



TURNTABLE

Volume 7, Number 7

July 2023

The NMRA's *Turntable* is a monthly publication which, like a railroad turntable, will lead you in several directions on the internet.

This e-publication is a collection of railroad and model railroad videos, podcasts, websites, and/or other information freely available on the internet that we think may be of interest to you. The NMRA claims no ownership of this information, nor do we endorse its creators or their websites. The *NMRA Turntable* will not promote individuals or their for-profit ventures.

Des Moines Transfer Railway



A tour of the
Des Moines Transfer Rly.
HO scale layout
April of 2023

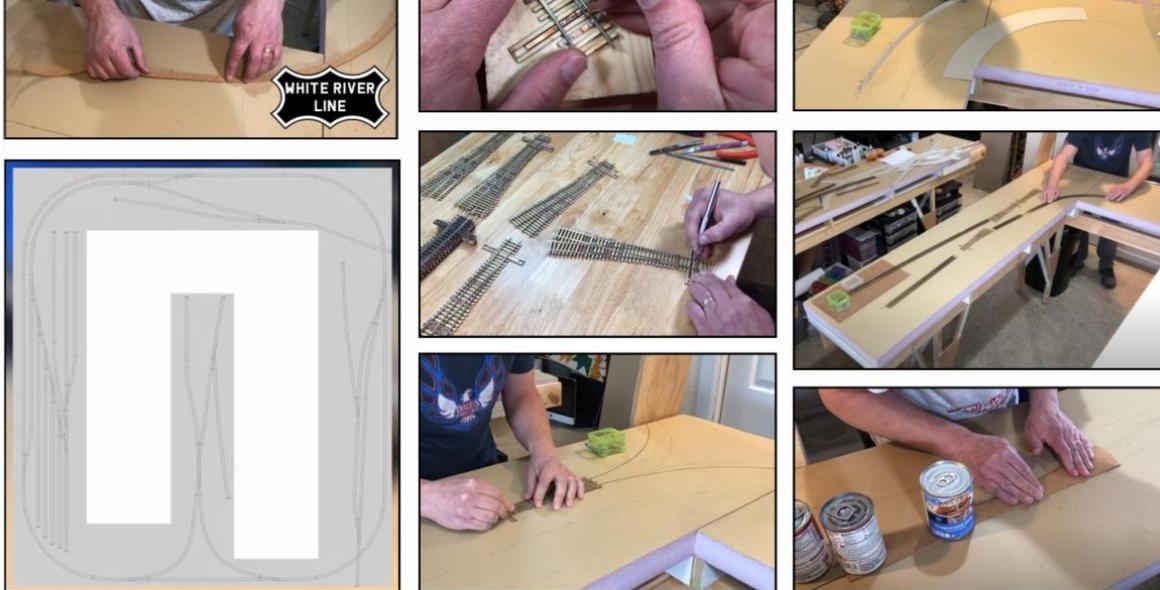


[Des Moines Transfer Railway](#)

This is an overall tour of *Robert Todd's* HO-scale Des Moines Transfer Railway as of April 2023. Later some switching operations are run on the layout. This is an interesting and very well-made model railroad!

Track Plan for an Industrial Section





[Track Plan for an Industrial Section](#)

Drew (White River Line) moved back over to the layout to finish designing the industrial section of the model railroad. His primary challenge had been to create a wye turnaround for the area. He ran a few tests to figure out the minimum radius for the equipment he would be running, and those tests would determine if he could actually squeeze the wye in.

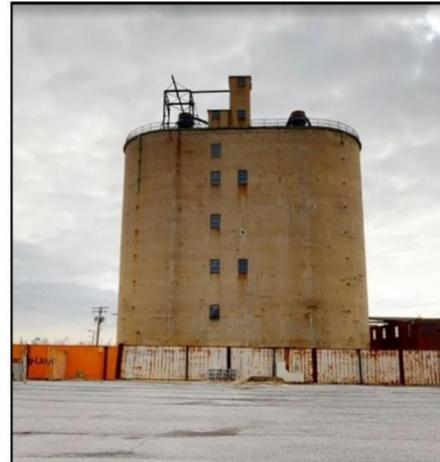
Perth 2023 Model Railway Exhibition



[Perth 2023 Model Railway Exhibition](#)

There was a great selection of layouts at Perth for this year's show, truly the biggest in the summer in Scotland. The exhibition was held at the Dewars Centre, right next to the railway station, and had some stunning model railways to see spread over two large halls. The souvenir guide titled 'A Celebration of Model Railways' was also of excellent quality.

From Near-Death to Success: The Unforgettable Tale of Building Silos



[Unforgettable Tale of Building Silos](#)

In this episode, *Joe Parker* (The Pixel Depot) talks about the processes that were used not only to scratch build a set of silos for the layout, but how to turn a bunch of spare parts, sprues, and literal trash into a cool-looking structure for the layout.

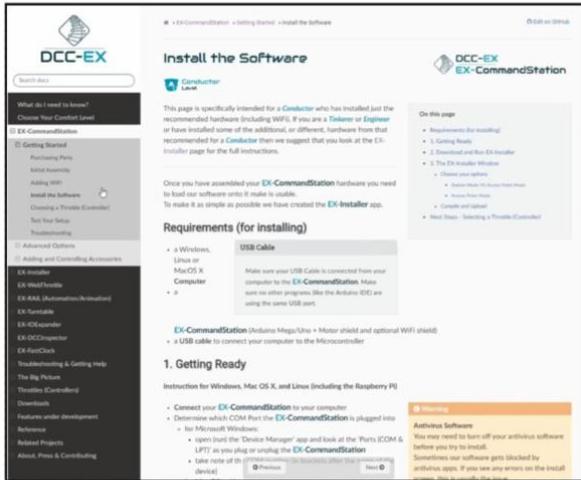
It wasn't without its perils though. His first attempts almost caused serious harm. But he persevered, and in the end, had a great model that cost only a couple of dollars to build.

DCC-EX Amazing Digital Controller Using an Arduino Board





5. a 9-14v DC power supply for the motor shield
We recommend 12V 5Amp Power Supply for the Track



6. a 2.5mm x 5.5mm Female DC Plug to Screw Terminal (optional, but recommended) to connect the motor shield power supply

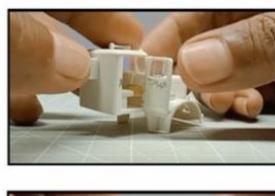
[DCC-EX Amazing Digital Controller](#)

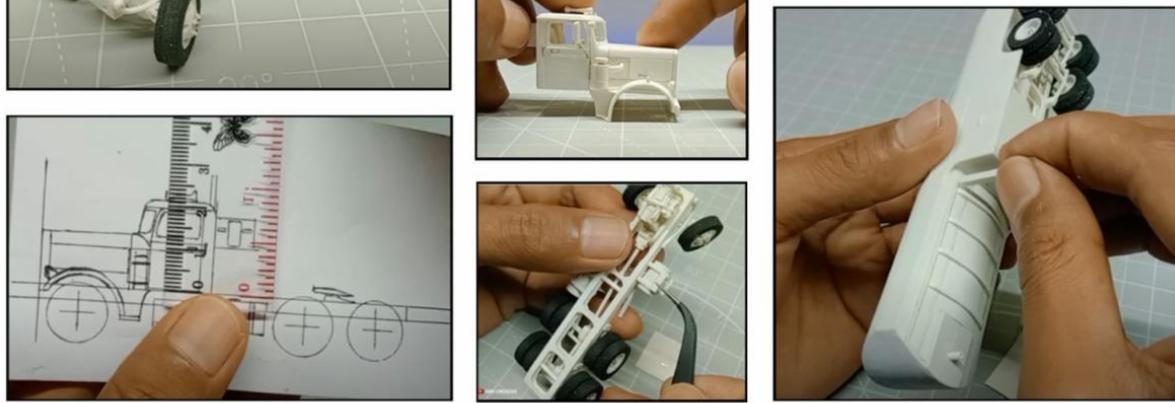
DCC-EX is a DIY command station for your digital model railway that costs less than £50 (about \$66 US), but packs in all the functionality of a command station that would cost a great deal more.

In this video, you'll see how easy it is to set this up and get it working both with a USB web throttle and a Wi-Fi phone app throttle. In future videos, it is hoped to demonstrate some of the more advanced functionality including accessory control and automation.

A massive thank you to everyone involved with the creation and development of DCC++ and DCC-EX!

Scratchbuilding a Peterbilt 281 from Styrene





[Scratchbuild Inspired by "Duel" 1971](#)

Welcome to the *ANK Creative* channel. This time the builder is trying to make a Peterbilt truck from the 1971 movie "Duel". In the three links listed below, the cabin ([Part 1](#)), chassis, wheels, and engine ([Part 2](#)), and finally the tank trailer ([Part 3](#)) we get to see how this model is brought to life. Unbelievably, the truck has working steering, and both it and the trailer have a working wheel suspension!

[In Part 1 the cabin is constructed from Styrene.](#)

[In Part 2 the chassis, wheels, and engine are constructed from Styrene.](#)

[In Part 3 the tank trailer is made from PVC.](#)

Building Open Country Scenery





[Building Open Country Scenery](#)

In this video, *Ron* (Ron's Trains N 'Things) is making open country scenery for a model railroad layout. He is working on the North Texas scene on his model railroad. Using a reference photo, he is working to create ultrarealistic scenery for a great run-through scene. He has used some awesome products from Martin Welberg Studios and others.

The Big Boy Needs a Diesel Helper? Why?



[The Big Boy Needs a Diesel Helper? Why?](#)

In this video, *Hyce* is going to squash the age old "why does the big boy (and other steam engines) need a diesel helper?" with the many different reasons why they actually do! Many of these were provided by Ed Dickens himself - thank you Ed!

2023 NMRA National Convention

SUPERCHARGED - HIGH SPEED



TEXAS EXPRESS

AUGUST 20-26

Dallas
Fort Worth **TEXAS**

Stay at the [Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center](#)

www.2023TexasExpress.com



"...and I shall go to Texas"

- said Davy Crockett (and everyone who loves trains)

Join us at the 2023
NMRA National Convention

2023 Texas Express

Plenty of Hotel Rooms Remain
Deadline for our Special Rate is August 3 - [Register Today](#)

Convention attendees get free early access to the 2023
National Train Show August 25-27!

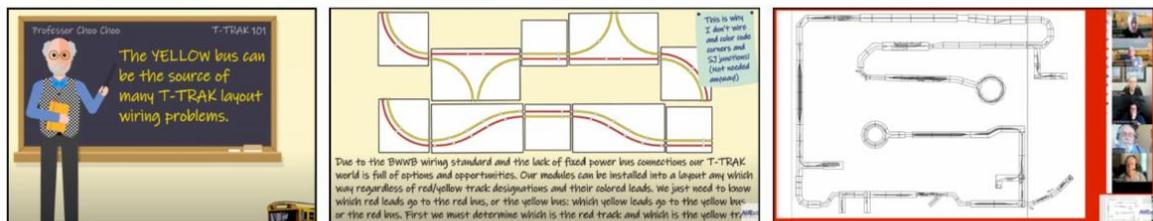
NMRA 2023 Texas Express Convention
Layout Operations Plan



ZoomTRAK
...of Modular Model Railroading,
Promoting N Scale Standards,
Starting with NTRAK in 1973!
50 Years
NRail
June 2023
Episode 34

0:00:00 Introduction by Host Steve 'Razor' Gillett
0:02:15 Talkin' T-TRAK - The Yellow Buss by Terry Moore
0:19:14 NMRA 2023 Texas Express Convention
Layout Operations Plan
by Lee Cawkins, John Young & Gordy Robinson
0:41:01 National N Scale Combined Layout & Wrap Up

See & Operate
Giant Free-moN Layout
PLUS MANY LAYOUTS OF ALL SCALES
National Convention 2023TEXASEXPRESS.COM



Professor Chao Chao T-TRAK 101
The YELLOW bus can be the source of many T-TRAK layout wiring problems.

This is why I don't wire and color code wires and 50 junctions (not needed anymore)

Due to the BWWB wiring standard and the lack of fixed power bus connections our T-TRAK world is full of options and opportunities. Our modules can be installed into a layout any which way regardless of red/yellow track designations and their colored leads. We just need to know which red leads go to the red bus, or the yellow bus, which yellow leads go to the yellow bus or the red bus. First we must determine which is the red track and which is the yellow track.

0:00:00	Introduction by Host Steve 'Razor' Gillett
0:02:15	Talkin' T-TRAK - The Yellow Buss by Terry Moore
0:19:14	NMRA 2023 Texas Express Convention Layout Operations Plan by Lee Cawkins, John Young & Gordy Robinson
0:41:01	National N Scale Combined Layout & Wrap Up

Giant Free-moN Layout

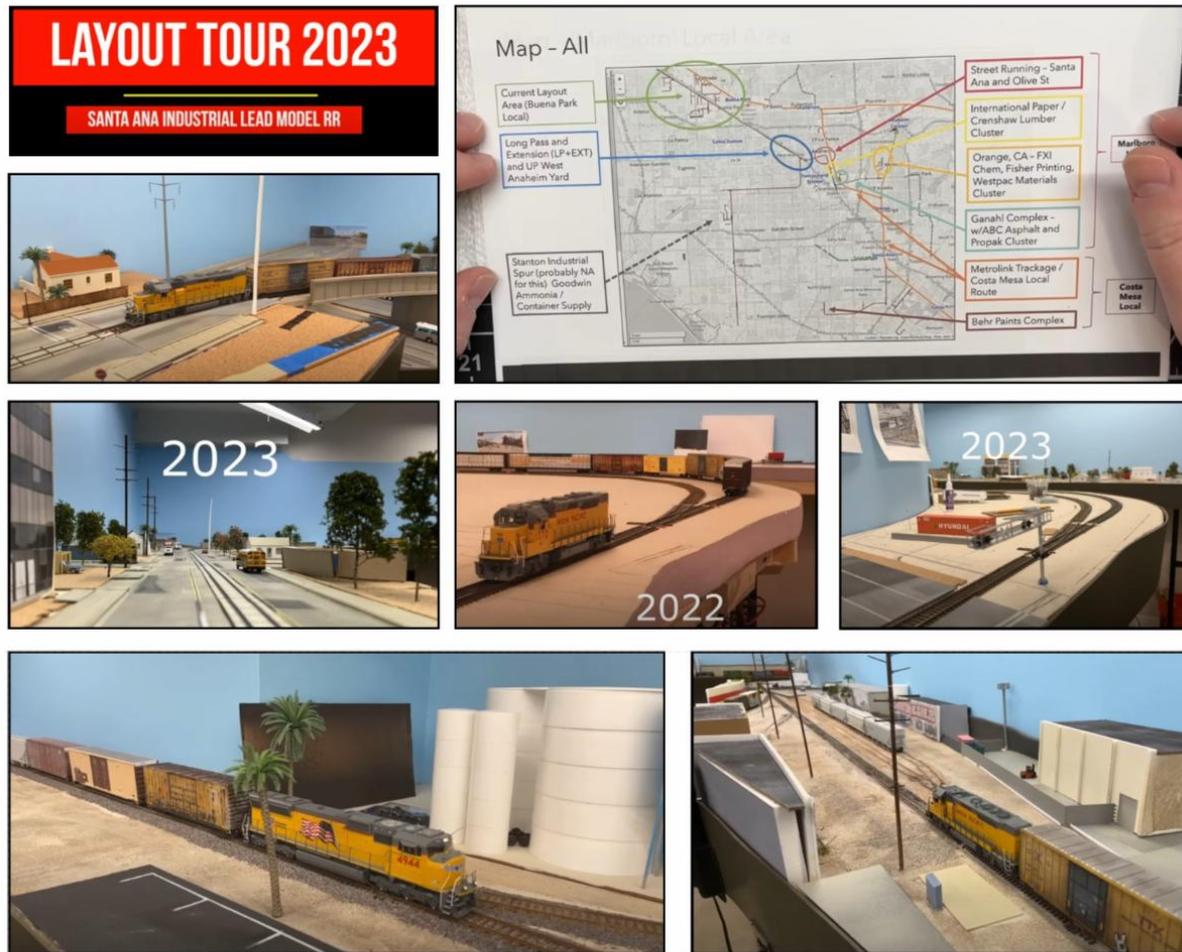
This is a recording of a Zoom call meeting from last month containing two clinics. The first clinic, starting a couple of minutes in is on buss wiring for T-Trak modules.

About 19 minutes into the video is the one you'll be looking for and you can jump ahead to this clinic. This is the Operations Road Show Layout that will be part of the 2023 Texas Express Convention's activities and not a part of the train show. There will be a number of operating sessions over several days during the convention. These will be run as a Timetable and Train Order operation to move trains across the layout following a schedule. A number of Extra (not scheduled)

trains will also be moving around the layout in between scheduled trains. This should be a lot of fun and informative, you will learn a lot about how train movements were conducted before Centralized Traffic Control (CTC) became the norm for train movements.

Editor's Note: You may need to turn up your volume a little (or a LOT) to hear this video, I had my laptop's speaker volume maxed out! However, that little glitch aside, this is a very good clinic that I recommend to anyone interested in operations on what will be a giant N-scale layout!

Santa Ana Industrial Lead



Santa Ana Industrial Lead

Tour of the entire layout in its current state in May of 2023. This video showcases all the industries on this modern-day urban switching layout.

Danny Harmon's Premium Brightline Train Ride





Premium Brightline Train Ride

This was Danny's first ride aboard Brightline. He rode the "Smart" service from Boca Raton down to Miami, then on their "premium" service back to Boca.

High Speed Rail Special October 12th - 14th, 2023



Sunshine Region
of the National Model Railroad Association

Where modelers come to share, develop, and learn new skills.



This year we've added a event hosted by Brightline Railroad where we will meet at the Orlando Brightline Station and get a full tour of the facility! This will be a great opportunity to see the inner workings of a brand new facility. We've also added a fun project called "The Caboose Challenge" Everyone has a caboose, or 2, or 3, LOL. Let's repurpose them and create a scene.

Location: Hillsborough Community College Campus John Trinkle Center 1206 North Park Rd. Plant City, Florida	Hotel: Holiday Inn Express and Suites Plant City, Florida
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2023 Sunshine Region Convention

We are now ready to take registrations for this year's convention. We've made some changes including a new caterer! Hopefully, everyone registers early as this is going to be a fun-filled event. We are pleased to say we were able to hold the early registration fee to only \$90 until **8/16/23** (then going to \$100) and locked in the banquet at \$35 (\$7 dollars less than last year). We are adding more than past conventions – you do not want to miss it. We hope everyone is able to attend and take advantage of the Brightline tour ([only with registration](#)) and see a great presentation by Brightline at our banquet. Thank you!!

What's Happening in Model Railroading Special

What's Happening In Model Railroading Special Tony Cook & Shane Wilson

Spreaker★

DISCOVER MORE ON [spreaker.com](https://www.spreaker.com)



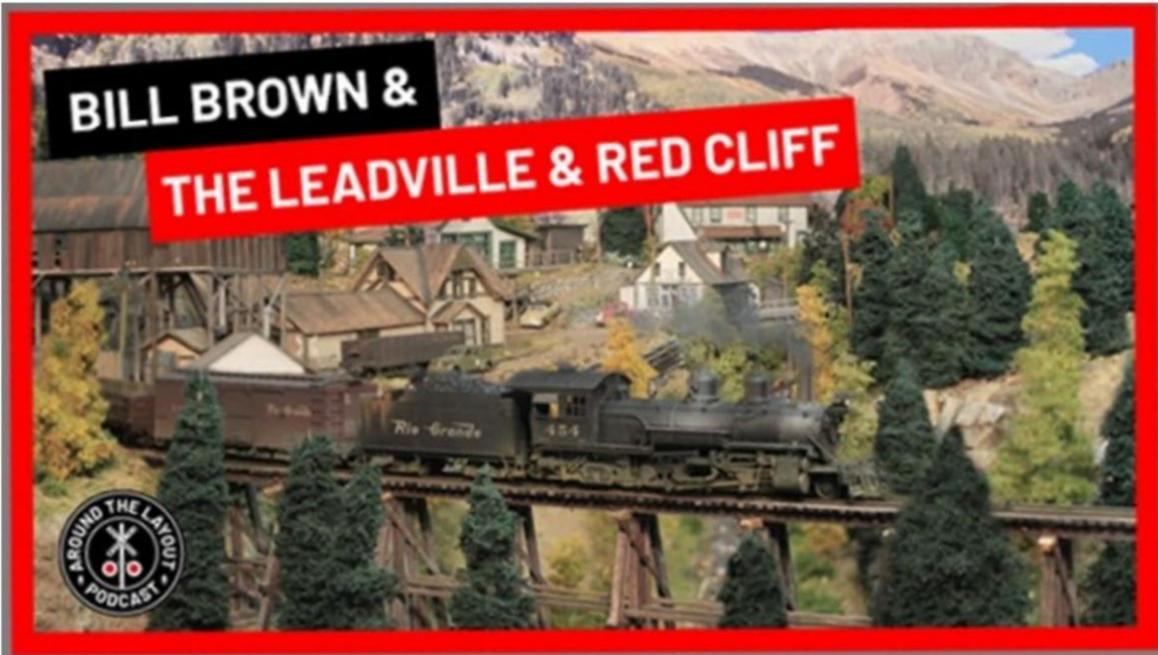
Ray Arnott

What's Happening In Model Railroading Special - Tony Cook & Shane Wilson

Around The Layout Podcast

It's the acquisition that everyone's been talking about. No, not Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern and, no, not CSX / Pan-Am. It's ExactRail becoming a part of the ever growing ScaleTrains family and this is so big that we had to get the head of ScaleTrains, Shane Wilson, to tell us all about it. We learn how this deal came about and what it means for both brands. We also get an exclusive about yet another ScaleTrains acquisition you probably didn't hear about until now. Shane shares his summer travel plans as part of this year's ScaleTrains Road Trip, including a stop at the Texas Express 2023 NMRA National Convention for the National Train Show where we can bet on some big announcements that will keep Tony busy with Model Railroad News.

Bill Brown, MMR® and The Leadville & Red Cliff



BILL BROWN &

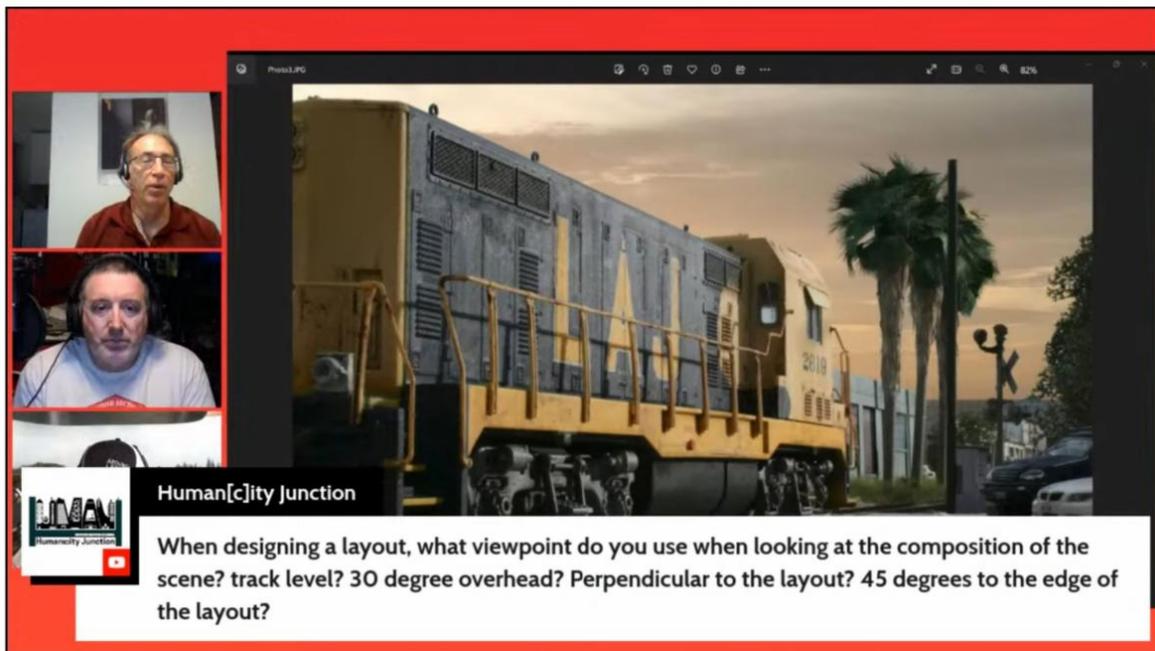
THE LEADVILLE & RED CLIFF



Around The Layout Podcast

We went back to Central New York to hear Bill Brown's amazing story of triumph over tragedy and how a great group of friends helped him recover from disaster. Bill shares his origin story, then tells how becoming a member of the CNY Division of the NMRA provided him with incredible opportunities to further his modeling skills and led to meeting the folks that would become lifelong friends. Bill also reflects on memories of Jim Heidt, the first leader of the CNY Division and a dear friend to many, who passed away on June 12th. Closing out the show, Bill tells us about his involvement in Ops 'Til You Drop, a CNY Division event that's become a weekend not to miss.

Lance Mindheim Shares 6 SECRETS to Becoming an Exceptional Model Railroader



Lance Mindheim Shares 6 SECRETS

On the Second Section Podcast, Lance Mindheim joins us to share some of his TIPS and SECRETS to take your modeling to the next level. In the discussion, he'll show us some fundamentals that can take your models and layouts from average to exceptional!

Lance has a business where he designs and builds layouts for customers. Lance has published many books on the topic of shelf layouts and model railroad design.

Southeastern Region Convention Cartersville Express 2023

September 14th - 17th



The **PIEDMONT DIVISION** would like to welcome NMRA members and guests to the **CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS 2023 SER CONVENTION**. The convention runs from Thursday Sept 14 thru Sunday Sept 17, 2023, in one of the top small towns of America 2022: **Cartersville, GA**.

For those who are interested in **OPERATIONS**, we will have lots of layouts available to sign up for. The Piedmont Division is home to lots of great home layouts so there will be many hosts inviting you to come visit their home railroads.

As usual there will be a Contest Room for models and photographs submitted following NMRA guidelines. Please plan to bring your models and photos to enter. Our convention theme for the popular vote contest will be "Passenger Trains". Entries may be of models, photographs, or art/crafts related to passenger trains.

As for prototype tours, we hope to secure a visit to Holcim Concrete, Tyson Foods, Trinity Rail, and an asphalt storage facility. These are still in the works and must be finalized. Please watch the website and/or your email for the latest updates on availability.

Not a railroad person but planning to attend? We are planning fun trips for you as well! One trip will be to Gibbs Garden in Ball Ground, Ga with a stop for lunch a Mary's Bread Basket in Marble Hill. After lunch we will take you by Big Door Vineyards in White, GA for some wine tasting if you like. Our second trip will be to the Booth Western Art Museum and lunch out in Cartersville. Each trip has 24 slots open!

Cartersville is full of great attractions. There is the Booth Western Art Museum in beautiful downtown Cartersville. New to Cartersville is the Savoy Automobile Museum which is quite impressive. There is also the Tellus Science Museum that is a very educational place to visit. Cartersville has southern charm, and the CSX Railroad still operates right through the heart of downtown on the old W & A RR line. Train watching is still good in the area.

There are many hotels in the area, but the official Convention Hotel is the **Courtyard by Marriott Cartersville** with which we have secured special rates. The Marriott is connected to the Clarence Brown Conference Center where the convention will be held.

[SER 2023 Convention in Cartersville, GA](#)

The deadline to sign up for SER Convention's OP sessions is now just four (4) weeks away!

There are 15 layouts to choose from, but a number are already overbooked. If you are interested in participating in any of the sessions and are not [registered](#) for the convention you should do so ASAP and then make your op session selections!

Service Area Power Line Installation





[Service Area Power Line Installation](#)

In this episode of *Model Railroad Adventures with Bill*, the powerlines and drops have now been added to the On30 service area which has appeared in previous videos of his layout's construction.

Four Kitbashed Bridges



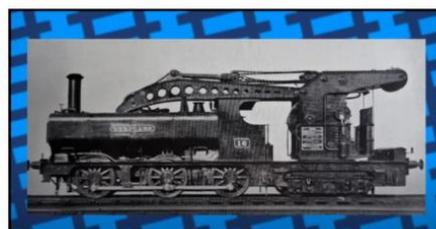
[Four Kitbashed Bridges](#)

Travel back to Coastal Northern California in 1948, a beautiful shortline

concept connecting the valley with the coast through redwood forests, vineyards, pasture, and a beautifully lush river valley.

Follow along with *Miles* (Interurban Era) in his third project layout, Anchor Bay. In this series, he chronicles the construction of a beautiful layout for one of his clients.

Weird Locos That Can Pick Things Up



Weird Locos That Can Pick Things Up

In this video, we take a look at crane tank engines, what they were for, and why every locomotive wasn't fitted with a crane.

NMRA's Partnership Program



PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

NMRA members can log in and click on the **Benefits** tab to view the **NMRA Partnership Program**. Please patronize all of our partners for some fantastic discounts as an NMRA member!

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Deluxe Materials

Highways and Byways Model
Railroad Graphics*
K.I.S.S Method, Inc.
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Green Frog Productions
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WiFi Model Railroad, LLC
July 2023

Partnership Program

The NMRA Partnership Program is a member benefit that truly has a tangible payback. We've partnered with model railroad manufacturers of all sizes, giving them exposure on our website in return for receiving generous discounts for NMRA members all year long. Some provide members with special codes, others prefer a phone or email order, but all appreciate the additional business from our members. And of course, our members appreciate the extra savings...savings that can actually pay the cost of NMRA membership! **Be sure to check back often as new Partners are being added all the time.**

One of our newest Partners this Month is: Highways & Byways Model Railroad Graphics!

[Highways and Byways Model Railroad Graphics](#) manufacture roadway graphics that are made from precision-cut vinyl, designed to improve the look of modeled roadways. Easier and more durable than dry transfers or waterslide decals, their easy-to-use peel-and-stick graphics are cut to scale length, and width and are available in both HO and N scale. Other scales are available by special request. Their graphics can be weathered using a wash of India ink diluted into rubbing alcohol or by using dry brushed paint. Products are available in either full sets, such as our Roadway Graphics Package, or as individual sheets, depending on your specific needs. They also offer a Retail Parking Lot Set that includes a variety of parking graphics, including handicap graphics.

NMRA@Home



Planting Tall Grass

Featured in the Division Business Car Column appearing in the June 2023 issue of NMRA Magazine.

If you are looking to install tall grass on your layout, Jim Osborn, MMR®, shows you how to build a small tool to accomplish the task. His article appeared in *The Semaphore*, the newsletter of the

Midwest Region's Fox Valley Division.

Troels Kirk's On30 Coast Line Railroad

Featured in the Division Business Car Column appearing in the June 2023 issue of NMRA Magazine.



Take a virtual layout tour of Troels Kirk's On30 Coast Line Railroad. His magnificent layout was featured in the *Crossties*, the newsletter of the Mid-Eastern Region's James River Division. Troels is a fine-art painter that has applied his skills to his layout depicting a New England seaside fishing village around 1900.



Controlling a Turntable with an Arduino

Featured in the *Division Business Car* Column appearing in the June 2023 issue of NMRA Magazine.

You have probably seen many applications of an Arduino, a small microcomputer. But have you seen one used to control and index a turntable? Richard Louvet shows you how you can build your own in a 3-part article that appeared in *The Derail*, the newsletter of the 100% NMRA San

Jacinto Model Railroad Club.

The ***Division Business Car*** column appears in even-numbered months in NMRA Magazine. It's loaded with great modeling ideas, plus useful information that can help make your Division, Region, or 100% NMRA Club even better. The information comes from articles published in Region, Division, and club newsletters. The best of these articles are posted on the NMRA website. You can read the entire archive, from as far back as 2011 right up to the latest posting, by clicking [here](#).

Previous issues of the ***NMRA Turntable*** are available on the Turntable Archives page. You must first log in as a member at: nmra.org After you are in the members-only section, then you must hover over 'Publications' on the menu bar, then 'NMRA Turntable', and then click on one of the list of back issues.

Editor: [Paul Voelker, HLM](#)

Executive Editor: [Rick Coble](#)

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