

COWTOWN MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

FORT WORTH TEXAS

CMRRC



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General Meeting

The June monthly meeting of the CMRRC will be on Monday night June 16th at 7:00 pm. The program for the evening will be provided by Dale, who will be sharing with us a few railroad videos. I hope to see you there.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Joe Pritchett



The North Texas Council has announced confirmed dates for the 2025/2026 show season. The Fall Show will be September 27th & 28th and January Show January 17th & 18th 2026. Both shows will be held at the Plano Event Center. The admission and table prices for the shows are the same as last year. The contracts for the 2025/2026 show season are available on the dfwtrainshows.com website and so far, we have sold 108+ tables for the Fall show and 100+ for the January show. I will have an update at the June meeting.

During my trip to Japan, I went to the Kato Hobby Center. It was a 25-minute trip from the Hotel. Here are a couple of the Display layouts and the operating layouts in the store.





We have had a couple of operating sessions, and the layout seems to be running pretty well. The biggest issue continues to be dirty track. The plan is to mostly run with 1 Thursday night a month reserved for maintenance. Be sure to check your phone next work/operating session. The room temperatures are comfortable so I encourage everyone to come out and participate. As the temps heat up watch your phone for any changes to the Thursday evening sessions.

George continues to make progress on Midway. 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 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 the work it takes to put together the newsletter each month.

The normal schedule of Thursday night sessions is from 6:30 – 8:30pm, 1st & 3rd Saturdays but watch your phone for changes. 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 stands at 8 active members.

As always, a full treasurer's report will be made at the Club's monthly meeting.

The next due date for 3rd quarter dues is July 1st for those members who will owe them. Please mail your dues to the following address:

CMRRC
4504 Quail Hollow Ct.
Fort Worth, TX 76133

Make payable to: "Cowtown Model Railroad Club".



www.cmrrc.net

We are on occasion getting some requests/feedback from our **cmrrc.net** website. We can thank the website for giving us a hand in getting donations.

Operations

Operations sessions continue to run well. We have decided to include a track cleaning car in every consist being run on the layout to help keep the track clean. The cleaning car should be kept right behind the power unit and left in a handy position in the yard for the next train. For the staged tank train and reefer train, the cleaning car will be a permanent part of the consist.



Operating sessions will be announced to all members by text or e-mail. We hope to see more members attending in the future.

Update on Construction *by Dale Schmidtbleicher*

What's new in the area of layout construction?

The mainenance crew have located and fixed the short in the center peninsula that would knockout both track power units when a train or car caused a short in that part of the layout.



Doug continues to slowly clean the wheels on the club's fleet of freight cars to help keep the track clean.

A few switch machines that were not working have been fixed. Most were caused by a loose electrical connector.

Five track cleaning cars were fitted with masonite scrapers instead of the rough texture bright boy material that was leaving particles on the track.

We still have a lot to do cleaning out old unused items under the layout. And as always track cleaning is a major endeavor.

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

General Meeting:

The monthly Railroad Club meeting is held at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Monday of the month.



The meeting is held at the Handley Community Center in the first-floor room.

Normal Work/Operate Schedule:

The normal work schedule is as follows:
Thursday Nights 6:30 PM-9:00 PM **unless**, due to high temperatures and heat index, we switch to Thursday mornings. An email or text will be sent out prior to Thursdays to let members know if we are doing Thursday morning or evening.

1st & 3rd Saturday 9:00 AM-12 Noon.

Operating sessions will be announced by text and e-mail prior to the scheduled event.

Take Your Layout to the Next Level

1. Customizing and Kitbashing Models

The foundation of any impressive model railroad lies in the details. In our first installment, we'll explore the art of customizing and kitbashing models. Learn how to breathe life into commercial kits by adding your unique touch, blending various kits to create one-of-a-kind structures, and mastering the art of scratch-building. Unleash your creativity as we guide you through the process of making your miniature world truly yours.

2. Weathering and Detailing Locomotives and Rolling Stock

A weathered locomotive or a well-detailed boxcar can tell a story of years on the rails. In this segment, we'll dive into the techniques of weathering and detailing to bring realism and character to your rolling stock. From rust and grime to wear and tear, discover how to achieve a level of authenticity that captivates the eye and sparks the imagination.

3. Incorporating Sound and Special Effects

Take your model railroad from silent to sensational by exploring the world of sound and special effects. From realistic locomotive sounds to ambient noises and dazzling lighting effects, learn how to immerse your audience in a multisensory experience. This segment will guide you through the integration of cutting-edge technology to elevate your layout to a new dimension.

4. Creating a Compelling Backdrop for Your Layout

A well-crafted backdrop is the canvas upon which your miniature world comes to life. Join us as we explore the art of creating immersive and visually stunning backdrops. Whether you prefer a natural landscape or an urban setting, we'll provide tips on perspective, painting techniques, and innovative methods to transport your layout to a new level of visual storytelling.

5. Showcasing Your Model Railroad: Exhibitions, Photography, and Sharing Online

Your hard work deserves to be shared and celebrated! In our final installment, we'll guide you on how to showcase your model railroad to the world. From participating in exhibitions to mastering the art of model railroad photography, and leveraging the power of online communities, discover the joy of sharing your passion with fellow enthusiasts and gaining inspiration from the global model railroad community.

Step Into the Light!

Light, sounds, and special effects can really elevate your model railroad. They also help you increase

the degree of realism in the scene. Using lighting in their layouts can intimidate some people, so we've prepared a list of best practices to follow. Use our tips and tricks for lighting your model railroad for a fantastic finished look.

Lighting Multiple Layers

Are you in the process of designing a multi-layer model railroad? One of the problems with having multiple layers is that it's hard to see what's on the lower levels. Increase the visibility with strip lighting attached to the bottom of the layers above the track.

Train Room Overhead Lighting

If you have a dedicated train room for your layout, choosing good lighting is essential. Incandescent bulbs offer more realistic "sunlight" but also give off a lot of heat. Fluorescent bulbs are less expensive and more energy-efficient but emit a colder light tone.

Lighting Night Scenes

It can be a lot of fun to simulate your train running at night. Unfortunately, turning the lights off also means not being able to see what you're doing. We recommend using black lights or blue bulbs to give the room a darkened nighttime appearance. Thankfully, the bulbs should give off enough light that you can still see.

Pro-Tip: Adding Floodlights

Another thing you can do when simulating night scenes is adding floodlights, just like in the real world. These are especially helpful at train yards and other places where you need to see what's happening.

Wire in Zones

Another trick for lighting your model railroad is to wire in zones. If you wire all your lights and special effects haphazardly, you'll have difficulty knowing where your technical problems lie. We recommend

creating zones with your wiring, which makes it much easier to narrow down the source of any issues.

Fixing Thin Plastic

Sometimes model train buildings aren't made from very thick plastic. When you run your trains at night, you may notice light shining through your buildings, which doesn't look very realistic. An easy fix is to paint the insides with a couple of layers of black paint to make them opaque

Modern Diesel Locomotives

