

PROMONTORY POST



Northern Utah Division

May 2026 - Volume 14 - Issue 5

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ATTENTION!



**There is no meeting for May!
The meeting has been canceled
for members to attend the
Regional Convention in South
Dakota. Check the clinic schedule
for more information about June's
meeting for the Tintic Mining trip.**

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

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.

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

Tintic Historical Society

Presented by Nick Castleton & Michael Alexander

Discussing the history of the Tintic mining region.

Clinic Schedule

September
19th

10:00 AM - NOON

Presentation

How to design and make a PC board

Presented by Michael Beck

October
17th

10:00 AM - NOON

Presentation

Photography for Backdrops

Presented by Mark Rindflesh

November
21st

10:00 AM - NOON

Presentation

Quick and easy methods for building terrain Part 1

Presented by Kevin Anderson MMR

Come learn three different techniques on how to build a mountain from carving foam to rolled up newspaper and cardboard as we build a diorama in HOn3 over a series of three clinics start to finish

December
19th

10:00 AM - NOON

Special Event

Annual Christmas Party

Presented by the Northern Utah Division





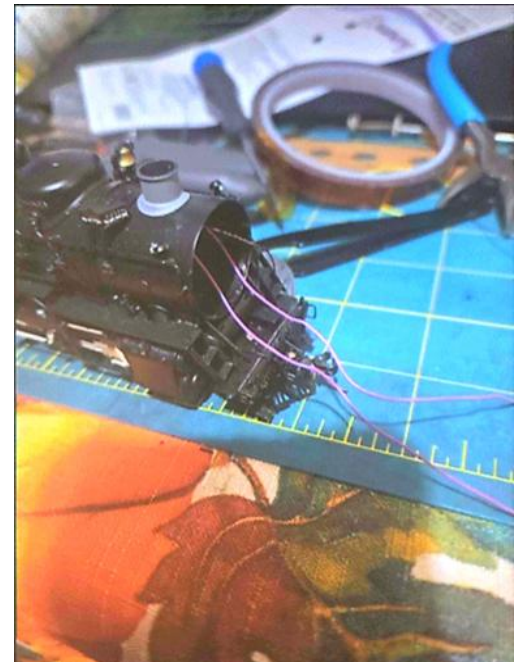
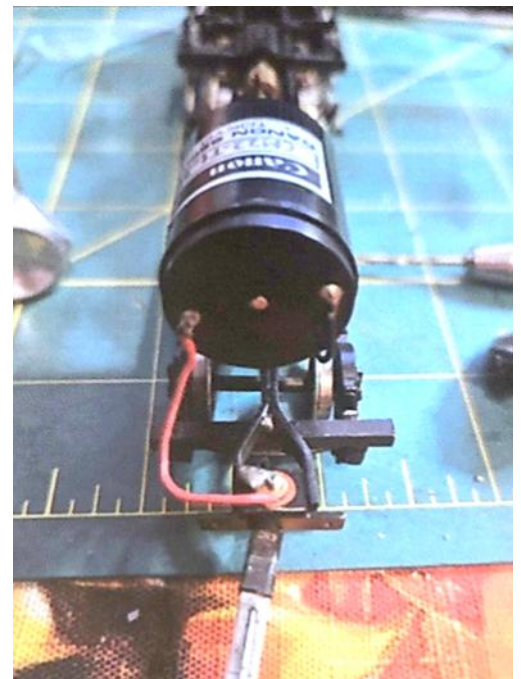
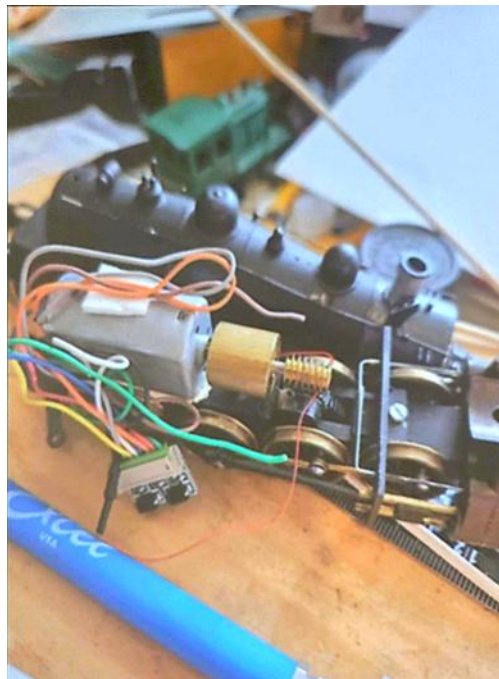
Event Highlights

Presentation

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

Presented by Jeremy Johnson

Installing DCC decoders in brass locomotives is challenging because the all-metal construction often requires isolating the motor and pickups to prevent shorts, and the tight interiors leave little room for wiring or components. Older motors may draw too much current for modern decoders, and the risk of damaging a costly brass model makes every step delicate. Jeremy did an excellent presentation on the ins and outs of working on brass locomotives.





Train of Thoughts

There's so much more to this hobby than just "building trains in your basement!" Sometimes your family will agree to enjoy it with you! As so many of you also did, we enjoyed seeing The Big Boy on the western leg of its historic coast-to-coast tour in celebration of America's 250th anniversary.



Last weekend was the end of the line for our Pizza Box Layouts (for now.) Blaine has decided to step down as the leader. It takes a dedicated person running the program and he no longer has the time or energy, or so he says. We have looked at several options to keep it going and as of yet do not have a solution. There is a summer break anyway so there is time to keep it going. If you have any thoughts let me know. The good news is that National has officially adopted it and there are multiple people across the country that Blaine has talked with to help them get their program up and running. Thanks, Blaine, for all your hard work!

Don't forget that this month we are not having our Division meeting so you can attend the Region Convention. I know many of our division members will be there. It looks like it will be a lot of fun! Next month in June we are having a day out in the Tintic Mining District as we are invited to an outing with the OT&W. Everyone is also invited to their next meeting, Thursday, May 21st at 7pm at the Hobby Stop in Orem (537 N 1200 W) to hear from the mayor and the Tintic Historical Society President, Mike Alexander. There are so many things we can be involved in and however we choose to enjoy this hobby we can enjoy the journey together!

Jim Wanlass, MMR #585

Superintendent

Northern Utah Division of the NMRA

jamestowntrains@gmail.com

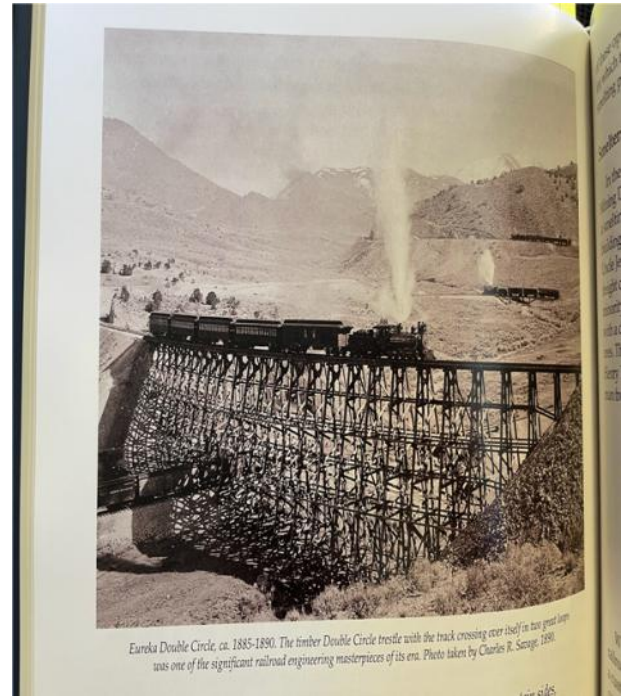


Notes from the O.T.&W.

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.



Eureka Double Circle, ca. 1885-1890. The timber Double Circle trestle with the track crossing over itself on two great loops was one of the significant railroad engineering masterpieces of its era. Photo taken by Charles R. Savage, 1890.



NMRA Pizza Box Layout

End of the Line (for now) for Pizza Box Layouts

Last Saturday, May 9, 2026, was the last Pizza Box Layout class for the foreseeable future. Due to personal reasons Blaine has stepped down from spearheading the program. It takes a lot of dedication and effort to run such a program. I dug through the past division newsletters to see if I could find when the program actually started. In 2016 we partnered with the Discovery Gateway Children's Museum and I saw an article referencing The Discovery Model Railway Club that was for the kids (and their families) to be able to build Pizza Box Layouts. So for basically ten years Blaine has been sharing his love of model railroading in a unique way. It will live on through national organizations. Walthers started a program based on it and NMRA National has adopted it for use at the Division level. I know there have been several who have been coached by Blaine on how to start the program in their area across the U.S. We have looked into several options for continuing the program here in our division but to no avail. If you have an idea on continuing it let me know.



After the last class there was a pizza party - did anyone save the boxes for a layout?!? - and some cake. Certificates of appreciation were handed out to volunteers who were there and Blaine and Geoff received nice plaques. Blaine was also presented with a book with pictures collected from over the years. We appreciate all he, and all the volunteers, have done over the years to promote model railroading!





Achievement Program

The last several weeks I made some major upgrades under the layout - the part most people will never see which is too bad because there is a lot going on "under the hood"!!! I will talk about it more next month including how I added JMRI using a Raspberry Pi and an Arduino for DCC-EX. We have a setup at Stadler May 30th and hopefully all goes well. I've been testing it at home every day.



Congratulations to Jerry for earning his first Merit Award in the Achievement Program on his journey toward MMR. The first one can be very daunting, not knowing the process and all it entails to get it done. I told him, as I do everyone, that it is a learning process. And yes, there is the paperwork to understand. We are here to help you. As Jerry, and others, have learned, we are a team to help you toward your MMR. You have to do the work but we are there to help encourage and guide you. Kevin, one of our "teammates," recently has had a cool experience helping out another division. I said he is on loan to them but they want to adopt him. Read what he has to say about enjoying the journey together in his "guest author" spot about his experience helping others in the Achievement Program. He has breathed new life into a dormant division!

Jim Wanlass, MMR #585

AP Chairman

Northern Utah Division of the NMRA

jamestowntrains@gmail.com

National Model Railroad Association, Inc.
Certificate of Achievement



Achievement Program

Report from the Colorado Western Division

By Kevin Anderson, MMR

In April I had the opportunity of visiting three outstanding layouts in the Colorado Western Division. While visiting I was able to assist in signing off on the Golden Spike Award for them. The first layout was built by Terry Berg. It's an HOn3 layout based on the DRGW. His layout is 11 x 14 in his home. Terry has also started on the journey to MMR



The second built by Tom Jones is the Wyoming and Western. This is in a room above a three car garage. The layout fills the room and even has a short leg that travels through the bathroom. He models the Union Pacific and CB&Q.



The third is The Alkali Flats and Western RR built by Wayne Kennedy. While visiting with Wayne, he handed me a throttle and we held an impromptu operating session. He uses switch lists that he generates using software called Ship It! The layout is in a room above his garage in a dog bone style with two return loops. One yard and each location with industries is a switching puzzle. Wayne has not only earned the Golden Spike Award but has now submitted for two AP certificates: Association Official and Association Volunteer.



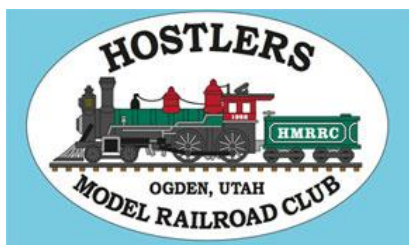
The Colorado Western Division has been stagnant in their overall activity the last several years and these visits have helped to reignite and jumpstart the division activity. I will be assisting them with the AP evaluations until they can take on the job in its entirety.

Layout visits are fun and a great way to get to know your fellow modelers. If you have a layout and would like a visit please contact Jim Wanlass who is our AP chair and set up an appointment.



Division News Items

UPCOMING TRAIN SHOWS



Model Railroad Estate Sale

Saturday, May 16th
Newgate Mall
West side next to Bath & Body Works
3651 Wall Avenue, Ogden, UT
<https://hostlers.info/index.html>



STADLER

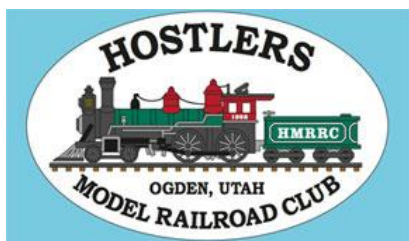
Open House and Train Show

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/>



28th Annual Evanston Roundhouse Festival

August 7th, 8th & 9th, 2026
Historic Roundhouse & Railyards
1440 South Main, Evanston, WY
<https://hostlers.info/index.html>



Pacific Southwest Region 2026 Convention

Presented by: The San Diego Division
September 9th to 13th, 2026
DoubleTree by Hilton San Diego-Mission Valley
7450 Hazard Center Drive, San Diego, CA
<https://www.sandiegodivision.org/index.php/convention-2026>



Southwest Idaho Train Show 2026

September 19th & 20th, 2026
O'Connor Field House
2207 Blaine Street Caldwell, Idaho 83605
<http://sites.google.com/view/caldwell-model-railroad-club/train-show?authuser=0>



PSR 2026 Convention

Presented by: The San Diego Division
September 9th to 13th, 2026

Convention Highlights

Events

- Welcome Reception at the famous San Diego Model Railroad Museum
- Hobo Auction – Swap Meet – Operations - Modular RRs - Contests – Bingo for
- Trains Membership Meeting - Awards Banquet – and more!

Prototype Tours

- *Working on New and Favorite Proto Tours*
- Pasha Car Transloading/Trolley Shops Pacific Southwest Railway Museum and more!

Clinics

- Lots of great clinics – New Topics – Hands on – Modeling with the Masters
- Special Guests via Zoom

Layout Tours

- See spectacular home & club layouts

Hotel

Stay at the beautiful Double Tree by Hilton San Diego Mission Valley Located in Mission Valley at the Junction of Highway 163 and Interstate 8 Next to the Trolley line, and close to restaurants and shopping

Visit our website at

<https://www.sandiegodivision.org/index.php/convention-2026>

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 ...

 VIEW READER COMMENTS

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

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



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. 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.gsafrc.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 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. Visit their website at <http://greatbasinlrc.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 303-919-4703 - N-VP Chris Cox, 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

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 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



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 CoordinatorKevin Anderson
Layout ToursBob Connolly
Division Librarian:.....Robert Arnesen
Secretary:Carolyn Chase
Newsletter Editor:Rick Luther
Membership Chair Person..... Lowell Didas
Pizza Box ChairmanBlaine Holbrook



Website:

www.northernutahnmra.org/

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/groups/nutahnmra/



Website:

www.nmra.org

Facebook:

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.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

