

LIGHTNING SLINGER

January 2023



Turkey Creek Division of the



Mid-Continent Region, NMRA

"For all gauges and all ages"

TC-NMRA Mtgs

Jan 24th

CG&S History, Planning and
Building *Gary Davidson*

Feb 28th

Tips & Tricks *Larry Diehl*
Make & Take: Introduction

Mar 28th

Making Kalin Steel Supply Sq
Footer *Steve McKee*
Make & Take: Final Selection

Mtg Time:

7:00 to 8:45pm

Location:

Conference Room
Eastside Terrace Bldg.
Lakeview Village Campus
9000 Park St.
Lenexa, KS 66215
Click for Google Maps

TC-NMRA Events

2023 Mid-Continent Region Conv.
Overland Park, KS July 27-29

RR Community

Wichita Train Show & Swap Meet
Feb 4 & 5

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Next meeting Highlights
- Reports
- Pike Bio's, Visits, Projects
- Tributes and Legends
- Calendar
- Resources

Division Meeting January 24th, 7pm

(NEW Location: Lakeview Village Campus)

Clinic Topic: CG&S RR: History, Planning and Building

Gary Davidson will be presenting:
History, Planning and Building of the
Cedar Gulch and Southern RR

This is Gary's 5th Railroad, and it
has been amazing to see how quickly
it has come together. Of course,



the stories of layout visitors who then started modifying the layout and forcing expansion are even more incredible. As joked before, Gary has stolen Larry Diehl's "MOJO" and seems to never stop making progress. You won't want to miss this presentation as we will all sit in awe and inspiration to drive our own layout progress.

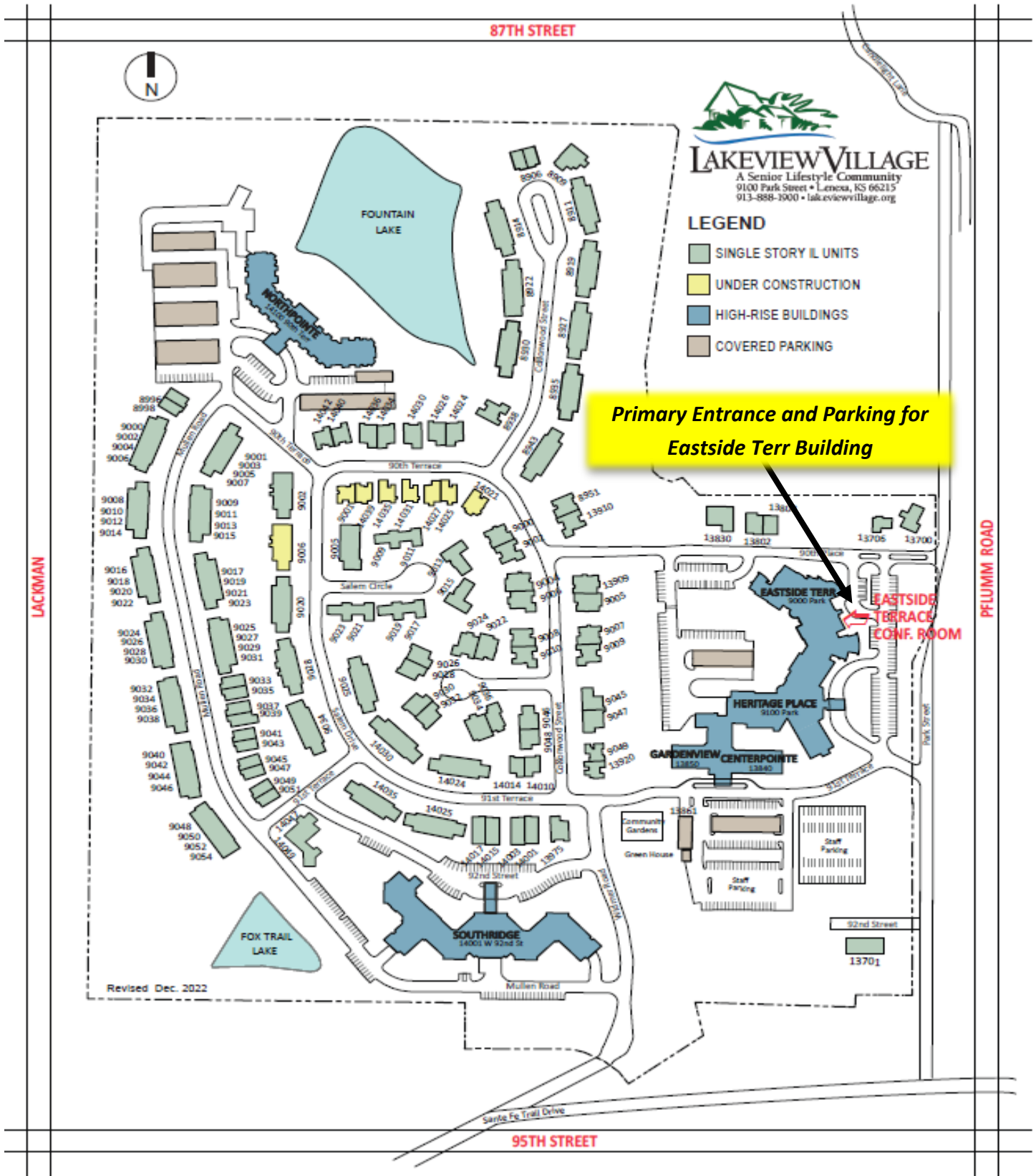
Don't Miss It

New Mtg Location: Lakeview Village Campus

See next page for details

Our New Meeting Location is at the Lakeview Village Senior Community. The meeting will be located in the Conference Room of the Eastside Terrace Building. Parking and Main Entrance are shown below.

Mapping Address: [9000 Park St., Lenexa, KS 66215](https://www.google.com/maps/place/9000+Park+St,+Lenexa,+KS+66215) [Click for Google Maps](#)



Superintendent Report: Missy Levy

We want to thank Ron Marsh for his work in 2022 as he hands off to Missy for 2023.

Greetings to all the Turkey Creek Model Railroaders!

As we start off a new year, let's say a huge welcome to 2023. We are slowly getting back to "normal life" .. whatever that means... and will be returning to an old familiar stomping ground as the meetings will be on the Lakeview Village campus. Most of the meetings will be in the familiar Eastside Terrace room and they welcome us back with open arms. I know the flu and covid has surged recently as well as respiratory viruses and because Lakeview Village is a senior retirement community, it is my hope that if you are ill, please stay home out of respect for the health for yourself and others. It is my vision that we keep connected and we have a fantastic team working together to encourage each other in their model railroading.

Presently, we are checking to see if we can do zoom, so that, if you live a distance away, traveling or ill, you can still attend the Turkey Creek meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting in January.

Happy railroading... Missy

Clerk Report: Steve McKee (by Martin Wade)

We want to thank Steve for his work in 2022 and continuing in 2023.

The December 13 Division meeting was held at the Lakeview Village in Lenexa with 15 in attendance. There was an abundance of festive desserts brought including a "Bake & Take" train that no one wanted to eat because it looked so cool. The focus of the gathering was "social" and everyone seemed to really enjoy the relaxed atmosphere. Miles did hold a brief meeting where we asked once again for a volunteer for Superintendent. It must have been the Holiday magic because Missy Levy stepped up and said yes. Of course, she was quickly voted in as was Ray Brown for Division Director. We are very grateful to both, as well as last year's volunteers: Ron Marsh-Superintendent, Steve McKee-Clerk, Bill Humenczuk-Paymaster, John Fales-Div Dir, Bob Spurgat-Achievement, Luis Seibel-Membership, Miles Hale-LS Editor and Richie Kennedy-Webmaster. Missy will be following up on appointments for Membership and Achievement Chairman positions. The meeting was closed as we jumped back into the Holiday Social until we couldn't eat anymore sweets.

Officers

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Missy Levy

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Achievement Chair

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Web

<http://www.tc-nmra.org>

Turkey Creek Division

is a 501(C)(3) organization

Paymaster Report: Bill Humenczuk

We want to thank Bill for his work in 2022 and continuing for 2023.

Bill will be reporting on our Financial results at the January Meeting. This is a quarterly report and will then be published in the following month's newsletter.

Division Director Report: Ray Brown

We want to thank John Fales for his work in 2022 as he hands off to Ray for 2023.

Ray is our new Division Director and will be attending the Bi-annual Regional meetings to represent our Division and report back on National and Regional news.

Newsletter Editor: Martin Wade

We want to thank Miles Hale for his work in 2022 as he hands off to Martin Wade for 2023

Welcome to 2023. With a new year comes a new Editor. It seemed like a great way to get involved, learn, and meet the crew. Ask me at the end of the year how it went....

I can tell you in the year I have been here it's been pretty impressive seeing the caliber of members, techniques, knowledge, and layouts. While a bit overwhelming, the opportunity to be involved is an honor and a privilege. Rather than thinking I have something big to add, I see it more as an opportunity to change perspective. From "Old-Guard" to the "Newbie". While I do think everyone brings some with them, the history, vocabulary, and experiences are all new to me. So, while I adjust to drinking from the firehose, I will share some of those basic thoughts and experiences from a "newbie" perspective. Hopefully, you will find it nostalgic, a bit humorous, and a reminder that not everyone knows what a "Lightning Slinger" is...(yes I had to look it up).

Lightning Slinger is a Telegraph Operator

So, as we start the year, let's remember our hobby is a journey and every step is meant to be fun. Together it can be a blast. With that idea, I will be reaching out to tap everyone to contribute their "track" onto the "layout" of our newsletter. From simple Layout and History BIOS, to sharing experiences and techniques, local or RR history, and remembering Legends of our Division. Hopefully by the end of the year we can all say, "wow that was fun" and then dive into 2024.... Till then, let's get started!

Webmaster: Richie Kennedy

We want to thank Richie for his work in 2022 as he continues for 2023.

Richie will continue to drive the content and management of our Website and Facebook pages. We count on his Computer skills to help us drive the news and opportunities of our Division across the social Media Platforms.

Member Chair: Phil Stock

We want to thank Louis Siebel for his work in 2022 as he hands off to Phil Stock for 2023.

Phil is a new (returned) NMRA member and current Narrow Gauge member and model railroader. He has volunteered to help us manage our "roster" and reach out to new members for 2023. Additionally for 2023 we will be investigating an email subscription management program (such as Mail Chimp) to allow our newsletter and communications to reach outside the NMRA members into our local Railroad Community.

Achievement Chair: Open

We want to thank Bob Spurgat for his work in 2022 as we recruit for his replacement for 2023.

We are actively seeking a Chair for this very important position. We would really like to drive the Achievement Program participation by providing more assistance and visibility to the reward of reaching Master Model Railroader.

December Christmas Meeting

Lots of Social **FUN** and did I say **FOOD!!!!**



Project Article: Audrey Mennenga Witch's Cottage

Winner "Best Special Effects" & "Most Whimsical" in Oct Modeling Challenge

General Background/Intro: I'm a freelance modeler who enjoys making scratch builds out of materials that are reclaimed/ recycled from around my house or collected from my backyard. Much of my stuff has a whimsical theme, but I still enjoy traditional kit builds for my O scale train I inherited from my father.

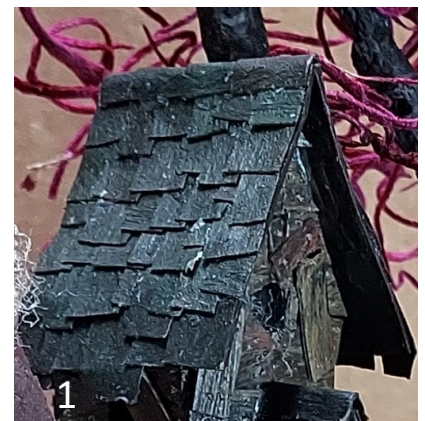
General Description: I normally model in O scale, but for the business card challenge I decided to model more of a HO scale so that I could get more model into the size of the business card. I had recently joined and heard about the challenge, so I only had time to build the business card model and not the full square footer model. As for what I chose to model, well that was easy. Since I'm a freelance modeler and the challenge was so close to Halloween, I thought something Halloween themed would work. But I still wanted it to be something that would showcase my scratch building ability, so I came up with my Witch Cottage. I also thought it would be a great way to work in some Arduino Special Effects that I had been learning since I attended that clinic at the train show. I really like how well it turned out, so I do plan to make a larger O scale version and add it to my layout in the future.

Era of Model: N/A

Locale of Model: N/A

Materials Used: Paperboard, Cardboard, Paper, balsa wood, wire, clay, Floral Moss, Sand, Cotton, Acrylic and Enamel Paint, Arduino Uno with LEDs & battery back.

Techniques Used: The structure of the cottage is made from paperboard (aka very thin cardboard). The shape of the cottage itself was entirely fictional. The roof shingles were made from a brown paper shopping bag, that I painted to look like moss covered slate shingles. I started with painting the paper bag as a whole, with acrylic paint, then cut out each shingle and hand laid individually on the roof, overlapping them. See Pic1. I had learned that technique for another scratch build I did earlier in the year and really like how it turns out, even though it's very tedious.



The wood siding was made from paperboard that I painted to look like wood grain. Again, I started with painting the paperboard as a whole, with acrylic paint, that I cut into each siding board, added nail holes and hand laid individually on the cottage sides. However, I left small gaps between most of the boards and added a few on top to cover larger gaps to give the appearance of a dilapidated cottage. See Pic2. This was the first time I learned how to paint wood grain and make wood siding. The nail holes I think just added a nice level of detail to them. I'm fairly pleased with how this whole technique turned out and plan to use it again.

The brick chimney was made with the same technique as the roof shingles but I'm not as happy with the coloring of the bricks. I still need to work on painting brick texture. The witch, cauldron, pumpkins, gravestone, and a few other items were hand sculpted out of clay and then painted with a mix of acrylic and enamel paints. I'm fine with how these turned out. But perhaps one day if I got a 3D printer, I might be able to make more detailed versions of those items. The wood fence was made with balsa wood with wire twisted around it. The signpost was made from leftover balsa wood. I had a really hard time painting the lettering on the signpost. I'm not used to writing that small and need to work on that. The tree was a branch I found in my back-yard and painted black. The pathway from the gate to the cottage was made by adding sand to acrylic paint. I thought this turned out better than I planned. The greenery around the whole cottage and the purple in the tree were created by adding several variations of Floral Moss. I know that's not traditional a model train scenery item, but I think it worked well for the effect I was looking for. I also added some cotton to the inside of the cottage and the top of the chimney to simulate smoke and diffuse the LED lights. The single LED light under the cauldron flashed red to simulate a fire. The LEDs inside the Witch Cottage rotate through a rainbow of colors and were added to hint there is Witch Magic in the Cottage. The LED special effects were controlled by an Arduino Uno and a battery pack. I had a lot of fun learning how to program the Arduino to create the rainbow LED lights. See Pic4 & Pic5.

But I wish I had more tiny LEDs in yellow/orange so I could get a more realistic fire than just a flashing red. I set the whole model on a cardboard stand so that the Arduino & battery back could be hidden underneath. Overall, I was really happy with how the whole thing turned out.



Layout Bio: Audrey Mennenga Overland Park, KS

Prototype or Freelance: Freelance

Scale/Gauge(s): O scale (specifically Lionel 027 3-rail tubular track)

Era: no specific era, just freelance

Locale (specific or general location): Freelance, not modeling any specific railroad but plan to include elements of a mining town, harbor, freight yard, castle, witch cottage, farm/wildlife park & mountains with waterfall/rivers.

Operations: Nope

Layout Space: 15ft x 8ft

Mainline Length: 44ft

Elevation/Incline: 5.5in elev change/2.5% incline

Percent Completion: 30%

Benchwork: Complete

Trackwork: 75%. Trackwork is operational, but I keep tweaking the layout & wiring, so I won't say the trackwork is complete yet.

Scenery: Just starting on scenery

Is this your first layout: Yes

When/How received first train, or introduced to Model Railroading:

And/Or Any Additional/Special details on Layout:

I inherited my train set (Lionel 027) from my father, who got it when he was a child in the late 1950's. But my love of model trains started when I was a child. I remember my dad always had his train set up in our basement. I was always very intrigued by it and since my brother never had any interest, it became something I loved to spend time doing with my dad. We would build models together; we would go to train shows and we would visit model train museums. Many years later when my parents retired and were downsizing, my dad decided it was time to give up on the train. His plan was to try selling the train set, but I was not going to let that happen to something with so much family value. So, an agreement was made that we would pack the train set up and keep it in storage until I had a place where I could set it back up. At the time I'm not sure my parents thought I was serious about ever setting it back up... but I was.

Finally, a few years ago I bought a house that had enough space and I've been working on my first layout. Despite my parents' earlier doubts, I have been fairly committed to setting the train back up. Not only have I really enjoyed it, but I've also learned some interesting family history about the train set. One of my favorites is that I noticed several items all had random splotches of green paint on them. When I mentioned it to my dad, he told me this story about when his bother (my uncle) got a hold of it when they were kids and spilled green paint everywhere. Some of which remains today, and I don't plan on repainting because I think it's a fun bit of family history that makes the train set so special.

I would call myself a freelance modeler as my layout does not have any specific railroad theme or design concept. I have a mix of elements from the original Lionel post-war set of my dad's, model kits both my dad and I have put together and scratch builds I like to make out of materials that are reclaimed/recycled from DIY projects around my house or collected from my backyard. I would however say some of my stuff falls into the realm of whimsical/fantasy. Since attending the Arduino clinic at the Turkey Creek Train show this past summer, I have been really into learning animation/special effects and plan to include a bunch of that in my layout.

Layout Visit: RGS & DRGW RR Steve McKee

The layout has about 480 feet of San Juan Engineering flex track on it. It also has about 40 San Juan switches which all had to be rebuilt to make them DCC friendly with information from Mike Fyten, Bill Lund, and Miles Hale. There are also two 3-way stub switches. I used 12 gauge wire for the main buss, 14 gauge wire for the sub buss and 20 gauge wire for the drops and the wiring for the tortoise switch machines. The whole thing is connected with the 3M suitcase connectors to save

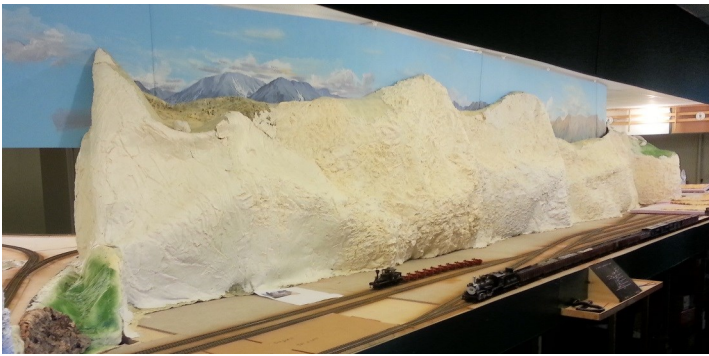


soldering and time. It's about 220 feet to walk around the layout which sits in an area of about 2300 sq feet. The layout is broken out into 4 power districts and matches the lighting which is also in 4 different areas. The light system is on 4 separate 20 amp circuits and can hold up to 95 lights total but I don't have that many on there now. The minimum radius is about 40" up to 42".



All the sub-roadbed is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch cabinet grade plywood along with the yard sections and the L girder. When you cut up a 4x8 sheet of the cabinet grade birch plywood its cheaper than 1x4's and Home Depot will cut it in 3" sections 8 foot long for free. Saves a lot on your home saw blade. The entire roadbed is homasote cut in $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick pieces for the roadbed, yards, and switches. There are turnout panels for turnouts and also yard panels that are about 24x30 inches. All of the legs are 2x2's with adjustable feet on the bottom of them. All the framework are 1x4's and built in the form of what you would use for a module layout to take to a train show. In fact, a lot of the frames came from modules that came from a friend's home layout or





things don't fall off the track. This is all out in the middle of the room and has no walls to give it support to keep it strong. When you add the yard sections on top of that and the roadbed it becomes very sturdy.



can and a lot of it comes to me as I go. I get a lot of ideas from many different people and put them in my mixing bowl and what you see here is the result. What I have here is just one way you can do things. There are many other ways to get the same results, so you just have to use what's works best for you. After all it's your layout and you can do things anyway you want to. This is my first shot at a large home layout and I'm sure I'll make many mistakes I can learn from for future layouts. The first thing I learned was the layout is too big, if I had built an around the wall layout, I never would have been able to finish it.

modular layouts that no longer exist. The framework is screwed together and then the sections are bolted together and the whole thing is framed around the support poles to make for one sturdy layout. I wanted it that way in case somebody bumps up against it



Time wise there is about 1 ¾ years in construction of the layout itself. I moved in the house in 2003 and one of the first things I did was to paint the basement walls with about 24 gallons of dry-lock paint to keep the moisture out. With 54 pieces of sheet rock, I had a lot of help when it came to finishing off the basement. My main goal was to get it up as soon as possible for the 2014 National Narrow Gauge convention without killing myself in the process. I try to spend a couple of hours a day in the basement but that doesn't always happen. I try to use as many time saving methods as I



Layout Bio: RGS & DRGW RR Steve McKee Lenexa, KS

Prototype or Freelance: Freelance

Scale/Gauge(s): On3

Era: 1950s

Locale (specific or general location): freelance rail-road based on the RGS & DRGW in southwest Colorado in the San Juan Mountains and features mining and a lumber line .

Operations: Yes

Control: NCE DCC with wireless throttles

Layout Space: 38' x 46' in 2300sq ft area

Mainline Length: 220ft around with 440ft of track

Elevation/Incline: 45" to 59" with 3.5% max incline

Percent Completion: 90%

Benchwork: 100% complete

Trackwork/Wiring: 99%.

Rock work: 95%.

Scenery: 50%

Is this your first layout: Yes

When/How received first train, or introduced to Model Railroading:

And/Or Any Additional/Special details on Layout:

First Train/Layout:

My first train and Layout was an American Flyer on a classic 4x8 plywood base.

Key Features:

Layout Design by Miles Hale and is built in middle of basement and NOT around outside walls. This provides lots of aisle space for operators and visitors.

Track and Switches are all from San Juan Manufacturing except the 3 way stub switches in the yards which are railway engineering.

All the rock casting of which there are many are Joel Bragdon's Geodesic Foam scenery using his latex rock castings some of which are 2'x3'.

Lots of Help: There was input and advice from several different people. Larry Patch did backdrop. Ross Moody provided Rock Molds and helped with some of the Geodesic Rock Application. The Canyon idea was proposed by Miles Hale, Fran Hale, and Larry Alfred. Miles Hale and Mark Juett provided assistance and debugging on wiring. Henry Lee provided a Bridge and a number of Buildings. Several others assisted with general construction of benchwork, etc.

Fallen Flag Tributes

Joseph A. Ringbauer, Sr.

April 12, 1936 - December 31, 2022

Longtime friend and model railroader, Joe Ringbauer passed away on December 31, 2022, at the age of 86. He was born in Chicago, IL, moving to the Kansas City area in the early 1980's to work at the TWA service facility at Kansas City International Airport. His work with TWA occasionally took him overseas, including the Middle East. Prior to COVID-19 he moved to a retirement community in Columbia, MO near his son Joe, Jr, where he later passed on. He was returned to Alsip, IL to be buried near his wife, Mary.



His primary railroad interest was the Chessie System, with emphasis on its predecessors the C & O, B & O and Western Maryland, which he modeled in the basement of his Parkville, MO home. Joe's layout was approximately 20' x 34' , with a 20' extension in the configuration of an "E" shape to allow access. He enjoyed running steam and diesel locomotives, with trains from Chessie, C&O, B&O and Western Maryland. He also enjoyed trains from multiple roads, but he thought it was strange to see eastern roads running west of St. Louis! The layout featured 6 yards, many switches and a few hundred feet of track. Joe was one of the early users of DCC and developed operations with waybills and car cards. Joe was a frequent attendee at Turkey Creek Division meetings and Train Shows. He didn't know a stranger and became a friend to everyone he met.

Joe will be missed by his friends in the model railroad community.

Reported by Bob Spurgat

Addition notes and photos

by Larry Diehl



Fallen Flag Tributes

Joe Robertson, MMR

July 14, 1936 – December 23, 2022

Joe was an avid model railroader, and for many years of his life, he spent hours working on his home layout and he volunteered many hours working with Turkey Creek activities. He participated in the Gold Creek large scale modular/touring layout, built, and operated in the 1990's. He also participated in MoKan model railroad group.



Joe earned Master Model Railroader Certificate #216 which he received several years ago. Joe served Turkey Creek in many capacities throughout the years. His most recent efforts were serving as Achievement Program Administrator and merit judging of models.

The Piper Valley RR ran all around Joe's basement. It was a fictitious railroad set in the 1960's era, named for a creek which ran near Joe's family farm where he grew up in Bolivar/Stockton area of Missouri. The layout occupies a 26' x 33' space in his basement. It sports 185' of mainline with passing sidings at each of his cities. There are two "hidden track/staging tracks", amounting to 214' length. The RR is run at operating sessions as a division between Kansas City and Springfield. Two classification yards at Tightwad and Humansville are used to make local freights. The Santa Fe, Frisco and Burlington have trackage rights over the mainlines. The layout has many scratchbuilt, kitbashed and craftsman kit models, including a large scratchbuilt trestle, about 600 scale feet long! ... and thousands of pieces as Joe describes! He was very proud of building that trestle structure!



Joe was an excellent painter and painted the backdrop around his entire basement in the character of rural Missouri plus a few mountains. Very good result! Joe was an art teacher as his lifelong career, retiring from the Belton School District. Joe also enjoyed his children, son Mark (Becky), grandkids Maggie and Hanna, son Kevin (Patty), grandkids Adam and Eric, and daughter Carol (Ray), grandkids Amber, Guss and Harlan.

He and his wife, Betty, had a travel camper using it frequently and included family when possible. Joe and Betty also enjoyed cruises and went often as possible. Joe did like bass fishing and had great fun fighting largemouth bass when they made the mistake of biting his lure!

Joe will be missed by all his friends in Turkey Creek. A "no nonsense type guy", but I'm sure he'll reserve a spot in heaven for all of us.

Submitted by Larry Diehl

Turkey Creek Call Board (Calendar)

Please update your calendars. We have locked in the Division Meeting dates and will be filling in the Clinics & Topics over the next Month. ***Don't miss the best time to TALK TRAINS!!!***

RESERVE THE DATE July 27-29 MCoR Regional NMRA Conv. **HERE** in Overland Park, KS

Date	Event	Time	Location	Topic	Clinician
Jan 24th	Division Mtg	7 -8:45 pm	Lakeview Eastside Terr	CS&G History, Planning, & Building (Part 1)	Gary Davidson
Feb 28th	Division Mtg	7 -8:45 pm	Lakeview Eastside Terr	Tips & Tricks ----- Make & Take Introduction	Larry Diehl -----
Mar 28th	Division Mtg	7 -8:45 pm	Lakeview Eastside Terr	Making Kalin Steel Supply Square Footer ----- Make & Take Final Selection	Steve McKee -----
Apr 25th	Division Mtg	7 -8:45 pm	Lakeview Eastside Terr	OPEN	x
May 23rd	Division Mtg	7 -8:45 pm	Lakeview Eastside Terr	Construction Tips Make & Take	x
Jun 27th	Division Mtg	7 -8:45 pm	Lakeview Eastside Terr	OPEN	x
<i>Jul 25th</i>	<i>No Division Mtg</i>			---	
July 27-29th	MCoR Regional NMRA Convention		Holiday Inn Overland Park, KS	Region event with Clinics, Lay-outs and Modeling Contest	
Aug 22nd	Division Mtg	7 -8:45 pm	Lakeview Eastside Terr	OPEN	x
Sept 26th	Division Mtg	7 -8:45 pm	Lakeview Eastside Terr	OPEN	x
Oct 24th	Division Mtg	7 -8:45 pm	Lakeview Eastside Terr	Modeling Challenge	x
Nov 28th	Division Mtg	7 -8:45 pm	Lakeview Eastside Terr	OPEN	x
Dec 12th	Division Mtg	7 -8:45 pm	Lakeview Tree Top Room	Holiday Social	

Turkey Creek Lightning Slinger

Our Lightning Slinger is published monthly and is a great place to learn and share information. The “value” of this newsletter lies solely in the contributions each of you offer to our Division. This newsletter has a great sampling of Events, Models, Layouts, and Bio’s. Please find your “Track” to add to our “Layout” and send your ideas and articles to the Editor.

[Editor.TurkeyCreekNMRA <at> gmail.com](mailto:Editor.TurkeyCreekNMRA@gmail.com)

Don’t Lose your Slinger to the SPAM monster

Please ADD “Editor.TurkeyCreekNMRA@gmail.com”

to your Contact list on both your PC and on your Phone.

This will assure our Newsletter and General communications do not fall into the dreaded SPAM folder.

Great Connections: *(use these links for great connections)*

NMRA Turkey Creek Division Website:

www.TC-NMRA.org

NMRA Turkey Creek Division Facebook:

[NMRATurkeyCreek](https://www.facebook.com/NMRATurkeyCreek)

NMRA Mid Continent Region Website:

www.MCoR-NMRA.org

NMRA Organization Website:

www.NMRA.org

More Information: *(use these links to get started in Model Railroading)*

[NMRA Membership information](#)

[NMRA Beginners Guide](#)

