

Texas Western STAR

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Regular Features:

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TWMRC Event Calendar:

4-5-2024 – April TWMRC Business Meeting

4-13-2024 – Cowcatcher Division 1 Meeting at TWMRC, 6808 Forest Hill Drive, Forest Hill, Tx. 76016

5-2-2024 - May TWMRC Business Meeting

5-11-2024 – Cowcatcher Division 1 Meeting at TWMRC, 6808 Forest Hill Drive, Forest Hill, Tx. 76016

6-6-2024 – June TWMRC Business Meeting

6-8-2024 – Cowcatcher Division 1 Meeting at TWMRC, 6808 Forest Hill Drive, Forest Hill, Tx. 76016

6-15-2024 – TWMRC Garage Sale, 1PM – 5PM

2024 Board of Directors

Chief Executive Officer: David Crumpton
Chief Operating Officer: Darrell Cowles
Chief Administrative Officer: Jay Waters
Chief Financial Officer: Robert Rathgeber
Chief Development Officer: Chris Mahan

Work Crews

Scenery/Structures:

- Terry Morris
- Steve Parish
- Chris Mahan
- Robert Rathgeber
- Chris Galvin
- Mike Weiss
- Russel & Deb Gifford

Track & Roadbed/MOW:

- Clarence Zink
- Darrell Cowles
- Jay Waters

DCC Programming:

- Steve Parish
- Cameron Pantke
- Thomas Stephens

Electrical Crew:

- Don Hays
- David Crumpton
- Trapper Kirkpatrick
- Robert Sims, Jr.

Rolling Stock Inspection:

- Robert Sims, Jr.
- Terry Morris

CEO's Business Car

David Crumpton

Hello TWMRC!

On April 1, we are reinstating Monday Night Open Run. The posted hours are 7-9 pm, but you are free to come earlier and stay later if you desire. The BoD will host monthly Open Runs and evaluate how it goes and member participation. A member of the BoD will be there to instruct turning on the layout and connecting cell phones to the Digitrax system, if that help is required. Each member, in good standing, has been issued a key and an alarm code, so feel free to come run your equipment 24/7.

As I walk around the layout, I am seeing progress in all work areas. This brings a smile to the BoD as we see members digging in and having fun bringing the layout to life with additional structures, scenery, and some added track in developing areas. I will always encourage all members to come and find a place to build on the layout, even if you are working with a more experienced modeler. I find that if you have a connection to the layout with your sweat and hard work, you will take more pride in the layout, the club and the fantastic place we have to exercise our hobby and skills.

From the first of the year, we have welcomed 3 new members. Deb and Russell Gifford bring a wealth of building skills to our club. They have won awards at the National and recent LSR conventions and excel in scenery and structure building. Currently, they have taken on the challenge to develop the Dallas area. It is great to have them aboard. Also, Thomas Stephens has joined the club. Thomas is also a man of considerable talents. He brings an extensive knowledge of electronics, detection and signaling, and LCC computer operations. He also is a wizard with ESU (LokSound) decoders. He has done decoder installations in dozens of locomotives and is very proficient with ESU programming. Thomas has volunteered to hold a class on ESU programming in the near future. It will occur on a Saturday and our CDO, Chris Mahan, is coordinating that event. So, stay tuned for that. Thomas is a fantastic addition to our club and we are thrilled to have him come on board.

Thanks,

David W. Crumpton



CEO Crumpton presenting new members Russell (r) and Deb (l) Gifford official TWMRC hats, February 1, 2024

COO Off & Away

Darrell Cowles

I was watching an interview with a gymnast on TV the other day and they said they had worked for years, hoping to reach their Goal becoming an Olympian. They had started gymnastics as a youngster, then worked their way up through the youth ranks, then onto high school and the highest level of college, and finally able to compete in world-class events. They didn't just go to the gym every day and drift directionless from one exercise to the next; they knew they needed to concentrate on the important things they had to be able to perform without fail, and perform flawlessly. They focused on achieving a certain level of excellence by setting a Goal.

The members of the Texas Western Model Railroad Club also want to reach the top-most levels of excellent layouts in the country. That top Goal has been on the top of our annual Goals for the club almost since founding in 1997; but do we concentrate on this Goal every time we are at the club, or when building something to go on the layout at home? Do we really? Every member of this club accepted the TWMRC as THEIR CLUB the day they joined, and paid their first month's dues. But do we actively look for things to do when we come to the club, or do we succumb to the temptation to sit around the table and talk about great layouts?

On the white board located on the north wall of the meeting area, you will see the 2024 Goals for the TWMRC, established and posted by the Board of Directors. The order of these goals is not random, but rather "next steps" that should be accomplished for us to reach our Goal of becoming THE model railroad layout everyone wants to see.

Please look at them every time you are at the club and decide what can you do right now to further these goals. If you don't believe you have the skill level to work on an interesting Goal by yourself, find others that are already working on that particular Goal and join their team.

In Stephen Covey's book *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, he lists the first item as: Be Proactive. Take responsibility for your life. Item #2 is Begin with the End in Mind. Define your mission and goals. #3 is Put First Things First... The posted TWMRC Goals for 2024 is exactly these first three steps with items #1, be proactive, be a TWMRC member that actively contributes to accomplishing our club's Goals. Step #2 is keeping the club's overall end Goal of being a premier layout in mind and let your work show it. Step #3 is right there on the wall where it can be seen and acted upon. "Put First Things First." We CAN do this! 5

COO Off & Away

Darrell Cowles

Tower 55 and surrounding area IS the focal point of the entire layout by design, and having it complete and scened for visitors to see is a huge step in promoting our club. Having the layout LED lights installed and working properly is extremely important and sets the tone for the pro quality of our layout. So is getting the Santa Fe depot and all of the other buildings located on the north-bound section of the layout completed, so visitors may understand why there is a mass of tracks in that section. It is also important to establishing what our layout is trying to portray. These Goals are at the top because they are the most urgent and will provide the most impact at this time.

The other Goals listed are also very important, and should have members working to attain them as well. They will add to the credibility and overall experience of seeing our layout when done. They will compliment and bring areas alive for all viewers.

Please look at the Goals 2024 when you are at the club and ask yourself if you are helping accomplish these top few Goals? If not, then ask to join a team or members working on a Goal that you like and jump in!

Darrell Cowles
Chief Operations Officer

The CAO Observation Car

Jay Waters, TWMRC CAO

Happy Easter!!!

It seems like we just packed up the Christmas decorations last week. We're three months into 2024 and the layout continues to make progress. Darrell has laid out goals for the Club this year and we're making progress. We can make even more progress if everyone gets involved and helps work on the layout. Everyone has the ability to do something to help, be it tying up dangling electrical wires, adding scenery, building a structure, checking railcars for NMRA compliance, sweeping/mopping the floors, or emptying the trash. If you don't know where to get involved, talk to one of the BoD members and we'll be happy to help you get plugged in.

We are on a roll with new members. Welcome Mike Weiss, Deb and Russell Gifford, and Thomas Stephens. They all have already made an impact on the layout, and we are grateful for their enthusiasm and talent. I hope to see you all at the Club.

Jay H2Os

CDO's Office Car Chris Mahan

Hello from the CDO!

Just a quick note in the coming year I hope to increase our membership and make our meetings more interesting for all. In April's meeting, Russell Gifford is going to demonstrate locomotion on the layout. I think we've all seen vehicles moving on a layout and wondered just how they do that. Also, at the April meeting we will be talking about creating name badges for everyone.

In May's meeting Darrell Cowles is going to conduct a hands-on clinic for using a new type of foam to create rock foundations. Each of the members attending will hopefully go home with a sample they created.

If you have any ideas for future clinics, please let me know about what you are interested in. Hope to see you there,

Chris Mahan



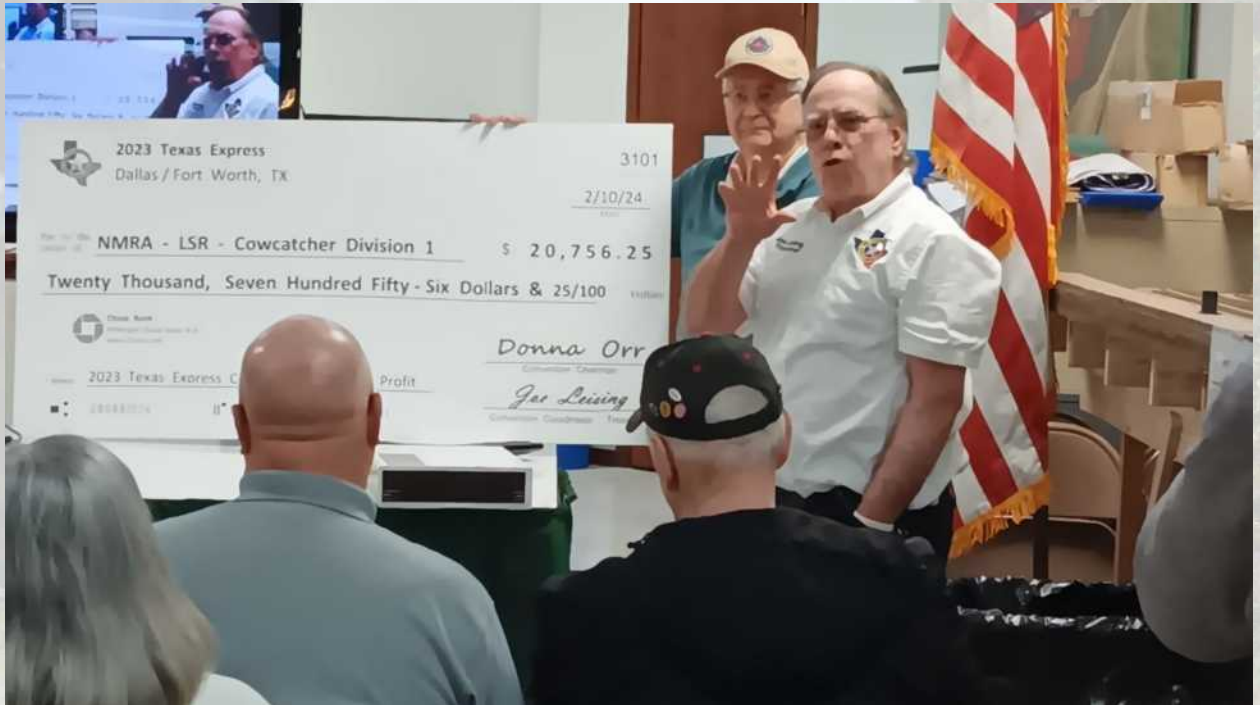
New member
Thomas
Stephens, 3-7-
2024.

Thomas has a lot of experience with electronics, programming, JMRI, and decoders. He has indicated that he will be happy to be the Programming Manager. Sounds good to me!

Darrell Cowles' Logging Camp Dining Hall model



Joe Leising receiving the NMRA's disbursement check for the LSR's DIVISION 1 contribution to the 2023 National Convention in Grapevine.



Well done Division 1!

The Ore Car

Clarence Zink, Texas STAR Editor/Publisher

First, I need to apologize for the lateness of this issue. I have had a *lot* on my hands the past few months, with the Newsletter being at the bottom of the 'to do' list. Things have stabilized here lately, so the next Texas STAR should be out by June 1st.

The layout is moving forward slowly. More scenery is getting completed. I have got almost all the Lone Star Steel track ballasted, have built the Slag Dump track retaining wall, poured the Slag dump, and am bashing around the Slag Crusher and the Pipe Mill buildings.

Mike Weiss has been helping with the foliage between the T&N main and the edge of the fascia. It looks *GOOD!*

We all thought that the Signaling and LCC effort had come to a halt with the loss of Donovan Pantke. We will miss him for sure. BUT, new member Thomas Stephens just happens to have had a career in computer programming, and a lot of experience with electronics. He is also familiar with JMRI, and has already been a great help in getting me to understand the idiosyncrasies of setting up JMRI for operations. It is a daunting task, where one must pay very close attention to minuscule details. I have gotten two simple "virtual" trains

to run on my laptop and desk top computers, and am trying trying to run a third train, but something somewhere is stymieing my efforts. Hmmphh

Several of us "Operators" spent the weekend of March 22nd thru 24th running trains on several different layouts. John Garfield, Terry Morris, Ryan Zamarron and myself represented the Texas Western, while David Grein, Chris Atkins, Speed Mueller, and others showed up from North Texas. Overall, there were +/- 60 participants, from as far away New York, Michigan, Florida, Wisconsin, California and Georgia. It has always been a great weekend. Some photos of the action are shown later.

The Operations Committee meets every other Monday from 5 PM to 7 PM at the club. We are working on getting layout operations started. It ain't easy! Setting cars out around the layout is the easy part, and we are still far from that point. This is what has been going on:

- All existing TWMRC cars on the layout and drawers have been entered into the club JMRI computer
- Much of the track locations where a car can come to rest have been measured.

The Ore Car

Clarence Zink, Texas STAR Editor/Publisher

- “Come to rest” means a staging, yard, or industry spur track. **NOT** a mainline, secondary main, nor passing track.
- Crew members have been working on different ‘trains’ (grain, automobiles, steel products, passengers) and the “routes” those trains take. JMRI works a little backwards from the way most people think. JMRI must have a “route” that a train will follow BEFORE you can have a train. Hmmm . . .

- Most layout locations have been programmed with various characteristics in my home computers.
- And as stated above, I’ve been trying to build and run “virtual” computers on a simulation of the current layout in my computers at home.

All of the work being done at home can be transferred into the club JMRI computer, and modified as needed.

Best,

CRZ

Stu Sibkitzky's Indio Central Running Light, Drifting down the Grade



Indio Central Railroad

Drifting downgrade into Cabazon on Beaumont Hill. Railroading in California is mountains and more mountains. Another 5 miles and there'll be some light switching in Banning to finish the clock for the day.

Travels With John –

by John Garfield

Cleburn Railroads

Generally in the past I have done articles on other model railroads or locations I have visited but this article is about railroads closer to home. I will put this into two articles both about the display railroads in Cleburn: The Cleburn Railroad Museum and the Dillon Depot.

There is a group of us who meet for lunch on Wednesday at the Railhead in Fort Worth (anyone is welcome to join us at 11:00 AM). Here are some of us right to left – Ken Kaiser, Barry Gates, Gary Ray, Mike Stevens, Frank Treadway and David Lunsford.

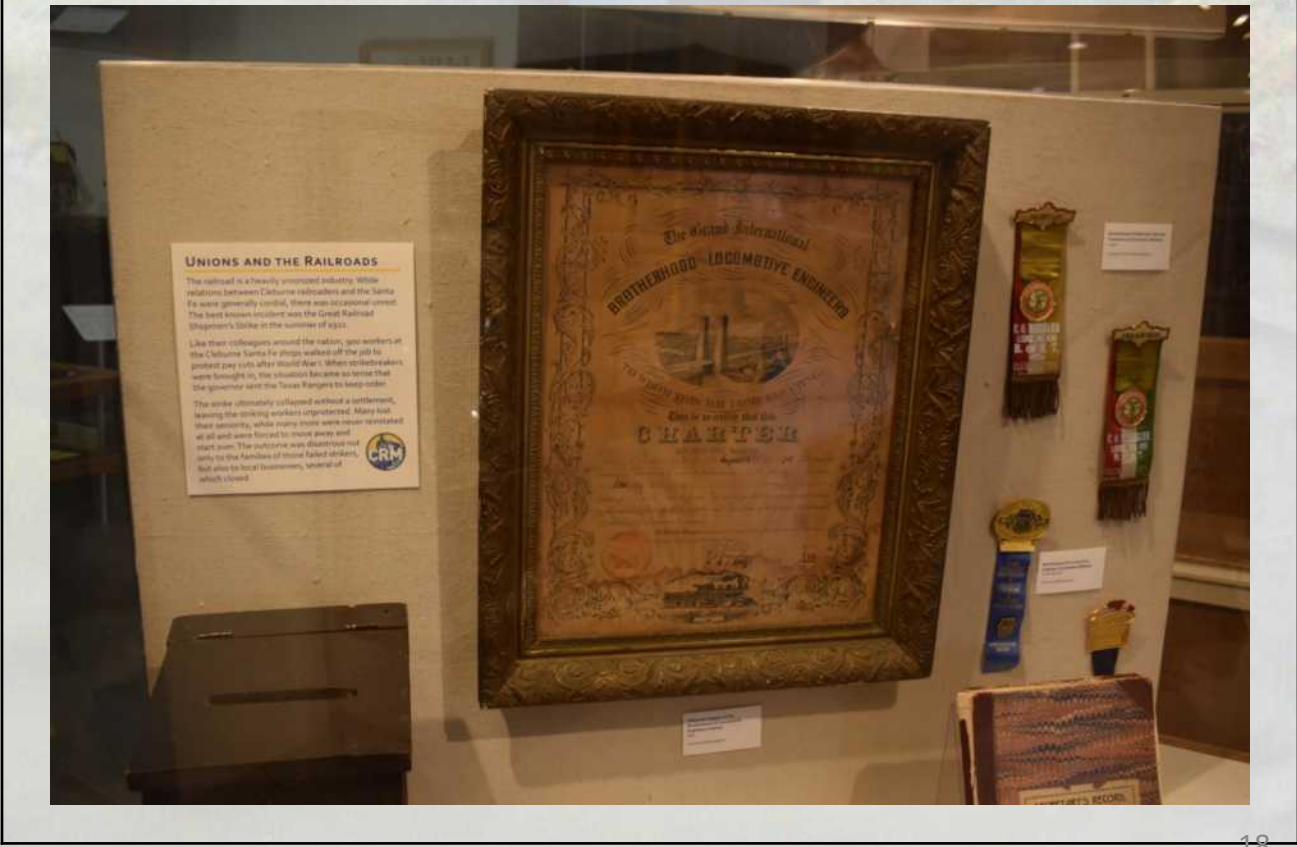


We have heard about these two museums and decided to change our lunch and take a visit. We first went to the Cleburn Railroad Museum at 201 N Caddo St. This is a fine model with some display items of railroad equipment and some historic plaques from the Santa Fe in Cleburn.









A Visit to the Branson Scenic Railway

Jeff Cornelius

- In the last week of February Linda and I went to the tourist destination city Branson Missouri. It was in part a celebration of her birthday and an opportunity for a lady from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia to get a booster shot of mountain scenery. One of the attractions we wanted to enjoy was a ride on the Branson Scenic Railway, which was due to start the fall season on March 1st. Sadly they sent me a polite message that they would not be able to open as planned and apologized. Knowing how things can happen to prevent complex systems from operating as planned, I accepted the apology and took my new camera to visit the non-moving train. In addition to the following pictures of mine, I recommend a visit to their very informative website, <https://bransontrain.com/>. The website includes videos, history, photos, and the genealogy of each piece of their rolling stock. A few of my photos follow:
The historic depot, ticket office, and gift shop:

The historic depot, ticket office, and gift shop:



The F9PH and GP30M power:



One of several dome cars:
Friendly waves from workers having lunch break!



Spare rolling stock:



Another depot along the way:



Coming Events

- Southern California Operations (SoCalOps) layout owners and clubs in the Greater Los Angeles area invite you to

SoCalOps-2024

Friday June 7th through Sunday June 9th, 2024

– <http://www.socalops.com/>

Coming Events

- August, **2024 NMRA National Convention, Long Beach, California**
 - August 4 – 11, 2024
 - <https://surfliner2024.org/>
- June 15, 2024 - **TWMRC Garage Sale**
- June 15, 2024 - **Red River Prototype Modelers Meet**
 - Forest Hill Community Center, Witchita Street, Forest Hill, Texas 76016
- **Around the Bend**
 - The Midwest Region 2024 Convention
May 2, 2024 - May 4, 2024
South Bend, Indiana
 - <https://www.mwr-nmra.org/aroundthebend.html>

For Sale:

2 - B&O Diesel Locomotives with sound/motion/lights decoders. See at TWMRC building, on work table. Contact John Garfield.

Wanted:

2 or 3 ALCO RS-1, RS-2 locomotives. DCC preferred, in *running* condition. Contact Clarence Zink.