

# PROMONTORY POST



## Northern Utah Division

March 2026 - Volume 14 - Issue 3

### In This Issue

Clinic Schedule .....	2	Division News .....	11
Event Highlights .....	4	Rocky Mountain Region Convention .....	12
Thoughts from the Superintendent .....	5	Division Rolling Stock .....	13
June Field Trip .....	6	NMRA Membership Renewal .....	14
How AI Is Enhancing Model Railroading .....	7	The Club Car .....	14
Achievement Program .....	9	Division Officers and Volunteers .....	16
Special Announcement .....	10	Meeting Information .....	17

**ALL ABOARD FOR  
OUR NEXT EVENT!**



**Our next meeting will be  
Saturday  
March 21st, 2026  
10:00 AM - Noon**

# Clinic Schedule

You can always find links to our previous recorded live video clinics on our website.

Click the link below to go directly to the website.

<https://www.northernutahnmra.org/monthly-events/past-clinics/>



As your Division Clinic Coordinator, I'm looking for people to give clinics on a variety of topics for the modeling community. You don't have to be an expert, just knowledgeable enough to teach others what you've learned. Giving a clinic is a great way to serve the community, and you can earn points for the AP program in the Author or Volunteer categories. If you're interested in signing up, please contact me. Thanks and happy modeling!

## **Kevin Anderson MMR #752**

Northern Utah Division Clinic Coordinator

801-842-7471

**March  
21st**

10:00 AM - NOON

### **Presentation**

#### **Railfanning the West**

*Presented by Aaron Pederson*

**April  
18th**

10:00 AM - NOON

### **Presentation**

#### **The do's and don'ts of modern installation on brass with DCC**

*Presented by Jeremy Johnson*

**May  
16th**

CANCELED

**There will be no meeting this month since it conflicts with the Rocky Mountain Region Convention in Rapid City, South Dakota. Please attend the convention!**

**June  
20th**

10:00 AM - ?

### **Explore the Tintic mining area**

This will be hosted by Tintic Historical Society in Eureka and guided by mayor Nick Castleton. Bring your own lunch and drinks. See the article on page 5 for more information.

# Clinic Schedule

July  
21st

10:00 AM - NOON

## Presentation

### So you want to do Operations?

*Presented by Kevin Anderson MMR*

Come learn about operations, then participate in a simulated operating session.



August  
15th

10:00 AM - NOON

## Presentation

### TBD

*Presented by Someone Like You!*

Looking for people to give clinics on a variety of topics for the modeling community.



September  
19th

10:00 AM - NOON

## Presentation

### TBD

*Presented by Someone Like You!*

Looking for people to give clinics on a variety of topics for the modeling community.



October  
17th

10:00 AM - NOON

## Presentation

### Photography for Backdrops

*Presented by Mark Rindflesh*





# Event Highlights

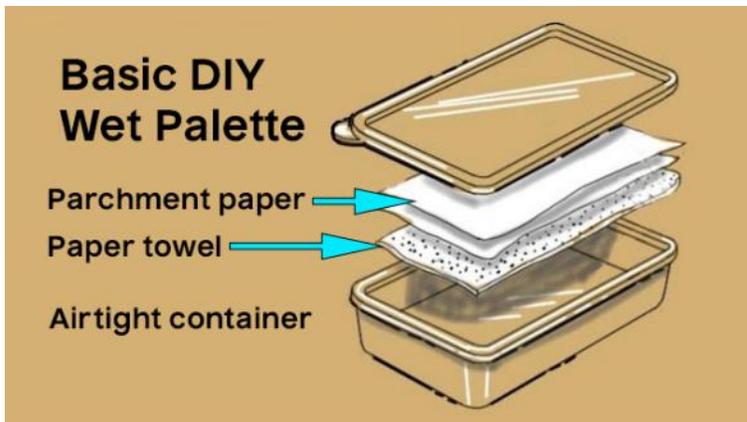
## Hands On Presentation

### Wet Palettes For Model Railroad Painters

*Presented by Mike Dean*

What exactly is a wet palette? A wet palette is a specialized, often airtight container used by painters, particularly for acrylics and miniatures, to keep paint hydrated, workable, and blended for hours or days. Making a wet palette at home is a simple, cost-effective way to keep paint moist for days, preventing wastage and aiding in blending. The basic principle involves creating a damp reservoir to keep a membrane (parchment paper) moist.

Mike presented an easy and effective way to easily create a DIY wet palette. We would like to thank him for providing all the materials for each of us to take one home from the meeting.



# Train of Thoughts

There's so much more to this hobby than just "building trains in your basement!" Sometimes you get to run trains in a mall! Occasionally the OT&W setup for a couple weeks in an empty store at University Place in Orem. This is a great opportunity to share with the public that might not normally see model trains running. It was always quite crowded on the days I was there. It was also good timing to advertise the Train Show on April 3 & 4 in Spanish Fork. The Frontrunner is always very popular at public shows because people recognize it and say, "I've ridden that," or "We watch that outside my house."



Train Shows and Displays are a great way to share with the public the joy of model railroading. It is also fun to be able to spend time with fellow model railroaders. Our monthly Division meetings are another way to spend time with each other in a less stressful environment. It's nice to be able to meet with fellow modelers to share tips we've recently learned or to hear about a project someone is currently working on. I always look forward to seeing you at the meetings so we can enjoy the journey together!

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



*I let my co-worker's son drive one of my trains.*

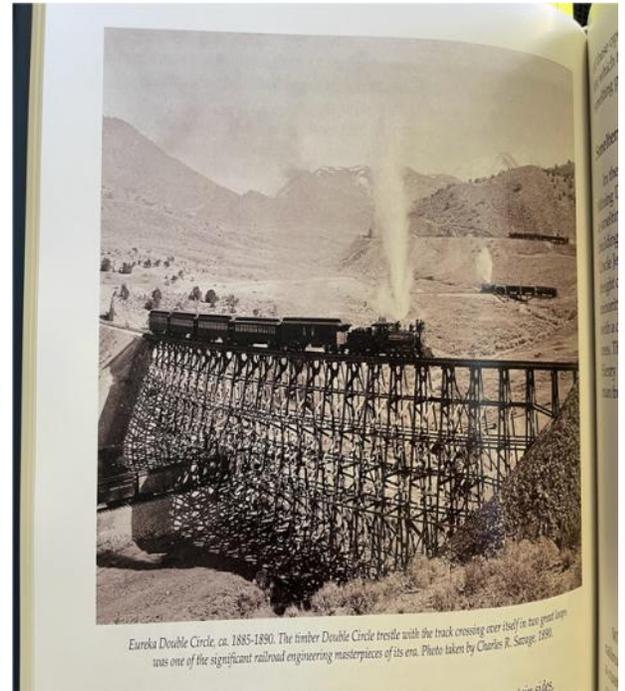


# Notes from the O.T.&W.

The OT&W Model Railroad Club has been invited to explore the Tintic mining area Saturday, June 20th. We would like to invite the Northern Utah Division to participate in this adventure. It starts about 10 a.m. This will be hosted by Tintic Historical Society in Eureka and guided by mayor Nick Castleton. Bring your own lunch and drinks.

Also, on Thursday, May 21st at 7 p.m. both the mayor and the Tintic Historical Society President, Mike Alexander, will be conducting the monthly clinic at the OT&W meeting at the Hobby Stop, 537 N 1200 W, Orem. All are invited to attend.

*In the photo below the road is the old track that goes under the trestle in photo on the right and the hills on either side is where the trestle crossed.*

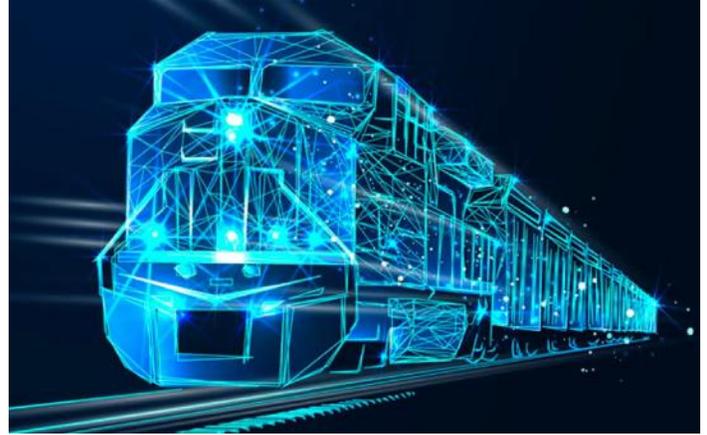


## How AI Is Enhancing Model Railroading

Guest Editorial by Rick Luther

Artificial intelligence has sparked lively debate in the model railroading community. Some worry that AI-generated content undermines the traditional skills that define the hobby. Others see it as simply the next tool in a long line of innovations.

I was recently struck by a quote from author David Sable that frames the issue well: *"The tool does not supply the vision. It never has."* AI works best when it serves someone who already knows what they want to create, not someone expecting the tool to provide the vision for them.



Today, more model railroaders are using AI to support both technical and creative tasks. On the technical side, AI is helping generate Arduino code for automated features such as crossing signals and lighting effects and even assisting with troubleshooting complex Digital Command Control (DCC) issues. These tools can significantly reduce setup time and frustration.

- **Arduino Programming:** (Example: [Using A.I. to Make your Model Railroad Better](#))
- **Troubleshooting:** (Example: [How AI Solve a Major Problem](#))

Creatively, AI has become a valuable planning resource. Modelers use it to visualize layout concepts, generate ideas for structure interiors that can be 3D printed, and overcome the all-too-familiar "modeler's block." Rather than replacing imagination, AI often acts as a creative partner, helping modelers talk through ideas and refine their vision.

AI is also making an impact in layout photography and media. Tools that sharpen images, remove backgrounds, or add subtle effects like steam or smoke allow modelers to better showcase their work. While some AI-generated images circulating online are impressive and others clearly highlight how experimentation often accompanies new technology.

Looking ahead, AI could play a role in layout operations. There is growing interest in using AI as a virtual dispatcher or yardmaster, enabling a single operator to run a full operating session. Future systems may even allow trains to respond to voice commands or environmental triggers.

This skepticism surrounding AI isn't new. Similar concerns arose with the shift from film to digital photography, and later with the adoption of 3D printing and laser cutting. In time, those tools became widely accepted and enhanced by what modelers could achieve.

I often think about a partially finished farm scene on one of my previous layouts. I struggled to

visualize how it should look and spent considerable time researching ideas. An AI-generated image—even as a rough concept—would have provided a clear visual blueprint. Of course, it would still have taken human hands and judgment to bring that scene to life.



In the end, AI is just another tool in the toolbox. Used thoughtfully, it can save time, inspire creativity, and help model railroaders focus on what they love most about hobby, building, operating, and telling stories in miniature.

# Achievement Program

Congratulations to Gerry for earning his first AP Certificate: Association Volunteer! Not only is he our Division Treasurer but he has helped at train shows at our Division table and hands-on activities. He also serves at the Region level as a Director and has even given a clinic. Thanks for all the work you have done to help in the model railroading community. One thing that might not be obvious to others is that Gerry is pretty new to the model railroading hobby. It seems like he has been a part of it for a long time. He has a goal to earn his Master Model Railroader and can now check off the box for his first certificate. Incidentally, Association Volunteer was my first certificate too.



Probably the best thing about earning the Volunteer certificate is that once you earn it you don't have to keep track of your service, and in every case that I have seen those who have earned it continue on serving. Service to the hobby is a requirement to earn Master Model Railroader. Besides, getting involved, getting to know others and fellowshiping with those who like trains is an awesome benefit to being in this hobby. One time my daughter was helping with a setup and I said, "Look at all these other guys, they are just as crazy about trains as I am!" She had a hard time believing me at first but she's seen enough now to know it's true.

I am continuing to have some MAGIC happen on my Bronx Terminal module but to see more of what I've done you will have to come to the OT&W Train Show in Spanish Fork in a couple of weeks. In the meantime let me know if you have questions and anything you are working on. Let's help each other so we can enjoy the journey together!

**Jim Wanlass, MMR #585**

AP Chairman

Northern Utah Division of the NMRA

jamestowntrains@gmail.com

**ALL ABOARD!**  
**OT&W TRAIN SHOW**



**SPRING  
TRAIN  
SHOW**

In the HUGE Indoor Tennis Building

**475 South Main  
The Spanish Fork  
Fairgrounds**

Over 24,000 square feet of model  
trains, layouts and exhibits!

**April 3rd and 4th, 2026**  
**Friday, 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM**  
**Saturday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

## UPCOMING TRAIN SHOWS

---



### **OT&W Spring Train Show**

April, 3rd & 4th

Fri, 3 pm - 9 pm : Sat, 9 am - 5 pm

The Spanish Fork Fairgrounds - Indoor Tennis Building  
475 South Main, Spanish Fork, UT.

[otwtrainclub.org](http://otwtrainclub.org)

---



### **Model Train Show**

April, 9th, 10th & 11th

Thurs, 1 pm - 5 pm : Fri, 9 am - 5 pm : Sat, 9 am - 5 pm

Brinkman Service Club Building  
352 Airport Way, Wendover, UT.

<https://wendoverairfield.org/>

---



### **2026 Rocky Mountain Region Convention**

May 13th & 16th

Best Western Ramkota

2111 N LaCross St, Rapid City, SD, 57701

<https://www.rmr-nmra.org/2026%20Convention/Home2026.html>

---

# STADLER

### **Open House and Train Show**

May 29th & 30th

Stadler Rail US

5880 West 150 South, Salt Lake City, UT

---



### **2026 NMRA National Convention & National Train Show**

July 27th - August 2nd

Chattanooga Convention Center

1 Carter St, Chattanooga, TN 37402

<https://www.nmra2026.org/>

# Rocky Mtn. Region Convention

Rapid City, SD  
13-16 May 2026



Primary Registration: \$75  
Late Registration Starts April 1 (\$90)



All Registrants prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>  
Entered in Drawing for Cab Ride



Best Western Ramkota Convention Center  
Rooms only \$107/night  
your Convention HQ



See the 4 Heads!

**Check out our new website and click on  
our Convention site for all the activities!**

[More Convention Information](#)

[RMR website](#)





# Division Rolling Stock

## FOR SALE!



Add this superb, one of a kind, historical box car to your collection. The Northern Utah Division of the NMRA is selling an HO scale Bamberger Rail Road box cars kits, manufactured by Accurail. The cars feature a build date of 8/48.

You can get your very own historical box car before this limited edition is sold out.



**DECEMBER NEWS** column



Model Railroad Hobbyist | December 2024

**RICHARD BALE AND JEFF SHULTZ**  
REPORT THE LATEST HOBBY INDUSTRY NEWS ...

**CLUB NEWS**



The Northern Utah Division of the NMRA is selling a series of HO scale Utah Oil Company (UTOCO) tank cars manufactured by InterMountain Railway. Featuring a build date of 8/45 and a test date of 9/28/51, the cars are offered in six road numbers and are equipped with metal wheelsets and Kadee couplers.  
Info: [www.northernutahnmra.org/club-car](http://www.northernutahnmra.org/club-car)

VIEW READER COMMENTS

Originally intended to be the convention cars for the 2019 NMRA convention in Salt Lake City, supply chain issues prevented the cars from arriving on time. Offered in six road numbers, the cars have metal wheelsets and Kadee couplers. You can get your very own historical tank car before this limited edition is sold out.

**The price is \$45 each with free shipping, or \$40.00 if you pick them up either at the event or at Geoff Carter's home. Contact Geoff at**

**[gkc450219@gmail.com](mailto:gkc450219@gmail.com)**



# All Aboard!



**NMRA**

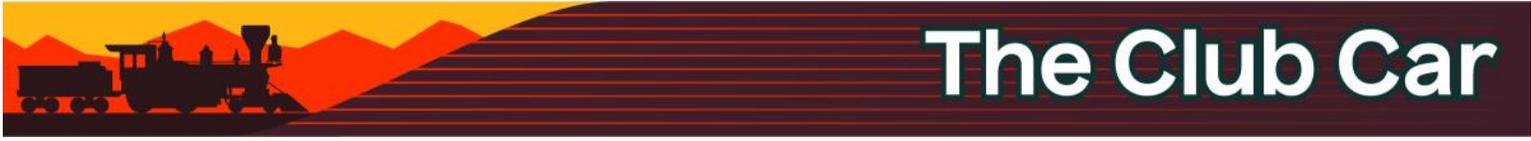
Just a reminder for everyone to check their expiration date on membership NMRA cards. Please don't let them lapse! You should receive a membership renewal form in the mail months before your expiration. If you can't find it or didn't get it, you can always go on-line and renew there. Below is the link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



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jamesbuckley7@comcast.com). Visit their website at <http://www.gsaftc.com/about.htm>

**Golden Spike Train Club of Utah** - (HO scale) now at the Trolley Square History Museum. We are NE of the Old Spaghetti Factory, next to the Desert Edge Pub. The children's play area is in front of the museum. In addition to the layout, rides are given on a kiddie train. Contact Jon Thomas, Treasurer at [Thomas.JT@Yahoo.com](mailto:Thomas.JT@Yahoo.com) for more information. Out of the area memberships are available. Visit their website at <http://www.goldenspiketrainclubutah.org/home.html>

**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](mailto:gbltc@aol.com). Visit their website at <http://greatbasinltc.utahlug.org/>

**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 club models in HO and N and meets at the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7pm at the Hobby Stop in Orem (537 N 1200 W, Orem). For more information contact HO-VP Mike Lambert, [mlambert54@comcast.net](mailto:mlambert54@comcast.net) 303-919-4703 - N-VP Chris Cox, [coxcl1@gmail.com](mailto:coxcl1@gmail.com) 801-897-2269. 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](mailto:i_m_loco@hotmail.com)

**Utah Free-moN** - We subscribe to the N scale Free Mo standards. You can find us on Facebook at Utah Free-moN.

**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 1st and 3rd Saturday of the Summer months. Contact Mike at [utahlivesteamers@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://wasatchnscale.org)



# Division Brass Hats

## Northern Utah Division Officers

Superintendent.....Jim Wanlass  
Assistant Superintendent ..... Mike Dean  
Treasurer.....Gerald Bregg  
Director-at-Large.....Doug Jolley  
Director-at-Large.....Geoff Carter  
Director-at-Large.....Cameron Lafluer  
Director-at-Large.....Bob Connolly

## Committee Positions

Social Media Chairman.....Cameron Lafluer  
Convention Chairman.....Mike Dean/Geoff Carter  
Achievement Program..... Jim Wanlass  
Clinic Coordinator .....Kevin Anderson  
Layout Tours .....Bob Connolly  
Division Librarian:.....Robert Arnesen  
Secretary: .....Carolyn Chase  
Newsletter Editor: .....Rick Luther  
Membership Chair Person..... Lowell Didas  
Pizza Box Chairman .....Blaine Holbrook



### Website:

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

### Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/groups/nutahnmra/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/nutahnmra/)



### Website:

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

### Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/NMRA.org](https://www.facebook.com/NMRA.org)

## NMRA Online sites



<https://nmra.zinioapps.com/shop>



<https://x.com/nmraonline>



[https://www.instagram.com/nmra\\_online/](https://www.instagram.com/nmra_online/)



<https://www.youtube.com/c/NMRAORGMModelRailroading>



<https://www.pinterest.com/nationalnmra/>

# Meeting Information

Utah's center for model railroading excellence!

Join us every third Saturday at the

**Stadler US Inc.**

**5880 W 150 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84104**

from 10:00 AM to Noon

