

COWTOWN MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

FORT WORTH TEXAS

CMRRC



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Number 3

General Meeting

The March monthly meeting of the CMRRC will be on Monday night March 16th at 7:00 pm. The program is still under consideration and will be included in the text message announcement as the time gets closer. I hope to see you there.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Joe Pritchett



The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs had a very successful 2025/2026 show season. We have confirmed dates for the 2026/2027 show season. The Fall show date is September 26th & 27th, 2026 and the January show will be January 16th & 17th, 2027. We will start the show planning efforts at the March Council meeting. I want to thank Doug for becoming our Council representative.

The Historic Handley Development Center (our landlord) is having some internal challenges. Until those changes get resolved the process for entering

the building will be to lock the external door after you enter the building.

The layout seems to be running well although we had an issue during the last ops session. We will take the next session to troubleshoot and resolve the problem. The kink on the main line to the right of Cimmaron Yard has been fixed. Tom has a new auxiliary panel working for the crossover behind Cimarron yard. Be sure to check your phone for the next work/operating session.

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 evening sessions is from 6:30pm – 9:00pm, 1st & 3rd Saturdays but watch your phone for changes. Saturday sessions

will start at 9:00am and run until 12:00pm. We will not have session on January 17th since most of us will be at the Train Show.



Joe Pritchett
President - Cowtown Model RR
Club



TREASURER'S REPORT

by Dale Schmidtbleicher

Membership stands at 7 active members.

The Club's liability insurance policy for the next year is due by April 1st. I will be making the payment within the next two weeks. The policy runs from April 1st 2026 thru March 31st 2027



As for club purchases, I have had to purchase a ream of printer paper for operations in the RailOp Program. It also looks like I will need to purchase AAA batteries in the very near future for the command and control controllers on our ops system.

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

The next due date is for 2nd quarter dues is April 1st. Please give Dale your dues or mail your dues to the following address:

CMRRC
4504 Quail Hollow Ct.
Fort Worth, TX 76133

Make payable to: "Cowtown Model Railroad Club".

Operations

Trains are running!

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

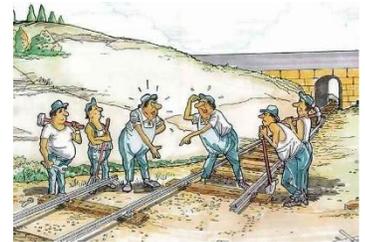


Update on Construction

by Dale Schmidtbleicher

What's new in the area of layout construction?

As Joe's article pointed out, there are a few track and switch repairs that are scheduled to be attacked in the near future.



As always, track cleaning is always needed to be addressed. Keep those track cleaning cars rolling!

We still need to start clearing out useless items under the layout. Does anyone know of anyone or organization that would want all those carousels of slides? One possibility might be the HHDC???

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

General Meeting:

The Club's 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 just inside the building side door.



Normal Work/Operate Schedule:

The normal work/operate schedule is as follows:

Thursday Nights 6:30 PM-9:00 PM.

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

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



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.

Many of those donations have contributed to the club's financial position as well as adding to the scenery or structures on the layout.

A Comprehensive Guide to Railroad Maintenance Equipment and Tools

October 15, 2024

Did you know that the safety of thousands of miles of railroad tracks depends on the right maintenance equipment? Railways are the backbone of freight and passenger transportation, and keeping tracks in excellent condition is no small feat. In this guide, we'll dive into the essential railroad maintenance equipment and tools that ensure rail safety and longevity. Whether you're an industry professional or just curious, understanding these tools is vital for

appreciating the intricate network that keeps trains running smoothly.

Let's explore the equipment that R&S Track, a trusted name in railroad services, relies on to keep the rails safe and reliable.

Essential Railroad Maintenance Equipment

Maintaining railroad tracks requires [various tools and equipment](#) designed specifically to handle the heavy-duty nature of the rails. Here's a breakdown of the most critical railroad maintenance equipment:

1. Rail Grinders

Rail grinders are used to restore the profile and remove irregularities on the rail surface. Over time, tracks become worn from constant use, leading to deformation and potential safety risks. Rail grinders help maintain the rail's surface and prolong its life.

- Smooths out imperfections
- Increases the lifespan of the rail
- Reduces the need for frequent replacements

2. Tamping Machines

Tamping machines are vital for stabilizing the track by compacting the ballast (the gravel that supports the tracks). A stable foundation is essential for ensuring smooth train operations, and tamping machines help align and level the track.

- Compacts ballast for better track support
- Ensures the track is level and aligned
- Prevents derailments caused by track instability

3. Track Inspection Vehicles

These specialized vehicles are equipped with sensors and cameras to monitor track conditions. Early detection of faults can prevent accidents, making track inspection vehicles one of the most important tools in railroad maintenance.

- Detects cracks, shifts, and other defects
- Provides data to predict future maintenance needs
- Ensures proactive safety measures

Essential Railroad Maintenance Tools

In addition to large machinery, railroad maintenance tools play a crucial role in day-to-day [repairs and adjustments](#). Let's take a look at some of the most important tools used by professionals:

1. Track Wrenches

Track wrenches are designed to tighten or loosen the fasteners that hold the rails to the ties. These heavy-duty wrenches allow workers to quickly perform adjustments, ensuring the track remains secure.

2. Spike Pullers

Removing or adjusting spikes is essential for replacing or realigning rails. Spike pullers make this task quicker and safer by providing the leverage needed to extract spikes from the ties.

3. Hydraulic Jacks

Used for lifting and aligning heavy rails, hydraulic jacks provide the power needed to move large sections of track without causing damage. They are essential for larger repair jobs that require precise movement.

4. Rail Saws

Cutting through rails requires precision and power, and rail saws provide just that. These saws are designed to handle the tough steel used in tracks, making them indispensable for track repairs and replacements.

The Importance of Proper Railroad Maintenance

Railroad maintenance is [not just about repairs](#)—it's about ensuring the long-term safety and reliability of the entire railway system. Without regular maintenance, minor issues can quickly escalate into major problems, causing costly delays, accidents, and damage to cargo.

- **Safety:** Proper maintenance reduces the risk of derailments and accidents.
- **Efficiency:** Well-maintained tracks lead to smoother, faster train operations.

- **Cost Savings:** Proactive repairs and adjustments can prevent more expensive fixes down the line.

Companies like R&S Track provide professional railroad maintenance services, using the right tools and equipment to ensure that tracks are safe and dependable for years to come.

Keeping the Rails Safe with the Right Tools

Railroad maintenance equipment and tools are critical for ensuring the safety, efficiency, and longevity of rail systems. Whether you are involved in the rail industry or simply curious about how railways are kept safe, understanding these tools is key to appreciating the complexity of track maintenance. If you want to learn more or need expert railroad maintenance services, R&S Track is here to help. With years of experience and a commitment to safety, we have the expertise and equipment to keep your tracks in top condition.

