts on another human being. And, in the end, what does it accomplish?

Hatred is the easiest of emotions to arouse in another human being. There have been countless examples of this in the history of the world. The antidote is education on the real values of life, beginning from the first days of life, and the fundamental meaning of the Golden Rule and Brotherly love.

Let our little group be a small example to the world of what men can accomplish in the spirit of cooperation and respect for each other. I am proud to be a member.



( Above Photo: Las Ramblas Scene )



( Top Above: Las Ramblas. Top Middle: Sagrada Familia. Bottom: Charlottesville, VA. )

Dick Mucker

( Continued from page 3 )

The 4,500 square foot San Diego & Arizona Eastern Railroad layout is based on the prototype namesake railroad from San Diego's Union Station eastward through Carriso Gorge to the desert floor at El Centro. The layout is not signaled or double tracked so they have to communicate well when running trains to avoid any head on collisions (a.k.a. Hamiltons). There are roughly 18 scale miles of track and it takes an hour to make a complete loop of the railroad. The Carriso Gorge canyon is an impressive installation. It took two and a half years to construct and is nearly six feet deep. It is constructed using a wood base frame with chicken wire and newspaper covered in plaster with plaster rock castings. The wooden trestle is a replica of the existing trestle constructed on the real railroad in the 1940s.



( Above Photo: Carriso Gorge )

The San Diego & Arizona Eastern layout is reminiscent of the TWMRC 1.0. An abundance of scenery and craftsmanship in the buildings and scenes.

If you ever get a chance to travel to San Diego make sure to visit the San Diego Model Railroad Museum. It's worth the price of admission and has certainly put some motivation in me to get our layout up and running too.

*Jay H<sub>2</sub>O's*

# THE TRAIN SCHEDULE

## Upcoming Meetings, Events, Shows & Clinics

### SEPTEMBER 2017

**2nd- YMR Meeting, 10a - 1p, Held at the TWMRC, Saturday**

**2nd - Work Night, 7p - 9:30p, Saturday**

**2nd- HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
CHRIS JOHNSON**

**7th - September Texas Western Business Meeting @ 7p, Thursday.**

**9th - NMRA Lone Star Region Cowatcher Division 1 Meeting, 10a - 12 p, held at the Texas Western Model RR Clubhouse, Saturday**

**9th - Work Day, 3p - 9p, Saturday**

**14th - Work Night, 7p - 9:30p, Thursday**

**16h- Work Day, 3p - 9p, Saturday**

**21st - Work Night, 7p - 9:30p, Thursday**

**23th - Work Day 3p - 9p, Saturday**

**28th - Work Night, 7p - 9:30p, Thursday**

**30th - Work Day, 3p - 9p, Saturday**

### OCTOBER 2017

**5th - October Business Meeting, 7p, will be held @ The club house, Thursday**

**7th- YMR Meeting, 10a - 1p, Held at the TWMRC, Saturday**

**14th - NMRA Lone Star Region Cowatcher Division 1 Meeting, 10a - 12 p, held at the Texas Western Model RR Clubhouse, Saturday**

**TWMRC CLUB TRIP  
to  
Cumbres & Toltec  
Scenic Railroad**

**September 14-17, 2017**

Amarillo RR Museum visit  
Cumbres & Toltec train ride  
Contact: Jay Waters  
if interested in attending

2017

Texas Western Train Show



Sat. November 11th  
10 AM - 5 PM  
&  
Sun. November 12th  
11 AM - 4 PM

Forest Hill Civic Center  
6901 Wichita Street  
Forest Hill, TX

## NMRA LSR Cowatcher Division 1 September Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017  
10 am - 12 pm  
@

Texas Western MRC  
Clubhouse  
6801 Forest Hill Drive

Program: Paints &  
Painting Figures by  
Brian Howard



## From The COO's Coal Hopper

I was traveling last month, and just couldn't get it together to write an article for August. At the beginning and end of the trip I had to cross the US-Canadian border in International Falls, Minnesota/Fort Frances, Ontario, Canada. It is an interesting border crossing in that you cross from one country into the other from either direction by going through a paper plant on each side of the border. RR tracks abound, but any that crossed the Rainy River on the International Bridge with the road are pretty much abandoned. A new crossing is about 1/2 mile to the east. Packaging Corporation of America is on the south side of the river in International Falls, while the paper mill in Fort Frances was evidently closed in 2014, but has reopened recently, as it was noisy and smelly when I went through.

We continue to make wiring progress on the layout at the club. The entire 28" level T&P main and branchline has been wired up to the power busses. The branchline buss is marked with Yellow-Yellow-Yellow tape, while the T&P mainline buss is marked with Brown-Blue-Gray tape. The colors read from left to right. All main busses will have a unique three color tape combination. You've probably seen Darrell's scheme for PM42's already. Through diligent work and conversations with others familiar with electronic practice, we were able to double the distance each PM42 could reach, so we cut the power supply requirement by 50%, and are much closer to get things running. Now we've just got to find that bleedin' short that keeps going *click-click-click*.

Several of us visited a large layout somewhere out in Johnson county after a recent Division 1 meeting. We came across an inexpensive and readily available building material to use as roadbed. Jerry bought one 4' x 8' sheet to experiment with, and Mike Galligan took some home and sliced it up into straights, then slotted some for making curves. Mike even soaked some of this stuff in a glass of water for 24 hours, and there was almost zero damage to the stuff. The cut edge swelled ever so slightly, but did not delaminate. The swelling was almost invisible. Mike brought his experiments to the club, so if you have a chance, look at the materials and consider it. Because it is sooooo cheap, cuts easily, can be slotted for curves, seems to be very moisture resistant and takes spikes well, we are seriously considering

making it one of our preferred roadbed materials. Take a look at it and form an opinion, because we will put it up for addition to our TWMRC Standards and Recommended Practices at the September business meeting.

Mr. Galligan has also made tremendous progress on the MKT Yard. All the turnouts are laid, and Mike has installed some 'creative' and deceptively simple switch throws using small toggle switches. Great work, Mike!

We also want to consider at the September business meeting the use of 1/2" Homasote for future mainline roadbed. No splitting, just cut into strips about 3" wide (yet to be determined by mathematical processes, depending on the selected angle of the side cuts. Or whatever **feels** right!) Again very cheap compared to buying boxes of Homabed roadbed like we had been.



Jim Swartz of Care Flite came to the August business meeting with a rather attractive "club" offer. For a yearly "club" fee of \$450, and only \$12.00 per person/family PER YEAR, we can all get covered by Care Flite. The "club fee" was graciously donated already by a club member, so all we now need is to sign up and pay the \$12.00. This is an extremely good deal. We will be talking about this also at the September business meeting. Care Flite coverage will start September 1st.

Transportation arrangements have been ironed out for the Chama trip. Most everyone is not coming directly back to DFW. We are all looking forward to the trip, and having lived for several year in that general area (we used to buy groceries in Alamosa), I will advise all of us to bring winter coats just in case. A friend of my wife Facebooked us last weekend, and posted photos of 6 - 12" of snow on Monarch pass. Yep, it happens in the mountains.

I'm sure there is other news I've missed. Keep the greasy side down!

Clarence Zink

## From The CDO's Pullman Car

**A**s we are rapidly approaching the train show in November, we need all hands on deck! Don't just sit on the sidelines... GET IN THE GAME!

Your help is needed to make this our best show ever. It appears that, due to some advertising sales that have been done, this year's show will break any previous record for revenues and profits. Together, we can insure that success!

As an added attraction, we've received confirmation that CareFlight will be landing one of their helicopters on site along with having one of their ambulances on display for touring, and Forest Hill will have a police car and fire engine on display as well. Our train show could be a significant community event that will be talked about for years to come. All of this is possible... but not without your help!

Sign up now for jobs that you can help with, but don't stop there. Step outside of your comfort zone and try to help in an area where you can broaden your skills and learn something new. Contact a board member and volunteer for anything and everything to make this show GREAT!



Train hard! Improve your skills!!

*Mike Mackey*

**NORTH TEXAS  
GIVING  
DAY**.ORG  
**9.14.17**  
powered by  
**COMMUNITIES  
FOUNDATION of TEXAS**

### Please Consider Giving A Donation To Our Club

On North Texas Giving Day. This is an online giving event for people across the nation to come together to raise as much money for North Texas non profits on one day:

**September 14, 2017 from 6 AM - 12 Midnight**

Your generous financial support will make a meaningful difference to support us in bringing our vision of preserving the history of North Texas's Railroading, including Fort Worth's own distinctive Tower 55.

**Make your donation of \$25.00 or more on  
September 14th by visiting:**

**<https://www.northtexasgivingday.org>**

**Select: Texas Western Model Railroad Club**

Remember, all donations of at least \$25.00 qualify for Bonus Funds! With your help, we WILL exceed last years' fundraising goal of \$2500. on North Texas Giving Day!

#NTxGivingDay #texaswesternmodelrrclub

# North Texas Council Monthly Report

Abbreviated notes from the August Meeting:

- Table sales for the fall Plano show are 211, winter 210 - looking good.
- 501.c.3 Update: did not have to wait to make application, application sent in, waiting for IRS response.
- Work Assignments: Fall Plano Show, Sept.30 and Oct. 1st. Schedule rearranged with other clubs to give us daytime commitments. See attached schedule. I will be taking sign-ups at Sept. Texas Western meeting. Jobs are real easy. If not at meeting, contact me directly at j-g.garfield@att.net.
- Looking for people to do clinics. Have four now, looking for a total of 5 on Saturday and 4 on Sunday. If interested, I will set you up.
- No official business.

Additional information: Working to dismantle Jim Norwood's layout beginning this fall. Per the school, where part of it is being donated, they are on hold so plans may change. Will be looking for volunteers, some good cars, engines, track, switches, buildings will be available for very low prices when dismantled. Club needs to note this, as there are some components that would work for the club. I will note when we can move forward.

A Proposal to build a 1200 Square Foot layout and ship it to China under review. Meeting to be held on August 20th to get more detail and can report at next club meeting. This is paid workers to build and go to China for two weeks to assemble. Reportedly part of company plan to build a very large public layout here in DFW - bigger than the one in Germany.

1	
Publication	TW
Name	Texas Western
Council representative	Leonard Opienhoff
Planning role	0
Issue: 2017 Show Season 6/2017 Final	
Service hours	Pre-HTB 0 HTB 8 Pre-DAT 0 DAT 10 Total 18

Phase Fall TB

Precheck task	None													
Friday 8/25/2017	08-11	11-12	12-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12
Dealer Setup Friday	TW	TW												
Assistant Show Manager Fri			TW	TW	TW	TW								
Saturday 8/26/2017	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6			
Dealer Door Contact Saturday							TW	TW						
Sunday 8/27/2017	8-10	10-11	11-12	12-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6					

Phase DAT

Precheck task	None													
Friday 8/25/2017	08-11	11-12	12-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12
Dealer Setup Friday	TW	TW												
Assistant Show Manager Fri			TW	TW	TW	TW								
Saturday 8/26/2017	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	12-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6			
Ticket Sales Wood Deer Sat							TW	TW						
Sunday 8/27/2017	8-10	10-11	11-12	12-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5						
Show Manager Sunday							TW							
Assistant Show Manager Sun							TW							

*John Garfield*

# SEPTEMBER 2017 BIRTHDAYS



Chris Johnson 9/2



## Clean UP Crew **SEPTEMBER 2017**

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**Clarence Zink**  
**James French**  
**Jerry Fussell**  
**Mike Galligan**

**THE TEXAS WESTERN  
STAR**

**Texas Western Railroad Association  
6808 Forest Hill Drive, Forest Hill, TX**