

# COWTOWN MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

## FORT WORTH TEXAS

CMRRC



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### General Meeting

The August monthly meeting of the CMRRC will be on August 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. The program for the evening is TBD at this point but most likely will be a What's Neat in Model Railroading program. Hope to see you there.

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### Thursday Night Work Sessions

We have been impacted by very hot over 100 degrees temperatures which leaves Thursday night work sessions too hot in the room to hold. Even shifting to Wednesday morning, the room is too heat soaked to warrant attending. I will be sending out e-mail notices whether we will meet or not. If unsure check with me: dalcon4851@gmail.com.

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Joe Pritchett



The North Texas Council meeting this month will focus on show planning. The Fall Show will be

October 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. We were able to avoid some price increases at the Plano Center for this season. We currently have sold 160+ tables for the Fall show and 150+ tables for the January show. I will be showing a draft Floorplan for the show at the next Council meeting.

I hope that everyone is able to stay cool during this hot summer. The temperatures in the layout room have been far too hot for any type of morning work/run session. The weather forecast is not any better for the next couple of weeks. Once the temperatures come down, I encourage everyone to come out and participate. We will continue to adjusting the Thursday night sessions to Wednesday morning based on temperatures. Keep an eye on your email for what the schedule is.

Get with Dale or I if you would like to do program for one of the meetings, we are always looking for new topics.

Now that cars have been spotted on the layout make sure that if you need to move a car to work on something that you put it back where it was. When you are out working on the layout, please make the sure that nothing is left on the rails and remove any leftover materials that could interfere with the testing. If you know someone that might be interested in joining the club, be sure to invite them out since we are open to having new members. I want to thank Dale for all of work it takes to put together the newsletter each month.

We continue the normal schedule of Thursday night sessions, 2nd & 4th Saturdays. Saturday sessions will start at 9:00am and run until 12:00pm.



Joe Pritchett  
President - Cowtown Model RR  
Club



### TREASURER'S REPORT

by Dale Schmidtbleicher

Membership now stands at 8 active members and 1 support member and one member late with dues for the year

Please mail your dues to the following address:

CMRRC  
P.O. Box 331513  
Fort Worth, TX 76163

Make payable to: "Cowtown Model Railroad Club".



[www.cmrrc.net](http://www.cmrrc.net)

We are on occasion getting some requests/feedback from our cmrrc.net website and I will forward any information of interest to the membership.

Member information can be downloaded from the website. Click on the required topic on the front page, download the PDF file you are interested in.

## Operation

Because of the heat, we have not had an operations session for a few weeks. When the temperatures cool, we will email the members when sessions are scheduled.



We are still having a light turnout for the operations sessions. I hope to see more members attending in the future.

### Update on Construction

by Dale Schmidtbleicher

#### *What's new in the area of layout construction?*

Not much went on in June of July due to high temperatures and



planned vacations. Hopefully we will get a break in July and be able to do more work on the layout.

Cleaning up the room is a constant job that needs to be done as we have lots of item carried over from the old LMRA room that really needs to be taken to the dump as we are not planning on using them.

## MONTHLY SCHEDULE

### General Meeting:

The monthly Railroad Club meeting is held at 7:00 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. The meeting is held at the Handley Community Center in the first-floor room.

### Work Schedule:

The normal work schedule is as follows:

Thursday Nights 6:30 PM-9:00 PM

2nd & 4th Saturday 9:00 AM-12 Noon.



High temperatures are interfering with our work and run sessions. If the daytime temperature is forecast to be 95 degrees or higher, you should expect the session to be cancelled.

Should a work session be cancelled for any reason, an e-mail will be sent out, time permitting.

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## Model Railroad Layout Design

### Theme

A good model railroad layout design must start with establishing a theme for your layout - no matter what size it might be.

Some examples might be:



~A logging layout with shay locomotives transporting logs from a forest logging camp to sawmills and then freight locos carrying the cut wood to furniture stores or paper mills or lumber distributors.

~Long coal trains running through the Appalachian Mountains carrying coal from the mines to power companies, steel mills or to residential areas where coal was once a requirement for heating individual homes.

~Refrigerator cars carrying produce from farms or orchards to processing plants or distribution centers.

~Tank cars carrying milk from dairy farms to local distributors.



~Sleek passenger trains carrying people to and from various cities and towns, shopping areas, etc.

~Hoppers carrying grain from farms to grain mills and feed stores.

~Steam trains carrying freight from town to town and industry to industry through scenic mountainous areas across rivers and streams, with lots of rock formations.



~Freight and passenger trains weaving through streets of large industrial cities.

~Large freight yards requiring lots of switching to put trains together for journeys into the next state, where there's another freight yard.

You get the idea. Your railroad should have a **purpose**. Your trains should have destinations.

Otherwise, if you're just running trains around and around a loop, you'll get bored with this pretty fast.

## Locale



Your model railroad layout design should also have a sense of location. This may help you decide what kinds of trains you'll be running as well. For example, if you like western desert scenes, you may want to run Union Pacific or ATSF locos. If you like Appalachia, you will probably want to run trains that are located in that area - like Chesapeake and Ohio, Norfolk and Western or Norfolk Southern depending on the era you are modeling.

You may pick an exact location, like a small stretch of railroad between one specific town and another. Or you may prefer to model your trains and scenery to just give a *sense* of where they are -- in the Canadian Tundra, the Blue Ridge area, the plains of Kansas, the Rockies, e **Era**



For your model train design to be somewhat realistic, you should choose a general time frame in

which it makes sense for your railroad to operate. Some examples might include:

The so-called *transition* period in the late 1940's to early 50's. This is a very popular time to model since you have the option of running both steam and diesel engines at the same time.

If you model the 1920's you're going to be mostly using steam engines.

If you're doing modern times, you can run Amtrak, Norfolk Southern, and other modern diesel engines.

Your surrounding scenery and towns should try to capture the essence of the era. Billboards and signs on buildings are sometimes helpful in establishing the general era of your layout.

## Season



The time of year that you're modeling should also be a strong consideration for your model railroad layout design.

Your decision will have a tremendous effect on your landscaping, ground cover, types of trees and foliage that you will be using.

environment in which to operate your trains - a blending of machine and nature.

Or, perhaps, in the case of cityscapes, a blending of machine and people.

### Operation

There are many model railroaders who would put this first on the list of things to think about when planning and developing their model railroad layout design.

~What kinds of trains will be operating on the layout?

~Where will the staging yard(s) be located?

~How will the trains move in and out of the staging yard?

~How will the operating sessions be run and what kind of control panels, train power and walkaround units will be necessary?

If you carefully consider all the options above, you will be well on your way to an excellent model railroad layout design or concept that will help you build a railroad that is interesting, has a purpose, exists in a real time frame and a region that will be recognizable and realistic. You should do this even if your railroad is completely made-up or *freelanced*.

You may now want to consider how to get your main concept, theme and design into a tangible track plan that you can work with to start actually building your layout. [Train layout design elements](#) on the "Layout Design 2" page will help you do. Once again, you should not get too bogged down in the decision-making process, just make a decision based on what appeals to you the most and go with it. *Keep moving forward*. If you can't decide between one option or another, *just pick one* or flip a coin. You'll have fun with it whatever you decide. this.

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### Railroad Paintings

