PROMONTORY POST
NORTHERN UTAH DIVISION - NMRA

December 2019 - Volume 7 - Issue 12

**In This Issue** (Click title to read the article)

- Clinic Schedule
- 2019 Division Elections
- Thoughts from the Superintendent
- What Happened Last Month
- Christmas Gift Exchange
- Achievement Program
- Division News
- Notes from Golden Spike Train Club
- Notes from South Weber Club
- NMRA Membership Renewal
- The Club Car
- Division Officers and Volunteers
- Meeting Information

**Learn Something New**

CLINIC SCHEDULE

**December**
**21st**
**10:00 AM - Noon**

**Two Presentations**

***Making Trees***
*Presented by Kevin Anderson*

Learn another method of making trees for your layout.

***Model Railroading Basics 101***
*Presented by Lowell Didas and Geoff Carter*

We will be developing a track plan and laying track.

---

**January**
**18th**
**10:00 AM - Noon**

**Two Presentations**

***3D Printing***
*Presented by Vince Toscan*

Learn about the art of 3D printing.

***Model Railroading Basics 101***
*Presented by Lowell Didas and Geoff Carter*

Learn how to do easy layout wiring on the Model Railroading Basics layout.

---

**February**
**15th**
**10:00 AM - Noon**

**Two Presentations**

***Making Scenery with Upolstery Foam and Plaster***
*Presented by Jim Wanlass*

A different technique for building layout scenery.

***Model Railroading Basics 101***
*Presented by Lowell Didas and Geoff Carter*

We will be starting scenery on the Model Railroading Basics layout.

March
21st
10:00 AM - Noon

**Presentation**

***Union Pacific Turbines***
*Presented by Fred Baney*

A fascinating history and facts about the UP Turbines.

I am asking all in the division what they might like to see in the way of clinics. Hands on, video presentations, scenery ideas, DCC, weathering, trestle construction, tunnel portal and snowshed construction, just to name a few ideas. In our division we have a lot of beginners, advanced, and a lot of great modelers, we can all become better by sharing our ideas and talents. Join in with us each month for some fun and adventures in modeling.

**Lowell Didas**
Clinics Coordinator
lowellusmc@hotmail.com

*Click Here to Return to the Table of Contents*

**2019 Division Elections**

DIVISION ELECTIONS

DIVISION ELECTIONS 2019

# It is Election Time!

YOUR
VOTE
COUNTS

**There are two ways to cast your ballot:** Only one vote per NMRA# will count no matter which way you use.

***Voting On-line***

Click on the link below and fill in the information on the survey.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VK798DD

The survey will be open until Midnight December 20th.

***Voting at the Division Event***

Voting can done at the 10:00 AM event on December 21st to be held at the **Redwood Recreation Center, 3060 Lester Street in West Valley City.**

Votes will be tallied at the Division Event on the 21st.

**You can vote at the meeting but the preferred way is on-line at the link above. Only one voting per NMRA# will count no matter which way is used.**

**Assistant Superintendent:**

**Lowell Didas:**
My name is Lowell and i am train-aholic. I really like trains. Been in the hobby since age 9. Kind of a lone wolf modeler till I joined this division. Got to know a few people and decided to be involved with the division. Have been serving as a board member for the last couple of years and have been enhancing/enlarging my comfort zone. Getting to know and work with new people and developing friendships. I enjoy teaching kids that like to experience the same kind of toys as me and I get to play Santa during Christmas time. It has been fun. Now I am able to share the things i have learned since starting in this hobby. I am no expert but rather experienced in the hobby.

**Treasurer:**

**Blaine Holbrook:** *(Incumbent)*
*History and qualifications:*

- I was treasurer for the Utah Juniors Racquetball league for 3 years.
- I owned a business and was in charge of two business accounts as required by law.
- A trust account and a business operating account. I was a church financial clerk for 10 years overseeing $2,000,000 per year. I handled both income and expenses. I was then asked to oversee 8 units and about $11 Mil per year.
- I am a Church auditor and have been for over 30+ years.

*As current treasurer I have executed the following responsibilities:*

- Filed the required 501C3 forms annually and kept required documentation.
- Made sure the annual corporate license was paid.
- Filed an annual Profit and Loss Statement with the Board of Directors
- Keep records and track of the ROI on expenses.
- I keep a running comparison of income and expenses between this year and last year.
- I made the contract with the Redwood center for our current meeting place.
- Keep all financial records including expenses and income. Expenses have documentation including a request for disbursement, receipts, explanations, etc.
- Warned the group of non-compliance issues.

---

**Board of Directors - Two Positions Open**
*(Please select two candidates - Listed in alphabetical order)*

**George Bell:**
I began my model railroading experience like most modelers as a young boy. Enjoying the train set that I received as a gift from my family. I kept with it until like most people life became the main focus of my days. After pursuing school, girls and cars, I became a Automotive body repair technician working various dealers in the valley. Now that there is more time in my life, I have been reacquiring my interest in model railroads. I look forward to help guiding the future of the Northern Utah Division.

**Mike Dean:**
I am excited to have the opportunity to be nominated to serve on the Board for the Northern Utah Division, NMRA. I have been a member since the end of 2012, which is when I first entered the hobby. No Lionel or American Flyer around the tree in the 1950s, but a grandson playing with wooden trains in 2012! I am also a member of the Wasatch N Scale club, so obviously I model in N scale. I have interests in computer and micro-controller applications in model railroading. After seven years of receiving all the benefits of the Northern Utah Division, I would be pleased to serve on the Board and begin to contribute.

**Michael Harris:**
I'm 48 years old, married for over 20 years, and have 3 children aged 19, 17, and 10. I'm a principal engineer in an operations team in an IT company that performs on-line backups for customers of all sizes. As a child, I enjoyed a simple HO-scale train set, but that had to take a back seat to my studies and work as I got older. Now that I have kids of my own who seem to be interested in the hobby, I have decided to make an effort to assist as much as I can to encourage their interest. My youngest son is Autistic and this hobby has captured him in a way that no others have, so I want him to have as enjoyable experience with this as possible. If I can help other young people get interested and keep the hobby advancing, then that would make my contribution that much more fulfilling.

*Click Here to Return to the Table of Contents*

---

**Thoughts from the Superintendent**

TRAINS OF THOUGHT

Before the cold weather set in I was able to run my train at Shay Park one last time this year. Receiving gifts is fun but having memories like this with my daughter is even better! What are you doing to make lasting memories with your loved ones, especially during the holidays?

I am looking forward to our Event this Saturday! We would like everyone to bring a treat to share (dessert or meal-type food) and a wrapped gift for the Gift Exchange. It can be something funny or even practical that you no longer have need of. Preferably train-related but it doesn't need to be.

I'd like to mention to look out for our fellow model railroaders. If you notice someone not at our meetings or events, reach out to them with an email or phone call. I need to be better at doing that. There's a few I've noticed missing from our ranks but have been busy with my own family, but you are in my thoughts. We need to support each other not just in the fun times but in the hard times as well. Know that we are in this together and with that in mind, we can enjoy the journey together!

**Jim Wanlass, MMR #585**
Superintendent
Northern Utah Division of the NMRA
jamestowntrains@gmail.com

*Click Here to Return to the Table of Contents*

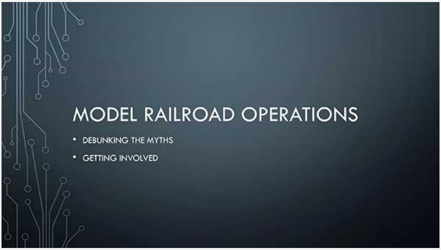
**What Happened Last Month**

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### How a real railroad operates

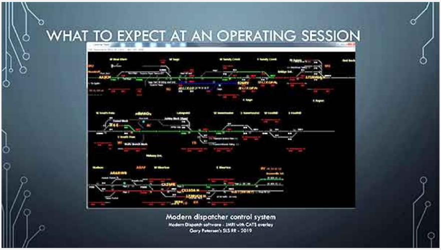
*Presented by Daland Spiers*

Daland provided us an inside look to the world of operations not only for visiting layouts, but also a strategy to develop operations for our own layouts. He covered the various types of operations and what you can expect when you join an operation session on someone else's layout. Daland helped us understand things such as the operating scheme, employee timetables, car forwarding systems, types of trains, how trains are move over a layout, different types of control systems (DC or DCC) and the different types of communication systems that can be used during an operating session. If you desire a more in-depth discussion, please contact Daland at our monthly meeting or go to the Operations Special Interest Group at www.opsig.org.



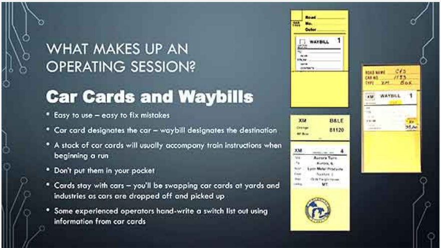
MODEL RAILROAD OPERATIONS

- DEBUNKING THE MYTHS
- GETTING INVOLVED



WHAT TO EXPECT AT AN OPERATING SESSION

Modern dispatcher control system
Modern Dispatch software - JMRI with CATS overlay
Gary Petersen's SLS RR - 2019

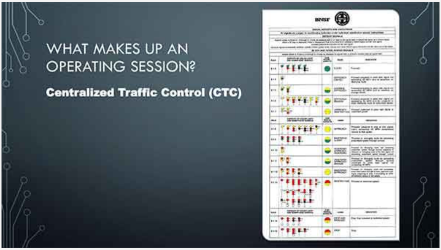


WHAT MAKES UP AN OPERATING SESSION?

**Car Cards and Waybills**

- Easy to use – easy to fix mistakes
- Car card designates the car – waybill designates the destination
- A stack of car cards will usually accompany train instructions when beginning a run
- Don't put them in your pocket
- Cards stay with cars – you'll be swapping car cards at yards and industries as cars are dropped off and picked up
- Some experienced operators hand-write a switch list out using information from car cards

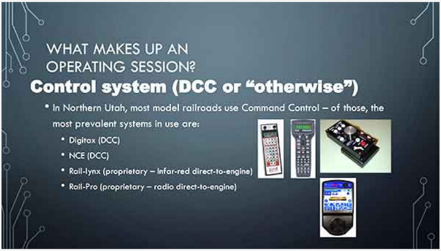
WAYBILL
XM
B&LE
81120



WHAT MAKES UP AN
OPERATING SESSION?

**Centralized Traffic Control (CTC)**

BNSF



WHAT MAKES UP AN
OPERATING SESSION?

**Control system (DCC or "otherwise")**

- In Northern Utah, most model railroads use Command Control – of those, the most prevalent systems in use are:
  - Digitrax (DCC)
  - NCE (DCC)
  - Rail-lynx (proprietary – Infar-red direct-to-engine)
  - Rail-Pro (proprietary – radio direct-to-engine)

IN CLOSING….

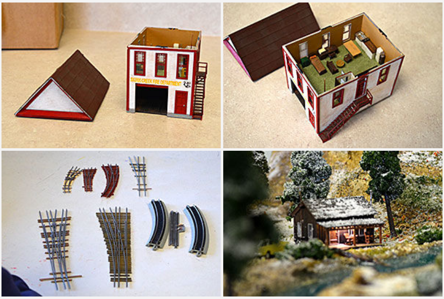
**Model Railroading Basics 101**
*Presented by Lowell Didas, Geoff Carter and Keith Osojnak*

Lowell, Geoff and Keith started a new series during the second half of the meeting with Model Railroading Basics 101. This series will build a small 2' x 4' N scale layout. We will be able to watch and participate in the building of this layout. The first in the series covered the basics of benchwork. The different types of benchwork and construction methods you can use to build that basement empire! Participants started construction with some real hands-on experience on the actual layout that will be used in the series of clinics.

GETTING STARTED IN
MODEL RAILROADING

Benchwork

During the show and tell portion of the meeting, we saw a new structure that our visiting member, Lou Anderson has been working on. A very nice scratch built fire station with a detailed interior. Our track guru, Jim Wanlass brought some of the various scratch-built turnouts he has been working on. Including some nice dual gauge switches. We also had a chance to see up close the detail that Chris and Jackie Dyson have been doing on their N scale Pizza Box layout.



*Click Here to Return to the Table of Contents*

---

**Christmas Gift Exchange**

ON THE EXTRA BOARD

## Northern Utah Division Gift Exchange

In the spirit of the season, we would like everyone to bring a treat to share (dessert or meal-type food) and a wrapped gift for the Gift Exchange. It can be something funny or even practical that you no longer have need of. The gift should preferably be train-related but it doesn't need to be. Let's have some fun!

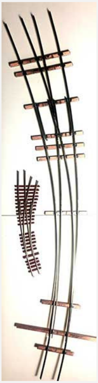
[Click Here to Return to the Table of Contents]

## Achievement Program

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

NORTHERN UTAH DIVISION-NMRA
AP
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

What do you do for fun? I mean besides "playing with trains"!!!



Hopefully you are learning new skills. There is so much you can do in this hobby. Are you stretching yourself beyond what you are comfortable doing?

When I first got started I never thought I would hand build my own turnout! Now I've built over a thousand for myself and others! Pictured is an On30 #8 curved next to an Nn3 #4 curved.

My advice to anyone wanting to try their hand at a new (for them) technique is to just try it! Roll your sleeves up and just get started! A few years back I made my own masters, then made molds of them and then cast parts in resin. It was a learning process and the more I did it the easier it was.

I normally like working in wood but for one of my structures for my AP Structures Certificate, I built it using styrene. Funny enough it was a wood building I was constructing! I thought it turned out pretty good. I learned some things about using different materials that I actually used for another project as well. I still like wood better but at least I know I have options and it gave me a variety in what I was doing at the time.

There are many things in the AP Program that some people ask why do they have to do that for? Well, in some cases it's to make sure you are a well rounded modeler and in others it's to stretch you a bit and increase your skills and knowledge. I find that when I learn a new skill I like to share it and then we can enjoy the journey together!

**Jim Wanlass, MMR #585**
AP Chairman
Northern Utah Division of the NMRA
jamestowntrains@gmail.com

[Click Here to Return to the Table of Contents]

## Division News Items

DIVISION NEWS ITEMS

### New modular clubs organizing

Two brand new modular clubs forming as we speak. Both will be at the Train Shoppe. One is a N scale, the other is 2 rail O scale with ON3 & ON30. For more info talk to Lowell Didas 801-759-7829. Or see Jeff Nichols at the Train Shoppe.

---

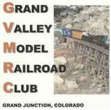
### Upcoming Shows and Events

HOSTLERS
HMRRC
OGDEN, UTAH
MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

**Hostlers Newgate Mall Show**

November 29th - December 26th, 2019
Mon–Sat 10:00AM - 9:00PM
3651 Wall Ave
Ogden, Utah

---



**31st Annual Christmas Show – 2019**

Grand Valley Model Railroad Club
December 28 & 29 10am - 4 pm
Museum of Western Colorado's Cross Orchards
3073 F Road
Grand Junction, Colorado

---

### 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OT&W MODEL TRAIN CLUB SHOW

January 17th and 18th, 2020
Friday 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Saturday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
In the 'SHOW BARN' at THANKSGIVING POINT
Adults: $8.00, Children 10 & Under – Free !!!

For More Information Contact:
Dave Turner 801-560-3376
Larry Carter 801-971-3179

### Model Railroad Estate Sale And Auction

Saturday, January 18, 2020
9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Comfort Suites Hotel
2200 South 1200 West
West Haven, UT

Detailed inventory will be available at the Hostlers website: [www.hostlers.info](www.hostlers.info)

### Rails in the Rockies

Estes Valley Model Railroaders

February 15th & 16th, 2020
Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Stanley Fairgrounds Events Center Complex
1125 Rooftop Way
Estes Park, Colorado

### Hostlers Model Railroad Festival

March 6th, 7th and 8th, 2020
Friday 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Sunday 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Ogden Union Station
25th Street and Wall Avenue
Ogden, Utah
Adults $7, Adult weekend pass $10, Children 12 and under Free!

### Get a Great Christmas Gift for Someone Special

We have A polo shirt with the convention logo above the pocket. A t-shirt with a large convention logo and two more t-shirts each with either the Jupiter or the 119 steam engines. At the next event ask Geoff Carter for details!

2019
SALT LAKE CITY
NMRA
NATIONAL CONVENTION
2019 NMRA
GOLDEN SPIKE
SALT LAKE CITY•UTAH
2019 NMRA
GOLDEN SPIKE
SALT LAKE CITY•UTAH

*[Click Here to Return to the Table of Contents](#)*

**Golden Spike Train Club of Utah**

GOLDEN SPIKE TRAIN CLUB

The Golden Spike Train Club holds a public open house while running their trains for display at the state's largest static club layout!

Come down the Second Saturday of each month for our next open house from Noon to 4:00 PM

840 North 300 West Salt Lake City in the south basement of the old Children's Museum.

Visit our website at http://www.goldenspiketrainclubutah.org/

Like us on facebook at https://www.facebook.com/GoldenspikeTrainClub/

*Click Here to Return to the Table of Contents*

---

## South Weber Model Railroad Club

SOUTH WEBER MODEL RR CLUB

Snowball Special
SOUTHERN PACIFIC
December 28th, 4-7pm
Canyon Meadows Park

Join us at Canyon Meadows Park (631 E Petersen Pkwy, South Weber, Utah)December 28th for train rides around the park in the snow! (hopefully) We hope that all the neighbors to the park will have decorations up for us and that there will be some snow this evening for a beautiful, twilight ride around the park. Please be sure to dress warmly, but try not to have loose articles of clothing that may get caught on the trains. Also please be aware that the bathrooms at the park are closed at this time of year!

**Saturday, December 28, 2019 at 4 PM – 7 PM**

Visit our website at http://southweberrr.webs.com/
Visit our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/SouthWeberRailroad/

*Click Here to Return to the Table of Contents*

---

## NMRA Membership Renewal

Just a reminder for everyone to check their expiration date on membership NMRA cards. Please don't let them lapse! You should receive a membership renewal form in the mail months before your expiration. If you can't find it or didn't get it, you can always go on-line and renew there. Below is the link to NMRA website page.

https://nmra.org/membership-application-and-renewal

Also check NMRA home page for membership discounts through the NMRA Partnership Program. You can get discounts at over 30 vendors including Micro-Mart, Green Frog Productions, MinuteMan Scale Models, Motrak Models, MRC (Model Rectifier Corporation) and many others. The discounts could add up to what a years membership costs!

https://nmra.org/partnerships

**Lowell Didas**
Membership Chairman
lowellusmc@hotmail.com

*Click Here to Return to the Table of Contents*

---

### The Club Car

THE CLUB CAR

The Northern Utah Division is home to many outstanding modeling clubs, in every scale from Z to Live Steam. You are sure to find at least one of them that will meet your needs, so drop them a line and join the fun!

Contact information is the most recent we have on file. If you have a railroad modeling club in the state of Utah, we would be happy to include your information here. Just send us the name of your club, the scales you support in your club, and how prospective members may contact your club.

**Color Country Model Railroad Club** – This multi-scale club is located in the Southern Utah Division in St. George, Utah. Contact Dave Merrill by email at: professordavemerrill@gmail.com. Visit their website at http://colorcountrytrains.org/sud/

**Color Country T-Trak Club** - This N Scale club, located in the Southern Utah Division in St. George, Utah, uses the T-Trak modular system. Contact the club by email at: ColorCountryTTrak@gmail.com. Visit their website at http://www.ccttc.info

**Golden Spike American Flyer Train Club** – This S scale club meets the third Friday of each month at various club member homes. Their newsletter contains the time and place. Call Jim Buckley by phone at: (801) 252-1921 or by email at: jamesbuckley7@comcast.com. Visit their website at http://www.gsaftc.com/about.htm

**Golden Spike Train Club of Utah** – This HO/HOn3 100% NMRA club meets Saturday Evenings from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, at the Old Children's Museum of Utah ( 840 N 300 West, SLC ). Open Houses are held on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 12-4 pm. Contact Mark Forslund by phone at (801) 641-6586 for more information. Out of the area memberships are available. Visit their website at www.goldenspiketrainclubutah.org

**Great Basin Lego Train Club** – Adult fans of LEGO. Meeting times and club info is posted on their website. Contact Reed Cowan by email at: gbltc@aol.com. Visit their website at http://greatbasinltc.utahlug.org/

**HOn3 Club of Northern Utah** – Specializing in local narrow gauge railroads in HOn3, this group meets informally and has a layout in Grantsville. Contact Fred Voelcker by email at: fred.voelcker@gmail.com

**Hostlers Model Railroad Club** – This Multi-scale club, including live steam, meets the 3rd Wednesday of every month at Ogden's historic Union Station. Contact Mike Murphy by USPS mail at: 752 W 4375 South, Riverdale, UT 84405 or by phone at: (801) 394-4952. Visit their website at http://hostlers.org

**O Scale Guys** – An O and On3 scale club. Contact Steve Strebel by phone at: (801) 973-0367.

**Ophir, Tintic and Western** – This 100% NMRA club models in HO and N and meets at the SCERA Theater Boardroom (745 South State Street, Orem) at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Contact Larry Carter by email at larrycarter@msn.com or by phone at (801) 446-8161 Visit their website at http://www.otwtrainclub.com/

**Railway & Locomotive Historical Society (Golden Spike Chapter)** – An historically oriented group of researchers and preservationists, the Golden Spike chapter of the R&LHS meets every second Tuesday at noon at Two Bit Street Cafe on 25th Street in Ogden and is presently in the midst of the restoration of the D&RGW #223. Visit their website at http://www.save223.org

**South Weber Model Railroad Club** – This 1-1/2″ club runs trains every 3rd Saturday & Sunday at South Weber Canyon Meadows Park. I-84 exit #85, two blocks south, two blocks east. Visit their website at http://southweberrr.webs.com/

**Utah Free-MO** – A travelling HO Modular group conforming to the Free-MO standard. Contact Mike Nelson by email at: i_m_loco@hotmail.com

**Utah Garden Railway Society** – A "G scale" group dedicated to the art of Garden Railways. Contact Lynn Stringham, President (UGRS) by USPS mail at: 4464 S 4100 West, West Haven, UT 84401

**Utah Large Scale Society** – A G scale group that meets in various member's homes. Contact Stan White by phone at: (801) 546-4085 or by USPS mail at: 920 N 1550 East, Layton, UT 84040

**Utah Live Steamers** – Our railroad is at Shay Park, 400 West Aspen Hills Blvd, Saratoga Springs, UT which encompasses 12 acres. The key feature is the abandoned railroad grade of the Salt Lake & Western Railroad. Our track gauge is 7.5" and we have a new, beautiful 1.6" scale locomotive to pull twice as many cars as before. Rides are typically in the morning on the third Saturday of the month. Contact Mike at utahlivesteamers@gmail.com or watch Facebook for event listings. https://www.facebook.com/cmry260/

**Utah Train Collectors Association** – Primarily 3-rail O gauge, though other scales are represented. Promotes model railroading in Northern Utah. Meets the last Thursday of each month. Contact Kent Silver (Club President) by email at: webmaster@utahtca.com. Visit their website at http://utahtca.com/default.htm

**Wasatch N Scale Model Railroad Club** - For contact info visit their website at wasatchnscale.org

*Click Here to Return to the Table of Contents*

---

### Division Officers and Volunteers

DIVISION BRASS HATS

| Northern Utah Division Officers | |
|---|---|
| Superintendent: | Jim Wanlass |
| Assistant Superintendent: | Rick Luther |
| Treasurer: | Blaine Holbrook |
| Board of Director: | Lowell Didas |
| Board of Director: | Daland Speirs |
| Board of Director: | Rex Bailey |
| Board of Director: | Geoff Carter |

## Committee Positions

| | |
|---|---|
| Advertising/Marketing: | Steve Moore |
| Convention Chairman: | Alan Anderson |
| Achievement Program: | Jim Wanlass |
| Division Operations Group (DOG's): | Daland Speirs |
| Clinic Coordinator: | Lowell Didas |
| Layout Tours: | Bob Gerald |
| Division Librarian: | Robert Arnesen |
| Secretary: | Carolyn Chase |
| Newsletter Editor: | Rick Luther |
| Membership Chairman: | Lowell Didas |

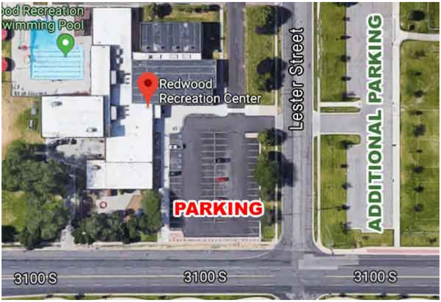
*Click Here to Return to the Table of Contents*

**Come Join us for Fun, Learning and Fellowship**

MEETING INFORMATION

## Utah's center for model railroading excellence!

**Join us every third Saturday at the**
**Redwood Recreation Center**
**3060 Lester Street**
**West Valley City, UT 84119**
**from 10:00 AM to Noon**



*Click Here to Return to the Table of Contents*

**Northern Utah Division of NMRA** | Redwood Recreation Center 3060 Lester Street | West Valley City, Utah 84119

Unsubscribe | About our service provider