



MID - CONTINENT  
REGION

# Division Points

Indian Nations Division of the National Model Railroad Association  
Division 1—Midcontinent Region

[www.tulsanmra.org](http://www.tulsanmra.org)

Issue No. 81

May 2026



Operating Session on Dave Salamon's Deep River Southern: Dave Salamon Photo



## In This Issue:

**Layout and Design Weekend 2026 Wrap-Up**

**Dave Salamon's  
Frisco Howard Street  
Layout Build Part 5**

**January Meeting Notes**

**Next Meeting on May 30th**

**In Memoriam:  
Tom Fausser**

# From the Superintendent

Since we skipped the March meeting given a lot of us were involved in putting together our LDOPSIG event, it has been quite a while since we've gotten together. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, May 30th at 9:30 am at the Hardesty Library - 8316 E 93rd St, Tulsa, OK 74133. Theme for the Show & Tell for May will be Maintenance Of (in the) Way equipment.

After a brief welcome, we will be treated to a long-awaited presentation from Charlie Tapper giving an update on his new layout construction project. Charlie will cover why he chose the benchwork mounting system he did, products available, installation, lighting, planning for electronics, etc. He'll have some other sections on design and standards.

When that is done, those who brought any show and tell items will have an opportunity to discuss what they brought, then we'll break to allow folks to visit, look at the items, etc.

After that we may have another presentation, but I also want to discuss updated requirements that the NMRA has asked our group to comply with (mostly related to logo, branding and graphics) and get your direction (via a vote) as to how to proceed.

I look forward to seeing you at our always free spring meeting this May, which is open to anyone interested in model railroading. Heck, we don't even charge any dues!

See you on 5/30,

Steve Davis  
KCS Heavener Sub

Superintendent, Indian Nations Division (Northeast Oklahoma) NMRA



# From the Editor

Because the Layout Design and Operations Weekend event took the place of a March Meeting, this is the next Division Point after the January newsletter. A lot has happened since the January newsletter!

## New Look

First and foremost, you will notice some slight changes to fonts and graphics associated with this newsletter. I have updated the graphics per the guidelines put forth by the NMRA as part of their 2026 branding efforts.

## Facebook

While not an officially affiliated with the Indian Nations Division of the NMRA, I launched a Facebook page on 1-17-2026 dedicated to disseminating information on events, activities, and other happenings entitled "Friends of the Indian Nations Division/Tulsa Model Railroaders". It is a private group, but it can be seen by the public. Content is only visible to members of the group and membership requests come through the administrator. Questions must be answered in the membership request. With so many public pages being hijacked by insincere people and bots, I want to keep the content on point.

## Long Time Modeler Tom Fausser Passes

The Tulsa Modeling Community lost one of its most talented and admired member on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Tom built the magnificent freelanced South Brooklyn Terminal railroad, a tour-de-force of urban New York city carfloat cross harbor freight operations. The good news is the layout has been saved and will live again thanks to Allan Roecker and his wife.

## 2026 Layout Design and Operations Weekend is in the Books

Our every-other-year operations event took place from March 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2026. This event centered on a Saturday clinic with 4 presentations and lunch, bookended by operating sessions Friday-Saturday-Sunday on 14 local layouts. This event started in 2009! The Division will now focus on Tulsa Rail, our operations only event, which will occur in March of 2027.

Our cover shot by Dave Salamon shows Ron Marsh of Youtube fame (Ron's Trains N Things) operating on the Deep River Southern.

Charles Tapper  
Editor Division Points  
Official Newsletter of the Indian Nations Division, NMRA



# Upcoming Events

**Heartland Summer Toy Train Show**  
**Stillwater, Oklahoma, July 10-11, 2026**

Friday - July 10th, 5:00pm – 7:00pm  
Saturday - July 11th, 9:00am – 3:00pm

Payne County Fairgrounds  
Expo Center  
4518 Expo Cir E.  
Stillwater, OK 74075

Scan QR Code  
Admission  
\$10.00 per Adult  
Kids 12 & Under Free  
w/paid Adult

BUY SELL TRADE

Kid's Train Set Giveaway  
Door Prizes  
Operating Layouts

For further info contact: John Spall at (405) 409-7006  
or visit our website: [www.heartlandtoytrain.org](http://www.heartlandtoytrain.org)

Two notable Railroad Prototype Modelers meets from Eric Hansmann's RPM calendar page:  
<https://designbuildop.hansmanns.org/rpm-event-calendar/>

St. Louis RPM – July 23 – 25, Gateway Convention Center,  
Collinsville, IL

Railroad Prototype Modelers Conference – RPM Naperville 2026  
October 16-17, 2026, Naperville, IL

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OKC Train Show 2026

November 14th-15th 2026

Bennett Event Center at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds

3101 Gordon Cooper Blvd,

Oklahoma City, OK 73107

# In Memoriam: Tom Fausser

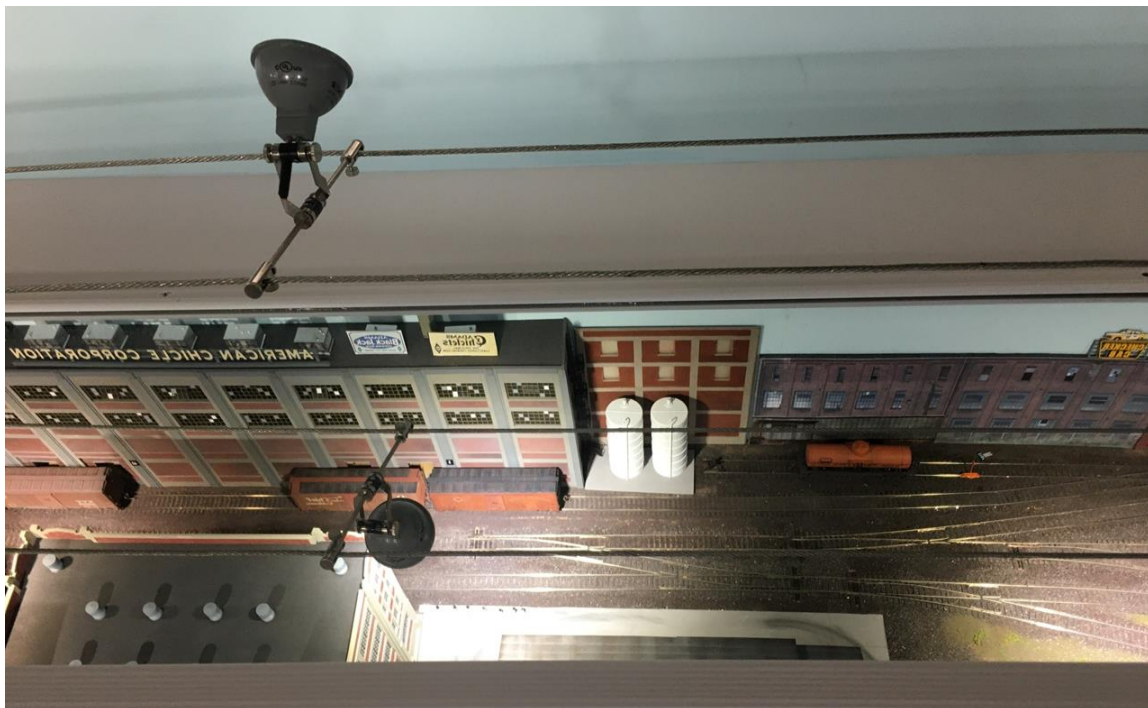
The Tulsa model railroad community lost one of its most talented individuals with the passing of Tom Fausser. Tom was an outstanding modeler of rolling stock, a master craftsman at kibashing plastic buildings, and the creator of the magnificent South Brooklyn Terminal, a proto-freelanced New York harbor freight operation. Well thought out, it was an absolute joy to operate. Tom was highly involved with events hosted by the Indian Nations Division. He will be sorely missed.



An Overview of the South Brooklyn Terminal layout.



Tom Provided Ceiling-Mounted Mirrors To Help Operators Keep Track of Trains on the Back Track, Deep in the Industrial Canyons.



# Tom was a Master at Kitbashing Building Kits to Create Unique Structures





# Some Views of Tom's Previous Layout





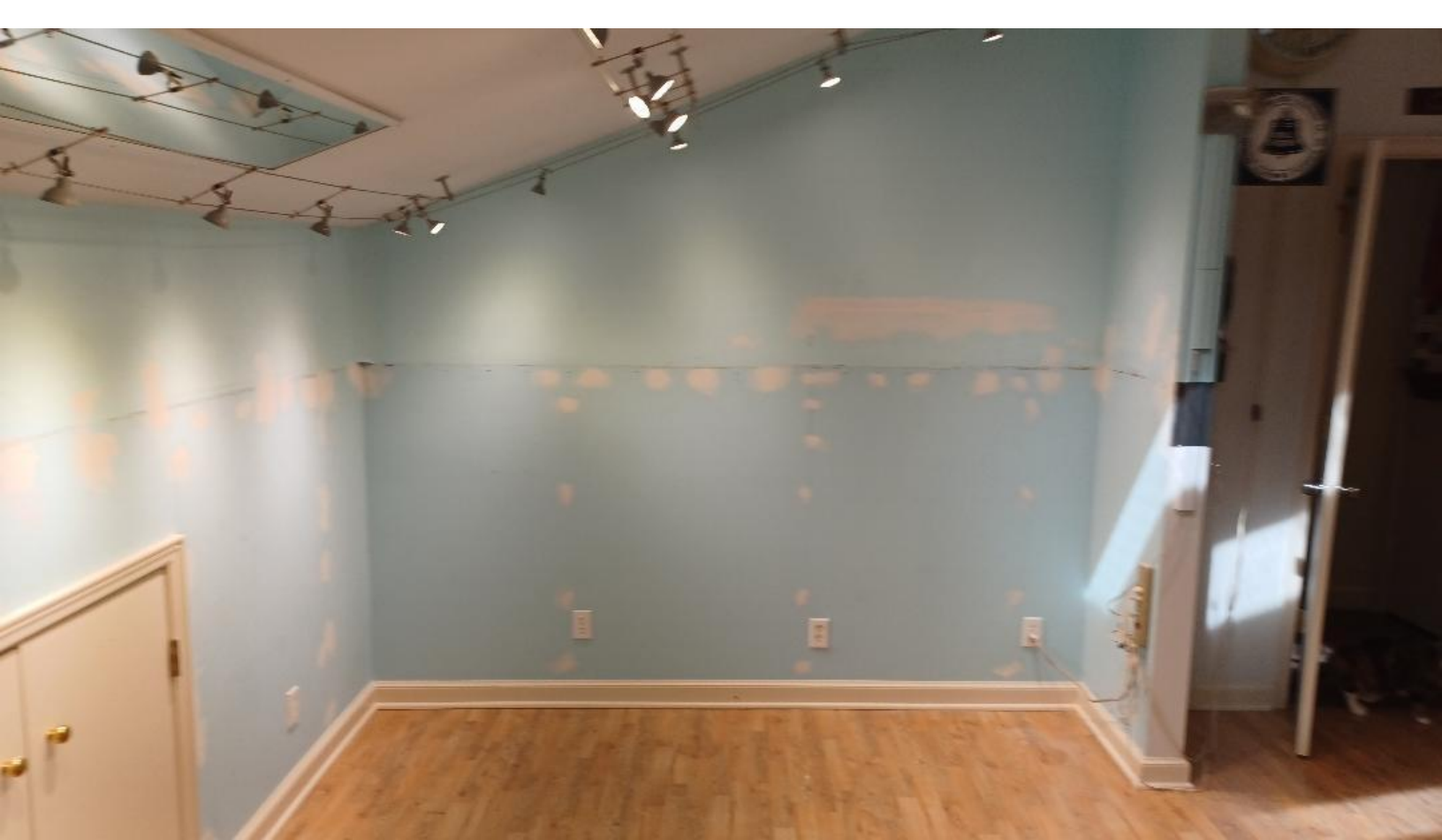
The Harbor and Carfloat Terminal on Tom's Previous Layout



Detailed Scenes Were Everywhere on Both Layouts



Charles Tapper and Dave Salamon Photos



Allan Roecker Photo

From Allan Roecker

“Here is some pictures of the SBT when we left it on the final day, April 7th, 2026. Sad day. I'm planning on doing a presentation or an article in the future, not sure which one. I took a lot of pictures before it came down. The layout is stored away in a safe place. I am currently getting bids on construction costs for a new building to put it in. We will keep it around for everyone to enjoy. It will look just like it did when we set it back up. Probably 3" lower.”

The Tulsa model railroad community is grateful that Allan and his wife stepped in to save this outstanding railroad

# The Frisco Howard Branch Part 5- Ballast and Mock-Ups

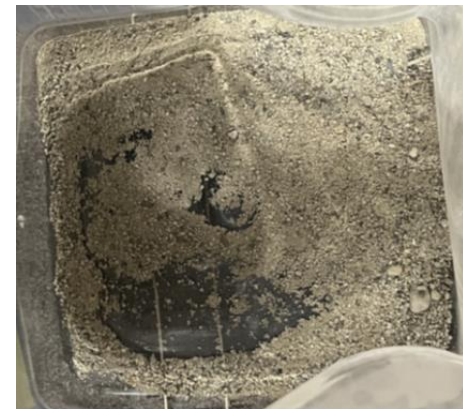
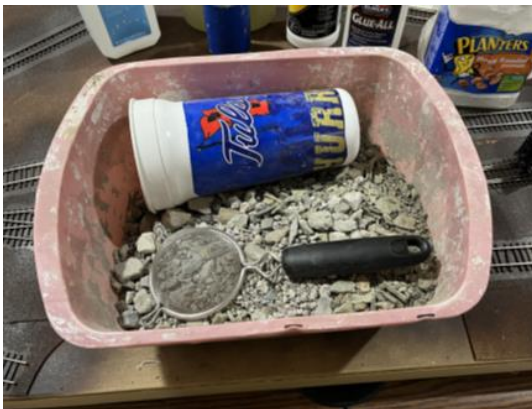
## By Dave Salamon

I'm not sure if any of you have this problem, but I make plans, have some good ambition, and then get side-tracked. Kind of like a dog and a squirrel!

I like using natural materials for scenery when I can, so for the ballast I went over to the Green Hill Quarry off the SKOL. At the entrance of the quarry is where a lot of the gravel trucks come in and stage or park. It is a gravel parking area, and this is the same material the SKOL uses for ballasting their tracks. I take a shovel and scoop a bunch of the top of the gravel to get the pulverized rock. I will have to take it home and sift it, and most will get thrown out on my 7.5" railroad that is not used.



Using a small strainer, I put some in the strainer and sift it over a larger container, getting the finer powder and material at the bottom, the larger rocks get tossed.



## The Frisco Howard Branch Part 5

Once I get the material I want for ballast I then use an old spoon and scoop some out and lightly spread it over the rails and ties. ( I did just enough for the one spur and this article, later I went back and filled half the container!)



After I get the ballast roughly in place I use a small fan brush and clean the ballast off the top of the ties and shape it.



After I get the ballast in this shape there may be some small ridges near the edges. I take the fatty part of my thumb/palm area and lightly press those ridges down so they are gone.

At this point look it over; brush any any areas that need it, and add any ballast if there are bare areas.



## The Frisco Howard Branch Part 5

Other materials I use is 70% alcohol, scenic cement (or you can use matt medium, or diluted Elmers glue, I've used all with no issues.) I have a small fine mister for smaller areas, and a larger plant mister that I use for larger areas. I use an old glue bottle for applying the affixative.



First, I make some wet water, mix about 2/3 water, 1/3 alcohol. (There are other ways to make wet water, use the method that works best for you.)



Then I rain a fine mist of the wet water over the area ensuring all the ballast is wet, if not the ballast will bead up and move on you.



## The Frisco Howard Branch Part 5

If using scenic cement you can just put some in a glue bottle or a dispenser such as an eye dropper. (if using a white glue mix it with your wet water - 60% wet water, 40% glue and apply.)



Now slowly drip it over the ballast. Don't drop the drops from too high or it will splatter and displace some of the ballast.

I completely saturate the area. It looks a little messy, but this will secure all the ballast in place.



## The Frisco Howard Branch Part 5

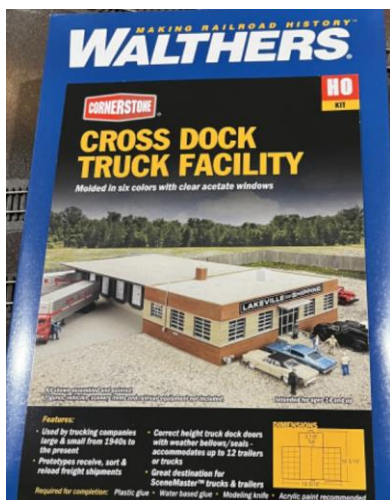
At this point let it cure. If you see small area on the sides that needs addressed you can use a spoon to apply a little more glue, but don't use too much, or wait until it dries to then touch it up. You could also sprinkle on some fine ground foam for weeds growing in the ballast in areas.

*It is very important that near turnouts you don't want ballast getting into the points and flangeways.*

I drop some Labelle plastic-compatible oil on the points at the throwbar and where the points hinge, to inhibit ballast from adhering to moving parts. It doesn't take much, but I find it helps with getting them freed up and moving after ballasting.

**CAUTION:** when moving the points the first time after ballasting, don't just go and try and throw them, you can pop the points off the throwbar. You just have to take your time around the turnout, make sure there is no ballast in the way of the moving throwbar and points. And make sure flangeways are clear. Once it dries go back over the rails with a bright boy or other cleaning process to remove the dried glue.

While that area was drying, I broke into the two kits that I've purchased for some of the structures on the layout. The PSO area had a storage area on a concrete ramp area, and the truck transfer kit I bought came with two large styrene sheet parking areas, I took those and trim to fit them on the back side where the concrete ramp area will be. We'll kitbash the building some when it comes time.



## The Frisco Howard Branch Part 5

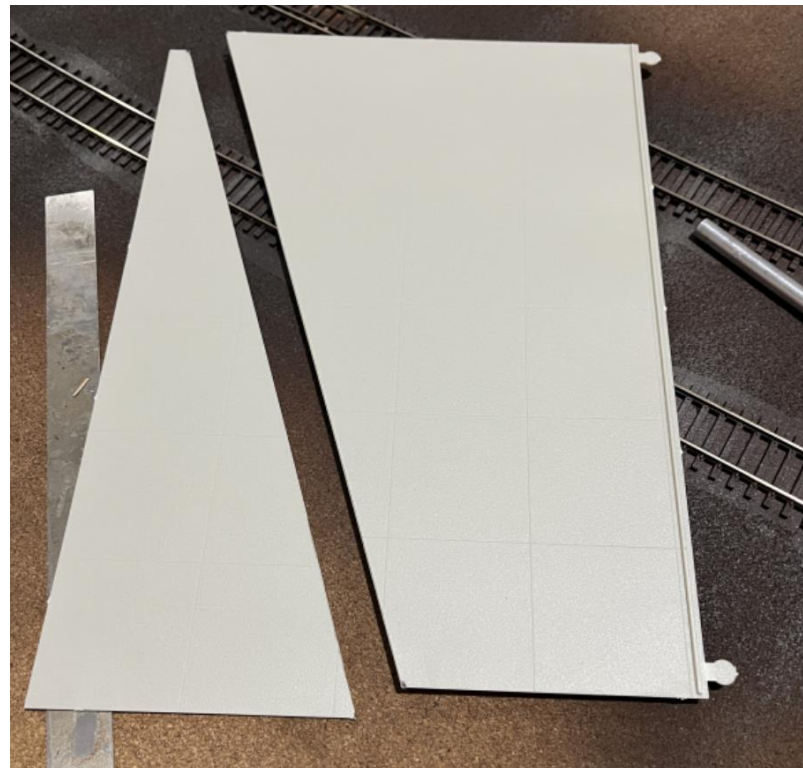
Using a straight edge and new exacto blade, scored the styrene, it took several passes as it is fairly thick then bent them back and forth a couple of times and snap them apart. (If you see the styrene changing colors, or extremely hard to flex, continuing scoring it some more.)



Score...



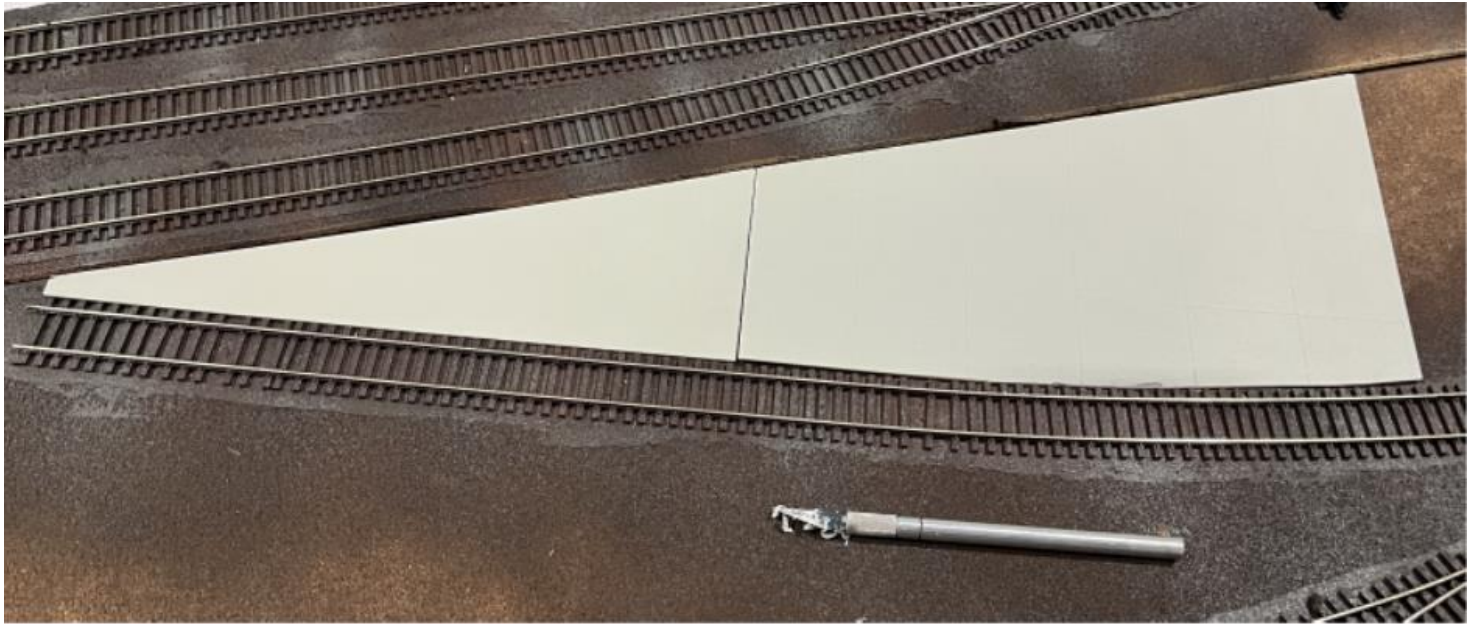
Then Snap...



And the Results...

## The Frisco Howard Branch Part 5

Do the same thing for the next piece, note that I had to trim it to fit around the curved track.

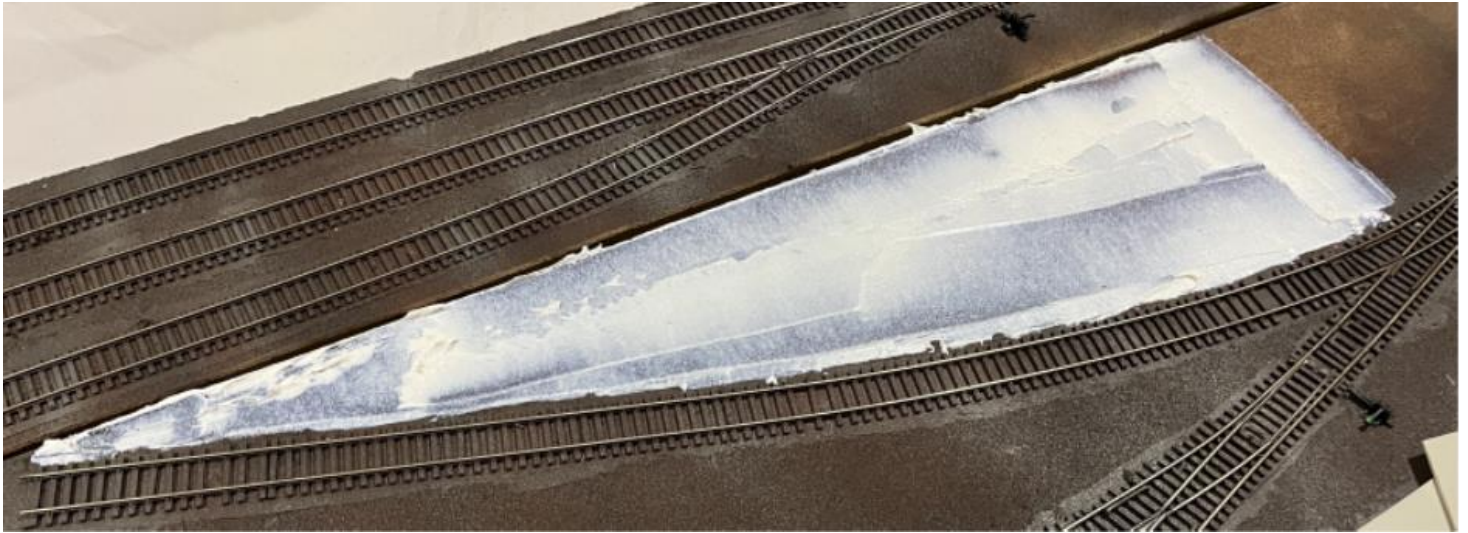


I had enough material to add a third piece, doing the same thing, score and snap, and then just carefully the best I could cut the curve piece out.

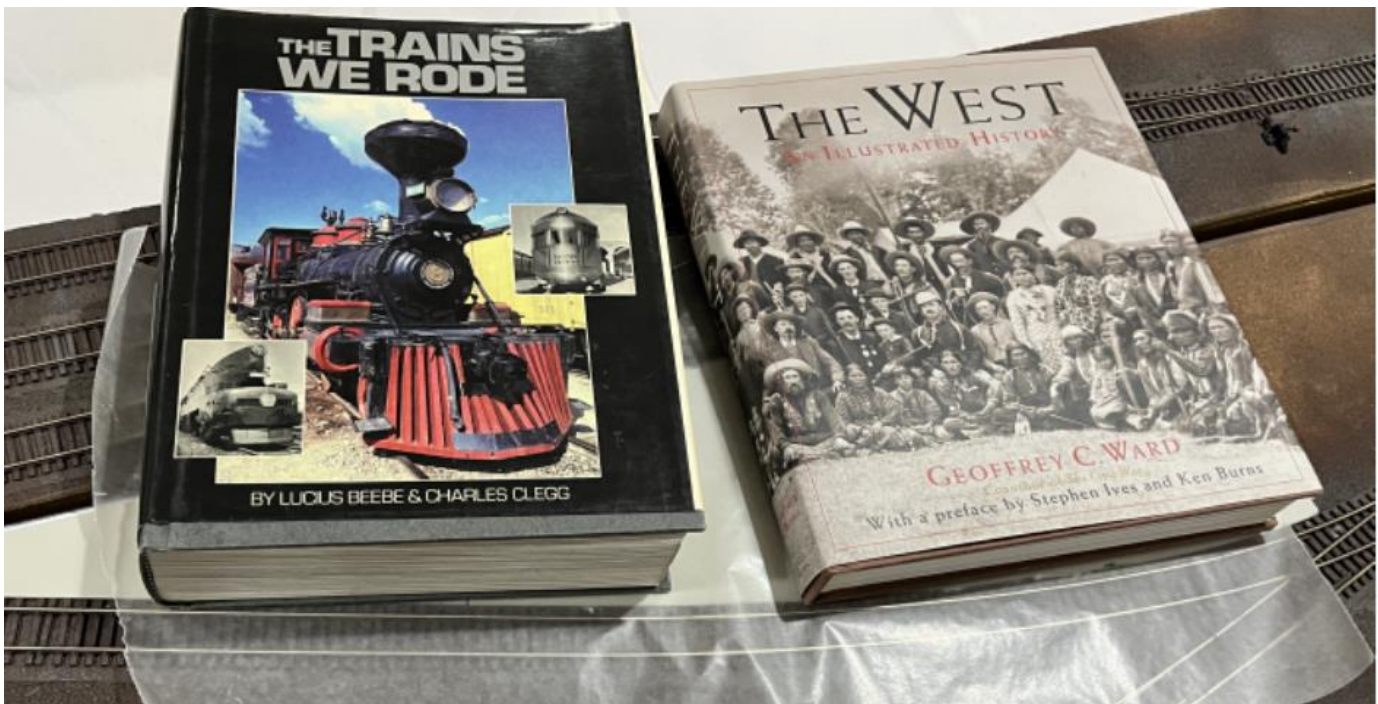


## The Frisco Howard Branch Part 5

I used the loctite powergrab, same thing I used to install the rails and spread it in the area the pieces were to go.



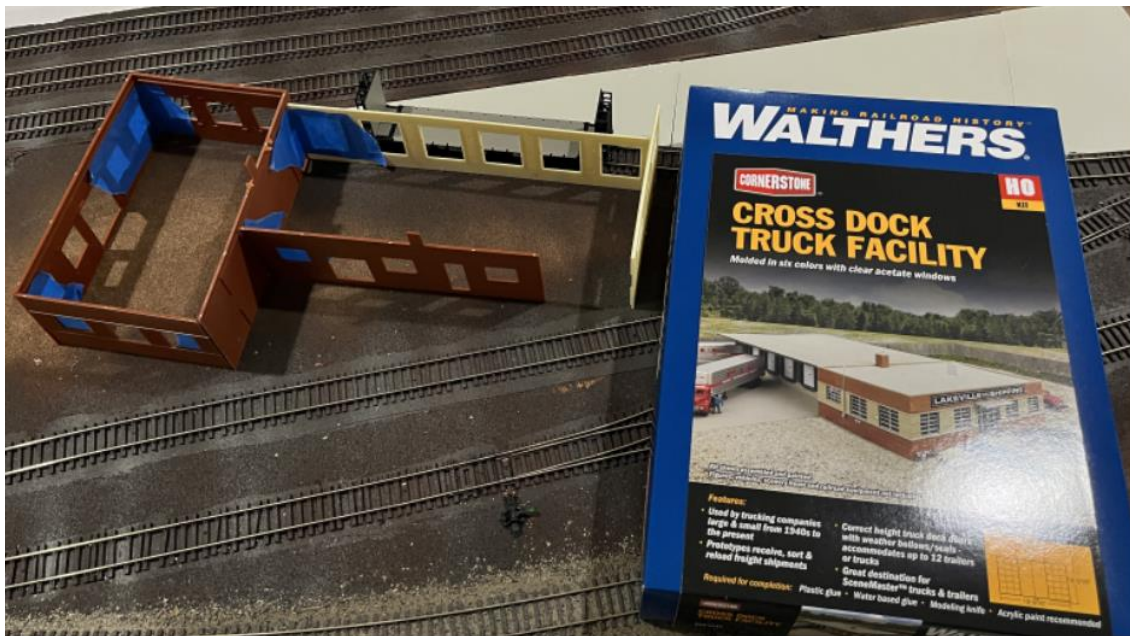
I then put the pieces down, put a piece of wax paper over them (to protect my weights.)



## The Frisco Howard Branch Part 5

Then it was time while the loctite was drying to see how I could modify the structure.

For the truck transfer will convert that into the PSO building, the front part will probably be built as is. The kit comes with an extra wall (it can be built stand alone or the transfer building to the back.) I taped the main building together, then added one of the loading dock walls, then the spare wall as the new wall opposite of the loading dock doors. It's not as long, so I will either cut a section out of the actual back wall (which you wouldn't see anyhow) and add that to make the wall longer, or shorten the loading dock doors. Haven't decided but probably keep it larger. There will be other changes and modifications that need to be done, but I have a pretty good mock-up of it to get a feel for it.

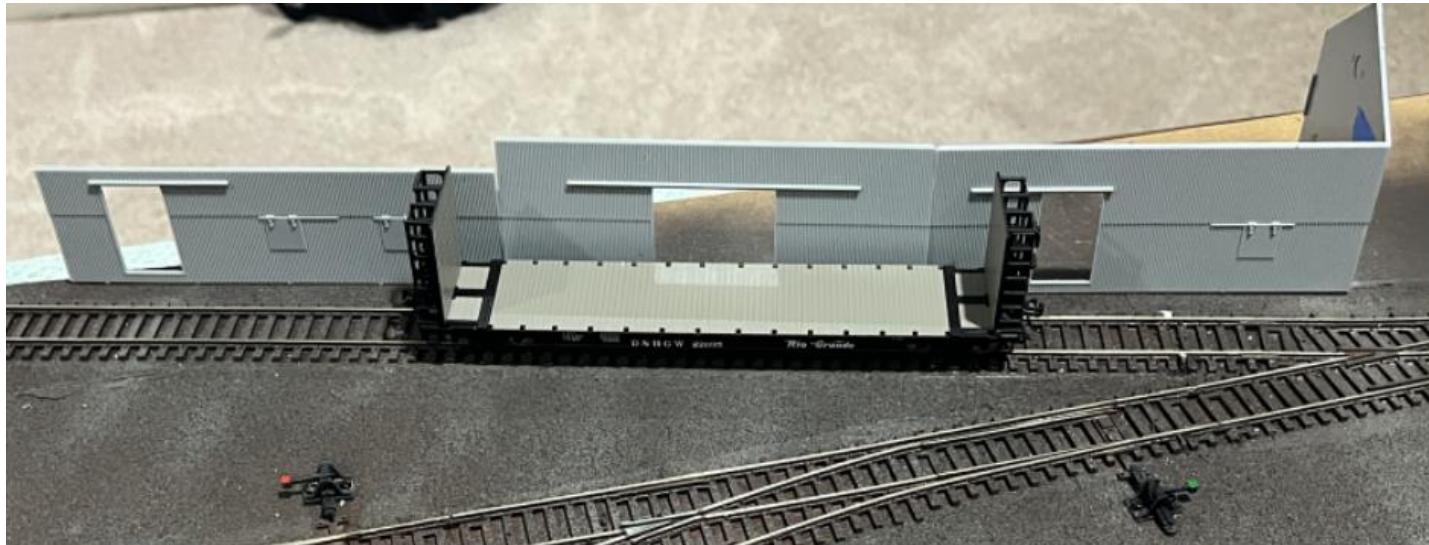


The Hanna Lumber Co will be built as is from two of the structures in the Clayton County lumber company kit. It comes with numerous buildings and are ripe for kitbashing too. I taped those together to get them mocked up to get a feel for their size.



## The Frisco Howard Branch Part 5

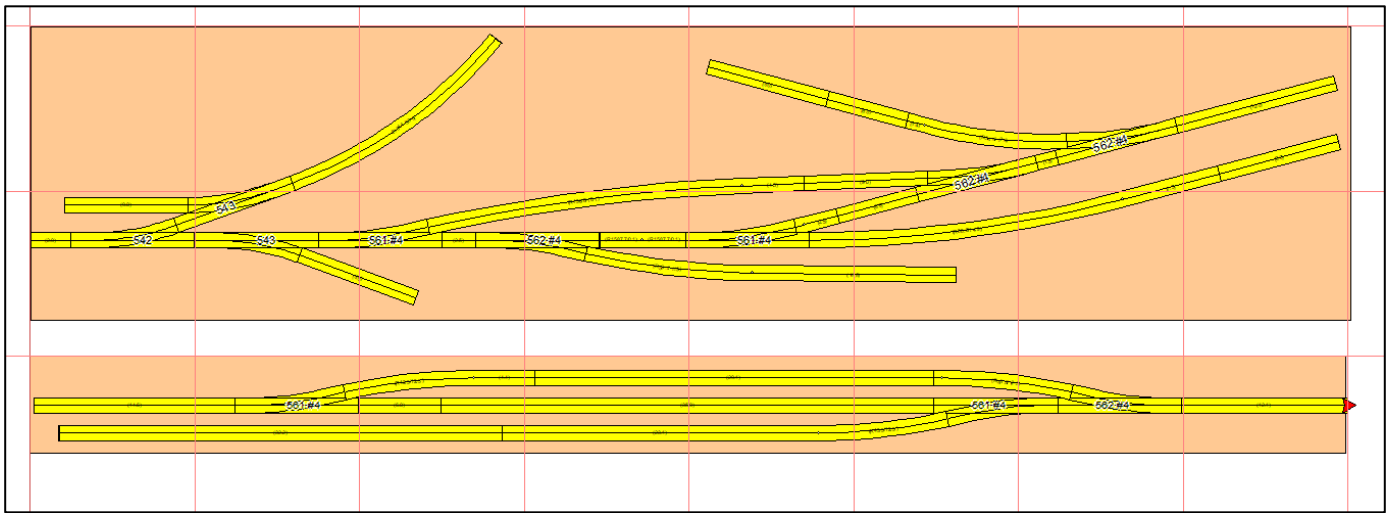
I will use the remaining sections out of the kit to kitbash the Chandler Materials Co. It will be angled off the layout table so it will get sliced to fit the area. I taped these together to mock them up to fit the area.



Next day after the scenic cement dried, cleaned the track and here is how it turned out.



I know I only showed ballasting of a small section, but the example gives you the basics of the process. I will get the rest ballasted along with some basic ground cover—weeds, dirt and debris. I will share those results and share my techniques used in a later installment.



12 inch grid.

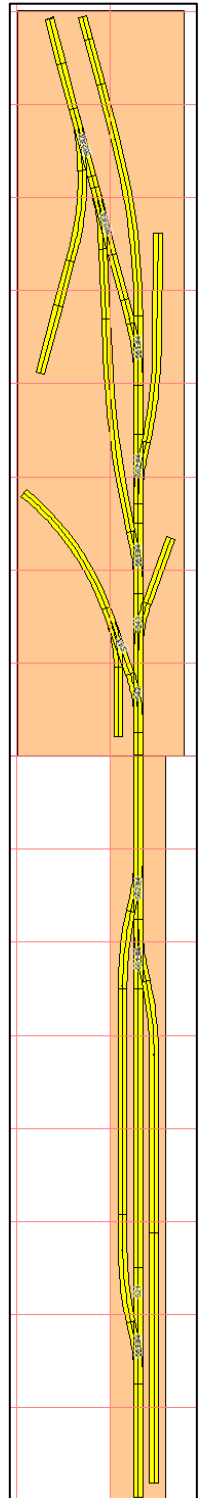
<i>Req'd</i>	<i>Stock #</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Producer</i>	<i>Description</i>
11	500	HO	Atlas	11 pcs. full-length Flex/Wood (500)
1	542	HO	Atlas	Manual Snap-Switch LH
2	543	HO	Atlas	Manual Snap-Switch RH
4	561	HO	Atlas	Atlas #4 Switch LH
4	562	HO	Atlas	Atlas #4 Switch RH

Generated by SCARM 1.9.7 - [www.scarm.info](http://www.scarm.info)

21" Wide,  
8" Long  
Main  
Section

**Editor:** I created this track plan in SCARM to emulate what he has created in HO scale. Dave used recycled track materials for this project. I have created a product list for the plan as I have designed it. I actually imported a picture of the existing layout as-built into SCARM and created this plan overtop that, with input from the author.

7" Wide,  
8" Long  
Staging  
Section



# Layout Design And Operations Weekend, March 2026



**LAYOUT DESIGN AND  
OPERATIONS WEEKEND  
TULSA, OK**



The 2026 Layout Design and Operations Weekend event was held from 13th to 15th. The event is centered around the core topic of "creating layouts designed for operations".

The event, held generally on even years, pairs a Saturday clinic with guest speakers to 3 days of operations on the multiple and varied layouts in the greater Tulsa area.

Once again, we had an excellent turnout for the event.

Highlights were operations on Friday, Saturday night, and Sunday morning on x layouts in the greater Tulsa area.

We had 4 speakers and a lunch was served at mid-day





Thomas Jenner - "The Life of an Extra Board Class 1 railroad dispatcher, and the differences between model railroading dispatching and real life"

*Insights on incorporating dispatching into model railroad operations from a modeler and real railroad dispatcher.*

Gert "Speed" Muller - "Controlling your RR WITHOUT wires: using WiFi and MQTT"

*This emerging yet promising technology helps to reduce wiring using inexpensive WIFI boards and a dedicated WIFI router*



Dave Burman - "A River Runs Through It- The Rail Barge Connection"

*This meticulously documented presentation made the case for building an operations-rich model railroad incorporating inland barge terminals.*



Tom Driggers - "Working with George Sellios and Dick Elwell building model railroads, including the well-known Housatonic Valley Model RR."

*Tom shared many of his memories through photographs and anecdotes of working on two meticulously detailed layouts.*





The (very tasty) catered lunch was an opportunity to get together and socialize between the morning and afternoon sessions.

Part of the tradition is that several of the local staff make themselves available to go over track planning ideas with attendees, as a way of offering help or a different perspective. The author had a chance to sit down and go over a track plan with the designer, to provide some input. The plan was excellent!

With so many operating sessions on the large selection of local operating layouts, only a few glimpses can be compiled from three intensive days of operations.

# 2026 Layout Design and Operations Weekend

Tulsa Area Layouts 2026 Edition

Deep River Southern

Owner: Dave Salamon

Crew: 4

N Scale

Featured in N Scale Magazine

Silverton & Lake City

Owner: Dave Steensland

Crew: 5

HOn3

Featured in RMC and the Dispatcher

KCS 2nd and 3rd Subdivisions

Owner: Steve Davis

HO Scale

Crew: 24

Featured in MRC and MRH

Pandora & San Miguel

Owner: Ken Ehlers

Crew: 5

Sn3

Featured in the Gazette

Tulsa Junction Railway

Owner: Jon Pansius

HO Scale

Crew: 6

Frisco Cherokee Subdivision

Owner: Steve Campbell

HO Scale

Crew: 7

The Spaendahl Yamanee & Densum  
(SY&D) Railroad

Owner: Steve Gillett

Crew: 3

N Scale

Featured in January 2021 Dispatcher Magazine

Tulsa Port of Catoosa Railroad

Owner: Dale Baker

Crew: 4

HO Scale

Kansas Central Division - Coffeyville Sub

Owner: Allan Roecker

Crew: 6

N Scale

Connell Northern

Owner: Sam Simons

Crew: 2-3

N Scale

Green Country Model Railroad

Owner: GCMRA

Crew: 7-8

HO Scale

Overland Scenic Lines

Owner: Dennis Miller

Crew: 4-8

HO Scale

Hollywood Claremore

Owner: Steve Whiteside

Crew: 8

HO Scale

Cape Cod Rail Road

Owner: Ken Heywood

Crew: 3

HO Scale

The Indian Nations Division gratefully acknowledges the hard work and contributions of the all the layout owners to the continuing success of this meet.

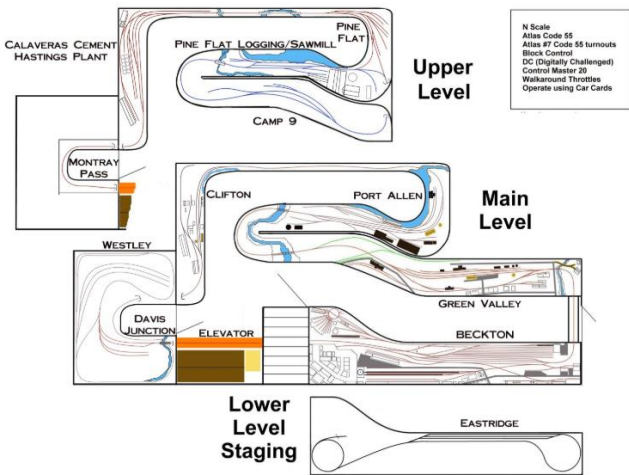


**LAYOUT DESIGN AND  
OPERATIONS WEEKEND  
TULSA, OK**

**Dave Salamon's N Scale  
Deep River Southern**



**DEEP RIVER SOUTHERN**



N Scale  
Atlas Code 55  
Atlas #7 Code 55 turnouts  
Block Control  
DC (Digitally Challenged)  
Control Master 20  
Walkaround Thrifties  
Operate using Car Cards



Dave Salamon's N Scale Deep River Southern





Steve Whiteside's Hollywood Claremore HO Layout





Steve Whiteside's Hollywood Claremore HO Layout





Steve Whiteside's Hollywood Claremore HO Layout



# Saturday night session at Ken Heyward's Cape Cod Railroad.





Saturday Night Session at Ken Heyward's Cape Cod Railroad.





Steve Davis' KCS 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Subdivisions





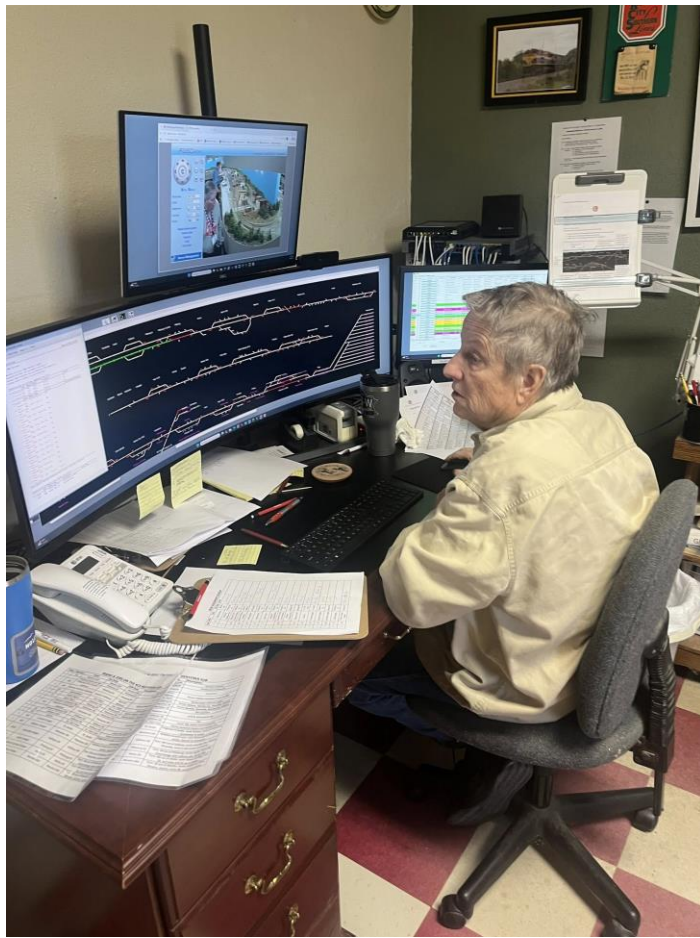
**Allan Roecker's Coffeyville Sub Layout Operations**





Allan Roecker's Coffeyville Sub Layout Operations





Steve Davis' KCS 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Subdivisions



# Spring Train Show 4-24/25 in Broken Arrow

The Heartland Toy Train Association  
The Tulsa Area  
Train Show that  
Brought Together  
Local Layouts and a  
Large Group of  
Vendors

Green Country Model  
Railroaders' had a  
presence at the show.  
The GCMR layout was  
part of the Layout  
Design and Operations  
Weekend Lineup



Brick and Mortar Shops Reindeer Pass Railroad in Owasso, OK,  
and E-Rail Hobby of Tulsa. Great to See Them There.



Nothing like a hall full of vendors and all their wares!

Tulsa N Trak, sponsored by local N scale hobby shop Challenger Hobbies, was present with their outstanding modular display layout and some beautiful consista



The Heartlands Railroad Museum had their typical outstanding display. This must-see museum is located in Carona, KS.





Brisk business in 3D printed details...

Train shows are also about meeting up with folks from the greater Tulsa model railroading community. Had the distinct pleasure of running into Samuel and Sammy Carlile!



# April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Op 'Til You Drop .

Alan Roecker sent along these photographs: "Here are some pictures of "op-'til-you-drop" session on April 11th 2026. First the group was at Hollywood's in the morning then here on the Sub in the afternoon." " Kit Dixon, Doc Cambell, Zach Hilton, Sam Simons, Steve Gillett, Steve Davis."





**Steve Gillette(above) and Steve Davis (below)  
Operating on the Hollywood Claremore**



# January Presentations

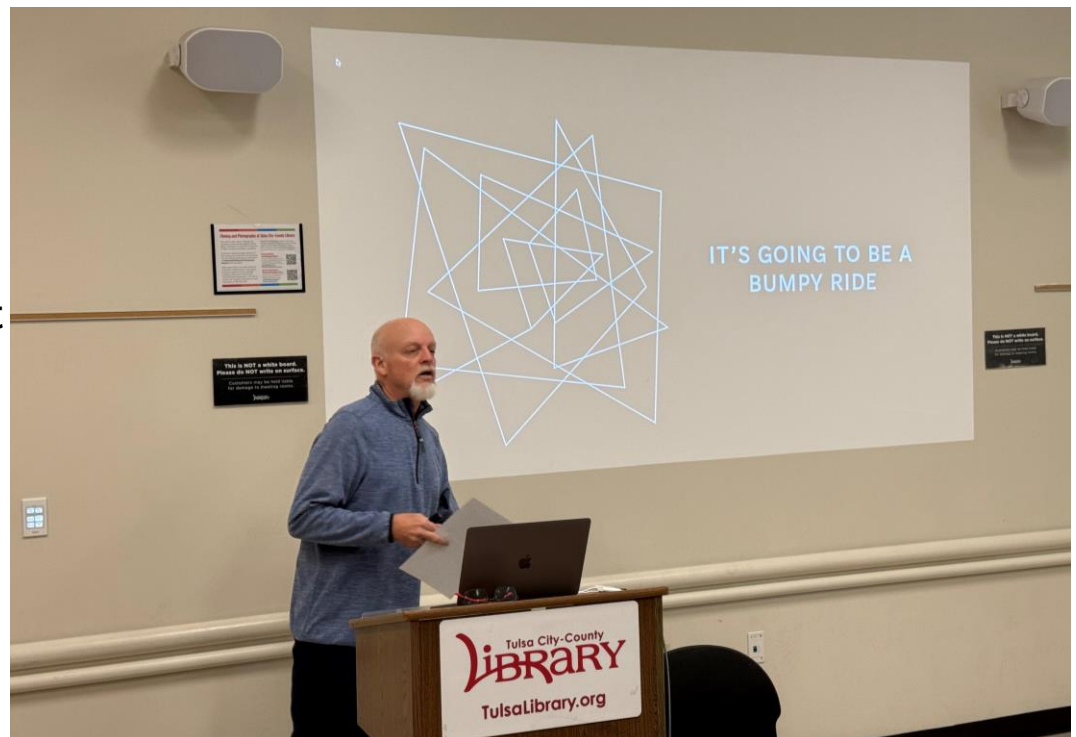
## Sammy Carlile: "Carco Shops - Year in Review".

Legendary diesel modeler Sammy Carlile gave a presentation of his side gig detailing and kitbashing diesels for friends and customers. His work is widely known and admired. Some of his son Samuel's handiwork was also presented.



## Steve Shelton: "From Cajon to the Harbor - The Heart of Rail Transportation in Southern California"

Steve covered many aspects of his choice of prototype, area to model, building construction and prep, and layout design and construction. His layout has elements of railroading over Cajon Pass and the incredible amount of traffic generated by model port facilities in the Los Angeles area.



# January Show and Tell

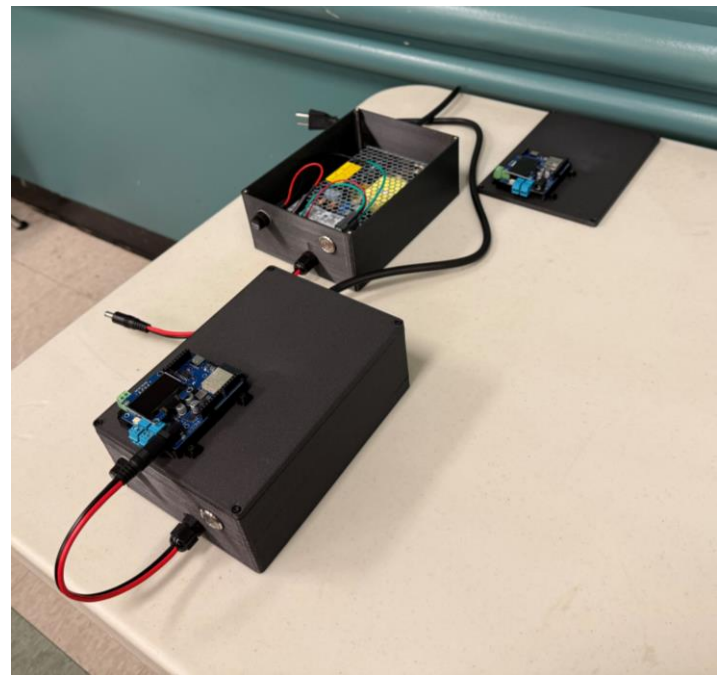
Dave Salamon brought in some new N scale 3D printed details and a laser-cut/3D printed tugboat and barge kit. It is remarkable how quickly laser-cut kits and 3D resin printed models have come to be a huge part of the current detail market, thanks to a rapid improvement in printers and laser cutters



Samuel Carlile brought his Santa Fe BX146 boxcar kitbashes that featured in an article in the "Warbonnet" magazine of the ATSF Historical and Modeling Society

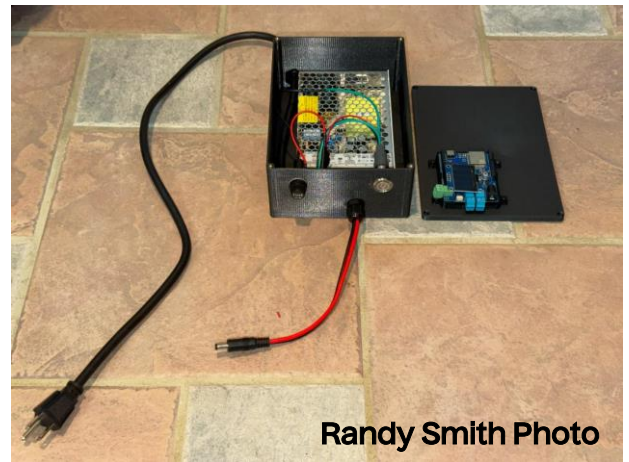


Randy Smith's DCC-EX command station/booster units were built using DCC-EX's ready-to-use *EX-CSB-1* command station board, and a Mean Well LRS-150-15 power supply which gives a 15V 10A output to the stacked boards. A Raspberry Pi (see below) running JMRI completes the setup. Phones, tablets, or many standard Wifi throttles can be used for control.



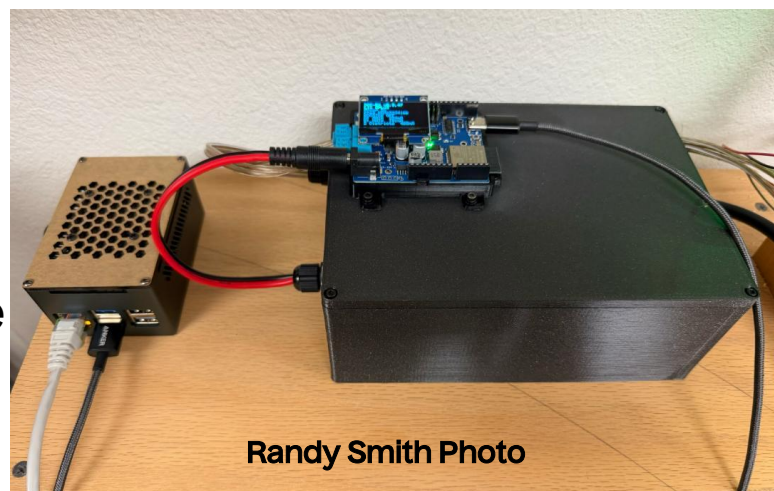
Two DCC-EX Command Stations

DCC-EX is a vastly-improved and expanded version of the original DCC++ DIY command stations that used an Arduino Mega, a standard motor shield, and a Raspberry Pi running JMRI. The author built a DCC++ command station using standard components. DCC-EX can be built the same way, as a DIY project using standard products, but an easier and better route is to purchase the dedicated component boards. They are more expensive than DIY, but are purpose-built and robust for this service. Thanks to Randy for helping provide material for this expanded sidebar.



Randy Smith Photo

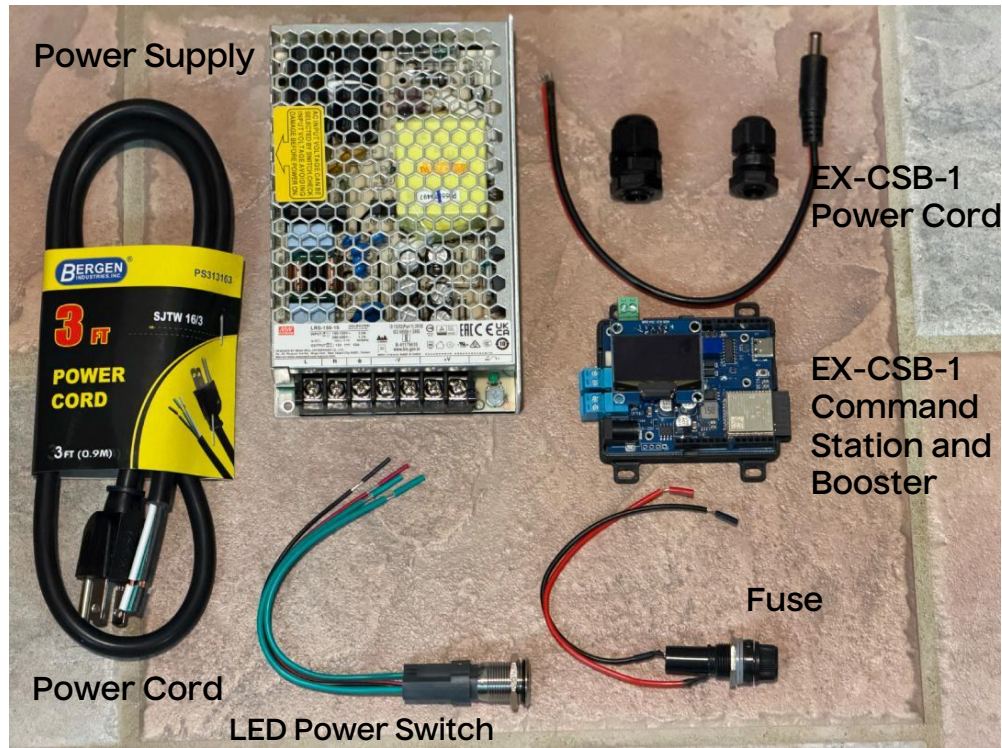
Command Station Setup, Mounts and Power Supply Box Designed and 3D Printed by Randy.



Randy Smith Photo

Complete Command Station Setup with Raspberry Pi for JMRI in Aluminum Case at Right

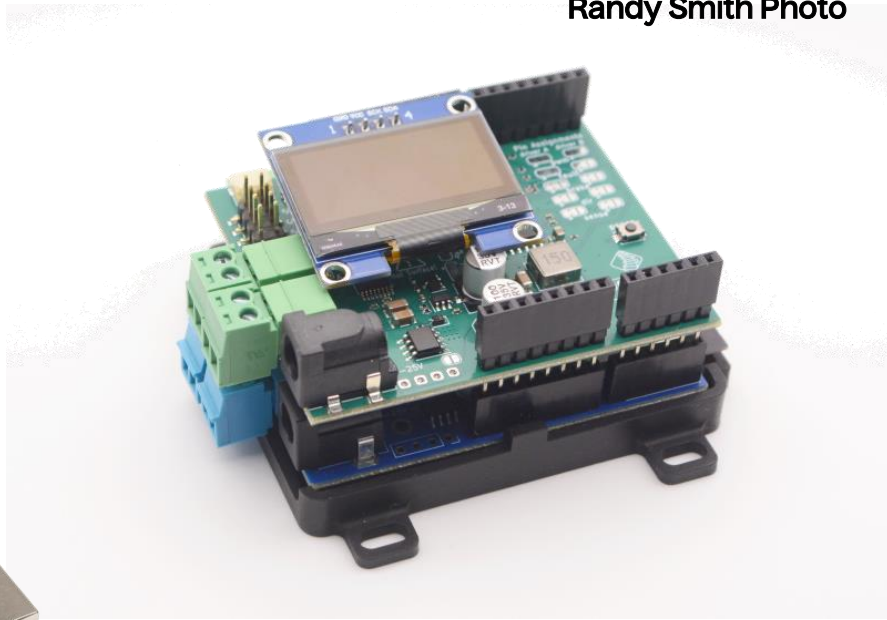
Some of the components Randy used in his DCC-EX command station/booster units are shown at right.



Randy Smith Photo

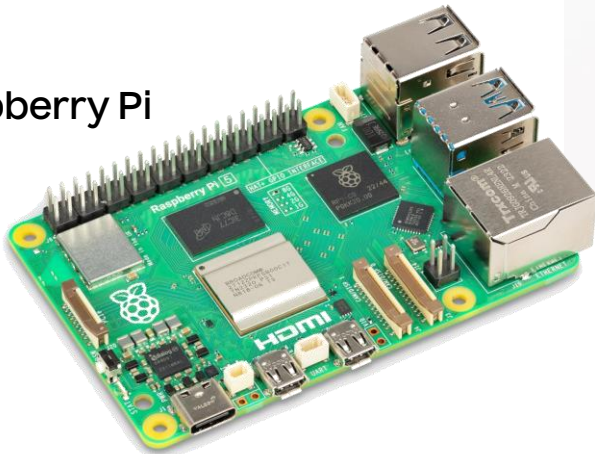


Power Supply (About \$20)



EX-CSB-1 Command Station and Booster (\$132 at the DCC-EX Store: <https://store.dcc-ex.com/>)

Raspberry Pi



For a DCC-EX and JMRI setup, use a Raspberry Pi 4 Model B (4GB or 8GB) or a Raspberry Pi 5, running the 64-bit Raspberry Pi OS (Debian-based). This setup offers the best performance to run JMRI's WiThrottle server, control trains via your DCC-EX Command Station, and use mobile apps flawlessly. The Pi 4 goes for around \$100 up to \$190 for the Pi5.

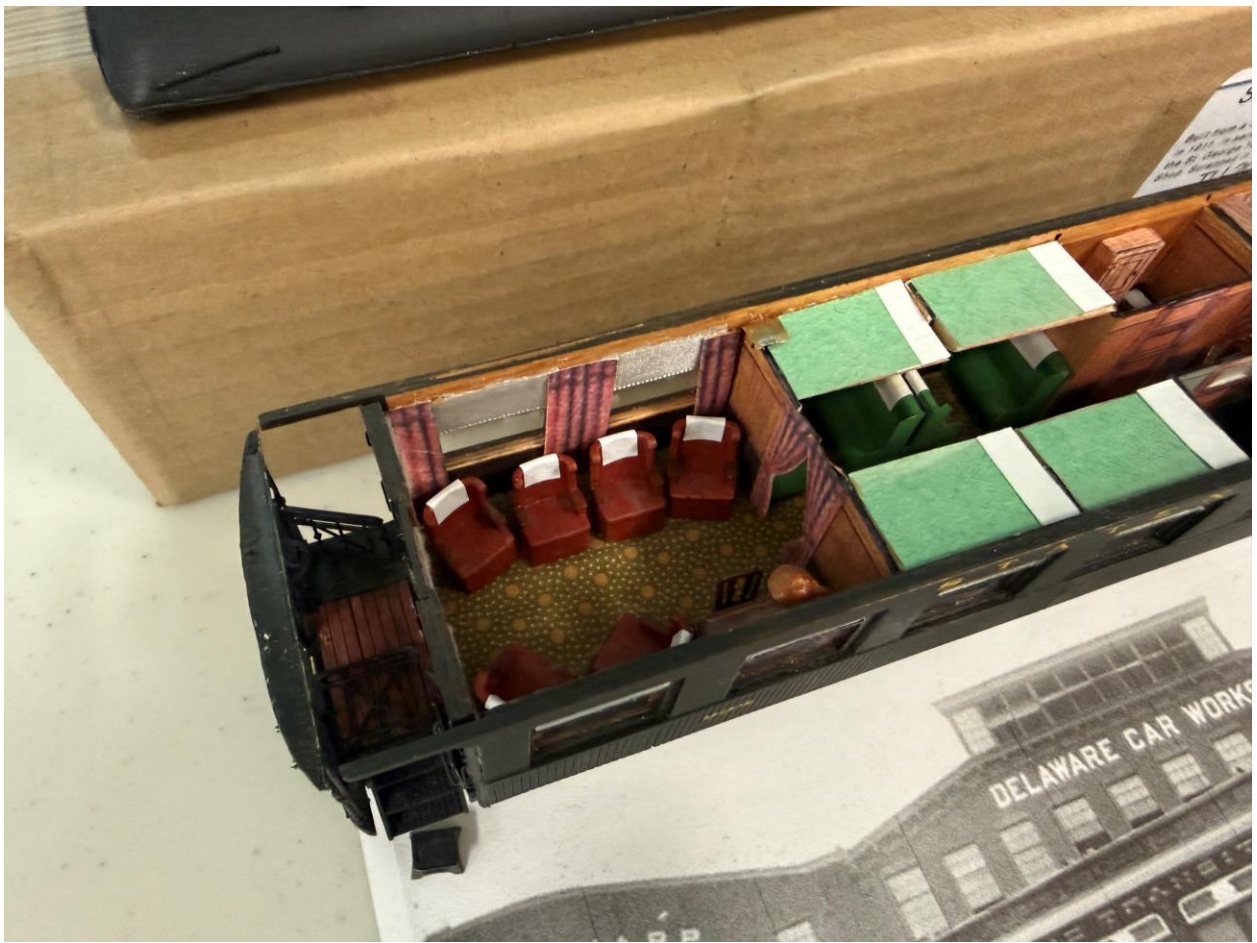
Rob McKnight brought some of his nifty holiday-themed Frisco and Katy railroadiana, including this book of Christmas carols.



Ed Bommer brought in another of his beautifully detailed, kitbashed and customized Staten Island Rapid Transit passenger car conversions in O Scale.

SIRT office car 934, rebuilt from a Jackson and Sharp commuter coach of 1892, was used to transport officers to Baltimore headquarters for meetings or to entertain guests for business meetings.





Ed Bommer's SIRT Office Car With Complete Interior Details





Freshly Repainted Nevada Northern SD-7 401 in Ely, Nevada, Fall of 1981. The Mine, Smelter, and Railroad Would Shut Down on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1983. Charles Tapper Photo

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