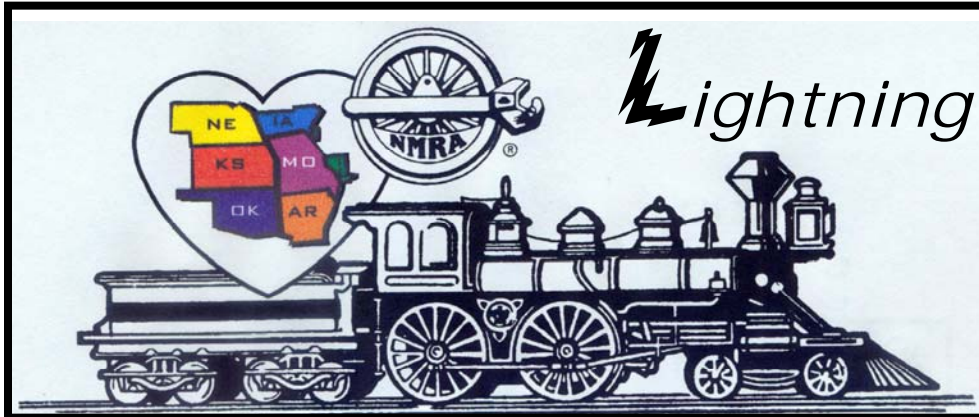


# Turkey Creek Division



*Lightning Slinger*

VOL 23 NO. 3

"For all gauges and all ages"

March 2009

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE TURKEY CREEK DIVISION  
OF THE MID-CONTINENT REGION, NMRA

## Turkey Creek Division Meeting

**March 24, 2009**  
**Clinic**

**Photos from the U.P. ...1952 to 1995**  
**My Career as an Engineer**  
**By George Prock**

**Meeting will be held at the**  
**Oak Park Library**  
**9500 Bluejacket**  
**Overland Park, Ks 66214**



## ***From THE SUPER'S DESK....***

Hello everyone!

We had a very good turnout for the February meeting and we had two good clinics. Sarah Wood-Clark brought up some very good points about preserving documents which we all tend to save. Bob McBean did a good job of describing the pros and cons of his layout construction, track alignment issues, especially as they affect long passenger cars, and uncoupling issues he has encountered due to the long radiuses with minimal straight segments. Bob has worked hard to build a layout of his dreams. Benchwork near complete, he will be into scenery very soon! Maybe Bob will agree to be on tour in August.

An interesting idea was presented to the group by Jim Ballinger from the Lawrence Model Railroad Club. They have a design challenge! They will provide (free) 3 volt small motors to anyone that will incorporate the motor into a model or diorama to animate something. Then submit the model next year, at their club challenge in 2010. If you are interested, contact Jim Ballinger (e-mail: [jimbmodels@yahoo.com](mailto:jimbmodels@yahoo.com)) or myself (e-mail: [ldiehl@aci-boland.com](mailto:ldiehl@aci-boland.com), or home phone 913-441-1605).

The August Turkey Creek meet is now in our sights. We still need 3 volunteers. Please consider helping. It takes all of us. It is not as much work as you might think.

Sadly, I received notice from the family of Milford Wearly "Frenchie" Gratts Jr. of Ozark, Missouri, that he had passed away February 15, 2009. Mr. Gratts was an architect, retired in 1974, started a model kit manufacturing business "Built-Rite Models", making excellent craftsman type wood building kits. Do not know if his wife plans to continue the business.

Our March meeting place is to be at the Oak Park Public Library. The remainder of the year is committed for 60<sup>th</sup> & Lamar.

Our clinic schedule is shaping up nicely for the year, with clinics anticipated from Jack Ferris, George Prock, Stephen Priest, Brad Morneau, Bob Jefferies, hopefully Ron Morse, and a "Make and Take" by Fran and Miles Hale. We need a few more clinicians. If you have a possible clinic idea, please call me. If you need help to get a slide show together, I might be able to help. Call and discuss with me.

I continue to look forward to the regional meet in Wichita, our design challenge in June and the August meet. 2009 looks to be a very fun year for model railroading, in spite of the economic turmoil. Just have confidence and aim your attitude in a positive direction. A few projects are starting to see daylight in my business world!

Sincerely,

*Larry W. Diehl*



# Turkey Creek Division Meeting Minutes for February 24, 2009

Larry Diehl call the meeting to order at 7pm. There were 30 members at the meeting and three visitors: Kent Hurley, Ralph Billie, and Sara Wood-Clark.

Jack Boren gave a short treasurer's report. There had only been one check written which was for the use of the meeting room at the NE Offices.

Louis did an update on the camera. There will be a meeting in the next month with the camera committee.

Jim Ballinger from the Lawrence Model RR Club brought up an idea for a design challenge. They would supply a three volt motor to incorporate into a model or diorama to animate it.

Larry brought up the fund raiser for Tom Stolte on selling decals for the group at a cost of \$4.00 each. The idea was presented to the group and was discussed and defeated.

The Turkey Creek Division had a table at the Lawrence train show the weekend of February 21<sup>st</sup>. Jacqueline and Jim Gameson and Andrew Luchen volunteered to man the table at the show.

Larry discussed that we needed clinics for upcoming meetings. Here is the list for the upcoming clinics.

March	George Prock	On the UP
April	Bob Jefferies	On the Strang Line
	Steve Priest MMR	Tips on writing articles
May	Open	
June		Model Challenge Contest
July	Ron Morse MMR	The Morse Timberline Company
August		Turkey Creek Division Train Show
September	Brad Morneau	Scratch Building a Turnout
October	Jack Farris	Freight Car Brake Details
November	Fran & Miles Hale	Make and Take
December		Christmas Party

The clinics began with Sara Wood-Clark on how to preserve documents. It was very enjoyable. Information on this clinic is in this issue of the LS. Then next clinic was put on by Bob McBean on Pros and Cons of building his layout. It was a very interesting clinic that gave a lot of the member's things to think about when building their next layout.

Respectively Submitted  
Louis Seibel  
Clerk

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<http://www.tc-nmra.org>  
Turkey Creek Division  
IS A 501(C) (3)  
ORGANIZATION



# LESSONS FROM BUILDING MY LAYOUT

Bob McBean  
Feb 24, 2009

## GENERAL OBJECTIVES AND CONSTRAINTS OF LAYOUT

- CPR (grandfather worked on CPR in Alberta), but also some CNR (Vancouver has both and also GN, BC Rail, and Rocky Mountaineer)
- Freelance but with city and mountains typical of Vancouver (Gastown) and Cascade Mountains
- Both freight and 85-ft passenger cars, lots of track on 24" to 30" radii
- 1950's transition period
- Space available limits to 3 or 4 operators. Room is about 15 ft x 20 ft. Layout is 12 ft x 15 ft with a 6-ft staging on one end of the U-shaped layout
- No permanent changes to the basement space walls or ceiling; no sheetrock sanding, but sheetrock under wall wood paneling
- 18" spacing on sides, end to be 18" until the layout can be shifted close to the wall when scenery has been completed at the end of the layout and the hanging backdrop has been painted
- Access under the mountains to be available from under the layout in case of derailments
- Digitrax DCC since SME Club uses, have Super Chief set with DCS100, 1 DT400, 2 UT4, 3 AR1, 6 UP5
- Most engines have sound (ESU Loksound, Soundtraxx installed by Ray Uhlich)
- Toggle-switch Tortoise operators on 47 turnouts, with LED's
- Kadee or equivalent magnetic couplers with 28 under-track magnetic uncouplers (Kadee #308) Hidden track so trains can back into the staging area without hand-carrying

## LAYOUT PLANNING

Read, studied other plans, sketched ideas for 2-3 years considering space available and desired industries and buildings

Developed layout on one sheet 8-1/2"x11" sheet, then drew on two 11"x17" sheets taped together with 1/4" = 1'-0" scale. This was very close to as-built. Used turnout template, checked where hard to reach over 30" radius

Taped many old 24"x36" drawings (back side up) together for staging, city and mountain areas at full scale. (Could have used 36" wide paper rolls, but had drawings)

Drew 1-ft square grid on the full-scale drawings to sketch the layout from the 11"x17" sheets

Used yardstick as beam compass, with pencil in hole at 1" mark, and push pins at other marks to draw curves to scale, such as 30" radius. This worked but was cumbersome on my curvy layout. Found

SME Club member had templates so used those readily on the other half of the layout – much faster!

Used PECO turnout paper layouts to draw them to scale (47 turnouts)

Laid out buildings, water, bridges as well as rails to scale. Used Walther's dimensions for buildings, had not purchased most kits at the time (e.g., barge pier, sawmill, both of which are on piling)

Most importantly, the full-scale drawings, showing all turnouts and water areas, provided the basis for locating 1x4 framing and sizing the modules so would not later have space problems under the layout.

## BENCHWORK AND PLYWOOD ROADBED

- Wanted to be able to move the layout if necessary. Used modules A through H, tested to get around corner at top of stairs (may have a problem with modules E and G if build mountains too high)

- All wiring, turnouts, etc., are labeled numerically but start with the module letter, e.g., Turnout B12. The labeling is not used in operation but is invaluable in tracing wires, and is used extensively in Excel spreadsheets for power wiring and turnout wiring.

- L- and Z-girders with 1x4 framing atop. Cross 1x4's bolted together at end of each module. All framing is glued and screwed, but plywood is just screwed. Installation of Tortoise switches would have been simplified if used 1x6 framing, as described later

- Lower surface of plywood painted white to seal surface and to provide a writing and reflecting surface before screwing to 1x4 framing.

- Drew grid on plywood to correspond to the paper layout, and in mountain area drew points on the 1x4 cross-members to facilitate layout of the elevated track.

- Upper surface coated with polyurethane to seal – over the sketched layout so it cannot be accidentally erased.

- Track roadbed cut on module ends, again to facilitate moving the modules

- 1/2" exterior grade plywood atop 1x4 frames, "cookie cutter" at start of mountain climbs for smooth transition

- All wiring run above girders except at terminal blocks at turnout control panels to facilitate moving the modules

- Grades generally no more than 2% except in one area where had to clear other track in mountains. This had to be carefully done, and access to all track provided, including in tunnels

- Difficulty in getting smooth vertical curves – important for 85-ft passenger cars which will uncouple if not on a smooth curve. Had to move vertical supports at several locations, sometimes two or three times.

- Cut out for water areas in plywood with saber saw, used cut sections as the base of the water surface. Made too low in harbor and had to raise 3/4" using 1x2's on the flat to raise the water base to fit the piling height of sawmill and pier.



Humidity changes have caused bending to plywood at ocean end of the city and in the far corner crossing a creek. Should have provided more reinforcing of the cantilever areas of plywood.

## TRACK LAYOUT

- All Code 83 Atlas, PECO #5 and #6 “insulfrog” turnouts
  - Wanted a lot of track, but small space so very little straight track – a problem at the Union Station where usually cannot magnetically uncouple the 85-ft passenger cars. Also don’t have a realistic yard for switching (not an objective on my layout), although have many sidings to industries.
  - Used 24” or more radius except on logging track, many 30” or more radii, no easements except as “eye-balled”.
  - Cork is used as a roadbed, fixed to the plywood with 50/50 mix of white glue and water. I have moved some of the track and added bridges, and the cork comes up with a putty knife. The rail is attached with clipped track nails so it can be moved if needed. Generally, turnouts are not nailed except where turnouts are joined to other turnouts.
  - With 2-10-2 steam engines which are very rigid, still have trouble at some turnouts (although manufacturers say 18” radius can be handled). Problem seems to be at frog with driver wheel contacting both sides of frog. Still working on this issue. (No problem with other engines.)
  - At the double-track plate girder bridge the curve is tight for the 85-ft passenger cars but it does work, after careful fitting.
  - Will not proceed with scenery until have reliable track everywhere.
- Masonite strips on open curves to catch any derailed engines or cars, strips will be hidden by scenery later.

## POWER WIRING

- Used Red and Black 14 AWG solid wire (not stranded, to make connections easier although wires aren’t flexible) from terminal block to terminal block to facilitate wiring and possible movement of modules, all well-labeled and listed in an Excel spreadsheet so it is simple to track any wiring. As noted above, all power wiring passes through the 1x4 framing, no wiring is below that framing.
- Power feeds are 18 AWG using suitcase connectors to the 14 AWG main power wiring.
- Eliminating shorts was a problem until a few Red to Black connections were reversed in the confusing mountain curves
- Had three reversing “loops” controlled by AR1’s, each as long as the longest train to use that track segment. Must be sure no power drops are added in the reversing section because that would defeat the purpose of the AR1. One of my shorts was caused by inadvertently doing that.
- Wiring of control panels from terminal blocks to LED’s and toggles switches with 20 AWG and 22 AWG

Now have no electrical issues, power or turnouts.

## TURNOUTS

- Developed a wiring schematic that worked perfectly. Used many terminal blocks feeding power to the 47 Tortoises as required. All points are labeled.
  - Edge connectors used on all Tortoises, only using contacts 1 and 8. Depth of Tortoise and edge connector combination caused difficult installation where needed above an L-girder or Z-girder; had to creatively cut framing as I did or use an extension on the Tortoise (which I avoided)
  - If the LED’s had wiring reversed on the control panels (which will occur!) then it is simple to slide the edge connector off the Tortoise, turn it around, and slide it on again.
- All wiring, including from terminal blocks to terminal blocks and from terminal blocks to Tortoise edge connectors is listed in an Excel spreadsheet for easy tracking.

## CONTROL PANELS

- Decided to have three control panels with Green and Red LED’s that indicate usable track.
  - Panels are ¼” masonite sheets, painted white on inside with track layout shown by black marker including turnout identification; green on front, with white striping tape to show the track on front, a toggle switch at each turnout location with the LED’s near the toggle switch. A clear Lucite sheet is held clear of the LED’s and protects the surface from scratching and dirt.
  - Each panel is hinged at the bottom and held in position by a magnet at each upper corner.
  - All turnout wiring goes from terminal blocks on the 1x6 girders to the switches and LED’s on the inside face of the control panel.
  - All connections by soldering to track or by wrapping wire around screws in terminal blocks. Spades were not used. Maximum three 22 AWG wires can be wrapped to screw on a terminal block.
  - Each control panel was laid out on paper first, to allow space for the switches and LED’s and as simple a layout as possible, a tricky situation for the mountain areas.
- A train starting in the Calgary yard (staging area) must be controlled from that control panel. Once out of that yard any train can be controlled from the area where the other two control panels are located. Although trains will often be in tunnels, some familiarity with the control panel permits simple running of the train without looking at any of the turnouts, only following the green LED’s.

## INVENTORY OF MATERIALS

- It is important to me to keep track of all materials used on the layout – benchwork, track, turnouts, engines, freight and passenger cars, vehicles, figures, wiring, etc. This is done in an Excel spreadsheet so all costs are known. This listing can be taken to train shows to check what I have and what I need.
- Data include Manufacturer, Walther’s #, Description,





Quantity, Walthers' price, my cost, where bought, when bought, and miscellaneous information.

## NEXT STEPS

- Install bridges and trestles, modifying the waterway widths as needed
  - Finalize a reliable track system
  - Weather the track
  - Complete the buildings and other structures
- Build the scenery

## SOURCES OF SOME MATERIALS

### LESSONS FROM BUILDING MY LAYOUT

Item	Specifications	Source	Date Purchased	Cost
Toggle Switches	SPDT	JameCo	12/05	50 @ \$1.03 each
LED's	Red/Green T-1-3/4 With mounting system	JameCo	12/05	100 @ \$0.36 each
Terminal Blocks	2-pole, 3-pole, 4-pole, 5-pole and jumpers	McMaster Carr	12/05	Varies
Power Mains	14 AWG Red & Black	McMaster Carr	12/05	100 ft for \$9.27
Power Drops	18 AWG Red, Black	McMaster Carr	12/05	100 ft for \$9.27
Some Turn-out Wiring	18 AWG Yellow, Blue, White	McMaster Carr	12/05	100 ft for \$9.27
Turnout Wiring in Panels	20 AWG Green, Orange	McMaster Carr	12/05	100 ft for \$7.72
Turnout Wiring in Panels	22 AWG Red, Black, Green	Radio Shack	5/06	
Edge Connectors for Tortoises	10 terminals (only use 1 and 8)	Mouser	12/05	50 @ \$1.50
Suitcase Connectors for Power Wiring	For 14/18-22 AWG	Mouser	12/05	50 @ \$0.20
Lumber	1x6, 1x4, plywood	Home Depot	Various	Various

Bob McBean

Bob McBean is building a freelanced HO layout during the transition era featuring Canadian Pacific Railway in the region of Vancouver and the Fraser Canyon of BC, with freight and 85-ft passenger cars. The track layout is complex, especially in the mountains. The layout uses DCC, sound, all Tortoise turnout operators, and under-track uncouplers. He will discuss the layout planning, bench work, track wiring, control panels, and lessons learned in building his first layout.

## Last month clinic information on "How to Care for Paper Artifacts"

Sarah Wood-Clark  
Registrar  
Union Station Kansas City, Inc

My talk is geared toward individual collectors to encourage long-term preservation of their paper-based collections including documents, photographs, books and booklets, photo albums and scrapbooks. Subjects covered included handling, storage, and environmental conditions, treatment of insect infestations and mold, and home display.

<http://www.nedcc.org/resources/leaflets/5Photographs/04InkjetPrints.php> This is the one about preservation-quality inkjet prints

<http://cool-palimpsest.stanford.edu/byorg/abbey/an/an24/an24-2/an24-204.html> This is the one about making phase boxes for books

## Helpful Websites

Conservation Online:

<http://palimpsest.stanford.edu>

Image Permanence Institute:

[www.archivaladvisor.com](http://www.archivaladvisor.com)

Library of Congress: [www.loc.gov/preserv](http://www.loc.gov/preserv)

National Park Service:

[www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications](http://www.nps.gov/history/museum/publications)

Northeast Document Conservation Center:

[www.nedcc.org/resources/leaflets.introduction.php](http://www.nedcc.org/resources/leaflets.introduction.php)

## Helpful Books

Bachmann, Kostanze, ed. **Conservation Concerns: A Guide for Collectors and Curators.** (Washington and London: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992).

Reilly, James M. **Care and Identification of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Photographic Prints.** (Eastman Kodak Company, 1986).

## Suppliers

Gaylord Brothers: [www.gaylord.com](http://www.gaylord.com)

Hollinger/Metal Edge: [www.hollingercorp.com](http://www.hollingercorp.com)

Light Impressions:

[www.lightimpressionsdirect.com](http://www.lightimpressionsdirect.com)

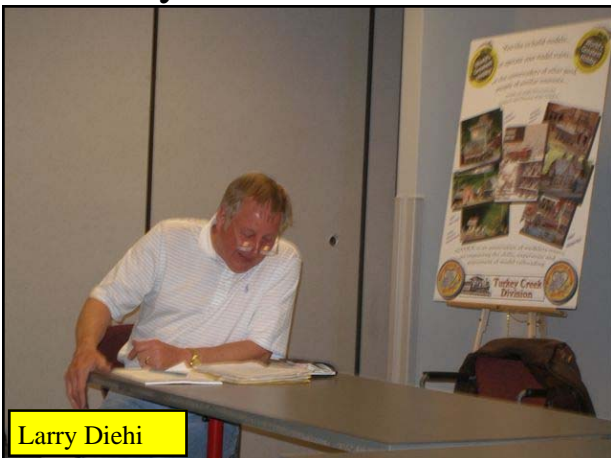
University

Products:

[www.universityproducts.com](http://www.universityproducts.com)



## Turkey Creek Meeting February 2009



Larry Diehi



Sarah Wood-Clark



Jim Balinger



Robert McBean



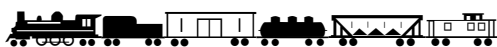
## 2009 Turkey Creek Division Modeling Challenge by Rusty Rails

Here we go again! For the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual TCD Modeling Challenge, the theme continues, as it was last year, to be opened up to the max! Again this year, you may build and enter anything, yes....that's anything. The only requirement is that it must fit through the meeting room door! This is the theme voted on by the members attending the modeling challenge meeting last summer.

So, what exactly does this mean for each of you? What it means is that you will not have any excuse whatsoever for not participating in the event. Let me emphasize here that the Modeling Challenge program was conceived to encourage everyone to participate in the enjoyment of building and displaying railroad models!! Please don't feel overwhelmed, intimidated, or ..... that you don't have time to join in. It is hoped that by participating you will feel a sense of "inclusion", that of being "one of the group."

You may ask yourself, what sort of model could I enter? First, let me make this clarification.....entries need not be constructed especially for this event. If you have something that you built in the past, please consider entering it. Or, if there is a new project that you have been thinking about starting, now is a good time. You could limit your entry to a single car or locomotive..... remember any scale or gauge is acceptable, from Z to live steam. You could also consider entering your favorite entire train. Alternatively, you could focus on structures and enter a single structure or a full scene with several buildings. Remember, there is no limit! You might want to build a large or small display or diorama, with basic details or highly detailed. Whichever, this could be an opportunity to build a component of your home layout....to be incorporated into the layout at a later date. Several of the past entries have been used in this way, to a great benefit of the modeler. Possibly, the ultimate entry could be an entire operating layout (albeit, somewhat small.....remember, it has to fit through the door)! This is intended to be a fun filled event, with the entry possibilities only limited by your imagination, creativity, and enthusiasm to participate.

The judging will be by popular vote, so crowd appeal will be important. The event will take place at our June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, so you have almost four months to prepare your entry. As in the past, there will be three places plus honorable mentions awarded for this challenge, plus awards for the "Most Creative" and the "Most Whimsical" entries. But, again, I want to emphasize that the participation is the important aspect of this program. So, if you're interested in being involved, start thinking about your model entry now. There is plenty of time, but don't put it off. This will be another fun event!





Just wanted to share with everyone what the  
**Indian Nations Division** has been up to.

We have put together a Layout Design and Operations weekend in September.

We have a link off our web page going to the meet web page, we will be updating with layout information for both operations and for the open houses. We are also working on a deal to get a block of rooms at a hotel, that info will also be posted on the web page.

<http://tulsanmra.org/>

Direct link to the meet web page:

<http://ldopsigmeet.tulsanmra.org/>

Check back often as we will be adding information on the web page.

Friday evening we will be hosting operating sessions on our layouts, you must register and sign up to be included and we are giving preference to out of towners over local operators as they can operate here any time. We are doing it by first come first server by preference. We are trying to do our best that everyone that wants to operate gets to operate at least once during the weekend, it will all depending on the number of individuals wanting to operate . If there is a lot of interest the slots may get filled up, if the interest to operate isn't great then there will be opportunities to operate during both sessions. We want to accommodate as many as we can. We have been discussing that even though we are having op sessions on our layouts Friday and Sunday, if a person who drove to town isn't included in one of those session they are more than welcome to visit the layouts during the op session as long as they respect those that are operating.

Saturday there will be 7 presentations, 4 in the morning (each person will have their choice of 2 as there will be 2 presentations going on at the same time) then we will go into Birds of a Feather groups (discussion groups) that will then lead into lunch. After lunch we will only be using the large meeting room and have 3 outstanding presenters coming to town, Keith Jordan, Paul J. Dolkos and Marty McGuirk. We'll end the presentations portion of the day with a panel with our presenters. We will also have tables set out so that people can display track plans, mock-ups or photo's, be a great opportunity to get some feedback of even some assistance on your project. After grabbing a bite to eat we will have layout open houses so that people can get out and see some of the layouts in the Tulsa area.

Sunday morning we will be hosting operating sessions on our layouts, you must sign up to be included and we are giving preference to out of towners over local operators again.

Due to us using the library our meeting room only holds 200 so we have to limit it to the first 200 entries, register early to secure a seat.

If you could please pass this information on to other members in the region.

We hope that you all can make it down here, it will be a fun weekend.

Thanks,

Dave Salamon  
Superintendent - Indian Nations Division

N Scale - Deep River Southern  
[www.picturetrail.com/salamon](http://www.picturetrail.com/salamon)

## Water Garden's Display at the Johnson County Show



### Frenchie Gratts

Milford Wearly "Frenchie" Gratts, Jr., age 85, of Ozark, Missouri, passed away Sunday, February 15, 2009. He was born July 2, 1923 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the son of Milford W. Gratts, Sr. and Nelle (Campbell) Gratts. He served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II as an airplane pilot. As an Architect Mr. Gratts owned and operated his own business retiring in 1974. He enjoyed model railroading and sailing. He was also an artist. Survivors include: His wife of Beryl Gratts; a daughter, Karen E. Schoonover, Springfield, Missouri; two sons, Robert Gratts and Gary M. Gratts, both of Ozark; four grandchildren, Nicholas S. Schoonover, Christopher B. Schoonover, Tyler C. Gratts, and Kayla M. Gratts; and a sister, Doris G. Huddleston, Ocala, Florida. He was preceded in death by his parents, and a sister, Margaret G. Dehaven. Cremation was under the direction of Adams Funeral Home, Ozark. A memorial service will be 11:00 AM Friday, February 20, in Missouri Veterans Cemetery, Springfield, Missouri. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. John's Hospice for Patient Needs Only, 1378 E. Republic Road, Springfield, MO 65804.







# Layout Design and Operations Weekend 2009

September 25, 26 & 27

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Presented by the Indian Nations Division of the NMRA

In conjunction with the LDSIG and OPSIG

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## Workshop Presentations

**Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am-4:30pm**

- Paul J. Dolkos – Designing Baltimore's Fell Street District.
- Marty McGuirk – Designing the Central Vermont
- Keith Jordan – Designing Los Angeles' "The Patch"
- Several others are in the works.....

- ✓ Also, Birds of a Feather (discussion groups)
  - ✓ Bring your trackplans, photos, display boards and mockups to share with everyone, great place to solicit feedback on your layout!
  - ✓ Panel discussion
  - ✓ Conclude the day with layout open houses from 6pm to 10pm
- 

## Local layout operating sessions:

**Friday September 25<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-10pm**

**Sunday morning September 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 1pm**

(Out of town and first time operators get preference,  
register early to secure a spot on one of the layouts!)

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**Registration will be limited to 200. Don't miss out!**

(Registration form located on back)

**Location:**

**Hardesty Library**

**8316 E. 93rd St.**

(Just East of Memorial on 93rd St.)

**Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133**

Visit our web page for additional and updated information; follow the link to the meet at: [www.tulsanmra.org](http://www.tulsanmra.org)

***We look forward to seeing you in Tulsa!***





# Back on track

[Comments 0](#) | [Recommend 6](#)

## Boxcar from nearly forgotten rail line gets new lease on life

January 31, 2009 - 8:31 PM

[Sarah Nail](#)

The Sedalia Democrat

Those passing down state Route V could hardly see what lay beneath — a boxcar, a remnant of a nearly forgotten narrow-gauge rail line from Sedalia to Warsaw.

Nearly four years ago, Don Bockelman, 45, began uncovering the boxcar, which was once used as a ticket booth. That's when Car No. 581 received a new life.

"I hated to tear it down because it's been here all of my life, all of their lives," he said of the boxcar that sits on his parents' property near Springfork Lake.

The boxcar served as a ticket office for the Springfork stop on the Sedalia, Warsaw & Southern Railroad. The line was built in 1880, and was purchased by Missouri Pacific in 1881. It was standard-gauged in 1902, and became known as the Warsaw Branch.

Bockelman worked on the car every night after work. He had to remove the weeds and vines that had taken over the structure. The termite-infested car had started to sag, after sitting abandoned for about 60 years. Bockelman removed the weeds and jacked up the frame. The roof and rafters were about all that were salvageable.

"I wish I could have saved more," Bockelman said.

All the rafters are original, except for one on an end that had rotted and had to be replaced. Bockelman found a walnut log on a nearby creek and used the old rafter as a template to create a replacement.

Dates were stamped into the wood, marking significant happenings: a new roof in 1899, and a roof replacement April 28, 1896.

During the course of the restoration, Bockelman met Ken Bird, of Lincoln. Bird is finishing a manuscript about the rail line, and he found Bockelman while doing research. The two became fast friends over their shared love of the railroad.

"This thing almost disappeared," Bird said of the boxcar.

The railroad had two trains a day, one passenger and one freight. Farmers used the line to ship cattle, lumber, grain and other merchandise. It cost passengers less than a dollar to ride to Sedalia, but the trip took four or five hours.

"It was very important to Benton County and Sedalia at the time, because it opened up a lot of merchandise traffic," Bird said.

The last train on the railroad ran Aug. 31, 1946. Photographs and a map of the railroad, most assembled by Bird, hang inside the bare boxcar. Also inside is an old whistle post from just north of Mora, and wood-burning stove.

Originally, the boxcar had a ticket window and a small door.

"It's not finished yet. ... I'd like to get it back to what it looked like in here originally," Bockelman said.

So far, the Bockelmans have been unable to find any photographs of the boxcar. Bockelman is using his parents' memories to finish the inside, which will include wainscoting.

Bockelman's parents, Don and Mabel, have lived on the property for nearly 55 years. Mabel Bockelman

remembers riding the train with her grandmother into Sedalia to shop. Her grandfather would fetch them once the shopping was done.

"You didn't think much more about getting on a train than you'd think about getting in any other vehicle today," she said.

The boxcar is just about the only physical remains of the railroad on the Bockelman property although each of the Bockelmans can stand and point to where their memory tells them other landmarks were: A cattle stockyard stood to the southeast. A big store, where farmers picked up mail and bought groceries, was to the west of the ticket office. Near the store was a scale to weigh grain trucks.

Back then, Springfork was a busy little town.

The line went from Sedalia to Valda, Springfork, Mora, Cole Camp, Tahoma, Lincoln, Schuyler and Warsaw.

"It was a narrow-gauge railroad, so it had lots of curves," Bird said.

The elder Bockelman grew up in Mora. He has memories of the train crew stopping to pick blackberries there.

"They didn't get in any hurry," he said.

Bringing the boxcar back to life has become a family affair. Bockelman's parents helped when they could, and his daughter, Andrea, spent many hours painting.

"I'm proud of him," Mabel said. "I'm glad he restored it."

There are very few artifacts left from the Sedalia, Warsaw & Southern Railroad. Bird was able to find a few station signs owned by individuals and an occasional railroad spike. He applauds Bockelman for the boxcar restoration.

"There's people who write about history, and people who do history," Bird said. "(Bockelman's) a doer."





## BREAKING NEWS! Walthers to Offer Complete Lionel Line

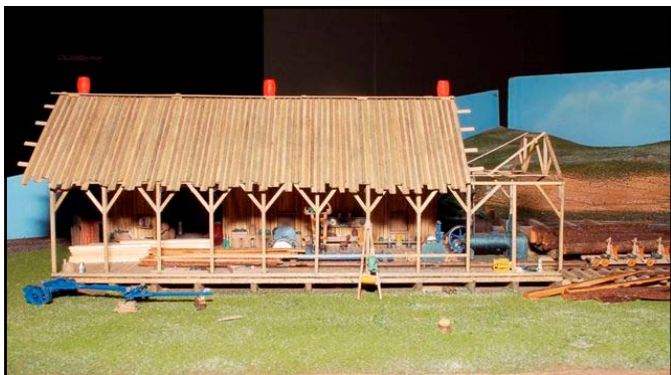
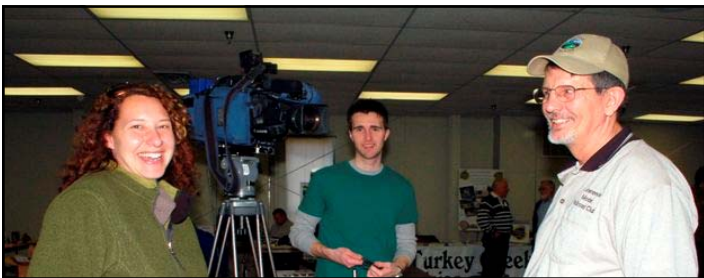
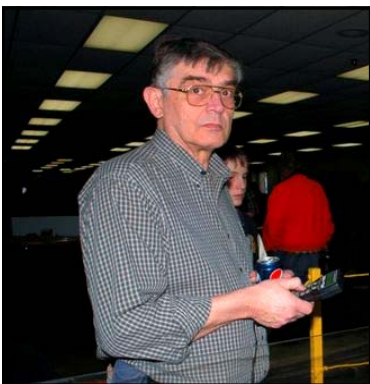


Starting with new releases for 2009, the entire Lionel line of O Scale models will be available directly from Walthers. Over 500 new items are planned this year. Production of these new 2009 items will be based on advance orders, which must be placed on or before April 8, 2009. Orders for the new Vision line of highly detailed models are due by April 30, 2009. Details are being finalized and updates will be posted at [walthers.com](http://walthers.com) as they become available!

[To Find Lionel Products on our Web site](http://walthers.com)





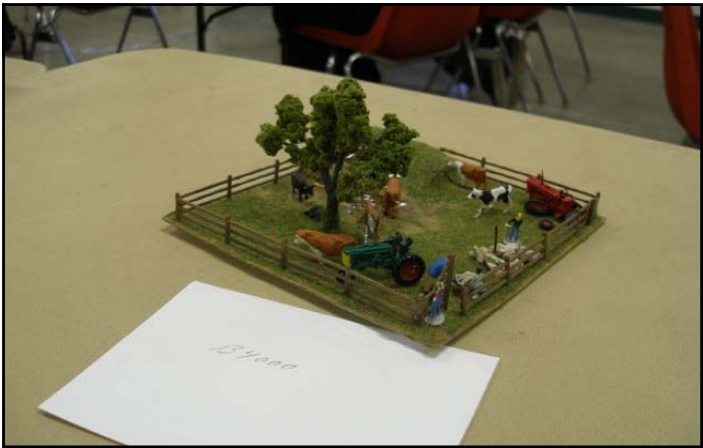
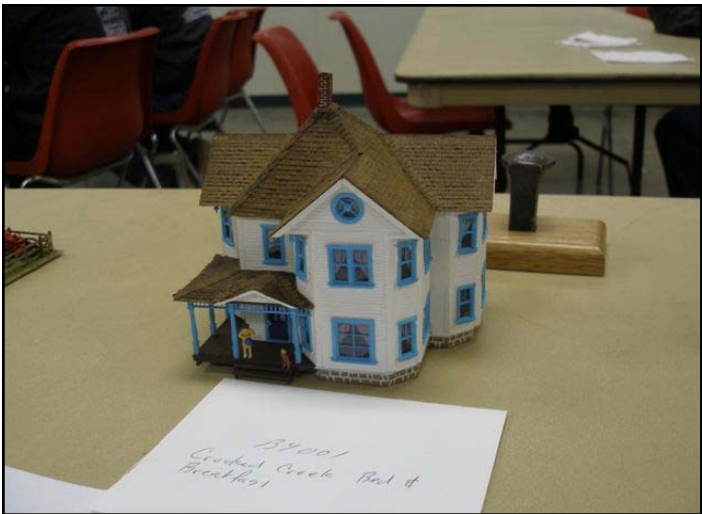


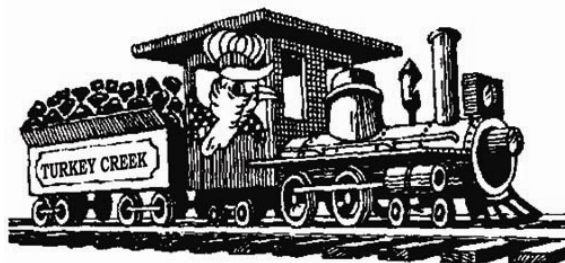


Lawrence Show  
 Photos by Louis Seibel









**Turkey Creek Show  
August 1, 2009  
Lenexa Community Center  
13420 Oak, Lenexa, KS (Pflumm & Santa Fe Drive)**

**Activities planned for this year's meet include:**

- o **Clinics** – a full slate of clinics covering many aspects of the hobby.
  - o **Model & Photo Contests** – by NMRA judging and Poplar vote. *Each model (up to a maximum of 5 models) you enter in the model contest will automatically qualify you to be entered in to a special drawing to receive a \$50.00 gift voucher.* Special Youth Award for the best overall youth model entry.
  - o **Door Prizes** – Additional door prizes will be set aside for advance registrants.
  - o **Display Layout and Layout Tours** – In addition to the display layout at the meet, several local modelers will be opening their homes to layout tours in the afternoon and evening. Layout tour maps will be available for collection with your registration.
  - o **Swap Tables and Railroad Groups** – Expect to find more than 70 tables from area dealers, local hobbyists and other railroad groups. For information on tables contact Robert Jefferis at [jeffbobj@everestkc.net](mailto:jeffbobj@everestkc.net).
- Food and Refreshments** – Scout Troop 92 will have food and refreshments available during the show.

**Turkey Creek 2009 Division Meet Registration Form**

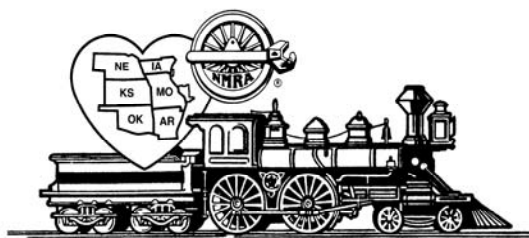
Advance Registration: \$4.00 ♦♦♦ Full Registration: \$6.00 (\$5.00 NMRA member) at door  
Children under 12 free with paid registration

	Advance Registration (\$4.00)	No. Registration	Total Cost
Name:			
Address:			
City			
State Zip			
Telephone #:		Total Enclosed:	
E-Mail Address:		Scale Modeled	
More Registrant Names:			

Make Checks Payable to: "Turkey Creek Division"  
Mail to: Turkey Creek Show, C/o Sheldon Levy, 9054 Muller, Lenexa, KS, 66215-5409







## Mid-Continent Regional Convention/Wichita Northern Extra 2009

Hosted by the Chisholm Trail Division

JUNE 12-14, 2009 in Wichita, KS

Best Western Wichita Airport

**6815 Kellog (US 54) 316 942-5600 group # NMRA-MCoR 2009 rate \$79.99 +tax**  
**Free Breakfast included in Room Rate**

### Activities planned for this year's meet include:

**Door Prizes and Silent Auction** - for all registrants.

**Display Layout and Layout Tours** – In addition to the display layouts at the meet, several local modelers will be opening their homes to layout tours Friday afternoon and evening. Layout tour maps will be available at registration.

**Live Steam train trip** – Live Steam train ride on Friday, June 13, 2009 Fare - \$10.00.

**Model & Photo Contests** – By NMRA judging.

**Clinics** – a full slate of clinics covering many aspects of the hobby. For Clinic registration contact Larry Alfred at [lalfred2@comcast.net](mailto:lalfred2@comcast.net) or Paul Richardson at [purgatory@kc.rr.com](mailto:purgatory@kc.rr.com).

**Swap Tables and Railroad Groups** – Approximately 80-100 tables for area dealers, local hobbyists and other railroad groups. For information on tables contact Richard Napper at [renapper@wildblue.net](mailto:renapper@wildblue.net) or 785-582-4209.

**Wichita, KS** – Union Pacific & BNSF Railroads, Boeing, Wichita Zoo

### Mid Continent Regional Convention / Wichita Northern Extra Registration Form

Advance Registration (until March 31, 2009) is: \$55.00 for the convention & banquet

Full Registration - NMRA (after March 31, 2009) is \$35.00 for the convention and/or \$25.00 for the banquet

Full Registration – Non-NMRA (After March 31, 2009) \$45.00

	Number of attendees / tables	x	Cost	=	total
Advance Registration (before 03/31/2009) NMRA Members			\$30.00		
NMRA One Day Convention Registration			\$20.00		
Non-NMRA Convention Registration			\$40.00		
Non-NMRA One Day Convention			\$30.00		
Banquet(Children 12 and under: \$15.00)			\$25.00		
Swap Tables (maximum of ten)			\$15.00		
Live Steam Bus Fare			\$10.00		
Checks only(No Credit Cards)			Total Enclosed:		

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Additional attendees \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify of Prototype tours: Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to: "Wichita Northern Extra 2009"

Mail to: Richard Napper, 7244 NW US Highway 24, Topeka, KS 66618-5605



## THE SWITCHING LIST

\*=new since last issue

The Switching List contains all known Mid-Continent Region, NMRA, train shows and Division meetings. It also lists all known club shows and swap meets in the Mid-Continent Region (IA, IL, MO, AR, NE, KS, and OK). To list your event, send it to: garyonho@cox.net, or Gary Hemmingway, 3201 SW Stone Ave., Topeka, KS 66614. To subscribe, or unsubscribe, to The Switching List send an email to the above link. Look for us on the MCoR web site: [www.mcor-nmra.org](http://www.mcor-nmra.org).

### DIVISION MEETINGS

**KANSAS CENTRAL DIVISION** meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of even numbered months at various locations around the division area. This is a new schedule for 2009. Meetings are at 1:00 pm. For the full schedule check the MCoR website or email Gary Hemmingway: garyonho@cox.net. The next meeting is: \* **April 4, 2009** McPherson Museum/Mid-Kansas Model Railroad Club, 1130 E. Kansas St (US 56 Hwy) McPherson, KS: Hosts are John Snell, Michael Clark & Mid-Kansas Model Railroad Club. Coming East on I-70, take the I-135 exit to McPherson. Take the first exit into McPherson, US 56, turn right and travel about a mile and a half, across the overpass. The museum is about 2 blocks pass the first traffic light on the right after going over the overpass. There is a sign out front "Mid Kansas Model Railroad Club".

**GATEWAY DIV. (ST. LOUIS, MO)** meets 3rd Monday each month, 7:00 P.M. Odd numbered months: Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road at Woods Mill Rd (Hwy 141), Ballwin, MO; Even numbered months: VFW Hall, O'Fallon, IL <http://www.gatewaynmra.org/division.htm>

**TURKEY CREEK DIV. (KANSAS CITY, MO & KS)** monthly meetings 4th Tuesday, 7:00 P.M. Johnson County Offices, NE Branch, 6000 Lamar, Shawnee Mission, KS (DMV Building on SW corner of Lamar and Martway)

**WESTERN HERITAGE DIVISION (OMAHA, NE / COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA)** meets second Saturday (except June and December) at noon. Sump Memorial Library, corner of Washington and Second Streets in Papillion (across from Runza). Visit [www.whdnmra.org](http://www.whdnmra.org) for more info and a map.

### EASTERN IOWA DIVISION

\* Davenport, Iowa: Eastern Iowa Division Meeting Saturday, February 7, 2009 at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held at the First Christian Church, 510 East 15th Street in Davenport, Iowa The meeting will include a business meeting, clinics and layout tours. We are still

working out the details of the afternoon. More information will follow.

**KATE SHELLEY DIVISION** now meets at the Ames Public Library in Ames, Iowa. Time is 7 PM to 8:45 PM. All are welcome to attend the meetings. The library is located at 515 Douglas Ave. We meet in the upstairs meeting rooms.

**INDIAN NATIONS DIVISION** meets at the New Hardesty Library at 8316 E. 93rd. St. (Just east of Memorial) in Tulsa, OK. The time is from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Each meeting we have various presentations from clinics, to slide shows. After the meetings we have a layout tour at one of the members layouts. Meeting dates are: January 26, 2008, March 29, 2008, May 31, 2008, September 20, 2008, and November 19, 2008. Contact Dave Salamon at [drs\\_rr@yahoo.com](mailto:drs_rr@yahoo.com) for further information.

\***KATE SHELLEY DIVISION** now meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at the Ames Public Library in Ames, Iowa. Time is 7 PM to 8:45 PM. All are welcome to attend the meetings. The library is located at 515 Douglas Ave. We meet in the upstairs meeting rooms.

**PLATTE VALLEY DIV. (HASTINGS, GRAND ISLAND, KEARNEY, NE)** meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in members homes on a rotating basis. Info: John O'Neill, MMR, Div. Dir., 308-384-5011 or [jponeill@computerconcepts.com](mailto:jponeill@computerconcepts.com).

**WESTERN KANSAS DIVISION (GARDEN CITY, KS)** Meets every Monday evening from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at 4091/2 N. Main St. (second floor above "Stage" department store) 7 layouts on display (2-HO, 5-N) Operating sessions available Info: Robert Simmons, Division Director (620) 521-3591 or [ras@odsgc.net](mailto:ras@odsgc.net).

**CLAREMORE & SOUTHERN RR OPERATING SESSION, THE NEXT OPERATING SESSION WILL BE JANUARY 10, 2009 -- NOON TO 4PM.** I am in the process on having radiation to kill cancer cells in the brain. After that I will then restart chemo. Thanks. George Maulsby, 9372 E. Clover Creek Dr, Claremore, OK 74017-1487, Claremore & Southern RR [www.csrailclub.com](http://www.csrailclub.com) [geomaulsby@cox.net](mailto:geomaulsby@cox.net) 918-341-9446

**Division Directors, Train Show Chairs, or Club Show Chairs:** Let's get the word out about your 2008 or 2009 event! Get your information to Gary at any of the above addresses. **The Switching List is a service of Mid-Continent Region, NMRA.**

### TRAIN SHOWS & MEETS

\*= New or revised since last e-mailing



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Credit Card Exp \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\*Rail Pass offer is for new members and those who have not been NMRA members for two years or more. Individuals can join at Rail Pass rates only once; membership renewal will be at the regular membership rate. Rail Pass members can attend conventions and participate in contests, but cannot vote or hold office and will not receive a New Member Pak.

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- Get admission to local model railroad meetings & events
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**MAR 21, 2009-- BOEING EMPLOYEES  
RAILROAD SWAP MEET.** St. Louis, MO-10 am—3 pm, Greensfelder Recreation Complex at Queeny Park, 550 Wiedman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63011, Adm: \$3 children under 12 free w/pd adult, doors open for sellers setup at 8 am, Tables (30"x96") \$15.00, Info: Wayne Schimmel, VP/Swap Meet Conductor, Boeing Employee's Railroad Club, St. Louis, MO, [wwhtehrse@aol.com](mailto:wwhtehrse@aol.com) or call after 6:30 pm 636-668-6313 or mail: 733 Hwy Y, Winfield, MO 63389-2206.

**MAR 28, 2009—JOPLIN MUSEUM COMPLEX  
MODEL RR SHOW & SWAP MEET,** 7<sup>TH</sup> & Schifferdecker Streets in Schifferdecker Park between the golf course and swimming pool; 9:00 am – 3:00 pm; operating layouts, over 60 vendor tables, Adm: \$3.00 adults, 12 & under free with paid adult; proceeds to Joplin Museum Complex; Info: Rick Gardner: [rickgardner#sofnet.com](mailto:rickgardner#sofnet.com); (417) 673-4888 or [www.tristatemodelrailroaders.com](http://www.tristatemodelrailroaders.com).

**APRIL 18, 2009 – OMRA ANNUAL SPRING TRAIN  
SHOW AND SWAP MEET –** Saturday, April 18, 2009 – King's Way United Methodist Church – 2401 S Lone Pine – Springfield, MO. 9 am to 3 pm. Admission: Adults \$5, Children 12 & under free. For vendor info: Gary Mills – 417-725-1433. Other info: Dale Irvine – [bowlanmrr@mchsi.com](mailto:bowlanmrr@mchsi.com) or Ted Beresky – [tiberesky@hotmail.com](mailto:tiberesky@hotmail.com) – 417-459-6042

**\*APR 18-19, 2009--15TH ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW,  
NEBRASKA WEST-CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE  
NMRA:** D&N Event Center, 501 East Walker Road, North Platte, Nebraska, Sat: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Admission \$3.00 for adults, Children under 12 \$1.00, Children under 5 free with paid adult. Vendor tables \$10 each till April 1<sup>st</sup>, After April 1<sup>st</sup> \$15. Union Pacific tours will be available as an extra fare item on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> only. For additional information contact: Gene Tacey P.O. Box 485, Sutherland, NE 69165, 308-386-2489, [taceys@gpcom.net](mailto:taceys@gpcom.net)

**JUN 11-14, 2009—MID-CONTINENT REGION  
CONVENTION,** Best Western Airport, 6815 W. Kellogg, Wichita, KS, 67209 1-316-942-8568, Hosted by Chisholm Train Div., MCoR, NMRA, Rooms \$79.99 + tax, block of rooms are available until 5/28/2009, late reservation space available, hot complimentary breakfast for 1-4 persons each room; Convention registration: Pre-registration NMRA members: 2 days-\$30 1-day \$20, family members free, Non-NMRA (includes NMRA Rail Pass) 2-days \$40, 1-day \$30 until March 31, 2009, April 1, 2009 & later NMRA 2-day \$35, 1-day \$25, Non-NMRA 2-day \$45, 1-day 35, Banquet (Saturday) \$25 adult, \$15 children 12 & under; Vendor tables \$15 each, Events include Model & Photo contest, Silent Auction, Clinics, Layout Tours (Friday), Live Steam (extra fare), other events to be announced as confirmed. Down load registration form [www.mcor\\_nmra.org/](http://www.mcor_nmra.org/)



**TURKEY CREEK DIVISION**  
**4954 Marsh Avenue**  
**Kansas City, MO 64129-2111**



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**  
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED 4955**

[mcor-nmra.org/divisions/turkeycreek/](http://mcor-nmra.org/divisions/turkeycreek/)

## **TURKEY CREEK DIVISION MEETING**

### **Turkey Creek Division Meetings and Events 2009**

March 24 Meeting place to be announced

April 28 Meeting at 7PM to 9:30 PM

May 26 Meeting at 7PM to 9:30 PM

June 23 Meeting at 7PM to 9:30 PM

July 28 Meeting at 7PM to 9:30 PM

August 1 Turkey Creek Division Train Show

9:30 to 4:00 Lenexa Community Center

September 22 Meeting at 7PM to 9:30 PM

October 27 Meeting at 7PM to 9:30 PM

November 24 Meeting at 7PM to 9:30 PM

December 15 Holiday Party All rooms A B C Meeting 7PM to 9:30 PM

