



THE LANTERN



FEBRUARY 2021 VOLUME 23 ISSUE 2

From the Superintendent

I hope you enjoyed the last meeting featuring operations and got something out of the presentation. I want to thank Bill Paulsell, Jeff Hedge, and Bob Belt for assisting me. We tried to present the various ways that you can do operations on your layout.

Operations are a fun thing and not really all that hard to accomplish. It is nice to see trains running around the layout, but operations add another dimension to owning a layout. I have participated in a number of operating sessions and I do not believe any two layout owners do operations exactly the same way.

Operations allow you to run trains with your friends, and everyone enjoys the social aspect. You do not need a computer to do operations on your layout; you can just take a pad of paper and make your own schedule for the trains. It can be simple or complicated and this choice is up to the owner of the layout. The main point is that you enjoy it, no matter how you do it.

The clinic on February 7 is on weathering without using an airbrush. Using an airbrush is a nice way to do weathering but not everyone has one and there are some really good weathering effects you can do without an airbrush. This clinic will show you techniques on how to accomplish this. Members have said that they would like to see this type of weathering and that is why I thought of Perry. (A link to a materials list is on page 4) Now is your chance to learn. And mine too. The clinician for this clinic is Perry Lamb who have done a number of clinics on subjects in modeling railroading, including weathering. You may have seen Perry and his videos on NMRAX along with other places, and you may have also seen the video of his layout, the "Utah, Colorado, and Western RR", which is one of the layouts featured on the Piedmont Pilgrimage sponsored by the SER Piedmont Division.

The clinic on March 7 has been changed. Next month we will have some of our members explain some of the basic skills we all need to learn in model railroading to have a successful layout. They will present solutions to a number of layout problems and procedures. Some of you may know how to do some of these things, but there are some who may not, and others may learn a new and better way to do the same thing.

I hope you are all keeping yourself and your family safe during these times. If you do get a chance to receive the vaccine (and I know a number of you like me are in the higher risk 1B group), I hope you will seriously consider the opportunity. Someday we will be all be back to fairly normal times again, have the chance to

see each other in person, and to be finally able to participate in activities together. But until that time, stay safe.

—Larry Smith

What CAD program would you recommend?

A member wanted to know the name of a good CAD program, so **Larry Smith** questioned the members. A number of you responded. The responses are below.

Responses from members

I've used Sketchup a lot, but they keep changing the licensing terms, and now I think you can only use the web version for free. I'm not sure I like the web version as well as the older versions.

I've heard some good reports about Tinkercad, especially in the context of modeling for 3D printing, but I haven't tried it for myself yet. It is Autodesk's successor to their 123D product, which I *have* used, and thought was pretty good (though I never got very skilled at it).

I know of a free CAD program that's pretty easy to use called Onshape. It's has similar controls to Solidworks, which is a program I sometimes use for engineering. I haven't played with the controls too much but it seemed like there were plenty of tutorials on the site. There is a premium version of it available. There's also an app. You can use the free version just by signing up for an account.

My experience with AutoCad by Autodesk goes back to pre 1980 at Norman Dryer and it is what I prefer, mostly because it is what I know and at this point can do it in my sleep. Unfortunately, AutoCad is very expensive which is why I am using an old version purchased a long time ago and working on an old PC laptop.

If that computer dies, which could be at any time, I plan to purchase a software called ProgeCAD. <https://www.progecad.us/download-progecad/> It uses the same command structure as AutoCad but is much less expensive at an estimated \$800. Still expensive but I use AutoCad almost daily for all kinds of things including business, hobby and "House Engineering". A nice thing about ProgeCAD is that a version is available for Mac users.

Another CAD software is Turbocad which is very reasonable at less than \$200. I don't know a lot about Turbocad because I never got around to learning it. I had it for a while but for me, it was like trying to learn a completely different language. Turbocad is also available for Mac users.

Turbocad and AutoCad softwares both have the ability to output files in different formats including generic versions that the other software can read. They can also output to print files that can be taken to other places like an office supply or UPS Store to be printed in larger sizes.

There are other CAD softwares out there including some geared for layout design. The layout design softwares may have some advantages over conventional CAD software in that they come with lots of extra goodies to help with track layouts, grades, structures etc. →

In Recognition...

Many thanks to folks listed in the column below. They have given their support for our club. We encourage all NMRA members to help with financial support to *The Lantern* and our website and the Division 10's activities. **Send your monetary contribution to our Treasurer.**

To be listed here your contribution needs to be at least \$20 in cash, or material valued at \$50, or a total of 20 hours time within the last year. Division 10 receives NO monetary support from the NMRA or the MidCentral Region. Div.10 is recognized by the US government as a 501c3 corporation and your cash or material donations may be tax deductible.

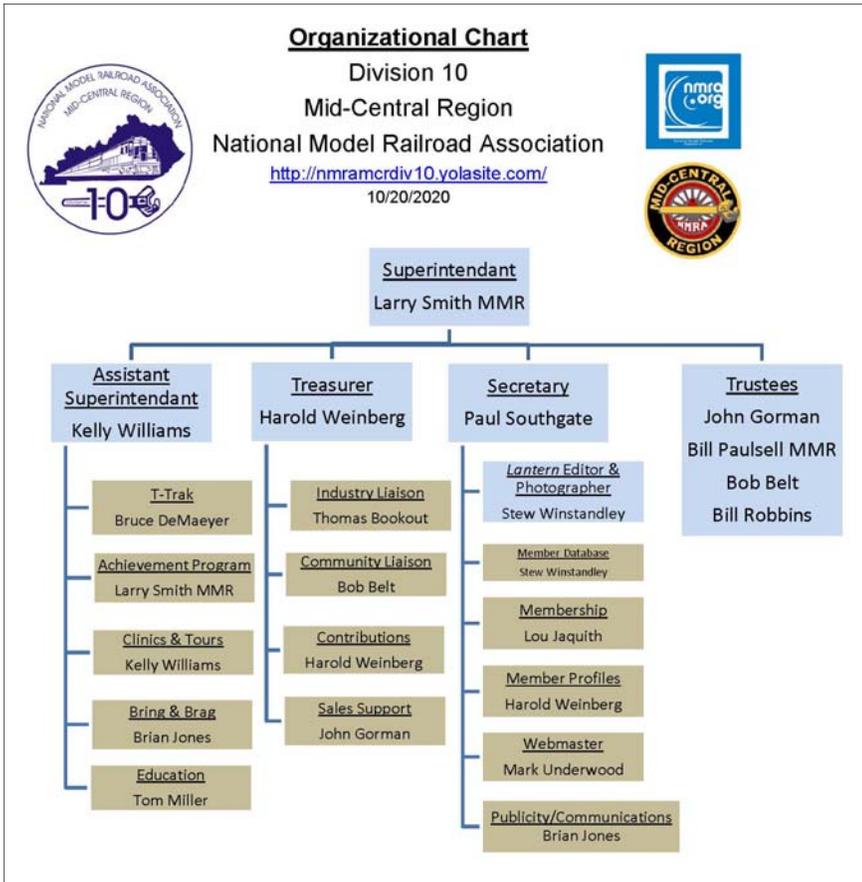
Report materials or time to Stew Winstandley. To the right of each contributing member's name is the month of his or her latest contribution. Whenever one makes a contribution of money, material, or time, his or her date will be updated, and for new contributors, their name will be added. Anyone making a contribution will be listed below for 12 months.

John Wilshire	10/20
Bill Parker	1/2020
Lou Jaquith	1/2021
Rich Murphy	1/2021
Fred Plymale—Slide Projector	
John Gorman—Contributions to T-Trak	
Harold Weinberg—Treasurer's Materials	



For the NMRA MC Region officers link to www.midcentral-region-nmra.org/bod2.html

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B. MEMBER AD RATES 1. Newsletter: Member rates will be at 20% of the commercial rates. Members that have a commercial business will pay the commercial rate. 2. PAYMENT Payment is by cash or check to the treasurer in advance. No credit/debit cards..

- Website** addresses are: 1) above at top of Organization Chart,
2) <https://www.facebook.com/NMRA.MCR.Div10/> and
3) <http://ttrak.wikidot.com/nmra-mcr-division-10-the-kentucky-division>

Division 10 Treasurer: Give or send your contribution to Harold Weinberg, 8 Lansdown Estates, Lexington, KY 40502-3322.

Santa Clara, California—The host committee of the 2021 national convention of National Model Railroad Association, Inc., NMRA 2021 Rails By The Bay, announced that it has canceled its convention that had been scheduled for the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel & Conference Center on July 4-11, 2021. A multi-day video virtual event probably starting July 6th—which will retain the name NMRA 2021 Rails By The Bay—is under development. The National Train Show, which is separately planned and operated, also is canceled.

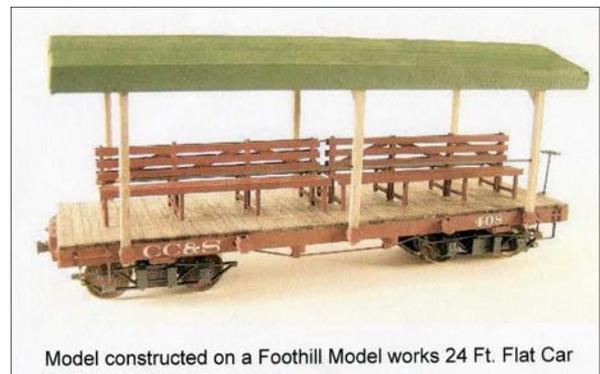
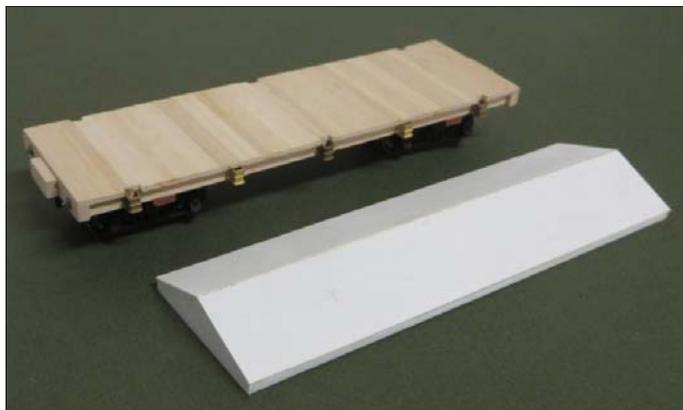
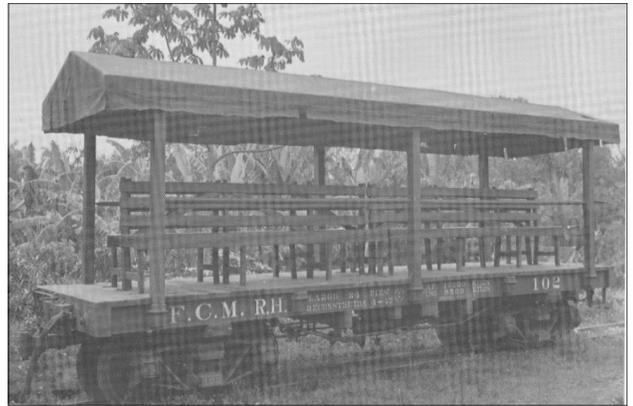
On30 Third Class Car Challenge – Suggestions Welcome

My ambitious project to model a prototype became sidelined by attempting too many locomotive and car projects all at once. Here is one of them which needs some suggestions to enable completion. It was the third-class car on a very scenic route. Perhaps it should have been first class! Prototype photo to the right.

I have completed the flat car portion (see below) except for the brake details and a styrene roof, but need suggestions on the benchwork, canvas roof and a drawing of the bench.

Someone did a one off model of the car, which was acquired by Foothill Model Works on their 24 ft. flat car. Foothill indicated they wanted to produce it but when I followed up they said the benchwork was a show stopper for them.

— Tom Krill (tomkrill@hotmail.com)



Model constructed on a Foothill Model works 24 Ft. Flat Car

Continued from page 1 3D printing software is geared to talk directly to 3D printers and is something I know little about but, a good friend of mine up in Illinois, after retiring, started SooParts for producing SOO Line related products for himself and others. <https://sooparts.tech/> He has been very prolific and at last count is running 7 printers around the clock.

I use XTRKCAD, an excellent FREE shareware product: <https://xtrackcad.groups.io/g/main>
Learning curve is not too steep. Libraries for most commercial track products. Good maillist support.

I have used AnyRail software. It has many features and a large track library. It is easy to learn if you already have basic computer skills. It has a free version that you can use as long as you want.

I used Anyrail which has a free version up to a certain amount of track. After that point there is a pay for play option at \$59.00 that seemed pretty reasonable. I love the program and would enjoy dusting off my skills to help anyone who needed a little guidance. Anyrail.com to learn more.

These are the ones I'm aware of, however; have not really used any to any degree. Found that I do a much better job drawing them myself. AnyRail 6, SCARM, XTrackCAD, & Atlas Track Planning Tool

My brother Bob, an engineer/business consultant, is using a program called Fusion 360. Non Commercial users can obtain a free limited license. It does 2D and 3D drawings. <https://www.autodesk.com/products/fusion-360/personal> Bingo is specific to RR applications.

Train Car Tutorial in Fusion 360 for OS-Railway by Depronized - Thingiverse; design your own train car in Fusion 360 for 3D-printing.

If you are interested in track planning software, I used RR-Track 5.0 to design my layout and switching module. Worked very well, but not free.

I forgot to mention another CAD software which is recommended by another engineer from Tridelta. He felt it was the best bang for the buck, perpetual license, online tutorials, \$200. Punch! ViaCAD 2D/3D v12 (punchcad.com)

Thanks for all the replies and hope it helps someone get started in CAD.

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NEWSLETTER FOR NMRA MCR DIVISION 10

210 BRANNON RD.
NICHOLASVILLE, KY 40356-9711
nmramcrdiv10.yolasite.com



Here is a link to a materials list used in a previous weathering demonstration by Perry Lamb- <https://convention.nmra.org.uk/perry-lamb-hands-on-weathering/>

FEB. 7, 1:30

ONLINE ZOOM MEETING

MONTHLY MODELING

LANDSCAPED 36 SQUARE INCH
DIORAMA WITH A FIGURE,
EMAIL PHOTOS TO BOB BELT'S
GMAIL

MEETING AGENDA

WEATHERING WITHOUT AN AIR
BRUSH, PERRY LAMB

TOUR

NONE



Photo above from www.micro-trains.com

AROUND THE BEND

MON.	DAY	HOST	PLACE	EVENT / PROGRAM	TOURS	MONTHLY MODELING
Feb.	7	Div. 10	Zoom online	Weathering without an air brush, Perry Lamb	None	Landscaped 36 square inch diorama with a scale figure
March	7	Div. 10	Zoom online	Model Railroading Basics, Panel Discussion		Weathered Box Car or Stock Car
April	11	Div. 10	Zoom online, 2nd Sunday	Building My Layout, Rich Murphy		T-Trak module or a 1 square foot diorama
May	2	Div. 10	Zoom online	Building a Structure, start to finish, Bill Paulsell		Detailed Track Right of Way. 100+- scale feet
June	6	Div. 10	Zoom online	Beginning Operations, Bob Frankrone		Scratch Built Structure

<https://zoom.us/download> - The web browser client for Zoom meetings will download automatically when you start or join your first Zoom meeting. Whether you are doing a Zoom for the first time or have done it before, use the link (web address) that will be emailed to you the middle of the first week of February.